



Park to Playa Trail Feasibility Study

Public Workshop #2 Summarized Input

May 3, 2011– 7pm-9pm

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Community Meeting Room

Project Funded By: Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority

On May 3rd, 2011, 38 community members attended the second Park to Playa (P2P) public workshop. During the first workshop community ideas were gathered on where the trail should go within the parks, what connections to park facilities and community destinations should be made and what types of amenities make for a fun and enjoyable trail experience. Based upon public input and guidance from P2P Partner Agencies, proposed recommendations were made for the Park to Playa Trail. The objectives of the second workshop were to get input on the proposed routes, amenities, improvements and wayfinding elements.

The workshop was facilitated by Ron Milam of Ron Milam Consulting who kicked-off the meeting with introductions and an overview of the meeting agenda. Randy Anderson of Alta Planning + Design presented a overview of the P2P Trail study scope, community identified needs, P2P trail use designations, design criteria and sustainable trail design principles. After the presentation, workshop participants were invited to circulate through stations which had detailed maps and images of the P2P trail alignments, amenities and wayfinding elements. Participants were encouraged to provide input on proposed routes, connections to parks, trails and community destinations, amenities and wayfinding elements.

PDF files of the Power point presentation, maps and boards presented at the workshop are available for download on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy < <http://bhc.ca.gov/>> and Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority < <http://smmc.ca.gov/BHRCA.asp>> websites.

The following is a summarized list of the input provided by workshop participants.

Overview of Common Themes Heard at Meeting

- Use
 - Allow bicycle access along entire Park to Playa trail
 - Provide separate paths for bicyclists and pedestrians
 - The Park to Playa Trail should have a paved option for its entire length at some point in the future
- Access
 - Provide bicycle and pedestrian access along major road corridors
 - Minimize impacts to residents from neighborhood access points
 - Improve access to the Park to Playa trail from neighborhoods in the south (Ladera Heights)
- Parking

- Provide public parking and minimize parking impacts on surrounding neighborhood roads
- Private Property
 - Provide adequate setbacks and vegetated buffers to minimize visual impacts of trail to adjacent residential properties
 - Design trail to prevent trespassing onto private property

Trail Amenities

Participants we asked to vote on their most preferred design for trail amenities by placing a dot sticker on a photo of an element. The majority of participants at the workshop preferred concrete and recycled plastic elements designed to look like wood.

- Benches
 - Benches with backs are nicer and more comfortable for reading, birdwatching etc.
 - Prefer plastic slatted bench
 - Shade covers over benches
- Trash Receptacles
 - Recyclables need container
- Fencing along private property
 - Like vines. Natives
- Shade structures
 - Shade important – every 2 mi?
 - Solar shaded parking cover
 - Tensile fabric shades doesn't last
 - Select durable materials that simulate wood for fencing and other structures
- Gateways
 - None of the shown gateways fit an urban park
 - Preferred gateway concept shown for Stocker in presentation
 - Anything like the National Park Type sign is inappropriate for this plan! Should be simple and urban.
- Bike Parking
 - Some felt that few if any people will trust leaving their bikes parked, others felt comfortable parking their bikes.
 - Bike parking @ Jefferson and Hetzler BHSO needed
- Landscaping Concept
 - Xeriscape
- Native Landscape Plants
 - Signage to encourage visitors about native plants
 - Poppies, Artemisia California CA Sagebrush a must, Lemonade berry
 - Interpretive signage to identify native plant names or grouped interpretive signs vs. single plant signs)
- Lighting
 - Include solar lighting along pathways

Wayfinding

- What Destinations Would You Like to See on Signs?
 - Ballona Wetlands
 - Syd Kronenthal
 - BH Scenic Overlook
- Paths and Trails
 - Color coded routes
 - List trails and options
- Amenities
 - Dog poop bag stations
- What Information Do You Feel is Important to Put on Signs?
 - Use Information
 - Maintaining separation of bikers / hikers / walkers is important / necessary
 - No Fires
 - Bikes are going to cause problems on trails with people
 - Separate bikes and hikers
 - Amenities
 - No Smoking
 - Terrain Information
 - Stroller Friendly icons
 - Important to have call boxes for emergencies
- Additional ideas
 - Historical facts – Native Americans – California / Spanish items, etc
 - Mile / Distance markers
 - Light fixtures will need to be *very* heavy duty, for example light fixtures on the bridge over Ballona west of Overland were broken by vandals many times
 - Need icon to pick up dog poop!

Station 1: Stocker Corridor, Ruben Ingold Park, Norman O. Houston Park, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) Eastern Ridge

- “Shut down oil wells!”

Stocker Corridor

- A future project could be to link the Ladera Heights Community to the Park to Playa trail and create a loop trail
 - At the Western edge of Stocker Trail (at 5 Points Intersection) extend bicycle and walking path through private property
 - At Eastern edge of Stocker Trail, connect to Metro Crenshaw Extension at Leimert
- Parking
 - Improve parking at beginning of trail at Stocker Trail (1.a)
 - Extend connection to B.H. Crenshaw Mall (people can park there)
 - Near Stocker St and Valley Ridge Ave: Green parking structure – green roof

- People accessing Norman O. Houston and KHSRA are parking in Baldwin Hills neighborhoods – need more public parking in parks.

Five Points Intersection

- Adjacent to LAUSD property: Add stairs to connect to Ruben Ingold Park
- Traffic calming needed on La Brea
- Provide a connection to ball parks from 5 points intersection
- Parking:
 - Metered on-street parking along the western border of KHSRA, south of bridge, East of La Brea, and around 5 Points intersection.
 - Parking in neighborhood across from KHSRA- “More parking here would be great!”
- Bridge
 - Bridge from Stocker to Norman O. Houston Park (2.a) not needed
 - Bike bridge is important
 - Yes, bike bridge. Pedestrian bridge.

Norman O. Houston Park

- “No more dog park”
- Parking lot in Houston Park was identified at the workshop for attracting unwanted behavior.
- “Bike Path on county side” as apposed to the shown connection from the neighborhood up to Houston Park.

Station 2: Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) Western Ridge

- Need barriers to block people cutting trails (erosion issue)
- Where there are 15% grade trails have 8% grade as alternative

KHSRA West Ridge

- Trail at toe of slope
 - “Like parallel trail”
 - “Love lower trail at bottom of hill”
 - Two trail types to alleviate conflicts between bikers and hikers is important
- Restore Olympic tree area with signage of trees and history
- Need enclosed dog run in Olympic Forest
- Succession planting: replace eucalyptus with oaks adjacent to Olympic Forest and along La Cienega
- On northern border of KHSRA: What are the plans for a fire break between the park and the adjacent neighborhood?
- Regarding proposed trail connection through utility corridor: Keep access on La Brea and La Cienega, not through residential neighborhoods
 - Concerns for parking in neighborhood
- Amenities
 - Centralize amenities at restrooms – phone, dog poop stations, water, benches

- “Benches – 1 every mile or so”
- “No benches. Maybe every 3 miles if at all”
- Emergency phones needed on isolated trails and at restrooms
- Need bathrooms, doggie bag stations and water fountains

Station 3: Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA), Property, Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (BHSO), Culver City Park

- Bikes should be allowed on *all* trails. Trails should be wide enough for bikes on basic trails wherever space allows, even if bikes are not yet legal.
- Expecting bikers to not use parts of the trail will not work and needs to be addressed.

BHRCA Property

- Privately owned property along La Brea
 - Give them an offer they can’t refuse to allow for a trail
 - Important for bike and walking path (private property area)
 - Persuade owner to give land or easement
- Blair Hills Neighborhood
 - Protect privacy of residences
 - No access to residential neighborhood
 - Need bike access at Blair Hills Park

BHSO

- Add signalized crossing and traffic light to BHSO entrance
- Good to connect BHRCA property with parking lot
- At south corner of BHSO, “Improve signs to back entrance.”
- New bike path parallel to Hetzler Road from Jefferson to top parking lot
- Parking
 - Provide free parking
 - Provide free parking at BHSO upper parking lot- no one uses this lot
 - Additional *free!* Parking needed. No meters please.
 - Parking needed! Someone is going to die on Jefferson. Parking must be free!
 - Provide parking along Jefferson Rd
 - Provide parking on Jefferson for access to new trail
 - Add new parking lot
 - Parking for steps from Jefferson
 - Allow for shared use parking. Maybe on weekends for free in warehouses off Jefferson.

Culver City Park & Ballona Creek Path

- Build connection to West LA College’s new road From southwest tip of Culver City park
- Near Culver City Park: landscaping flowers such as poppies

- Separation of bicycles and walkers / hikers must be maintained and created on the Ballona Creek path