



## **Citrus Heights Creek Corridor Trail Project Community Survey Results Survey Period – May 14, 2013 to June 8, 2013**

### **Overview**

An informal on-line survey was implemented early in the project to better understand the initial perspective of community members about the benefits and perceived issues related to a community trail network within Citrus Heights. The objective of an early survey was to inform the planning process and endeavor to fit the trail network within the community values and context of Citrus Heights.

The survey was promoted at the community meeting, through the press (Sacramento Bee and KCRA story) and email blasts. More than 300 community members responded to the survey.

### **Survey results highlights**

#### *Benefits of trails:*

A substantial portion of respondents stated that a primary community benefit of trails is for recreational or fitness purposes. In addition, many respondents (more than 200) stated that trails would offer opportunities for nature watching.

- More than 75% cited trails provide recreational opportunities
- More than 70% cited improved physical fitness and health
- More than 60% cited nature watching

A secondary community benefit of trails identified in the survey was providing additional transportation options

- 71% selected trails provide opportunities for active (walking, bicycling) transportation
- More than 50% identified reduced exposure to auto traffic

#### *Concerns of trails:*

The biggest concern of trails that was cited was safety and security of nearby property owners and trail users. Also, correspondingly the third most selected concern (56%) was afterhour's activity. 70% cited safety and security for nearby property owners

- More than 60% cited safety and security for trail users

In addition, the survey allowed for respondents to add additional concerns. A substantial number of those comments included concerns about potential negative impacts to private property, including: the possibility of the City needing to secure large portion of private land for trail access, potential increase of vandalism, decrease in privacy for homeowners and changing the rural experience in certain neighborhoods.

*Trail usage:*

Of the total survey respondents more than 80% said that they would use the trails daily, often or sometimes. 18% said that they would hardly ever or never use the trails.

*Respondent demographics:*

58% of respondents live either adjacent to a creek corridor or within 2 blocks.

20% have never visited a trail in Citrus Heights or within the greater Sacramento region.

More than 70% of respondents were 45 or older. Also, more than 70% did not have children living in their household. Only 6% of respondents did not reside in Citrus Heights. All of the Citrus Heights's Neighborhood Associations were somewhat evenly represented in the survey.

**Conclusions**

Based upon the survey results the project team will share these concerns with the TAG and the feedback provided in the survey will provide additional insight as the project moves forward. Specifically, key considerations will be:

- Evaluate potential trail alignments to minimize privacy impacts;
- Consider trail alignments that connect to other recreational/fitness opportunities as well as access to key natural amenities;
- Consider and maximize to the extent possible many of the trail features suggested by respondents;
- Research and evaluate best practices for providing public safety within trail corridors.

Also, the project team will continue the on-going dialogue with community members throughout the planning process and enhance the public outreach efforts by additional outreach to families, school age children and employers/business owners.