

Arcade Creek Watershed Group Public Meeting
November 18, 2008, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Discovery Museum
3615 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento California

Meeting Summary

The Arcade Creek Watershed Group met on November 18, 2008, to discuss the following agenda items:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Meeting Purpose, Review of Agenda, and Review of April 17, 2008 Watershed Group Meeting Action Items
- III. Del Paso Park Detention and Filtration Wetland Basin Project Status Report
- IV. Del Paso Park Wetland Project Interpretive Exhibit
- V. Invasive Plant Species Control and Management Plan
- VI. Review of Watershed Group Accomplishments since June 2006
- VII. Other Updates
- VIII. Next Steps and Review of Action Items

This meeting summary is based on the above meeting agenda. Any related discussion items are listed after each agenda item.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Danielle Wilson, the Arcade Creek Watershed Coordinator from ICF Jones & Stokes, facilitated the meeting. Danielle thanked the Discovery Museum for the use of their facility for the meeting. Self-introductions by watershed group members and other stakeholders followed.

II. Meeting Purpose, Review of Agenda, and Review of April 18, 2008, Watershed Group Meeting Action Items

Danielle presented the meeting purpose and reviewed the agenda. The meeting purpose was to continue to provide a forum for the Arcade Creek Watershed Group to meet and discuss how to improve the health of the Arcade Creek watershed; provide a status report for the Del Paso Park Wetland Project; get feedback on the interpretive exhibit for the Del Paso Park Wetland Project; and discuss restoration opportunities and their priority, as identified in the Arcade Creek Invasive Plant Species Control and Management Plan.

Danielle also provided an update on the action items from the April 18, 2008, watershed group meeting:

- *Investigate project web site ability to link to the National Public Radio web site page where invasive species are discussed by region. Completed.*

- *Encourage involvement of local boards and agencies in Arcade Creek watershed group.* Ongoing. Focused press releases and interaction with the media are ongoing. These activities, in addition to e-mail notifications and updates to the website, have been effective tools in soliciting involvement and awareness within the watershed from local boards, agencies, and stakeholders.
- *Provide historical photographs of the Arcade Creek stream corridor to Wilson.* Ongoing. None received to-date.
- *E-mail additional contacts to Wilson.* Ongoing. The Arcade Creek stakeholder database is updated in real-time with new and revised contact information.
- *Watershed group members willing to staff an Arcade Creek “Creek Week” table at the Discovery Museum should contact Wilson for support.* Completed. Randy Smith volunteered to staff a table at Creek Week on behalf of the Watershed Group; Randy and Danielle coordinated on graphics and other materials for use at Creek Week.

III. Del Paso Park Detention and Filtration Wetland Basin Project Status Report

Karen Leone of ICF Jones & Stokes presented an update on the Del Paso Park Wetland Project. The wetland project was constructed between August and November 2007. Vegetation performance monitoring was conducted in September 2008. The wetland plants had fair to good health with 85% of the wetland basin covered with vegetation. The wetland basin diversion gate was opened in advance of the first flush event that occurred the weekend of November 1. The gate and wetland performed as envisioned. Currently, water quality performance monitoring is being conducted to determine effectiveness of the wetland in “polishing” stormwater runoff from the Norris Tributary watershed before flowing into Arcade Creek.

IV. Del Paso Park Wetland Project Interpretive Exhibit

Karen also presented the interpretive exhibit for the Del Paso Park Wetland Project. Currently, the interpretive exhibit is proposed to be mounted on the wetland overlook rail or as a free-standing sign located near the signal light at Norris Avenue. The free-standing exhibit would be approximately 24-inches by 36-inches in size; the exhibit mounted to the overlook railing would be smaller. The exhibit currently features a discussion of the Arcade Creek Watershed Management Project, and how the wetland functions to polish stormflows from the broader watershed. Karen asked the watershed group members for feedback on the exhibit.

Discussion/Questions

- Include information on mosquito control measures considered in the design and operation of the wetland basin to address possible concerns related to increasing mosquito habitat in the watershed from the wetland basin.
- Reduce amount of text on the exhibit.
- Reduce size of wetland basin graphic so there is room for other graphics.
- Include pictures of habitat and the wildlife that rely on the habitat.
- Ensure that the exhibit is accessible to those in wheelchairs.
- Ensure that the exhibit is designed to withstand minor vandalism.
- Can the City provide the Arcade Creek brochure onsite (at the exhibit) to provide additional information on the watershed and the watershed group. Karen indicated that often times when this is done the brochures end up littering the ground; it is preferable to direct people wanting more information to the project website.

V. Invasive Plant Species Control and Management Plan

Loran May of May & Associates presented information on the “Arcade Creek Invasive Plant Species Control and Management Plan” and efforts to implement Phase II invasive plant control efforts described in the plan. Loran presented background on the effects of the nonnative invasive plants that are impacting the stream corridor at a rapid rate. This is occurring primarily from the development of lands adjacent to the stream corridor. Once introduced into the stream corridor, the plants can spread exponentially and threaten native habitat and wildlife species dependent on this habitat. As native plant communities change, the amount, quality, and type of food and shelter that is available to support dependent wildlife species can be reduced or eliminated. These nonnative plants can also create localized flooding, increase bank erosion, and reduce water quality. They also can alter fire regimes, change flow patterns, and change nutrient cycling within the watershed.

Karen presented information on development of the plan and specific actions identified in the plan to address these issues. The plan calls for a multiple parameter management approach and prioritizes problematic areas – as well as the top two invasive plants that will be specifically targeted (red sesbania and giant reed). Additionally, the plan presents strategies for protecting sensitive biological resources, restoration strategies to convert habitat dominated by invasive plants back to native riparian woodland, as well as maintenance and monitoring guidelines. The key to successful invasive plant control is long-term maintenance.

A copy of the plan is available at the project’s website (arcadecreek.org).

Discussion/Questions

- Weed Warriors has removed approximately 60 clusters of giant reed from the watershed to-date as part of Phase I invasive plant control efforts.
- Who is in charge of ensuring this work gets carried out now and in the future?
 - Immediately the consultants are conducting the work on behalf of the City. Long-term management will need to be determined by the City. The City is looking for opportunities to identify new funding to support these types of activities.
- The City has limited resources for grant applications. In-kind match requirements for these types of grants are also a challenge for most local agencies.
- Who will maintain the project website once the grant runs out?
 - The website will be maintained by the City once the grant is completed. There are some funds in the City's budget for Arcade Creek beyond the life of the grant. How long these will remain in the City's budget is always a concern at the beginning of each new fiscal cycle.

VI. Review of Watershed Group Accomplishments since June 2006

Danielle led a discussion on the various accomplishments since the City began the second phase of the Arcade Creek Watershed Management Project in June 2006.

These items included:

- Reinitiation of the Arcade Creek Watershed Group and public outreach efforts;
- Development of Watershed Group website, brochure, contact database, and Public Participation Plan;
- Construction of Del Paso Park Wetland Filtration and Detention Basin and interpretive exhibit;
- Full survey of Arcade Creek and Cripple Creek to map existing conditions and restoration opportunities;
- Existing Conditions and Assessment Report and Stream Corridor Management Plan;
- Invasive Plant Species Control and Management Plan;
- Completion of Phase I of invasive plant removal efforts; and
- Initiation of Phase II invasive plant removal efforts.

Going forward, Danielle encouraged the Watershed Group to think creatively about activities that would continue to educate the community about the health of the watershed, encourage participation within the Watershed Group, and provide monetary and in-kind support of Watershed-related activities.

Discussion/Questions

A group discussion ensued that touched on many topics related to the watershed group, its role in the community, and the vision for going forward. A common theme was how to educate local agencies about the watershed group and the role it would like to play in

future planning and development activities in the Arcade Creek watershed. Danielle committed to developing a fact sheet that could be distributed to local agencies for inclusion in permitting packages, planning documents, public education event materials, etc. The factsheet would also include a mission statement that would identify the goal and vision of the watershed group. Patrick Sanger, City of Sacramento, indicated that the watershed group had already completed some work on a vision statement and would seek to provide those historical materials to Danielle in support of her work on the factsheet. Reference was also made to the Robla Creek pilot project as a good resource for watershed group activities.

VII. Other Updates

None were provided under this portion of the agenda, but more informally throughout the previous discussions of agenda items.

VII. Next Steps and Review of Action Items

Watershed Group Future Meeting Schedule. Danielle and the watershed group confirmed continued practice of scheduling future watershed group meetings around deliverables and agreed the next meeting would be contingent on continuation and availability of the City's grant funds.

Review of Action Items. Danielle reviewed action items and confirmed responsible parties as follows:

- Develop Arcade Creek Watershed factsheet – Responsible Party: Danielle and Patrick.
- Check on CEQA compliance for hospital extension being constructed north of the Auburn Boulevard off ramp – Responsible Party: Patrick.
- Provide comments on the Del Paso Park wetland basin interpretive exhibit – Responsible Party: Watershed Group and other stakeholders.
- Provide Robla Creek Stewardship Plan and post on project website – Responsible Party: Loran and Danielle.

Attendee

Jacob Collins
Karen Leone
Remi Mendoza
TJ Newman
Harry Oakes
Pat Olson
Janet Parris
Marietta Pellicano
Cindy Pridmore
Patrick Sanger

Affiliation

ICF Jones & Stokes
ICF Jones & Stokes
City of Sacramento
Mission Oaks Parks
ICF Jones & Stokes
Sacramento Horsemen's Association
Sacramento County DWR
Resident
Resident
City of Sacramento

Randy Smith
Mary E. Tappel
Bill Templin
Alta Tura
Frank Wallace
Danielle Wilson

Resident
Water Pollution Prevention Grant
Sacramento Urban Creeks Council
Sacramento Urban Creeks Council
Sacramento Weed Warriors
ICF Jones & Stokes