Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan

07 May 2019
Creek Week Report to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
BACKGROUND
1 Project Summary
2 Project Process
3 Project Approach

CREEK WEEK
1 Introduction
2 Results:
   Feedback & Public Comments
3 Conclusion:
   Major Takeaways & Next Steps
to leverage the physical assets of Mariposa Creek for the County's benefit

to improve and expand Phase II of the creek Parkway to the Joe Howard St. bridge (Pioneer Market)

to lay the foundation and provide support for the successful pursuit of construction funds

to provide a recreational and civic amenity for both locals and tourists

to establish a vision for a much larger and interconnected regional trail system

to boost economic development in Mariposa through recreation-oriented transactions
**TEAM**

**WRT** is a national landscape architecture and planning firm based in San Francisco and Philadelphia.

We are joined by a group of local partners, including:

- **Sierra Designs**, Visalia
- **Sierra Foothill Conservancy**, Mariposa
- **Live Oak Associates**, Oakhurst

**Local Support and Guidance:**

- Creative Placemaking Strategic Advisory Committee
- Adjacent Property Owners
- Advocacy and Equity Focus Group
- Built Environment Focus Group
- Economic Development Focus Group
Mariposa has incredible community capacity

Mariposa County's historic reliance on Yosemite National Park as an economic driver is becoming increasingly threatened by natural disasters that impact park operations

Projects that support tourism in the Town of Mariposa have county-wide economic benefits

There should be a balance between growth and prosperity and quality of life and place-based character
WHAT WE'VE LEARNED SO FAR

• The Parkway can be positioned for success by tying it into the much larger regional picture.

• The project can give locals a recreational amenity, that acts as an introduction to the outdoors and builds a sense of place.

• The Town of Mariposa will become the Base Camp for larger adventures in the County.

• The Parkway will create an easy loop that allows tourists to access the major landmarks and destinations in Mariposa.

• From there, longer trails and bigger loops can tie into a larger trail network, ultimately connecting with the Merced River Trail and Yosemite.
PROJECT APPROACH

SCALES OF IMPACT

- Loop along the Creek Parkway and Route 49/140
POTENTIAL FUTURE CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Creek Viewing Platform
Transit Center Connection
Access to 8th St.
PICNIC MEADOW
RIPARIAN FOREST
BRAIDED CHANNELS
Arts Park Annex
COUNTY PARK
MARIPOSA BASE CAMP:
Parking, Supplies, NPS Permits, Information.
Brewery + Beer Garden
Creekside Deck
Parking Lot
Greening
Schools + Stockton Preserve
Creek Tributary
Painted Crosswalk
Rock Outcrops
Creek Access Point and Seating Area
County Park Connection
Meditation Platforms
Parkway Access / Trailhead
Creekside Nature Play Area
Stepstone Crossing
Pedestrian Bridge
PIONEER MARKET CREEKSIDE PLAZAS:
Food, Music, Views.
Rim Trail / Town Loop Connection
Secondary Trail
Fitness Platforms
NATIVE MEADOW / WILDFLOWER TRAILS
VALLEY OAK AND NATIVE PLANTING ALLEE
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
COUNTY OFFICES
MARIPOSA MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
Stormwater Detention Park
COUNTY PARK RD.
COAKLEY CIRCLE
JESSIE ST.
5TH ST.
4TH ST.
3RD ST.
6TH ST.
7TH ST.
8TH ST.
10TH ST.
9TH ST.
11TH ST.
12TH ST.
13TH ST.
JOE HOWARD ST.
STROMING RD.
HWY 49
HWY 140
HWY 49
HWY 140
DOWNTOWN CORE
STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
Trail to Merced River and Yosemite National Park
COUNTY PARK
Stormwater Outfall
Wayfinding Signage
Existing Parkway Tree
Proposed Parkway Tree
50 ft
0 ft
100 ft

MARIPOSA CREEK PARKWAY MASTER PLAN
DRAFT: PARKWAY CORRIDOR VISION DIAGRAM
• Loop around town on a new Ridge Trail and through Stockton Preserve
• Loop through the Merced River Valley, into Yosemite, down to Oakhurst, back to Mariposa.
PROJECT APPROACH

THE 6TH ST. BRIDGE

- Beer Garden
- Food Trucks
- Creekside Patio
- Historic Bridge
- Restored Native Creekside Planting
- Trailside Seating
- Interpretive Signage
PROJECT APPROACH

THE MEADOW BEHIND THE MONARCH

- ICONIC OAK TREE
- ACCESS TO DOWNTOWN
- INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- PICNIC MEADOW
- RESTORED NATIVE CREEKSIDE PLANTING
- CREEK ACCESS
PROJECT APPROACH

THE JESSIE ST. OVERLOOK

- Creek Overlook
- Future Trailhead
- Mariposa Creek Parkway
- Parkway Connector Trails
- Native Planting
- Interpretive Signage
- Future Trail Network
CREEK WEEK!
INTRODUCTION

GOALS

1. Raising Awareness
2. Generating Excitement
3. Collecting Feedback and Ideas
INTRODUCTION

THE GATEHOUSE

- Feedback was collected through sticky notes, dot voting, and conversations.
- 3 maps at 3 scales
- 4 views showing potential future conditions
- Comment boards
- Visual preference survey through images of similar trail projects

Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan
INTRODUCTION

THEMES & EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

EDUCATION + ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Engagement Programs
Presented by Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Station #1 (NatureBridge):
Mariposa Creek Water Quality Testing
Station #2 (Kimberly Cunningham-Summerfield):
Native American Fire Practices
Station #3 (Mariposa County Arts Council):
Interpreting Native Fauna through Art
Station #4 (Sierra Foothill Conservancy):
Planting Native Riparian Species

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

COMMUNITY + CREATIVITY

Made in Mariposa Street Bazaar
Presented by the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce

“Made in Mariposa” Art Market and Street Fair
Pop-Up Beer and Live Music Garden
Food Trucks and Flowers

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Path to Wellness Fair
Presented by Mariposa Health and Wellness Coalition

10:30-11:00 Studio M Yoga | Yoga
11:15-11:45 Pure Training Studio | Mini Boot Camp
12:00-12:30 Mariposa Parks & Recreation | Fitness Over 50
12:45-1:15 Gail Dreyfus | Music/Health (interactive presentation)
1:15-1:45 Oakhurst Tai-Chi | Tai Chi
2:00-4:00 Beat Harvest Student Show | Live Music
RESULTS

ATTENDEES

- Estimating about 500 overall attendees over three days
- 150 Fifth/Sixth Graders + Teachers
- Dutch Tourists, dog-walkers, kids, families, couples, local business owners, cyclists, NPS employees
- From Mariposa, Bootjack, El Portal, Midpines, Mt. Bullion, Triangle Rd., Catheys Valley, and all over the County.
"There is more than miners and butterflies to this town!"

This project will let Mariposa tell a new story, and attract new visitors seeking authentic experiences.
"These trails and paths all around town would make Mariposa a destination instead of just a pass-thru!"

People are interested, people are excited, people care.
RESULTS

COLLECTING FEEDBACK & IDEAS
RESULTS

COLLECTING FEEDBACK & IDEAS
RESULTS

COLLECTING FEEDBACK & IDEAS

"Huge opportunity for growth and positivity!"

"I want to see kids playing in / near the creek. Let them."
RESULTS

COLLECTING FEEDBACK & IDEAS
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RESULTS

COLLECTING FEEDBACK & IDEAS

You will love it here! The activities are fun and the people are nice. -Sadie

Good way to get downtown.

May buy the acreage for the trailhead.

I want kids playing in near the creek. Let them.

This has to happen - good for Mariposa.

Labyrinth surrounding a paved path trail network.

Hurry up!

I think you should add picnic tables and benches to the park.

I want more benches - add shade trees.

The trails need more lights.

Leaves and flowers/irises.

Yes, please.

Walk from HS/RH to P3 slurry.

I would be happy to have a place to get off your bike to walk on the creek.

Would love to have a place to get off your bike to walk in the creek.

Have fun.

Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: REGIONAL SCALE

COMMENTS:

- Connect to Bear Creek Trail
- Railroad bike trail YES!
- Trails out Briceburg to Res
- Ahwahnee Regional Park a good place to start horse trail.
- The town needs fire breaks on ridgetops, so ridge trails can be dual-purpose / one and the same as the fire breaks.
- Rafting Climbing
- Difficult road riding in some sections of 108-mile loop
- Regional history
- Love bike/hike trail up to EP from Mariposa
- Important to get bikes off highway here
- Hite’s Cove Trail
- Cedar Valley Trail, Lewis Creek
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: TOWN SCALE

COMMENTS:

- Trail along 140 to Preserve
- Movie nite at Art Park
- Huge opportunity for growth and positivity
- Native plants only, remove invasives
- Respect the natural floodplain
- Need trail exten to Idle Wheels
- Climbing wall
- Obstacle course
- Rim trail for horse
- Make accessible for horses
- Go under the bridge!
- I LOVE the rim trail loop idea!!!
- View platform with bench
- These proposed trails are a great idea and would be well used
- Great mountain bike trail
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: SITE SCALE

COMMENTS:
- Need bike lanes and sidewalks
- Outdoor meeting space
- Farmers market
- Connect 140 safely to Parkway
- Solar lights for late walks
- Public art that integrates and supports the natural environment
- Flexible area at Stroming
- Expand out towards Mt Bullion
- Connect to County Park
- Shady spots in summer
- Sidewalks for town loop
- County - buy the acreage for the trailhead please!
- Restroom needed at extension
- Creek facing retail and restaurants
- Cultural restoration / burn areas
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: THE WOODS

COMMENTS:

- I'm not a fan of these blocky benches
- Boulder seating instead of blocky benches
- Trash cans
- Needs benches in lots of places
- Use repurposed material (timber) for amenities?
- Why not bike friendly?
- Love the creek access! And stepping stones across the creek.
- Good soft material - leave it as dirt is fine
- Rather see roof on the overhang
- Signage at points on the trail so we don't get lost!
- Public art, some permanent, some temporary even ephemeral
- Access to the water
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: THE BRIDGE

COMMENTS:
- This idea is a MUST!
- Expand parking in town
- Yes beer garden and food trucks
- Prefer healthy food option here plus music
- Area of creek cemented for water to flow over and kids to play in
- Take out all small dams upstream, keep water flowing
- Restaurants facing creek
- Bridge = connectivity
- Cultural burn to restore these areas
- Ice cream!
- Teaching/working artist studio
- Music and food brings people together
- Trash cans! Great ideas!
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: THE MEADOW

COMMENTS:

- More connections here and connections to the park!
- Love the stepping stones, the whole meadow is inviting
- Too much development
- Concerned the native plants might get trampled
- Nice view and rocks for kids to hop on
- Benches! and love the stones
- Creeping natives, like lemon thyme, instead of bunch grasses
- More trees
RESULTS

FEEDBACK: THE OVERLOOK

COMMENTS:
- Love this!
- Trail up ridge
- Affordable housing?
- Vary the grade, make it interesting for biking
- Birdwatching
- Restaurants with outdoor space overlooking the creek
- Love the access of hiking!
- I like the nature being left alone other than the path
- Great spot for trailhead
- Trail to top of ridge for hiking and biking
- Clean up days
- Need to have art integrated along the trails
- This is a really nice place for a park for kids
CONCLUSION

KEY TAKEAWAYS

• The Creek Parkway is an opportunity for dialogue around creating an appropriate design aesthetic for public projects in Mariposa.

• The community imagines the Creek Parkway as more than a trail - it's a public space that must accommodate a range of programs and amenities.

• People want access to a longer trail that links destinations in town with a larger network of recreational and cultural spaces.

• In order for the Creek Parkway to reach its full potential as an economic driver and recreational destination, strategic property acquisitions will need to be implemented:
  A. Hulbert Property - potential trailhead and access point
  B. Fiske Property - trail connections / forest conservation
**CONCLUSION**

**NEXT STEPS**

1. Record and collect the results from Creek Week into a report for the final master plan document.

2. Continue to work with our project partners and Community Stakeholders to develop the master plan concepts and details.

3. Assist the County in their Prop 68 application, due in August.
Mariposa Creek Way is a good way to help Mariposa grow!