

## **Dry Creek Greenway Draft Goals and Policies**

The Goals of the Dry Creek Greenway are to:

- 1.0 Preserve and restore riparian and aquatic habitat located within the Greenway boundary and enhance value of habitat areas adjacent to the Greenway by providing connecting corridors and habitat diversity;
- 2.0 Preserve and protect historic and cultural resources of the Greenway;
- 3.0 Provide a natural, continuous open space corridor from the Placer County limits to the American River Parkway (ARP) and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA) as part of the 70-mile regional greenway loop, and into the upper portions of the Dry Creek Watershed;
- 4.0 Provide adequate management within the Greenway to assure public safety;
- 5.0 Provide for the integration of active and passive recreational uses that will have minimal impacts on the natural resources;
- 6.0 Preserve critical flood conveyance and capacity within the Dry Creek floodway;
- 7.0 Implement the Greenway in a manner that is consistent with the existing and proposed plans developed by the multiple districts, governments and agencies with Greenway jurisdiction;
- 8.0 Secure adequate funding and resources to sustain and complete implementation of the Greenway;
- 9.0 Provide direction for immediate and long-term land use planning and management practices within the Greenway; and
- 10.0 Promote the Greenway as a local and regional asset through collaboration with regional partners and public education.

**GOAL 1.0 Preserve and restore riparian and aquatic habitat located within the Greenway boundary and enhance value of habitat areas adjacent to the Greenway by providing connecting corridors and habitat diversity.**

**Policies:**

- 1.1 Require the use of native/indigenous plant material within and adjacent to the Greenway whenever feasible.
- 1.2 Encourage the protection of native plant and animal species and elimination of invasive non-native plants and animal species.
- 1.3 All public use areas within the Greenway, including buildings, roads, parking lots, and turf areas, shall be designed and located such that impacts upon native vegetation, water quality and wildlife habitat are minimized. Appropriate mitigation measures shall be incorporated into all projects to compensate for adverse impacts.
- 1.4 Phased plans with short and long-term measures for the restoration and enhancement of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, and the elimination of undesirable non-native vegetation shall be developed and implemented by local jurisdictions within the publicly-owned portions of the Greenway. Private property owners shall be encouraged to implement such measures.
  - A. Native plants shall be reintroduced in areas of their natural occurrence that have been disturbed by past land use, except in sites of human historical value.
  - B. Non-native trees and shrubs, except those of historic value, shall be removed gradually in accordance with a long-range phasing plan. Priority shall be given to removal of those exotics that compete with native vegetation, or exotics that do not have food or nesting value for wildlife.
- 1.5 A list of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants native to the Greenway area and suitable for planting shall be developed by the local jurisdictions. This list shall include a designation of the appropriate plant communities and habitat for each species. Only plants on this approved list shall be planted within the publicly owned portions of the Greenway, the exception being turf grass and passive agricultural crops in permitted locations. (See Section 4.0 for a definition of passive agriculture.) Private owners shall be encouraged to use plants from this list.
- 1.6 Grading, drainage into, placing of impermeable surfaces, parking of heavy equipment or vehicles of any kind, new irrigation installation, and planting within the drip line of existing native oaks shall be prohibited. Irrigated turf areas shall be placed only in areas where there are no mature native trees that could be damaged by changes in the environment, such as summer watering.
- 1.7 The removal of native vegetation within the riparian zone (floodway) within the Greenway shall not be permitted except when it is a threat to persons or property or contributes to the dangerous restriction of the conveyance of floodwater. Removal of native vegetation will occur only when no feasible alternative exists and shall be confined to the necessary minimum in order to protect natural riparian areas.

- 1.8 Proposed work upstream or downstream of the Greenway by other local, state or federal agencies which affects flood flows or water quality shall be consistent with these goals and policies. If vegetation removal to convey floodwaters is necessary, then the flood control agency must prepare a vegetative management plan to be approved by the local jurisdiction. The vegetative management plan shall foster the development of a mature overstory tree community and a grassland/sedge understory.
- 1.9 A Riparian Protection Zone shall be established to minimize erosion, to protect and create wildlife habitat, to protect and restore fisheries and other wetland and riparian values.
- A. Whenever possible, a Riparian Protection Zone shall be established at a width of 175' feet, as measured from top of bank landward or extend at least 40' beyond the riparian habitat, whichever is greater. This riparian zone (trees, shrubs, understory plants and grasslands) shall be maintained when it exists, enhanced where it is degraded, or restored where none exists.
- B. The justification of the 175 ft. width for the Riparian Protection Zone is based on 60-80 feet of protection of the existing tree canopy and other vegetation, 20-30 feet of area outside the canopy for regeneration, 20-40 feet of additional grassland that can be mowed, if necessary, for fire protection, and a possible 25 feet for anticipated bank erosion due to increased water flows from potential urbanization of the watershed.
- C. Activities prohibited in the Riparian Protection Zone shall include the following:
- Mowing or cutting of native vegetation, excepting as required for fire control, flood control, levee operation and maintenance, and public safety.
  - Structural modifications within the Greenway without approval by the local jurisdiction.
  - Stream bank or channel modification which, individually or cumulatively, would adversely affect water holding capacity, flood flow, streamside vegetation, and water quality or produce other adverse impacts.
  - Use of motorized vehicles, except as required for maintenance, repair, emergency response, or flood control.
  - Planting of vegetation other than streamside native species, except as required for bank stabilization when no suitable native alternative is feasible.
  - Use of herbicides except for maintenance of fire breaks, channel conveyance and levees.
  - Facilities for human use except trails, emergency/maintenance roads, and bridges that may pass through the zone.
- D. Activities/improvements permitted in the Riparian Protection Zones include:
- Performance of emergency work necessary to protect life or property, including firebreaks.
  - Projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat, streamside vegetation, aesthetics, scenic views, environmental quality, and public access along designated trails.
  - Maintenance and enhancement of flood control projects, water channels for erosion control, water quality improvements, service roads,

existing road improvements, fisheries production, and permitted public use facilities.

- Recreation activities that do not have an adverse impact on the habitat or flood control value of the riparian protection zone.

1.10 All requests for subdivision of property or land use change of property adjacent to the Greenway shall require conditions (described in 1.9) as part of any entitlements, for resource protection and the creation of a riparian protection zone along the outer edge of the Greenway.

- A. Each subdivision and land use change shall be examined individually to take into account existing conditions which may require adjustments to these requirements.
- B. A 40-foot wide portion of the riparian protection zone adjacent to the private property will be dedicated and maintained as a fire break.

1.11 Migration corridors shall be identified and established for terrestrial species within the Greenway with standards for such corridors such as widths and habitat types. Corridors shall include:

- Connection between Secret Ravine and the Pleasant Grove/Curry Creek watersheds,
- Connection between Linda Creek and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA),
- Connection between Miner's Ravine and FLSRA.

1.12 Establish mitigation lands within the Greenway where sensitive habitats are degraded and allow developers to mitigate for losses to non-critical native habitats.

1.13 Work with State and Federal agencies to establish and maintain sufficient habitat in water bodies downstream of the Greenway to support salmonid spawning and migration.

1.14 Regulate fishing within the Greenway creeks to a level that can be sustained.

1.15 Preserve water quality in the creeks through a comprehensive approach that includes monitoring, regulation of potential impacts, and education on best management practices.

- A. Review existing water quality monitoring programs within the study area, and if insufficient, establish a regular monitoring and reporting program at predefined locations along the creeks in the Greenway,
- B. Review regulations for onsite detention for new developments and strengthen regulations where needed to maintain stormwater runoff at predevelopment levels.
- C. Review regulations for onsite detention for redevelopment and strengthen regulations where needed to establish targets for reduction of stormwater runoff.
- D. Prevent or eliminate discharge or drainage of pollutants into the Dry Creek Greenway channels.
- E. Establish a homeowner education program on the impacts of household chemical use, including herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on creek water quality.

- F. Evaluate pet waste impacts on creek and undertake pet owner education and waste reduction program if necessary.
  - G. Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for park maintenance that reduces the amount of herbicides and pesticides utilized, especially for parks adjacent to the creeks.
- 1.16 Preserve and enhance existing salmonid habitat through a comprehensive approach that includes assessment of existing conditions and implementation of appropriate restoration measures.
- A. Conduct inventory of existing in-stream habitat including spawning gravels, shelter habitat, and feeding habitat.
  - B. Evaluate effectiveness of NPDES Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) and monitor and modify as necessary to reduce the danger of siltation of salmonid spawning gravels.
  - C. Evaluate existing erodability of stream banks and implement bioremediation methods that reduce erosion problems in hot-spots while improving fish shelter habitat.
  - D. Preserve and enhance riparian habitat especially where tree canopies shade stream surfaces.
  - E. Allow large woody debris to remain within the stream channel except where it significantly compromises floodwater conveyance.
  - F. Monitor water temperature and condition of salmonid spawning gravels to track long-term changes to fish habitat.
- 1.17 Water flow in Greenway creeks shall be maintained at adequate levels to sustain the integrity of the water quality, fisheries, riparian vegetation, wildlife, habitat, and other creek-dependent features.
- 1.18 Except for natural surface drainage, no new concentrated drainage or new piped drainage directly into the creek shall be allowed, unless necessary for public safety and authorized by the local jurisdiction.

**GOAL 2.0    Preserve and protect historic and cultural resources of the Greenway.**

**Policies:**

- 2.1    Potential archaeological and historical/cultural resources shall be preserved until they can be evaluated. A resource study shall be conducted so that appropriate decisions regarding protection and preservation of these resources can be determined. Cultural resources include historical and archaeological settings, sites, buildings, features, artifacts and/or areas of ethnic, historical, religious or socio-economic importance. Stewardship of these resources shall include the inventory, protection, and interpretation of the cultural heritage they represent.

**GOAL 3.0 Provide a natural, continuous public open space corridor from the Placer County limits to the American River Parkway (ARP) and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA) as part of the 70-mile regional greenway loop, and into the upper portions of the Dry Creek Watershed.**

**Policies:**

- 3.1 The Dry Creek Greenway will be planned and managed in a manner that is consistent with existing and future regional parkways, including the American River Parkway, the Ueda Parkway, and the Dry Creek Parkway, to provide a high-quality, integrated recreation and open space resource for the region.
- 3.2 All agencies with jurisdiction within the Greenway shall be encouraged to participate or assist in acquiring properties and easements within the Greenway boundary which will further the goals of the Greenway Plan.
- 3.3 Establish a multi-use trail corridor between Linda Creek and Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA) through the Baldwin Lake area.
- 3.4 Establish multi-use trail corridors between Miners Ravine and the FLSRA along Douglas Boulevard, and between upper Miners Ravine and the FLSRA, if feasible.
- 3.5 Locate and design trails at a range of scales from major north-south and east-west linkages to minor access routes. Major connections to include Dry Creek, Linda Creek, Secret Ravine, and Clover Valley Creek (if feasible).
- 3.6 Connect to recreational nodes such as parks, schools, community centers, nature centers and open space.
- 3.7 Support alternative non-motorized transportation by forming connections to commercial centers, office parks, downtowns, historic districts, other employment centers, and mass transit stations. Provide park-and-ride staging areas at key locations along Greenway.

**GOAL 4.0 Provide adequate management within the Greenway to assure public safety.**

**Policies:**

- 4.1 Actively maintain standards for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, including flood control, security, and fire control.
- A. As warranted by public uses and activities, minimal lighting (one foot candle per square foot of surface) shall be provided to improve public safety. All lighting shall be directed down to minimize impact on the night sky and away from adjacent residential areas.
  - B. Barbecues and/or fire pits shall be located at a safe distance from combustible materials and where adequate water supplies are available for emergency response.
  - C. Public use areas shall be located and designed to accommodate ease of patrolling.
  - D. Trails and other proposed Greenway elements shall be sited to minimize conflict between Greenway users and adjacent landowners and to be compatible with flood control activities.
- 4.2 Emergency access and safety procedures are essential to the well being of the Greenway and its users, and shall therefore be accommodated to the extent feasible without compromising the goals and policies of the Plan.
- A. Emergency vehicle routes shall be established and their entrances barricaded to prevent use by non-emergency vehicles.
  - B. Additional emergency vehicle access, other than that identified in the Plan, shall be as recommended by the fire and police/sheriff departments of the local governments with approval as required by the State Reclamation Board.
  - C. Emergency vehicle routes shall be established and maintained to provide adequate horizontal and vertical clearance associated with trees and shrubs, and appropriate clearance at turn arounds.
  - D. Selected pedestrian bridges shall be capable of supporting emergency and maintenance vehicles.
  - E. Mile markers shall be installed along the trails at regular intervals as feasible to aid in emergency response. Where appropriate, markers shall be visible from a helicopter.
  - F. Where appropriate, firebreaks, maintenance roads and/or trails shall be combined within the Greenway.
  - G. Where public access is to be accommodated, vegetation shall be located and maintained to ensure public safety. Dead vegetation shall be trimmed or removed to eliminate immediate fire danger. Where public safety is not an issue, dead vegetation shall be maintained to provide shelter for wildlife.
- 9.3 Slope stabilization methods along the creek shall be used when there is a demonstrated need to protect the health, safety, water quality and welfare of the community. The use of these methods shall result in minimal damage to riparian vegetation, wildlife and habitat. Where possible, slope stabilization

projects shall incorporate bioengineering alternatives to traditional-engineered solutions.

**GOAL 5.0 Provide for the integration of active and passive recreational uses that will have minimal impacts on the natural resources.**

**Policies:**

- 5.1 All recreation activities within the Greenway shall be designed to minimize impact to the natural vegetation, wildlife, habitat, and water quality and shall be compatible with natural resource protection.
- 5.2 Group activities shall occur in such a manner that the impact on the natural habitat, as well as other users in the Greenway, is minimized.
- 5.3 Picnic facilities shall be installed in locations with appropriate means of access and shall be limited in size to minimize the impact on the Greenway and other users.
- 5.4 Development of new organized game fields for active recreation shall not be allowed within the Greenway except in areas designated as public parks.
- 5.5 Activities and public uses identified in this Plan as incompatible with the Greenway (see Appendix B) shall be prohibited.
- 5.6 Appropriate continuous facilities for bicycle, equestrian and pedestrian use shall be developed throughout the Greenway compatible with open space and natural resource protection.
- 5.7 Limit impacts of recreation on sensitive habitats by use of signage, plantings, post-and-cable fencing or other control measures.
- 5.8 Minimize impact of uncontrolled fishing access to the stream banks by providing primitive and developed fishing access areas.
- 5.9 Horseback riding shall occur only on designated equestrian trails. Where possible, equestrian trails should be kept separate from bicycle and pedestrian trails.
- 5.10 Where practical, trails should be combined with fire breaks and maintenance roads.
- 5.11 Bicycle use shall be restricted to designated trails, roadways, and parking lots.
- 5.12 Paved bicycle trails shall be designed to be compatible with the Caltrans standards and shall include shoulders for pedestrian use.
- 5.13 Hiking or pedestrian use shall be limited to designated trails.
- 5.14 Where resources are to be protected, access shall be restricted to avoid potential use conflicts. Establishing patrols or other enforcement systems to prohibit unauthorized use of sensitive habitat areas,
- 5.15 Establish a hotline to report infractions to sensitive area use restrictions.
- 5.16 Parkway facilities shall be designed at a minimum to accommodate access for people with disabilities as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- 5.17 The development of pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle trails connecting with nearby communities shall be encouraged. Whenever possible, these connecting trails shall be located off-street.

- 5.18 Wherever possible, mass transit routes and stops shall provide public access to the Greenway.

**GOAL 6.0 Preserve critical flood conveyance capacity within the Dry Creek floodway.**

**Policies:**

- 6.1 The natural topography of the floodplain shall be used to convey floodwaters where possible.
- 6.2 The natural topographic diversity of Dry Creek shall be maintained, where possible. This includes flood flow management involving channel enlargement. Such practices shall include meander sequences, low flow terraces, and secondary bypass channels. In order to increase stream conveyance, the construction of secondary overflow channels is preferred to channelization. The construction of low terraces to accommodate widening of the channels shall be encouraged.
- 6.3 Channel modifications for flood control purposes shall consider and demonstrate sensitivity toward environmental values, including riparian vegetation, wildlife habitat, and natural stream processes.
- 6.4 Channel realignment shall be pursued only when absolutely necessary to eliminate flood hazards and when alternative flood protection measures (e.g., levees, restored and created bypass channels) are not feasible.
- 6.5 Channel modifications shall maintain riparian vegetation whenever possible. Modifications resulting in loss of vegetation will be mitigated consistent with the local jurisdiction policies, regulatory agency requirements, or at a 3:1 acreage ratio, whichever is greater. Mitigation shall occur within or adjacent to the Greenway.

**GOAL 7.0    Implement the Greenway in a manner that is consistent with and complements the existing and proposed plans developed by the multiple districts, governments and agencies with Greenway jurisdiction.**

**Policies:**

- 7.1    Provision for the design, development and operation of publicly owned lands within the Greenway boundary shall be the responsibility of the government jurisdiction or entity that owns the property.
- 7.2    Approved local zoning and other applicable ordinances, general plans, and community plans shall provide binding direction when considering uses and activities not otherwise addressed in this Greenway Plan.
- 7.3    The open space resources of the Greenway shall be preserved and managed in a manner that is consistent with Placer County's Legacy open space initiative.
- 7.4    Implementation of this Plan and management of the Greenway shall occur in a manner that is consistent with any agreements between local jurisdictions and regulatory agencies, and the resource permitting requirements of federal, state and local agencies. These include MOU's for creek channel maintenance, and programmatic agreements such as an NCP or HCCP.
- 7.5    Establish multi-use trails in the Greenway that support bicycle corridor connections proposed in the Placer County Regional Bikeways Plan, and the City of Roseville Bikeway Master Plan.

**GOAL 8.0    Secure adequate funding and resources to sustain and complete implementation of the Greenway**

**Policies:**

- 8.1    Greenway jurisdictions shall be encouraged to collaborate with each other and other regional partners to identify and apply for appropriate local, state, and federal grant funds that would be used to support Greenway implementation, maintenance, and operations.
- 8.2    Contributions from community interest groups should be sought to supplement and enrich interpretive and public access programs, where possible.
- 8.3    Identify and incorporate appropriate revenue generating opportunities within the Greenway Plan. Appropriate activities shall be those that do adversely impact the Greenway resources or otherwise conflict with the goals of this Plan.
- 8.4    Development of mitigation opportunities within the Greenway shall be encouraged to enhance or restore natural open space areas and to generate revenues to support the Greenway goals. All mitigation projects within the Greenway shall be consistent with the Greenway goals and shall include provisions for stewardship roles and responsibilities.

**GOAL 9.0 Provide direction for immediate and long-term land use planning and management practices within the Greenway.**

**Policies:**

- 9.1 Agricultural uses that are consistent with the objectives of the Greenway will be allowed within the Greenway.
- 9.2 Provide buffer areas within the Greenway of a width that is sufficient for screening views and disruptive noise associated with adjacent land uses and to screen sensitive habitat areas from public intrusion.
- 9.3 When possible, open space areas shall be used as a buffer between the Greenway and adjacent land uses.
- 9.4 Adverse impacts to the Greenway due to adjacent land uses and activities shall not be allowed or shall be mitigated to the satisfaction of the local jurisdiction.
- 9.5 In order to preserve aesthetic qualities of the Greenway, new residential and appurtenant structures on properties adjacent to the Greenway shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from the outer edge of the riparian corridor, and an additional 20 feet setback for each additional story.
- 9.6 Set back for new commercial structures or additions shall be a minimum of 100 feet beyond the Greenway boundaries for single story buildings and an additional 30 feet set back for each additional story thereafter.
- 9.7 Where possible, land use bordering the Greenway should favor public frontage rather than private frontage. As an example, roads running parallel to the creek are preferred to backyards or backsides of commercial buildings directly facing riparian protection areas.
- 9.8 The orientation of new buildings placed adjacent to the Greenway should be towards the Greenway, with landscaping that links the appearance of the buildings to the riparian landscape.
- 9.9 An erosion control and revegetation program shall be required for all projects that disturb creek banks. The program may be included in the resource permit approval process. The erosion control program shall include measures to minimize damage to riparian vegetation, wildlife, and habitat. Where possible, slope stabilization projects shall incorporate bioengineering alternatives to traditional-engineered solutions. Environmentally damaging materials, such as rubble, gunite, cement, sandbags, bulkheads, fences, and tires shall not be used for permanent erosion control features. Rock and wire mattresses, gabions or wire mesh may be used where vegetation measures alone are insufficient. Such solutions shall include overplanting to restore vegetation in the area. The revegetation measures shall enhance the aesthetic and natural value of the creek bank.
- 9.10 New development or redevelopment projects within or adjacent to the Greenway shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with this Plan.
- 9.11 Any subdivision project that includes area within the Greenway boundary shall be required to designate that area as public open space as a condition of

approval. Ownership and maintenance of the designated open space shall be determined by the policies of the local jurisdiction.

**GOAL 10.0 Promote the Greenway as a local and regional asset through collaboration with regional partners and public education.**

**Policies:**

- 10.1 Develop cooperative working relationships between Greenway jurisdictions including Placer County, the Cities of Rocklin and Roseville, the Town of Loomis, special districts, and agencies to ensure positive pursuit of the Greenway goals.
- 10.2 Placer County Flood Control District and Water Agency shall coordinate flood control improvements within the Greenway with the State Reclamation Board and SAFCA consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan.
- 10.3 Encourage existing non-governmental organizations such as the Dry Creek Watershed Council, the Dry Creek Conservancy, Friends and Lovers of Miner's Ravine, the Loomis Basin Horsemen's' and homeowners' associations to include active support for Greenway implementation in their organizational objectives.
- 9.5 Encourage community support of the Greenway through the creation of special interest groups/organizations and special events such as:
  - Friends of Dry Creek Greenway,
  - Greenway Volunteer Patrol,
  - Adopt-A-Creek Program,
  - Equestrian Trail Patrol
  - Creek and Greenway Clean Up Day;
  - Annual Tree Plantings, and
  - Restoration Programs.
- 9.6 Provide opportunities and create mechanisms to educate the public on the value of the Greenway and its resources.
  - A. Develop educational outreach programs through local schools and special interest groups.
  - B. Establish nature study areas and interpretive centers to facilitate public education.
  - C. Develop a comprehensive interpretive program for the entire Greenway to provide for a continuous, integrated educational experience for visitors to all parts of the Greenway. This program should include such features as: signs, exhibits, nature trails, guided walks and tours, publications and media, and research.
  - D. All signs (e.g., interpretive, informational, directional, etc.) in the Greenway shall have consistency of design, color and materials and shall blend with the natural environment.
  - E. The design and placement of all signs shall consider access for people with disabilities.