

Our Vision for the Coyote Creek
A Summary of the Community Discussion at the Frank Talk on 3/15/15

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Frank Talk last Sunday - we had over 70 people involved, the most we've ever had! And we've heard positive feedback from many of you. For those of you when were unable to come, we'd like to share with you a brief update of our activities. And thanks also to Raul Peralez, Barbara Keegan, and Mike Potter for sharing with us your vision for the Coyote Creek.

We've posted some of Larry Volpe's photos and videos of the talks - thanks Larry! see https://www.facebook.com/SustainableSanJose3D/photos_stream?tab=photos (and please "like" the Sustainable San Jose 3D Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SustainableSanJose3D> - this will make communication easier and more effective.

And thanks to Audrey Rust and Eric Rosenblum for preparing the notes below. - please share with us your suggestions for what more can be done and how you'd like to help!



Healthy Coyote Creek?

- we need a collective vision for the Creek that is inclusive
- we would like to see a navigable creek to support kayaking, canoeing, etc
- want to see the restoration of steelhead fish and other wildlife
- we want space for the creek to be natural - restore to its natural setting
- need more tree removal - the fallen trees act as trash dams and garbage accumulated - the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) needs to put more resources into this now!
- We want ACCESS spots so that people can see the creek and appreciate it - Viewing stations all along the creek would be great - wildlife viewing platforms
- we should open up the creek to use - have more things facing the creek rather than back to the creek
- "Citizen monitoring stations" should be built all along the creek where people could regularly test and publicize data about the water quality
- we can't be a carbon copy of what San Antonio has done with their water front, but we can take that model and use it creatively to improve the accessibility and the intersection between the community and the water ways

Cleaning up the Creek

- The trash is killing the creek and needs more action
- want to see removal of ALL trash in the entire creek watershed - we need to first clean the creek, then improve the upstream programs to reduce the pollution at the source(s)
- when will the health of the creek be restored?
- It is now so full of pollution that it is dangerous and is dead in many places
- There are really 3 key parts to the vision so that people can fall in love with the creek again:
 - A. access
 - B. use
 - C. protection
- it is a travesty that the creek has been allowed to get so trashy and contaminated and we demand a clean creek that can support life - the creek can be a natural connecting influence in our community

Flooding and Flood Control

- What are the flood plans for the creek - concern expressed that it needs more attention - upstream protections??

Urban-Wildlife Interaction

- Intersection between neighborhoods and nature (raccoons) - need to do more education re: outdoor food, etc

Organize for Creek Restoration

- we need a leader to coordinate the creek clean up that can bring together the various agencies with overlapping jurisdiction along with residents and creek protection groups all along the Creek - some suggested Raul Peralez
- we need a city-wide group to take on work for the restoration of the creek - there are 4 city council districts involved, not just District 3 - also need to get the Mayor involved
- need a way to access the SCVWD to register complaints so that it is easy for residents to complain and that will be responded to by SCVWD staff
- we need better stewardship to protect against invasive species - what is the SCVWD doing to remove them (without using harmful pesticides/herbicides)?
- We need regular updates on the 2 trails (Coyote Creek trail and 5 Wounds Trail) - need to know status, future plans, funding, etc
- we should **involve** youth in what is going on - there are many schools all along the creek and more student involvement would be a great educational tool as well as providing volunteers to help restore the creek - students can be involved in monitoring programs - school districts can be more involved



- Engage with creekside schools to “teach creek” adding creek related modules to their curricula
- we should continue to improve the signage along the creek to improve awareness along the overpasses, along the trails - the new signs are nice!
- we no longer want to hear the different agencies say that they “own” different parts of the creek and use this as an excuse for inaction
- it would be helpful to have a central website to keep people informed and where people can make suggestions - to continue this conversation with a variety of viewpoints from diverse sections of the community



Thanks again for your support and we look forward to your ongoing participation to help bring about the new vision for the Coyote Creek. We'll keep you posted on upcoming activities and we welcome your suggestions.

The Sustainable San Jose 3D Team (you can reach us at sustainable-san-jose-3d@googlegroups.com)

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