

## Deeper Paths: New Purposes for Trail Interpretation

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 East Bay Regional Park District  
 Mike Moran, Christina Garcia, & Bethany Facendini

## East Bay Regional Park District



## Interpreting Non-Traditional Trails

Achieving Community, Partner and District Goals

## This Is It?



## Amenities & Features

- Paved
- Urban, suburban, rural – backyard trails
- “Nothing else there”
- City parks
- Heavily “managed”



## Primary Uses

- Exercise
- Transportation- to school , work, shopping, fishing, etc.
- Recreation- bikes and dogs



## Goals Community/Partner/District

- Greenways Initiative –design characteristic
- Healthy People, Healthy Parks - Kaiser
- Community/Municipalities- explain/interpret what is happening in your city
- EBRPD Interpretive mission/vision
- Community Groups- FOMCW
- Schools



## Like Any Other Trail... Interpret What Is, And Is Not, There

- Land use design and planning
- Infrastructure
- Wildlife
- Plants
- History



## Land Use Planning



## Infrastructure Flood Control, Fish Ladder, Art Canvas



## Water



## Plants



## Wildlife

- Non-charismatic
- Charismatic
- Birds
- Urban wildlife
- Great community builder



## History

- Interpretive panels
- Land>homes
- Historic photos/maps



## Strategies

- Panels
- Partnerships- what do they want to say/share?
- Read LUDPs, EIRs, local papers
- Use the resource as it is (used)— bike rides, strollers, flat walks, rainy days/seasons, easy access
- Remarkably rich – no need to apologize



## Building a Hiking Community

EBRPD's Wednesday Walks



## Wednesday Walks

- Build community by
- Repeat users
- Encourage interaction among participants
- Create ownership of program



## Repeat Users

- Variety of locations & hiking levels
- Consistency of day & time
- Frequent offering
- Publicity
- New participants feel welcomed



## Choosing a hike location

- Enough parking for size of group
- Restroom nearby
- Seasonal considerations
- Trail substrate, shade
- Condition of trails
- Route



## Encourage Interaction

- Opening circle with introductions
- Ask for sharing
- Identify experts
- Food



## Create Ownership

- Hike suggestions
- Rate the hike



## Interpretation for Large Group Hikes - Logistics

- Get some help- leader & sweep
- Let people spread out
- But, don't lose anyone
  - Go over the route
  - Mark the route
  - Sign in & out



## Interpretation for Large Groups

- Organize group
- Introduction
  - Introduce self & volunteers
  - Logistics
  - Main topic
  - Go over route, points of interest
  - Group introductions & sharing
  - Get going!



## Main Topic Ideas

- History of area
- Endemic wildlife or plants
- Geologic feature



## Community Collaborations Promoting Trail Accessibility

“Wheelin’ the Watershed”  
Bike Ride



## Collaborative Organizations

- Outdoor Afro
- Richmond Spokes
- Richmond Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Urban Tilth



## Goals of the Ride

- Build upon the strengths and resources of multiple partnering organizations to offer a positive biking event.
- Provide a safe and fun experience for all levels of cyclists.
- Promote greater participation and awareness of people of color in outdoor recreation and environmental education activities.



## Accessibility

- Meeting location
- Free program, equipment use, and snacks
- Route selection
- Safety
- Supportive group dynamics
- Place-based learning



## Interpretive Opportunities



## Outcome:

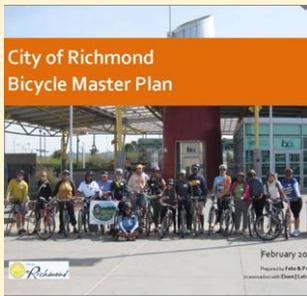
Successful Collaborative Model

- Met and exceeded the goals of the ride
- Roles and responsibilities shared and fulfilled
- Future programs planned with partnering organizations
- Local and national acknowledgement



## Outcome:

Citizen Advisory of Bike Trails



## Outcome:

Inspired Participants

- "I haven't been on a bike in years, and I rode 13 miles!"
- "Through community events like these, people are supported to try something new."
- "I came for the ride, but I also learned a lot about nature and Richmond's history!"
- "As we rode through neighborhoods, residents were more than a little curious to see so many people of color riding through on bicycles. But there were frequent cheers and other gestures of support."
- "A black bike ride has more impact on our inner-city neighborhoods than we might imagine."



## Group Exercise

- Divide into groups by topic
  - Guided discussions
  - Reporting out

Thank you for joining us!

[www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)

