

OCF Path Segment Study

RIVER PATH

Description:

The river path segment stretches approximately 3000 feet from Shaw's Elysee along the north bank of Indian Creek and the west bank of the Long Tom River to the Main Stage meadow. It includes Strawberry Lane, Shady Lane, Upper River Loop, Way Back Way, Abbey Rode, Sallie's Alley, and Pike Street. It connects with East 13th at its western end via Shaw's Elysee, at the Junction and Community Village in its middle section, and at Pooh Corner at its northern end. Two bridges, Despain Lane and Jill's Crossing, cross Indian Creek and connect Strawberry Lane to the Left Bank. A temporary non-public bridge at Pike Street crosses the Long Tom River to the Far Side. For planning purposes, this segment includes booths 960 and 961 at one end and booths 346, 343, P10 and P15 at the other end.

This path segment includes three stages (W.C. Fields, Shady Grove, Daredevil Palace), two Info Booths, two Tinkerbell sites, the Drum Tower, Altared Space, Maple Commons, Ark Park, and X-Ray Park, and a number of benches and off-path rest areas. There are 16 recycling kiosks, two vault toilets and hand washing stations (Community Village and Way Back Way), two path misting sites, five drinking water stations, 102 craft booths, and seven food booths. Some off-path areas are protected green zones.

Strengths:

This path segment features views of the river and the Far Side riparian forest. Path width and condition are generally adequate for foot traffic. Pedestrian traffic is lighter than on E. 13th, allowing relatively rapid travel from one end of the Figure 8 to the other. Lighter traffic and booth-free areas provide respite from crowding and commerce. This path segment is a good venue for strolling performers and vendors. Some portions of the path are well shaded. Extensive areas are sunny. Some sections have well-established turf. A few are bare and dusty.

Problems:

Three areas are prone to congestion, at X-Ray Park, near the Shady Grove stage, and near food booth 679. Fair family traffic across the temporary bridge to the Far Side is sometimes congested. Vehicle access is limited to certain areas by the narrow path and fragile river bank. River bank erosion forces booth and path relocation, threatening Strawberry Lane, Shady Grove, Archaeology Park, Daredevil Palace, X-Ray Park, and the Upper River Loop. Steep, narrow paths around Daredevil Palace are challenging to alter-abled persons. Barricades are needed to keep people off the steep, often undercut river bank. Little traffic flow on Strawberry Lane between Despain Lane and Jill's Crossing. Emergency egress could be a problem. The lack of behind-the-scenes access paths makes booth re-supply difficult during public hours. More benches and more signs for smoking areas are needed. One or two recycling kiosks on the river paths must be serviced by hand trucks. There are few booths offering food and drinks. The toilets are

inadequate and often overtaxed and smelly. Nearby swales provide mosquito breeding habitat.

Goals:

Off-river replacement areas for booths, entertainment venues, and services that must move because of erosion. Shady Grove stage maintained at or near its present location. Behind-the-scenes access paths for emergency and re-supply services. More food, music, and entertainment, more venues for strolling musicians, more food carts. More park space, benches, off-path rest areas, hand washing stations, and well-ventilated toilets.

Implementation:

Develop replacement areas off the river for camping, booths, venues, and services that are displaced by erosion. Provide off-path space for food booth lines. Save Shady Grove stage by relocating booths, paths, and stage to compensate for losses to erosion. Encourage food cart vendors and musicians to vend and perform along the river paths. Provide mini-stages for performers. Install light-on-the-land, temporary booths where appropriate. Develop service trails for food booths and emergency services. Install more benches, toilets and hand washing facilities. Add signs for smoking areas. Increase ventilation at toilets to reduce odor. Add bat and swallow houses. Reduce congestion at X-Ray Park by adding alternate routes or increasing the size of the boardwalk. Enlarge the bridge to the Far Side or add another bridge. Add signs to attract pedestrians to Strawberry Lane between the bridges or move willing vendors to higher-traffic locations.