

Letter from Julie



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another edition of the Modesto Trailway Newsletter! The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department staff have been quite busy over the last few months reviewing plans for phases five and six of the Virginia Corridor. Citizens can expect construction to begin sometime this fall. When completed, the Virginia Corridor will be over two miles long, stretching from Needham Avenue to Bowen Avenue. New construction will feature a bridge over Briggsmore Avenue.

As we move forward in these difficult economic times, we continue to look for new and creative ways to secure funding for this project. As you may know, we rely completely on grants and donations to continue construction. If you would like to make a donation or if you have any questions, please contact Andy Johnson at (209) 571-5582.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie G. Hannon".

Julie Hannon

Director

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department

Ways to Connect



Andy Johnson

E-mail: ajohnson@modestogov.com

Tel. 209.571.5582

Web: www.modestogov.com/prnd

Twitter: www.twitter.com/modestoprnd

Modesto's Third Annual National Trails Day

June 6, 2009 marked the 3rd Annual National Trails Day event on Modesto's Virginia Corridor trailway. Our fellow Modestans armed themselves with garbage pick-up sticks, trash bags and spent over two hours cleaning the trail.

Recreation and Neighborhoods Department Director Julie Hannon presented a brief update about the next phase of the trail. As presented by Julie, we will soon see the construction of the Briggsmore pedestrian overpass, extending the current trail by another quarter mile.



The expansion of this trail is done by government grants and, most of all, support of local businesses and families. Hi-Tec is proud to be a part of our community growth with the recent donation of "Mutt-Mitt" pet clean up stations. As a presentation of gratitude, certificates to honor new 2009 donors were presented by Vice Mayor Kristen Olsen.

We hope you will join us for the next trail clean-up day scheduled to take place on September 12, 2009, on the Hetch Hetchy portion of trail. Please be on the lookout for more information coming soon, and thank you to all for your great community support.



The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department would like to congratulate River City Bank, a very dear friend of the Virginia Corridor Trailway, on their one year anniversary in Modesto. River City Bank joined the Virginia Corridor Trailway family by sponsoring maintenance on the section of the Trail located adjacent to Roosevelt Park. In the last two years alone, River City Bank has made \$15,000 in donations to the Virginia Corridor Trailway.



River City Bank, managed in Modesto by Sylvia Orozco, has a long, stable history in the Central Valley. They are a customer service oriented bank and pride themselves on being responsive and delivering personalized financial solutions to every customer they serve. River City Bank is located at 3020 Floyd Avenue, Ste 117. Please join us in thanking them for their generous contribution!

Trail Design-Is it a weed?

The Virginia Corridor Trail looks a little dry these days and appears to have been freely planted with weeds?! How can this be, when just a few months ago, either side of the trail was blanketed with a rainbow of wildflowers? Well, what you are seeing is the end of the annual growth cycle for wildflowers and native grasses that were planted by hydro-seeding in early spring of 2008.



The seed mix includes California Poppies, White Yarrow, Purple Owl's Clover, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Needlegrass, Sky Lupine and native grasses and are all part of the "non-irrigated hydro-seeded planting areas" along the trail. Just like wild flowers in the surrounding foothills bloom in the spring and die back in summer, these flowers and grasses do the same, only to re-seed themselves for a rejuvenation next spring.

What will the City do with the dead plant material? As all of the plants have now gone to seed, the City plans to mow down and remove the top growth, leaving the seeds and small, 5-foot diameter circles of continual color around the trees, where irrigation bubblers will keep the flowers alive. There will be weeds that come back next spring along with the wildflowers and grasses, but we will make our best efforts to keep the weeds at a minimum. This is all a part of the natural cycle of die-back in the summer, followed by the splendor of a new season of wildflowers and grasses.

Trail Highlights

The longest trail system in Modesto is named after the pipeline system that brings water from Yosemite to San Francisco, called the Hetch Hetchy. The first 1.6 miles of Modesto's Hetch Hetchy trail was laid in spring of 1994 and extends from Sisk Road near Highway 99 northeast to Standiford Avenue at Shawnee Drive. By the summer of 2002, the second phase of the trail was completed continuing from the corner of Standiford and Shawnee heading northeast for 1.4 miles to Semallon Drive near Wesson Ranch Park.

The Hetch Hetchy trail was funded mostly by state and federal grants totaling nearly \$700,000 to complete, and now it needs our help. Due to economic cutbacks and the lack of man-power to clean up and maintain some of Modesto's trails, Hi-Tec Sports and Modesto's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department as well as local volunteers will roll up their sleeves to clean up the Hetch Hetchy trail. For more information or to volunteer to help us clean up the Hetch Hetchy, please contact Dayna at 209.545.1111 #321 or email dpanales@hi-tec.com.



Save the Date



September 12, 2009 8am-12pm
Hi-Tec Clean-Up Coalition
Taking on the Hetch Hetchy trail head at
Sisk Road and Prescott Road
For more info, contact Dayna Panales 209.545.1111