

OCF Path Segment Study

EAST 13TH

Description:

The main route between the entrances and Main Stage. Connects with other paths at Despain Lane, the Junction, and Main Stage. For planning purposes, includes Shaw's Elysee, booths 148 and 152 at the Junction, and extends to White Bird and booth 256.

Includes the Fair History Booth, Fair Central, Energy Park, Community Village, four stages (Youth Stage, Gypsy Caravan Stage, Kesey Stage, Community Village Stage), 22 food booths, 74 crafts booths, two information booths (Odyssey and Community Village), many non-profit booths, White Bird medical station, six drinking water stations, one five-hole vault toilet and hand wash station (near Youth Stage), four Tinkerbell sites, 13 recycling kiosks, path misters, and Energy Park showers. Utilities include water lines, phone lines, and grid electricity at White Bird, Odyssey, and Main Camp kitchen.

The path, approximately 1400 feet in length, threads through mature oak gallery forest on well-drained sandy loam. Except near the Junction, the path is level and relatively smooth. Experiences rapid water flow during high floods.

Strengths:

The Fair's "Main Street," shady, exciting, colorful, the most direct route between the entrances and Main Stage. High traffic count generates excitement and increases business for vendors. Many food booths, non-profit booths and demonstrations, strong education and outreach efforts. Short sight lines and narrow path provide intimate environment. Big trees shade most of this path section. Protected green zones are near Energy Park and Community Village. Little likelihood of loss of booth or path space to riverbank erosion. Follows historic route used for hundreds of years.

Problems:

The path is narrow and often crowded, which can hinder commerce. Food lines and crowds around strolling entertainers block traffic, especially between the Junction and Energy Park and between Community Village and Main Stage. Booth re-supply, altered use, and emergency access and egress can be problems.

Toilet and hand washing facilities are inadequate and hard to service. More benches, parks, food courts, smoking sites, and rest areas are needed. Access for service trucks is difficult. Booths are small and tightly packed. Camping space behind booths is limited and leads to conflicts.

Thin understory allows long sight lines off path. Turf is difficult to establish and maintain because of the heavy traffic and shade. The path can be dusty. Some areas have little shade. Flood erosion damages the path near White Bird and requires erosion control dams in winter. Floods carry away unsecured materials.

Goals:

Moderate-to high-density traffic within criteria of safety and comfort. Off-path food lines, strolling entertainer areas. More parks, benches, smoking sites, rest areas, and fire breaks. Off-path access routes for booth re-supply, emergencies, and evacuation. More toilets and hand washing stations in more locations. AAAA- and barefoot-friendly path. Larger recycling kiosks. Reduced scour erosion of path and loss of floatables. More visibility for big trees, more understory growth for off-path visual barrier. Decreased vehicle traffic on path.

Implementation:

Relocate some booths and replace them with parks, dining areas, and space for food booth lines. Move booths back and re-orient counters when they are rebuilt. Remove front counters and allow customers to enter booths to browse. Ask booths to control waiting lines. Designate any vacated booth as one-year-only while considering other uses for the site.

Develop replacement paths elsewhere in the Fair for booth relocation and new camping areas to accommodate displaced campers. Consider a new loop west of some segments of the current path. Add Energy Park and Community Village satellite or replacement areas in new developments.

Add public and non-public toilets, hand washing stations, benches, smoking areas, and off-path access routes. Enlarge recycling kiosks. Provide low-impact transportation for booth supplies before and after the event. Preserve understory and protect large trees. Monitor trees for safety. Continue turf development. Plant overstory species to fill shade holes.

Follow setback and counter orientation guidelines for booth construction. Path should be at least 20 feet wide but should meander to keep sight lines short. Locate similar booths in clusters when appropriate. Provide dining areas near food booths and off-path browsing areas for craft booths. Include non-commercial and participatory activities along path. Add rest areas and designated smoking areas every few hundred feet. Make security fences inconspicuous. Plan for possible impact of loss of Shady Grove or Strawberry Lane to erosion.