

## OCF Path Segment Study

### **Entrances**

#### Description:

Includes entrance routes taken by the public who arrive on foot, by bus or private vehicle, extending from Maple Gate and Bus Road Gate to East 13<sup>th</sup> and to the Dragon admissions gate. Includes pedestrian paths from parking lots and neighboring campgrounds, two bridges over Indian Creek, the bus stop, bus waiting area, solar energy demonstration area, Dragon Plaza, two admissions gates, two stages (the Front Porch and the Rabbit Hole) and a Fair history booth. Services include one drinking water station, one set of toilets, three recycling stations, pay phones, ATM, one info booth, Tinkerbell sites, service booths at the dragons (Security, Solutions, AAAA, photo ID), grid electricity, and no hand washing stations.

The pedestrian path from the parking lots follows Indian Creek on Chasem Road about 2000 feet from the NE corner of Trotter's Field to the Dragon Plaza. The lots and Indian Creek are on poorly drained clay soil with little shade. Dragon Plaza and the bus admissions corridor are on well-drained sandy loam that supports big trees and good sod.

#### Strengths:

The most extensive connector area of the fair, offering the first and last impressions to the fairgoer. Vegetation in Indian Creek, the Dragon Plaza, and bus entrance previews the forest ahead. Dragon Plaza is exciting and attractive. Good wheelchair access. Many services available to the public. Main Camp and Fair Central are close to admissions gates, providing security and supervision. The best solar exposure for alternative energy demonstrations. Good shade at bus admissions gate. Close-in parking for special needs.

#### Problems:

There needs to be more effort devoted to developing a sense of growing anticipation along pedestrian paths. There is not enough open space for the public. The walk from the parking lots can be long, hot, dusty, and bleak with sparse shade, few rest spots, and little to build excitement. Inadequate signage and directions. Security may be difficult to maintain in parking lots and along corridors. Foot traffic and vehicles share roads. The area west of the dragon plaza is dry and dusty. Fairgoers waiting in line have little shade. There is no designated smoking area near the bus stop. There can be a bottleneck at the history booth and Auntie Em bridge. Crafts Lot foot traffic goes through a gate in the public plaza. The fence is ugly and the Dragon is becoming dilapidated. Egress from the parking lots may be slow at times.

#### Goals:

Joyful entrances and exits; both portals and lateral views from buses and cars should be attractive. Shady and inviting pedestrian corridors with rest areas. Accessible alter-abled parking. Building excitement and anticipation along pedestrian corridors. Quicker and easier travel between parking lots and Dragon Plaza. Paths for pedestrians only; roads for cars only. Expanded public space west of Dragon Gate. Securable control points and

boundaries. Less traffic congestion on public roads. More and wider egress routes. More alternative energy demonstrations, satellite Energy Park.

**Implementation:**

Landscape, decorate, and place interpretive signage at entries, exits, and along corridors. Remove, beautify, or screen unsightly features such as recycling stations and work areas. Spotlight some recycling efforts. Establish security points and perimeters; maintain long axial views, water barriers, and brush barriers. Plant trees, install benches and shade structures, and provide entertainment along Indian Creek. Continue Indian Creek enhancement. Expand Dragon Plaza to the west and incorporate current area into the Fair. Build new dragon incorporating solar panel array. Make Crafts Lot fence more attractive and hide family entrance. Designate smoking area near bus stop. Use banners, fabric dragons, other decorations to mark entrances. Provide shuttle services to and from parking lots, satellite lots, and neighborhood campgrounds. Maintain special needs parking availability. Increase the use of alternative transportation. Discourage pedestrian traffic along Highway 126. Facilitate safe pedestrian traffic along Suttle Road.