

OCF Path Segment Study

LEFT BANK

Comprises the paths, woods, and open meadows south of Indian Creek, east of the Dragon Plaza and Crafts Lot, and west of the Long Tom River. Connects with the Figure 8 via two bridges, Despain Lane and Jill's Crossing and with the outer world via the admissions entrance for foot traffic from the parking lots and neighboring campgrounds. Includes Leslie's Lead, Star Lane, Chela Mela Meadow, Wooten Way, and Phun Way.

Includes nine stages (Blue Moon, Stage Left, Morningwood Odditorium, Laughing Oak, Hoarse Chorale, Mighty Tiny Puppet, Monkey Palace, Rebo Gazebo, Chez Rays' Next Stage), a history and commemorative sales booth, Kids Loop, Mellow Place, Phun Gate, Dragon's Lair, Galleria Philanthropia, Cuckoo's Nest, Yes You Canopy, 5 Fingers of Fun, Dharma Garden, Spirit Tower, public art booth, 50 craft booths, temporary crafts booths, 14 food booths, one Tinkerbell site, two hand washing stations, four toilet installations, 17 recycling stations, four drinking water fountains, and one info booth. Utilities include water and phone lines.

The paths and open spaces extend some 1500 feet from the Dragon admissions gate to the Hoarse Chorale Stage on deep, well drained soil that supports healthy sod and big trees. Some of the path is well shaded. Full sun hits the meadows and open spaces. Views of the river and Far Side riparian forest are available from Chela Mela Meadow. Indian Creek is less visible in its deep channel. Certain areas are protected green zones.

Strengths:

This segment, having been planned well, offers a good mix of food and crafts booths, seating areas, entertainment and activities, open space and intimate trails. Good AAAA access and traffic flow without much congestion or dust. Many stages with wide variety of entertainment. Child friendly. Chela Mela Meadow is large open space, full of participatory activities and non-commercial events. Service road access through Crafts Lot and South Woods.

Problems:

Occasional congestion at Kids Loop, Spirit Tower, main entrance, food booth lines. Security concerns around Kids Loop. Mosquitoes heavy around Hoarse Chorale Stage. Traffic is low on Star Lane. Paths dead-end at Kids Loop and Phun Gate. Routes and directions can be confusing. Sound conflicts between stages. Problematic sight lines around Hoarse Chorale stage. Uneven ground at Jill's Crossing. River bank erosion at Chela Mela and Dharma Garden. Chela Mela Meadow seems cluttered.

Goals:

Clear signage showing directions, routes, and destinations. Safe, fun Kids Loop. Minimized dead-ends and cul-de-sacs. More benches, drinking water and hand washing stations. Minimized sound and activity conflicts.

Implementation:

Add signs giving directions and destinations. Install bat and bird houses near Hoarse Chorale. Monitor sound conflicts and manage amplification. Smooth the ground near Jill's Crossing. Add toilets, benches, drinking water and hand washing stations. Manage food booth lines and provide line space out of path. Improve visibility of Star Lane and Wooten Way. Foster old Fair look in new construction.