

YREKA CITY NEWSLETTER

February 2015

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Volume 8, Issue 1

Yreka Creek Greenway Update

Contributed by J. Mosier, Siskiyou Garden Parks & Greenway Assn

The City of Yreka, Yreka Creek Committee, and local contractors are busy making the Yreka Creek Greenway an enjoyable streamside park that provides safe recreation and a pedestrian thoroughfare across our community.

- ◆ **Just completed:** Located behind the Siskiyou County Museum on Main Street, the outdoor classroom completed last month at the Greenway's Visitor Center is Yreka's newest public gathering space. The boulder-strewn, stream-themed classroom is surrounded by native plants, hefty "driftwood" benches, and features several fish sculptures by local artist Ralph Starritt. A Greenway Logo sculpture reflects Yreka Creek's three ocean-going fish (Coho Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Chinook Salmon) and its three dominant trees (Black Cottonwood, Red Willow and White Alder). Siskiyou County and the Klamath National Forest are landlord partners hosting the classroom, which was funded by California's River Parkways Program (Prop 50 of 2002) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Connecting People with Nature" program.



- ◆ **Almost complete:** Construction of the Greenway's **North Trailhead** along Deer Creek Road is nearly done. Here, the City's old landfill and wastewater treatment site has been cleared of debris and re-contoured into a flood-friendly streamside habitat to be planted with hundreds of native, low-maintenance trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. Completion is expected when the weather is warm enough to pave the new trails, picnic areas and parking area (April or earlier). Migratory songbirds will return to this important habitat during the spring and summer, along with other resident

birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects. A trailside bench is already waiting for you, your family and friends at the North Trailhead!

- ◆ **Future construction:** The **Oberlin Trailhead Project** is scheduled for construction by this summer/fall. It will expand previous floodplain restorations done in 2007 to locations west of I-5 behind the Relax Inn and Goodwill Store on Main Street. It will also transform the existing primitive trails into a family-friendly, fully-accessible trail system with foot bridges and picnic areas, including a trail outlet at Main Street. The Oberlin Trailhead will also be improved with surface parking, an information station, a picnic site and low-maintenance landscaping. (continued on page 2)



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Important Numbers

City Hall/
Utility Billing
(530) 841-2386

Fire Dept
(530) 841-2383

Police Dept
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

John Mercier
Mayor

Bryan Foster
Mayor Pro Tempore

Deborah Baird
Councilmember

David Simmen
Councilmember

Joan Smith Freeman
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Rhetta Hogan
City Treasurer

Yreka Creek Greenway Update (continued from page 1)

Much of this project area was generously donated to the City of Yreka for the Greenway by Scott Kimball, a local construction contractor.

- ◆ **Planning stage:** The **Flood Hazard Reduction Project** includes the purchase and/or restoration of three large properties along Yreka Creek. A city-wide evaluation of flood hazard reduction opportunities will be completed in coordination with neighbors within the flood zones of Yreka, Greenhorn, Juniper and Little Humbug Creeks. This project is in its beginning stages, with a draft of the City's updated Yreka Creek Greenway Master Plan to be available for community input in late spring/early summer this year. To view a map showing this project's purchase and restoration locations, and the other projects described above, please visit the website of the Siskiyou Gardens, Parks and Greenway Association, SGPGA.org, and scroll to the bottom of the Yreka Creek Greenway page.



Battery Recycling

You can now drop off your batteries for recycling at City Hall. Lithium and rechargeable batteries need to be individually bagged or have the terminals taped to prevent short circuits or fire. This program is operated by the Siskiyou County Dept of General Services.



Reminders:

- ⇒ The **\$10 dog license** penalty will be applied to delinquent accounts on March 3rd. Citations will be issued for unlicensed dogs starting May 1st.
- ⇒ Be sure to renew your 2015 **business license** by March 31st.

Yreka Acquires New Fire Engine

In October 2014, the City of Yreka took delivery of a 2014 Seagrave fire engine. The purchase of the engine was made possible through the Measure H fire tax ballot measure. Engine 412 is a Type 1 fire engine with a 1500 gallon per minute (gpm) pump and it carries 750 gallons of water. It carries the tools necessary for responses to structure fires and is equipped with basic life support medical equipment.



Engine 412 replaced Engine 414 which was a 1997 American LaFrance/Westates engine. The Yreka Fire Department would like to thank the citizens of Yreka for making this purchase possible.

IMPORTANT SURVEY!! The North Coast Stormwater Coalition (NCSC) invites all community members to participate in the [2015 Stormwater Survey](#). The NCSC is a collaborative effort of several governmental agencies to reduce stormwater pollution and protect local watersheds. The Coalition will use the survey to gauge the public's knowledge of stormwater issues, including the impacts of urban run-off and other discharges into local waterways like Yreka Creek and its tributaries. The survey responses will help direct the NCSC's regional stormwater pollution prevention education and outreach.

Your input is invaluable. Please complete the survey online by April 30th. You can visit the City's website for the survey link or pick up a hard copy at Yreka City Hall.