Why the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway?

Patricia Lock-Dawson
Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Partnership
The Inland Empire: Not Healthy, Not Sustainable

- Our region is relatively “park poor”: 30% of our residents don’t live within 1/2 mile of a park
- Some of the highest rates in the nation of obesity, diabetes and heart disease.
- 2 out of 3 adults are overweight or obese.
- 32% of our children are at an unhealthy weight.
- 12% of population in Riverside Co. lives below federal poverty level.
- Access to outdoor recreation is limited
Our Built Environment is to Blame!
Healthy Communities: Different Built Environments

• Green spaces integrated into the urban environment
• Safe walking and bicycling paths
• Easy access to trails and parks
• Community involvement and support
• Political will and support for policies that support community initiatives
Urban development and a poorly planned built environment is a threat to more than just ecological systems

- Fragmentation is occurring within our social networks and communities as well (Quayle 1995).
- Humans appear to have “a hardwired need for direct contact with nature and other forms of life.” Beatley (2004)
- Therefore, an unhealthy built environment, that fragments nature, also fragments our communities, threatening both ecological and human systems.
Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

When people shown pictures of nature, their values are affected

- Nature = community + close relationships
- Human built = fame + wealth
The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Makes Our Community Healthier and Sustainable!
How it Works: A Story of Collaboration

- Locally led, locally controlled by local authority
- 16 cities, 3 Counties, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Wildlands Conservancy
- Cooperation across county and city boundaries leverages funds and political influence
- Recognition that the trail is an amenity that bridges space and time and is a valued asset
The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway
One trail. Many uses.
2005 Call to Action: Partnership is Born
1. Local Leaders

- Policy Advisory Group (Elected Officials)
- Technical Advisory Group (Managers)
2. Adequate, reliable funding

Proposition 84: $45 million
3. Public-Private Partnerships
A Clear and Focused Goal: To Build and Manage the Trail and Parkway
**Timeline**

- **Master plan**
  - Dec 2011
  - June 2013

- **Construction drawings completed**

- **Permitting and mitigation complete**
  - Dec 2014

- **Phased Construction**
  - July 2014-2017
The Santa Ana River Trust At A Glance...

**Building**
Building trails and parks, connecting communities

**Greening**
Creating oases in an urban core for humans, plants, and animals.

**Playing**
Encouraging outdoor play through interpretive programs and opportunities.

How can you get involved?

BECOME A MEMBER!
Support Legislation! Contact your state legislators...

- **SB848 (Wolk)** Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Water Supply Act of 2014
- **SB1390 (Correa)** Santa Ana River State Conservancy
- **SB1086 (DeLeon)** The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2014
Integrated
Inclusive
Accessible

• Provides alternative form of transportation for commuters
• Provides range of activities for all types of recreation
• Connecting communities
• Connecting with nature
• Easy to get to
• Free!