

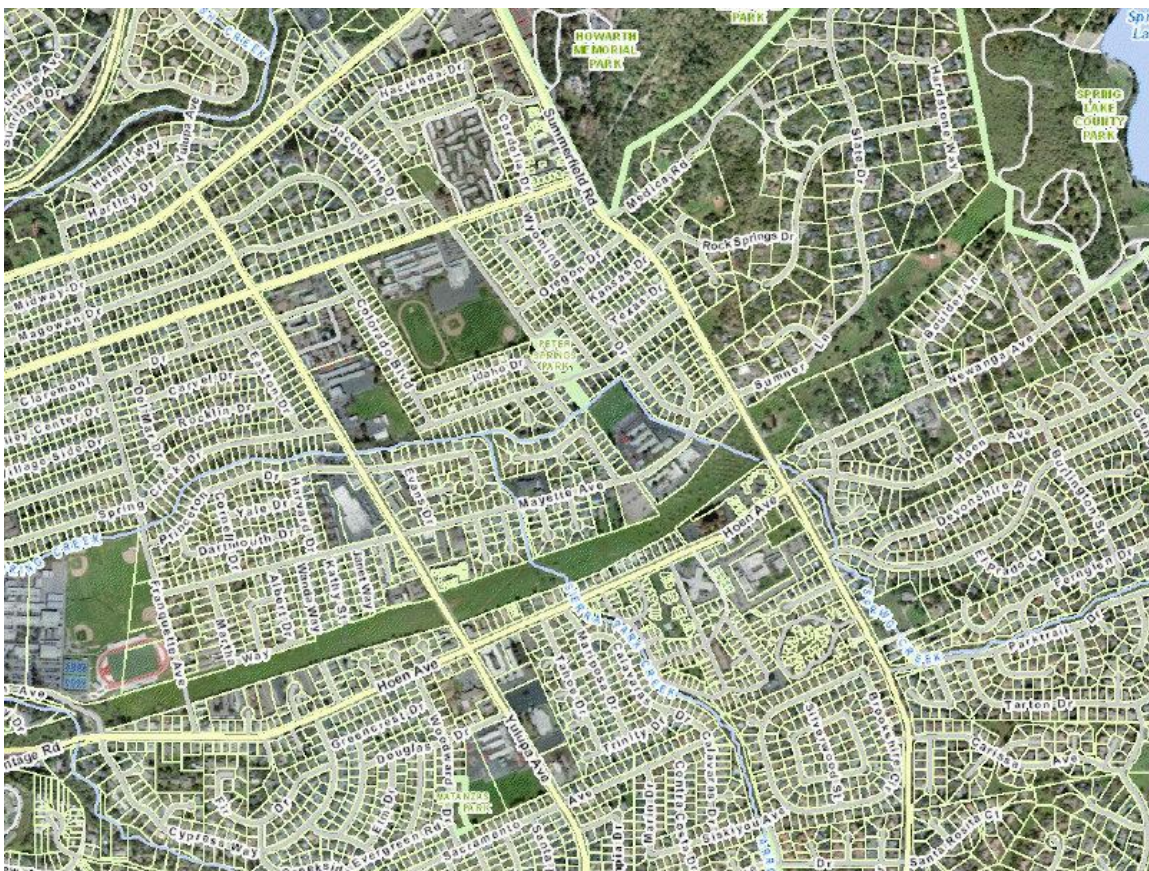


Southeast Greenway Campaign Update

By Tanya Narath

Each year, students from UC Berkeley Professor Michael Southworth's graduate Urban Design Studio work on a real life planning project during their semester long course. For the fall 2010 semester, Professor Southworth chose Santa Rosa's Southeast Greenway Campaign as the project the students would adopt as their focus of study.

The Southeast Greenway Campaign is a community-based project to develop a vital urban greenway on the approximately 2-mile long property that stretches from Farmer's Lane to Spring Lake in Santa Rosa, CA. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to link Spring Lake and Annadel Park with downtown Santa Rosa and West Sonoma County, creating a much-needed east-west connection for alternative transportation, open space and recreation.



Aerial view of the Southeast Greenway

The Empire Runner

The campaign has a broad vision for the property and is reaching out to everyone in the community to build on the vision. The campaign envisions a greenway that will:

- Improve the quality of life for Santa Rosa residents
- Promote sustainable and healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and biking
- Include open space, urban forest, restored creeks, land for aquifer recharge, urban gardens, and preservation of historic orchards and natural habitat
- Connect Spring Lake Park with the Prince Memorial Greenway, downtown Santa Rosa, the SMART train and other alternative transportation, and enhance connectivity to the West County and beyond
- Build community spirit and address neighborhood needs.

The goals of the campaign are to

- Sponsor a community-based planning process (a design charrette) to develop a vision and plan that offers a host of community benefits.
- Work with stakeholders to implement the plan and coordinate purchase, zoning, development and maintenance of the property.

A community design charrette is a multiple-day, collaborative design workshop that harnesses the talents and ideas of neighbors, community stakeholders and technical advisors to create a design and plan that represents community vision.

A design charrette is valuable because it will provide the opportunity for a diverse group of community stakeholders to convene and articulate a vision and plan for the future of this significant parcel of land. A charrette brings people with diverse interests, backgrounds and points of view together in a process that alternates between public meetings and technical work sessions. It involves education, dialogue, feedback, and a decision making process that encourages the best ideas to surface. The outcome is a shared vision and plan that will be ready to present to the Santa Rosa City Council and County Board of Supervisors so that it can be incorporated into the General Plan.

On Saturday, December 11, the students from the UC Berkeley Urban Design studio presented their final projects to an enthusiastic audience at the Glaser Center in downtown Santa Rosa. Several Empire Runners club members attended the event to hear the presentations and learn more about the campaign.

The Empire Runner



Empire Runners Paul Berg, Alec Isabeau and Lisa Isabeau checking out the designs

The students conducted an assessment of the property and prepared an analysis of current site conditions. Using this information as their foundation, the students then developed a series of creative plans for the greenway, each capturing their unique vision and offering them an opportunity to exercise their skills.

The ideas and concepts presented by the students will be used as input to the community-based visioning and planning efforts that will occur with the design charrette some time in 2011.

The vision of the SE Greenway as a vital urban greenway presents some exciting possibilities for new running routes in Santa Rosa. Imagine being able to run from Spring Lake all the way to downtown Santa Rosa on a series of connected, protected paths. This is one of many ideas that will be explored further in 2011.



Participants discussing ideas with one of the students

To find out more about how you can get involved in the campaign, please contact one of the campaign co-chairs:

Thea Hensel 545-5281 / email Thea_Hensel@vfc.com

Linda Proulx 538-7446 / email linda@proulx.biz

Or contact Empire Runner member Tanya Narath, a member of the Campaign's Circle of Advisors, at 843-0870 / email Tanya_narath@ecoleader.org.

More information is available online at www.southeastgreenway.org