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Multi-Use Path Almost Open for Business

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

It's a win- win for Lafayette. It's not everyday that you get more than you pay for - especially in this case where EBMUD is footing the vast majority of the bill for the project. The brand new porous concrete Multi-use path originally planned to extend along Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Risa Road to the Reservoir entrance, was lengthened all the way to El Nido Road.

"We committed a specific amount of funds toward the multi-use path, and the city designed a cost effective project. With the competitive building climate right now - estimates came in much lower than anticipated," said Sonna Garcia, Associate Civil Engineer with EBMUD.

Serious joggers and cyclists take note, "This will provide a link to the trail system that connects with Happy Valley, Upper Happy Valley and El Nido," said Matt Luttrupp, Associate Engineer with the City of Lafayette.

EBMUD provided the funding on this cooperative project, while the City of Lafayette provided engineering and staff time. "We are very excited to see the path get built, it looks great," said Garcia. "Discussion with the City about collaboration began with planning for the pipeline that will be built on Mount Diablo Boulevard in 2010. Because it's a heavily used pedestrian area we wanted to improve safety during construction. Long term, it provides a nice pathway in Lafayette and improves access for visitors to EBMUD's Lafayette Recreation Area." In addition to EBMUD and the City, various groups provided input on design and materials: the Creeks Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and the Ad-Hoc CIP Review Committee consisting of the chairs of the Planning and Design Review Commissions, and the Circulation Commission. Concerns ranged from width of the bike lane, the possibility of a split rail fence to viewsheds and beyond.

The straight porous concrete path, similar to gray Rice Krispy treats in appearance, is designed to let rainwater seep into the ground, reducing storm water runoff. Despite the "Sidewalk closed" sign, plenty of joggers and walkers could be seen enjoying the path last week. The grand opening should be any day now - weather permitting.

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