New River Channel

Grand Avenue to Skunk Creek and Paradise Shores

Issue 1: October 2003

Purpose

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District), in partnership with the City of Peoria, is developing New River from Grand Avenue to the Skunk Creek. A segment (approximately 800 feet) of New River adjacent to the Paradise Shores subdivision will also be improved. Bank protection, channelization, trails, and landscape enhancements will be visually consistent with the rest of the channel. The primary purpose of this project is to increase flood protection along the New River. Additionally, the improvements will:

- Provide recreational connectivity.
- Preserve and enhance vegetation.
- Provide wildlife habitat.

Regional Trails Plan

New River has been identified as an important open space corridor for the region as well as local trails in both the Maricopa County Trail Master Plan and the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Master Plan. The goal of the Regional Trail System is to connect the County Park System, link recreational corridors around the Valley, and help preserve Open Space in the community. The project will capitalize on existing right-of-ways such as canals, parks, utility corridors, and flood control projects.

The New River and Lower Agua Fria River were studied in the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Master Plan. This plan is part of a multiphase undertaking conducted through the efforts of Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), in cooperation with the District. The corridor is planned as a multi-purpose flood control facility that will also provide opportunities for recreational and alternative transportation trails. The study began in December 1999 and designed an overall master trail plan involving several communities within the project area, including Avondale, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, and Maricopa County. The New River and Lower Agua Fria River Corridors represent a riparian ecosystem common to the Sonoran Desert region of Arizona. This unique corridor contains valuable geographic features, a rich diversity of plant and animal habitats, cultural and historic resources, and beautiful vistas. The corridor links many communities together in the West Valley. After the need to increase flood protection, the principal purpose of the plan is to create a regional planning framework for a 42-mile trail network for pedestrians, equestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized trail users.

The trails along New River and Skunk Creek will incorporate connections to city parks and be designed to provide connection to the new Peoria Rio Vista Park on the east bank of New River. Opportunities for future trail heads also will be identified.

Hard-surface trails for biking and skating will be designed as well as soft-surface trails for walking and jogging, and equestrian access to the river bottom. These trails will connect to the upstream and downstream trails.

Public Open House Notice

October 29, 2003

A public open house will be held at Desert Harbor Elementary School, 15585 N. 91st Ave. on October 29, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Project exhibits will be present and project staff will be available to answer questions. The District would like to hear your comments on the landscaping and trails to help further improve New River from Grand Avenue to Skunk Creek.

For additional information visit www.fcd.maricopa.gov and click on "In Your Neighborhood," or call the District's Public Involvement Coordinator, Melissa Lempke at 602-506-0612.

A sign language interpreter will be made available upon request with 72 hours notice. Alternative format materials or FM or Infra-Red Listening Devices are also available upon request with 72 hours notice. Additional reasonable accommodations will be made available to the extent possible within the timeframe. Please contact Melissa Lempke at 602-506-0612.

Project Newsletter

Flood Control District of Maricopa County