

DOMINGUEZ CROSSING TRAIL NETWORK PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location: Dominguez Watershed, Los Angeles

The Dominguez Watershed of Los Angeles is over 90% developed, and existing parks / open spaces offer little connection to nature, natural processes and the natural and cultural history of our community. Where can we find vacant land to transform into usable open space? Right of Way easements ("ROW"s) criss-cross the city: gridded linear infrastructure that can be transformed into multiple-use spaces for passive recreation, multi-modal transportation, habitat and delight.

Communities in the Dominguez Watershed connect through a woven trail network on the Train, Electrical Transmission and Storm Channel right of way easements. Vacant sites and interstitial lands along the trail network become sites for recreational amenities and include interpretive elements honoring the ecology of the Dominguez Slough, Tongva and Colonial histories, the present Dominguez Watershed infrastructure and the area's 20th century agricultural heritage.

Trail system development would be governed by Los Angeles County, working closely with stakeholders such as the Department of Public Works/Flood Control, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Game, Union Pacific, BNSF, Southern California Edison and the communities of the Dominguez Watershed. Strong citizen, utility and government partnerships must be forged for a project of this scope.

Quality of life in these communities would be enhanced through access to usable, well designed open spaces, which provide low cost transportation (especially for the young and old), increased home values, support of active lifestyles, and remediation of contaminated lands. The trails would function as wildlife corridors, with protected habitat, particularly for birds of the Pacific Flyway and the remnant wetlands. Soil permeability would increase to recharge the ground water, and Stormwater BMPs would capture nonpoint pollution. Actuated crosswalks would connect the trails across busy streets, and active safety measures would be introduced along train tracks.

In the words of Diana Balmori, urban trails are the "new public space, the linear park, is above all the creation of a dynamic set of connections rather than a destination", which then facilitate direct connections to natural systems, to culture and to each other.