

PUT YOUR TOE (or your small boat or fishing lure) IN THE PETALUMA RIVER

About Petaluma's Water Access Implementation and Funding Strategy

BACKGROUND: City of Petaluma planning documents show a waterfront pedestrian/bike trail along the river, with several access points for launching a small nonmotorized boat, fishing, or just admiring the view. (Parts of this trail already exist around the Turning Basin, Steamer Landing Park, and the McNear neighborhood.) The plans rely on redevelopment of private waterfront properties to fund and construct the trail and water access features. Earlier this year a group of citizens and stakeholders agreed that a Water Access Implementation and Funding Strategy could help accelerate completion of this tremendous community asset. On August 1, 2008, the City of Petaluma applied for National Park Service assistance to help develop the Strategy.

HOW WOULD IT HAPPEN? The National Park Service's Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program serves communities wishing to develop water trails, riverfront parkways, and other water access amenities. *It is not a cash grant*; only staff assistance is given to assist in a process involving local stakeholder and citizen collaboration. The purpose of the grant would be to develop an Implementation and Funding Strategy for the community's pre-approved plans, as well as a suggested sequence for installation or construction of improvements. These improvements may include planned elements such as pedestrian and bike paths; a public boathouse; interpretive signage; wildlife habitat improvements; public bathrooms; overlooks and fishing piers; boardwalks, ramps, steps to the water or low docks; a maritime heritage center, and other amenities.

WHO APPLIED? The City of Petaluma's Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the Petaluma Small Craft Center Coalition, the Healthy Community Consortium, and the Petaluma Visitor Program.

WHEN WILL WE KNOW? If offered to the City of Petaluma, the one-year grant would begin in Fall 2008, and may be extended through 2010.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE? Familiarize yourself with the water access features of Petaluma's General Plan 2025, Petaluma's 1996 River Access and Enhancement Plan, and the activities of the Petaluma Small Craft Center Coalition (all are on the web); and get on the mailing list at PSC3.org.

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