

Ventura Ave WaterTalks Ventura Community Workshop

Wednesday February 08, 2023, 6:00-8:00 PM

Hosted by:

CAUSE, Watershed Coalition of Ventura County, and WaterTalks

Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM) Subregion: Ventura County

DACIP Communities: Ventura

Event Information:

Bell Arts Factory 432 N. Ventura Ave Ventura, CA 93001

Objective:

Help us plan where we need more shade, native plants, flood protection, mudslide and wildfire risk mitigation, and access to water in our community.

Project Type:

Community Outreach

Project Components: Public Health, Climate Resilience, Canopy Cover, Native Vegetation, Flooding, Mudslides, Wildfires, and Water Access



Highlights of Community Feedback

CAUSE and the WaterTalks team hosted an in-person workshop to identify local water and climate resilience issues, and over 60 West Ventura residents participated. Attendees divided into two groups; English speakers and Spanish speakers, and rotated through two map stations: 1. Water access, trees/shade and native plants and 2. Flooding and native plants, mudslides and wildfire. Exercises included locating specific areas where more shade and water access is needed, as well as areas of flooding and climate concerns.

Top priorities identified to address flooding and native plants:

- The following areas are prone to flooding and are where communities would like to see imroved drainage: Main Street, Thompson and Ventura Ave, Ventura Ave and Harrison, by the Library, and Harbor Blvd to HWY 101.
- Create areas for truckers because they have nowhere to go during major flood events, when the 101 closes, or when major roadway closures occur.
- Plant native plants along Ventura Ave and adjacent hillsides.

Top priorities identified for trees/shade and native plants:

- Ventura Ave
- Kellogg Park
- First half of Olive Street
- Ventura High School
- Plant trees along creekside and better access to river/cross river.
- Plant more trees, not only along the main avenues, but the cross streets as well.
- Provide shade/trees at bus stops.

Top priorities identified for improved water access:

- Install more water fountains/hydration stations at EP Foster Elementary School.
- Install water fountains/hydration stations at bus stops.
- Install water fountains/hydration stations in all parks.
- Concerns regarding maintenance of water fountains at schools, parks, and public areas. (Overall water quality, rusting of the water fountains, pipe corrosion, and timely water fountain filter cartridge replacements).

Top priorities identified to address wildfire and erosion/mudslide risks:

- Maintain dry brush everywhere that can pose a risk, especially on hillsides.
- Native plants needed on hillsides for erosion control along hills behind Ventura Ave, and Thomas Fire edge.

Other needs identified:

- Resource Center: evacuation plan information, environmental newsletter, air, water, and soil quality reports, media literacy workshops.
- Warning Systems: loud alarm, Amber Alerts, and updates on progress.
- Evacuation Routes: paper on every resident's door, research-based decisions made about evacuation routes, signage on roads, another on-ramp to HWY 33, and emergency vehicle routes.
- Lighting: improve lighting in parks and public spaces for safety.

Contact:

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