

Castro Valley Forum
28 April 2009

Bridge to New Library Over CV Creek to Be Installed on Saturday

By Robert Souza

A bridge, made from a converted railroad flat car, will be installed this Saturday, spanning Castro Valley Creek and connecting pedestrians and bicyclists from Castro Valley Blvd. to the new library, although it won't be open to the public until later this year because of construction.

The pedestrian bridge, a collaboration of the Alameda County Arts Commission and the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, is using the railroad car "in the interest of sustainability and the use of recycled materials," according to the Arts Commission.

Artists David Duskin and David Whippen were hired to design and handcraft a unique sculptural fence along the creek from Norbridge Ave., continuing across the bridge to Castro Valley Boulevard.



CASTRO VALLEY CREEK DIMLIGHTING PROJECT

Artist's sketch of the sculptural fence that will border CV Creek at the new library.

It will echo the construction of rural fencing that was once characteristic in Castro Valley and will allow for clear views of the creek environment and its surroundings, according to the artists who were selected by a committee of local residents and artists, and County staff.

In addition, Phase Two of the Creek Restoration Project will include restoration of the creek habitat, replacing non-native growth with East Bay plants and trees, a new pedestrian trail, and educational signage.

The Castro Valley Creek restoration project was made possible by using fees paid to the County to offset the loss of natural habitat by development elsewhere in the district.

For more information about the artists and the sculptural fence, contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at 208- 9646. For information about the creek restoration project, call the Alameda County Public Works Agency at 670-5993.

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Bridge to link pedestrians, bicyclists to library

By Kristofer Noceda

CASTRO VALLEY — With the new Castro Valley Library moving closer to completion, county officials are preparing to upgrade the surrounding areas near Norbridge Avenue.

Officials have announced that crews on Saturday will install a bridge over the Castro Valley Creek to connect pedestrians and bicyclists to the library. The project is part of the Castro Valley Creek Restoration Project, a collaboration between Alameda County's Flood Control & Water Conservation District and the Arts Commission.

"The bridge will serve as a shortcut that cuts through the creek for those walking from the Castro Valley BART station or Castro Valley Boulevard," said Amy Stimmel, Arts Commission public arts program coordinator.

The bridge will be about 50 feet long and made from a converted railroad flat car.

San Francisco-based artists David Duskin and David Whippen designed and handcrafted the railing for the bridge. They also designed a sculptural fence along the Castro Valley Creek from Norbridge Avenue, which continues across the bridge and up to Castro Valley Boulevard, officials said.

The \$1 million upgrade project also will include creek habitat restoration, removal of existing nonnative vegetation, the planting of native shrubs and trees, a new pedestrian trail and educational signs. Funding came from mitigation fees paid to the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Meanwhile, the library on Norbridge Avenue is scheduled to be completed this fall. It will replace the aging and cramped library on Redwood Road. Total cost for the new library is about \$22 million, officials said.

Alameda County has committed about \$8 million — including the \$2.8 million cost of land that was purchased about 16 years ago, and \$3.6 million from Castro Valley redevelopment funds. A \$13.9 million state grant awarded in 2004 made construction possible, officials said.

The new library will feature wireless Internet access, a multipurpose education center, cafe, bookstore, outdoor patio and a large community meeting area.

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