

Markham Ravine

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

History of Accomplishments Markham Ravine Neighborhood Committee

The Markham Ravine Neighborhood Committee (MRNC), www.markhamravine.org, is a coalition of Lincoln community residents. The MRNC has been meeting for five years, in efforts to enhance the Markham Ravine and Auburn Ravine Corridors, located in and around Lincoln. Our vision is to plan and advocate for the creation of a fully developed wetlands and riparian habitat within our own backyard. Such a habitat will provide food, water and cover for a diverse array of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates. Our efforts are far from over, but we have achieved the following successes.

1. The 1st Annual Lincoln Creek Week 2004, conducted during the week of April 17th - 24th, 2004, was a major success. Over 200 volunteers participated in the cleanup of Markham Ravine and Auburn Ravine. Forty Lincoln area businesses and organizations supported our Creek Week endeavor with \$4500 in financial sponsorship donations, food and supplies for the volunteers, as well as recruiting cleanup volunteers. We were part of a nationwide Creek Week endeavor. During this week we also conducted community educational forums and bird watching walks throughout the Markham Ravine. In 2005 the MRNC hosted and sponsored the 2nd Annual Lincoln Creek Week, conducted April 2nd - April 9th. Fifty six businesses and organizations donated \$5500, cleanup supplies and food, and volunteers. Over 250 volunteers participated in the 2005 Lincoln Creek Week events. Last year we continued our tradition with the 3rd Annual Lincoln Creek Week, with similar results. Two other Markham Ravine cleanup days have also been undertaken during the past three years, as part of successive nationwide "Make a Difference Days" campaigns, in 2003 and 2004. During the 2003 campaign we also planted 200 new native trees and shrubs throughout the Markham Ravine. **The 4th Annual Lincoln Creek Week will be conducted April 21st - April 28th, 2007. Our goals this year include recruiting 75 sponsors, donations of \$7000 to \$10,000, with 400 Lincoln community volunteers assisting in the Creek Week activities.**
2. The creation of an official Lincoln City Council appointed Markham Ravine Task Force in 2004, which includes community residents, as well as City Council members and City staff. Meets on the third Tuesday each month at Lincoln City Hall, 640 5th Street at 6:00 p.m. The Task Force members study, educate, advise and provide leadership to the Lincoln governmental entities regarding the preservation of Lincoln open space. Members of the Markham Ravine Neighborhood Committee also serve on this Task Force.

3. The City of Lincoln committed and set aside monies for the expansion of Markham Park. Architectural plans were completed in June, 2004. Bids for The actual construction were solicited and a contractor selected in July, 2004. The Park was completed during the Summer of 2005, with grand opening ceremonies conducted in September, 2005. On any given day one can now observe many local community children playing on the play structures and residents hosting family picnics underneath the new pavilion overhang structure.
4. In 2004 eight firms with professional environmental and engineering experiences submitted proposals for the design and construction of the Markham Ravine Nature Area Project (MRNA). The City Council, on April 13th, 2004, selected Foothill Associates as the contractor. Foothill Associates has sub-contracted some of the project task responsibilities and has since been working alongside Restoration Resources in this endeavor. Project activities over the past two years have included: (a) the preparation of environmental documentation needed for acquisition of all needed State and Federal environmental permits, (b) conducting biological assessments and wetlands delineation, (c) design development, and, (d) mapping. On November 22nd, 2005 the Lincoln City Council adopted a written concept MRNA Master Plan. State and Federal permits, including CEQA, have now been obtained. The City Council has already set aside more than \$400,000 of City funds for implementation of the MRNA. These funds will be utilized as matching monies needed for obtaining State and Federal funding. In 2006 the City submitted an application for \$1.3 million in grant funding through the California River Parkways Grant program. It is currently being reviewed and considered by the State for funding. When grant dollars are secured Foothill will create documents necessary for the City to solicit the MRNA construction bids. Upon completion, the Markham Ravine Nature Area will include meandering streams, the re-establishment of native trees, shrubs and grasses, abundant wildlife, and ten miles of multi-use trails and designated observation areas for all residents to enjoy the beauty of a preserved wetlands and riparian habitat. The Markham Ravine Neighborhood Committee will continue to focus our efforts throughout 2007 towards working with Foothill Associates on this project.