

Creekbed bike paths hinge on rider safety

By JIM JANSSEN

Of The Press-Tribune staff

ROSEVILLE — Bicyclists and hikers may be kept away from streambeds in Roseville unless the city can guarantee their safety.

The Roseville Planning Commission has recommended the City Council study all potential safety problems before approving bicycle and hiking trails along streambeds in the city.

"In no way would I allow my daughter to use the proposed streambed trails with problems they can cause to hikers, perverts and pushers," Commission Chairman Bill Santucci said.

"It isn't worth having a child molested or raped on a streambed trail."

A rapist and flasher has been preying on Roseville schoolgirls in the Linda Creek area next to Eich and Sierra Gardens schools in Roseville.

The man reportedly tried to rape a 13-year-old Aug. 29 as she was walking near the Sierra Gardens School campus. Police say the man has exposed himself more than two dozen times to other children.

"I have reservations about building bicycle trails along streambeds," Commission Chairman Jim Cernak said. "I cannot endorse bicycle trails along the streambeds without answers to the problems."

Planning Director Steve Dillon said the City Council plans to hire a consultant to study the impact of building the bicycle trails along the city's streambeds.

He said the city engineering staff will conduct an impact study of establishing bicycle trails along city streets.

The two systems would tie in to form a network of trails linking parks, schools, residential and commercial areas of the city.

The city is considering amending its general plan to include the bike paths as an alternative method of transportation.

A General Plan is a guide to development. The plan

must be amended to include bicycle trails before the city can receive any funding for the trails from the state.

The plan also includes several commuter routes and trails linking the city with Sierra College, Folsom Lake, Lincoln, Rocklin and Citrus Heights.

Funding for the project is expected to come from the state.

"The city should be concentrating on how to get across town on a bicycle, rather than having a trail along a streambed behind someone's home," Santucci said.

Roseville has been acquir-

ing streambed property to implement the system, but very few sections of the trails have been developed.

The city has completed one section of the proposed trails behind Vinmar Court along Linda Creek, between Oakridge Drive and Sierra Gardens School.

"Homeowners along the bike path are taking the brunt of the problems," Ruby Johanson, 1407 Vinmar Court, said.

She said the trail is being misused by marijuana smokers, motorcycle riders and even drivers.

"The squirrels, quail and pheasant have all left our

area since the bicycle trail was installed," she said.

Phil Kister of 812 JoAnne Lane said opening the streambeds to bicycle trails would require painting 24 hours a day.

Bob Kolak, a former Roseville police officer and constable, suggested the city keep the trails out of the streambeds and out in the open, where they can be watched by police.

"I would completely eliminate bike trails along the streambeds if I had my choice," Santucci said.

"Hopefully, a study will point out the good and bad in using the streambeds for bike trails."

Judge raps protest gavel against new muni courts

ROSEVILLE — A judge has found a proposed Placer County municipal court system guilty of severing ties between the bench and the community.

"I personally feel having a judge who is a member of the community at large," Rosehill Justice Court Judge Richard Ryan said.

Placer County will replace six of its seven part-time justice court judges with three full-time municipal judges under a Senate bill that became law without Gov. Jerry Brown's signature.

Justice courts in Roseville, Loomis, Lincoln, Auburn, Colfax and Foresthill would be abolished in January 1983, leaving only Tahoe City in a justice court district.

Ryan criticized the new system in a presentation to Roseville Republican Women.

Under the new system voters throughout Placer County would pick the three full-time judges at large instead of choosing judges in each court jurisdiction.

Ryan said this would eliminate the "judge accountability" to the people his

decisions influence.

"It is my feeling that when you have a municipal court the people lose contact with who their judges are, what their judges are doing, and what is happening in the criminal justice system," he said.

People in the community know if their judges are doing a good job or not, he said.

And if they don't like the decisions handed down, it is reflected at the polls, Ryan said.

"When we have a municipal court, no one is going to know anymore," Ryan said.

Ryan suggested, however, if the municipal court judges were assigned a specific geographic area, the people could follow the case and be able to influence the judge.

Ryan also pointed out vacancies in a municipal court system are filled by gubernatorial appointment rather than election.

He also told the women that society, not just the defendant, is entitled to a speedy trial under the constitution.

"If a person commits a crime and is able to delay

punishment for six months, a year, or a year and a half, during this period of time his mind will not be going through the process of rehabilitation."

Instead, Ryan said, "He will try to beat the system, hoping something will happen that will get him off."

Noise issue for panel

ROSEVILLE — An ordinance controlling the volume of music and amplifiers in Roseville parks will be reviewed Monday by the city Parks and Recreation Commission.

The commission will meet at 7 p.m. at Roseville City Hall, 318 Vernon St.

The board also will consider:

- Oral communications.
- Official communications.
- Ordinance for amplifiers as applied to parks.
- Cultural arts.
- Park maintenance report.
- Report on maintenance and operation for September 1981.
- Recreation program.
- Report on program activities for September, 1981.

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