



**Trails and Landscape
Committee
2009-2010
Annual Report**

Message from the Chair:

Clayton is a wonderful place to live. Even with all the fiscal and political turmoil at the state and national level, Clayton has a balanced budget, and our beautiful community is intact and operating effectively.

I have the privilege of chairing The Trails and Landscape Committee. This committee is comprised of a group of Clayton residents who volunteer to provide advice to the City Council about the use of Measure B funds, to make suggestions about how to keep Clayton's landscaping beautiful, and to steward its network of trails.

If you have not had an opportunity to enjoy our trail system, please consider doing so at your earliest opportunity. I believe that you can't completely appreciate Clayton until you experience our trails. Much of the world has to go on vacation to find hiking, walking, and biking trails such as ours . . . we just have to go home!

Much of the credit for keeping Clayton maintained as well as it is goes to our city maintenance staff and our volunteers. It takes a well run city to make volunteering so gratifying and successful. I sincerely appreciate my fellow Trails and Landscape Committee members, who work closely with, and have the support of our City Council and the Mayor. Also, I want to extend special thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who have stepped up to ensure the success of Clayton's Adopt-a-Trail program. There are many ways to serve your community. Please consider volunteering to maintain a section of trail—or to sponsor those who are willing to do so.

Clayton has become a bit of a sanctuary during these turbulent economic times, but our community leaders need your help to maintain this status. Although Measure B funds are protected from being stolen by the state, they are limited, and so the community needs volunteers to augment the effective way in which these monies are allocated.

The Trails and Landscape Committee meeting dates are posted on the City's website. Please join us anytime. Since we are a citizens' group, we need to hear directly from you as to how best serve our community.

I hope to meet you soon,

Virginia Siegel
Chair

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT CELEBRATES ITS THIRD YEAR:

The Citywide Landscape Maintenance District (“District”) ended its third year of operation on June 30, 2010. It operates and maintains the public roadway landscaping and its irrigation system, the trail system, and the “Clayton fountain”. It also provides weed abatement and fire breaks in the open spaces. The District does not include any of the city parks/sports fields, the City Hall and Library Landscape , or the downtown Grove Park which are funded by other taxes.

Measure B, passed by voters in June 2007, established a Citizens’ Oversight Committee that is commonly known as the Trails and Landscaping Committee (“TLC”) which advises the City Council and staff on matters concerning the District budget, priorities, and responsibilities. The TLC consists of up to eleven 11 non-paid, volunteer citizens of Clayton and the Vice Mayor who serves as the City Council’s non-voting representative in an ex-officio liaison capacity. The TLC currently meets quarterly to oversee the operation of the District.

TLC MEMBERS:

Citizens who served on the TLC from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 are:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Virginia Siegel (Chairperson)	June 2011
JoAnn Caspar	June 2010
Victor Geisler (former Vice-Chairman)	June 2010
Jerry Kosel (Vice-Chairman)	June 2010
Kelly Marshall	June 2012
Lorraine Mole	June 2011
Robert Erich	June 2012
Hank Stratford (Ex-Officio)	
Howard Gellar (Ex-Officio Alternate)	

Members who began serving on the TLC June, 2010 are and were also involved in the preparation and review of the Annual Report for FY 2009-10:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Jake Pauline	June 2012
Bob Steiner	June 2012

TLC Recommendations Projects and Work Product Review:

- TLC regularly received reports on maintenance staff's activities – see attached reports
- Provided assistance and recommendations regarding triage for water allocation
- Began work on recommendations for redesign of water feature landscaping
- Assisted with City of Clayton master tree list
- Made recommendations to the city council and provided assistance to staff with prioritizing landscape replacement projects
- Made recommendation to the city council to proceed with Marsh Creek Circle replanting project as proposed by City of Clayton maintenance staff.
- Recommended to the city council and direction to staff for the installation of pavers in selected median noses along Oakhurst Drive.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM:

The Adopt-a-Trail program continues to thrive with TLC members working as volunteers to support the effort. The program aims to:

- Augment financing provided by Measure B
- Provide a venue for volunteers to help Clayton maintain and enhance its trail network
- Make the trails cleaner
- Celebrate the trails' sponsors and volunteers
- Foster civic pride through volunteerism, philanthropy, and cleanliness

The TLC has identified several trail segments to adopt. Each segment can have two adopters: a financial adopter and clean-up adopter.

Adopters as of June 30, 2010 include:

<u>Trail Segment</u>	<u>Financial Adopter</u>	<u>Clean-up Adopter</u>
Cardinet (Library to Lydia Lane)	Black Diamond Electric	The Pauline Family
Bruce Lee	None	Jeff Waldron
Blue Oak	CD Federal CU	Employees of CD Federal Credit Union
Lower Easley	None	Kinder Care
Donner Creek	None	BSA Troop 262 & 284
Cardinet (Lydia Lane to Westwood Park)	CBCA	Girl Scout Troops 429 & 31895

WATER RATIONING:

The Contra Costa Water District ordered the city to reduce water usage by 45% (vs. 15% for homeowners) beginning on May 1, 2009. Prior to that date, the city had begun to look for alternative water sources to help offset the reduction. As of June 30, 2009, the city had upgraded the pump at the Clayton Library to water several medians and lawns near the Clayton Road. City staff also gained approval from the City Council to renovate an existing well behind the Clayton Post Office to irrigate the downtown raised planting boxes and the Grove Park. These well sources only partially make up for the loss of water that is supplied by Contra Costa Water. The City's Landscape District started a triage program in which the main objective was to save all of the trees, shrubs and selected ground cover, prioritized in that order. Irrigation was turned off on all lawns and bare areas. As a result, the lawns and some plants died, as expected. The District also temporarily reduced trimming and fertilizing some planting areas in

order to discourage new growth. The standard maintenance and irrigation schedule resumed when water rationing ended on May 1 2010. At this time, the TLC has begun to determine what should be done to the areas that have deteriorated due to lack of irrigation. This includes the bricking of medians noses along Oakhurst Drive, the replant of the Oakhurst Fountain, and the replant at Marsh Creek Circle. A more detailed discussion can be found in the APPENDIX "Water Rationing Plan."

TLC RECOMMENDS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 TO CITY COUNCIL:

In May of 2010, the TLC submitted a proposed budget to the City Council which was based on the existing FY 2009-2010 assessment, subject to adjustment by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), but capped to a 3% maximum increase per Measure B. Subsequently, the CPI was published at an increase of 1.72% and in July 2010, the City Council adopted an annual assessment of \$910,434, or \$207.56 per residential parcel or non-residential parcel acre. A copy of the adopted budget and further explanation of Fund 210 is included in the APPENDIX section of this report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Both the TLC and the District continue to reach out to the public to keep citizens informed of their activities in a variety of ways which include:

- Inviting the public to attend quarterly TLC meetings
- Requesting comments and questions via email to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us
- Posting meeting minutes at the City website at www.ci.clayton.ca.us
- Presenting summaries of TLC meetings at City Council and CBCA meetings
- Publishing quarterly reports of maintenance staff activities
- Submitting articles about the District to the Clayton Pioneer newspaper

[Thanks to the Clayton Pioneer newspaper for publishing articles about the District. Articles which appeared during the last fiscal year are included in the APPENDIX of this report].

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

The members of the TLC invite you to join!

APPENDIX

- ◆ Landscape Maintenance District Water Rationing Plan
- ◆ City Maintenance Quarterly Report(s) Trails and Landscaping District
- ◆ 2010-2011 Adopted Budget
- ◆ Articles published in Clayton Pioneer during fiscal year 2009-2010
- ◆ Adopt-a-Trail budget
- ◆ TLC Brochure

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT WATER RATIONING PLAN

To achieve the Contra Costa Water District's 45% mandatory reduction in water usage the following objectives will be implemented to meet this goal.

Objectives

- "Pool" all water meters within the Landscape District
- Read all Landscape District meters every two weeks
- Stop watering all lawn areas
- Turn off sprinklers in bare areas
- Manually adjust controllers for watering cycles
- Concentrate watering on newer and healthier planted areas
- Suspend trimming of the landscape during rationing
- Suspend planting of annuals at base of Clayton Fountain and along Main Street
- Option to drain the pond at the Clayton Fountain
- All District monies saved from using less water stay within the District's Fund and will be set aside for future water system improvements or restoration of turf areas or plants lost to the drought

PURPOSES

- I. The Landscape District will "pool" all 43 water meters within the District so we can better achieve the overall 45% reduction in water usage. This allows us to divert water from metered locations where the water is not needed to areas that will need the water so we will be able to save the desired landscaping (see criteria below VI). Implementing meter "pooling" will allow the Maintenance Department more flexibility in attaining our goal of 45% water reduction mandated by the Water District.

- II. Maintenance staff will read the water meters every two weeks to ensure that we are meeting our goals of a 45% reduction in water usage over all. With the meters pooled together we will be better able to see if were keeping within our total allotment and if not make adjustments quickly before heavy penalties apply. There will be addition man hours to perform this job but will be offset from man hour saving from suspending trimming and from buying/using less water

- III. Maintenance staff will stop watering all turf area funded by the Landscape District. These areas are: Water Feature, Coal Mine Court, Peacock Creek Drive, Eagle Peak Ave and Indian Wells Way at both ends, Eagle Peak Ave at Miwok Way, Indian Head Way, Downtown at the off ramp, Tear Drop (where roses are), Christmas tree and above Black Diamond Plaza

Lawns are by far the largest user of water in a landscape. By not watering them we will be able to divert water to save shrubs and tree which are more costly to replace then lawn. An added benefit of not watering these lawns is when the drought is over we will be able to make upgrades to the sprinkler systems and get new thatch free turf. This will make watering much more efficient and make for healthier lawns in the future.

- IV. Maintenance staff will be going through the landscape and shut off individual sprinkler heads that are only watering dirt areas. This has already been done in most areas where we have experienced major plant loss over the years. There will be a small add cost in man hours since we will be checking for this throughout the year instead of just at the beginning of the watering season as in previous years.

- V. The irrigation controllers will be manually programmed throughout the water season to meet our goals of a 45% overall water reduction. Instead of a standard program that runs throughout the watering season we will be making adjustment to the controllers on an as-needed basis. This could mean daily or weekly or monthly. There will be additional man hours needed since we will be doing a lot more adjustments then in normal watering years. These additional man hour will be absorbed from savings from suspending the landscape trimming and buying/using less water.

- VI. Maintenance staff will be making an evaluation of all the landscaping plantings to determine what plants would be most cost and water effective for saving. The priority will be to save the newer and healthier landscape areas such as: Center Street trail area; old Marsh Creek Road; east bound side of Oakhurst Drive. Then, priority in order will be to save trees, shrubs, then lastly any ground cover (listed in order of cost priority and aesthetic impact).

- VII. Maintenance will suspend trimming the landscape during the summer and fall months. Under the standards of the Landscape District we trim the landscaping twice a year. By suspending trimming for the summer and fall we will be only trimming the shrubs an average of once a year during the declared drought period. By taking this action we will save water by not promoting the plant to re-grow after they are trimmed especially during the

hot summer months. Trimming will be done on a case by case basis for the following reasons; sight obstructions at intersections, overgrowth impeding walkways, and any other hazard found to endanger the public. Trimming will not be performed for aesthetic reasons during this time so as to save and conserve the plants during drought conditions.

- VIII. Maintenance will suspend the planting of annual flowers at the Clayton Fountain and at the tear drop on Main Street. We will also inform the Garden Club that there will not be sufficient water to be able to water the raised planter boxes along Main Street and Center Street that they maintain with annual color. This is being done because annuals use almost as much water as lawn areas.
- IX. As an option to save more water the Landscape District may have to drain the Clayton Fountain and put the pumps into storage. Maintenance staff will monitor this during the summer months and if we are not meeting the imposed 45% goal for water savings, then we will have to take this option. This water feature is like a swimming pool where water is being added all the time from evaporation and recirculation of the filter pump. The water feature is not metered separately from the nearby landscape so there is no accurate way to measure what it uses daily. If the water feature were to be shut down the pumps would need to be serviced to put them into storage while the feature is drained. This would allow the pumps to stay in operational condition until the time when the District turns the Fountain back on. There will be some cost to put the water feature into storage and restart. Overall there would be savings from the monthly maintenance contract which would be suspended and water usage.
- X. All monies saved from purchasing less water after added labor costs to implement the above plan remain within the District's restricted-use Fund and are proposed to be set aside for future uses; irrigation efficiency improvements, plant replacement from the drought, and hardscape installation for less watering in the future within the District. After the drought restrictions are lifted, Maintenance Staff will compile a list of projects to implement with the funding available for the Trails and Landscaping Committee to review and recommend to the City Council. It is unknown at this time what the amount of monies would be saved from less water usage but it could be substantial if the drought lasts multiple years.

Summary

During the rationing the Maintenance staff will be responding and repairing all leaks as they are detected so as to conserve as much water as possible. Also WAP (work alternative personnel) will be employed in areas where hand watering may be more efficient to save trees or shrubs than using the existing irrigation systems. Adjustments to this plan may be made throughout the year to achieve the goal of 45% reduction on water usage and at the same time save as much of the plant life as possible.

**QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING
5/13/09 to 8/12/09**

- Trim Landscaping and removed dead plants
 - ~~Eagle Peak Drive~~
 - Oakhurst Drive from City Limits to Clayton Road
 - Old Marsh Creek Road from El Molino to downtown
 - Atchinson Stage Road and Pine Hollow Road
 - West bound Peacock Drive
- Spot spray herbicides in Landscape District Citywide
- All irrigation being watered by manually programming controllers per rationing plan. Also hand watering some trees by WAP (work alternative personal)
- Continued to repair Irrigation systems within the Landscape District
- Completed weed abatement for fire breaks in the Landscape District
- Connected and upgraded the Library Well to Clayton Road Landscaping now watering from Mitchell Canyon Road to Oakhurst Drive and the off ramp to Main Street
- Connected the planter boxes on Main Street and Center Street to the High Street well (this also waters Endeavor Hall landscaping and the Grove Park)



CITY MAINTENANCE
QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING DISTRICT

8/13/09 to 11/13/09

- Started to Trim Landscaping and removed dead plants
- Spot spray herbicides in Landscape District Citywide
- Sprayed herbicides on and along all major trails in the Landscape District
- All irrigation turn off within the Landscape District
- Continued to repair Irrigation systems within the Landscape District
- Completed weed abatement for fire breaks in the Landscape District



**CITY MAINTENANCE
QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING DISTRICT
11/13/09 to 2/8/10**

- Continued to Trim Landscaping and removed dead plants;
Along Old Marsh Creek Road, Atchinson Stage Road, and Clayton Road from
Mitchell Canyon Road to City Limits
- Spot spray herbicides in the Landscape District Citywide
- Trimmed all Crape Myrtle Trees in the Landscape District
- All irrigation still turn off within the Landscape District
- Replaced Filter Pump at the Water Feature and rewired the lighting within the
vault that had been corroded
- Installed water bars in the quarter by dust trails at the Plaza to Center Street trail
and the trail behind the retaining wall along Old Marsh Creek Road



**CITY MAINTNEANCE
QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS AND LANDSCAPING DISTRICT
2/9/10 to 5/14/10**

- Continued to Trim Landscaping and removed dead plants;
Along Clayton Road from the City Limits to Mt. Zion, Clayton Road from Peacock Drive to Mitchell Canyon Road, Keller Ridge Drive, Center St and Eagle Peak Drive
- Spot spray herbicides and pull weeds in the Landscape District Citywide
- Over seeded lawns in the Landscape District
- Started to turn on and make repairs to the irrigation systems within the Landscape District. Contra Costa Water District has remove mandatory water rationing and is allowing average historical usage from 2005.06.and 07
- Mowed a strip of weeds along major trails for clearance (This was do to the extraordinary growth of the weeds this year and is not a regular maintenance item)
- Repaired the Trail at Bloching Circle do to damage from truck traffic caused by the City of Concord to access the sewer line for maintenance located in the open space.
- Contracted the trimming of the median trees along Oakhurst Drive from Eagle Peak Drive to Clayton Road.

City of Clayton
 Landscape Mtn District CFD 2007-1 Fund 210
 Estimated Budget 2010-11

Account Number	Account Name	2008-09 Actual 6/30/2008	2009-10 Adopted Budget	2008-10 Actual 4/30/2010	2009-10 Projected 6/30/2010	2010-11 Proposed Budget
7111	Salaries/Regular	147,840	154,000	119,308	154,000	162,632
7112	Temporary Help	81,381	93,000	52,882	71,336	94,150
7218	LTD Insurance	1,430	1,602	1,134	1,427	1,545
7220	PERS Retirement	34,161	35,000	25,518	32,071	34,527
7221	City Attorney PERS					
7231	Workers Comp Insurance	5,736	5,800	5,441	5,441	5,627
7232	Unemployment Insurance	1,223	1,900	5,708	5,834	5,836
7233	FICA and Medicare	7,743	8,500	5,350	7,210	9,561
7246	Benefit Insurance	33,480	26,500	27,637	32,837	33,239
7311	General Supplies	36,800	38,718	16,811	38,718	38,718
7316	Landscape Replacement	6,635	20,000	-	20,000	260,000
7335	Gas & Electric Serv.	24,895	28,500	22,353	28,000	28,840
7338	Water Services	121,578	120,258	50,407	67,794	180,000
7342	Machinery/ Equip Maint.	11,583	8,758	3,067	8,758	8,758
7343	Vehicle Maintenance	719	8,334	6,300	8,334	8,334
7344	Vehicle Gas, Oil, and Supplies	5,972	6,494	5,221	6,494	6,494
7381	Property Tax Admin Cost	3,349	3,886	3,199	3,388	3,400
7389	Misc. Expenses	-	-	98	98	-
7419	Other Prof. Services	113,237	133,781	74,085	118,733	133,355
7486	CERF Charges/Depreciation	12,836	12,836	6,468	12,836	12,836
7613	Paying Agent Fees					
7615	Property Taxes	2,274	3,048	2,292	2,292	2,300
8101	Transfer to General Fund	26,970	26,970	22,475	26,970	29,918
	Total Expenses	682,411	738,065	455,753	654,751	1,082,271

4604	Clayton LMD Assessment	887,298	894,396	850,454	895,215	910,434
5601	Interest	6,872	3,000	7,332	7,400	5,000
5702	Donations for Adopt A Trail	3,300				
5606	Unrealized Inv Gain/Loss	5,437				
	Total Revenue	902,907	897,396	857,786	902,615	915,434

Annual Balance (Shortfall)
 Beginning Fund Balance
 Ending Fund Balance

		220,496	159,331	402,033	247,864	(146,837)
		163,233	383,729	383,729	383,729	631,593
		383,729	543,060	785,762	631,593	484,756

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		163,233	383,729	383,729	383,729	631,593
		383,729	543,060	785,762	631,593	484,756

7419	Wildland Resource Mgmt	48,500	61,450	46,550	1,600	1,600
	Envirotech Enterprises				53,416	53,416
	Gate welding	350	360	-	-	-
	Warner Brothers -Tree trimming	13,750	15,000	10,500	15,000	15,000
	Paco Pumps			(800)	(800)	-
	Fence Repair reimbursement					
	Warner Bros Svc 1 x per yr+2 x trails	29,500	30,385		30,385	31,266
	NBS Admin Fees+Del letters	3,943	3,900	3,703	3,800	3,900
	Martel Water Systems	2,735		238	238	1,000
	Redant Control	3,005	5,500	6,176	6,176	7,500
	Advertising for TEMP labor	734	734			1,000
	New Signs	2,160		61	61	
	Sprayer Sales Company (w/treatment)					2,241
	Water Feature Extra + repair contingency	421	8,602	957	957	8,602
	Water Feature \$650x12	7,800	7,800	6,700	7,800	7,800
	Total	113,237	133,781	74,085	118,733	133,355

\$800 cr fence

7311	Herbicides		13,720			13,720
	Fertilizer		5,900			5,900
	Irrigation		15,000			15,000
	Misc Supplies		4,998			4,988
			39,718			39,718

Extra to run pump for fountain
 10 events (31 days @ \$180=\$4980.)
 Art n Wine, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Halloween Parade/Ghost Walk, Veterans Day, Xmas Tree Lighting,
 Presidents Day, Thanksgiving, Garden Tours, Oktoberfest

Citywide Landscape Maintenance District -- Fund No. 210

In June 2007, Clayton voters approved a replacement real property tax to continue funding the operation and maintenance of our citywide public landscaped areas. This annual tax is restricted to costs associated with roadway medians and parkways, our trails system, open space weed abatement, irrigation and also funds the "Clayton Fountain". Maintenance of City Parks *is not* included as an authorized expense under the District's Act; park maintenance obligation falls to the City's General Fund. *Citywide public landscaping services have always been funded by a special revenue tax levied on private properties throughout the City.* The District is completing its third year of a 10-year approved operation (Measure B), and its citizens' oversight committee (Trails and Landscaping Committee, or TLC) meets quarterly to ensure the promised maintenance standards and efficiencies are achieved with these special-purpose tax revenues.

Pursuant to the terms of voter-approved Measure B, the special tax rate may be modified annually by the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI; San Francisco – Bay Area) from July to April. In no event shall the tax rate be increased by more than 3% each year. The CPI change (from April 2009 to April 2010) arrived at 1.7%. The District's revenue projection was increased by that factor accordingly and is set at \$910,434 for FY 2010-11 (add interest earnings of \$5,000 for total revenue of \$915,434).

The Landscape Maintenance District opens the fiscal year with a projected positive equity of \$631,593, up significantly from last year by \$247,864 (65%) due to under-expending. There are several underlying causes for this return of District monies to the District's reserve:

- 1) Measure B's approved Budget allowed for the funding of one (1) more permanent Maintenance Worker to the organization to manage irrigation system controls and leaks. The District has not filled the position during the first two years of operation, relying instead on seasonal and temporary workers to manage this need. By doing so, the District "saves" approximately \$80,000 each year in salary and compensation benefits; and
- 2) The Contra Costa Water District imposed a mandatory 45% water reduction on outdoor irrigation users last year (in contrast to a 15% reduction on homeowners). This mandate necessitated City Council action to halt irrigation of water-intensive landscape to sustain the more valuable plant and mature signature trees of the District within allotted rations. Metered water expense savings of approximately \$97,000 (overlapping fiscal years) were realized yet at a more expensive cost to now replace with the lifting of the drought restrictions.

Noteworthy expenses of the District include its annual weed abatement Citywide (\$31,296 for the fire season), and the huge expense of \$55,016 to abate noxious and exotic weeds in the Oakhurst Hills (a condition of project approval for the Oakhurst residential development). Metered water service is restored at its traditional expense of \$180,000 per year, and personnel services for this labor-intensive work accounts for 33% of the District's budget this year (\$347,219).

Recognizing deliberate and cyclical dying of landscape and turf occurred in the District last year, the citizens Trails and Landscaping Committee (TLC) met on May 17th to consider staff proposition to commence replacement of dead and dying landscape using portions of the District's reserves. The TLC's recommendations were approved by the City Council on May 28th and call for the allocation and expense of \$260,000 from District reserves for the following replacement and improvement projects:

Oakhurst Drive decorative pavers in narrow medians	\$ 70,000
Clayton Fountain replanting project	\$ 70,000
Restore plants: Oakhurst Dr., old Marsh Creek Rd. & Clayton Rd.	\$ 45,000
Deferred Tree Trimming	\$ 20,000
Marsh Creek Circle replanting/headlight glare mitigation	\$ 19,400
Tree Replacements on Keller Ridge Drive	\$ 16,600
Replant Jeffry Ranch Court island	\$ 2,500
Project contingencies	<u>\$ 16,500</u>
	Total: \$260,000

Expense Account No. 7316 – Landscape Replacement contains this \$260,000 allocation from the District reserves to fund the approved landscape improvement project. The City Council further instructed staff to prioritize the replanting of the Clayton Fountain area.

The District also contributes its annual allocation of \$12,936 to the City's Capital Equipment Replacement Fund (CERF), from which Maintenance vehicles and equipment are purchased for use in maintaining the Landscape District. An expense of \$29,918 (3.3% of annual revenue) is transferred to the City's General Fund to pay for administration and overhead of the City (e.g. telephones; payroll processing; accounts receivable and payable; District direction) attributable to the District's annual operations.

With these actions, District's ending fund balance on 30 June 2011 will still be a healthy \$484,756, which equates to a reserve of 53% of its annual revenue. This reserve status is confirmation the City does not siphon "surplus" monies of the District into its General Fund; all revenues received are restricted use funds.

City hopeful that new signage will spark more downtown shopping, dining



Tomara Steiner/Clayton Pioneer

NEW GATEWAY SIGNAGE is part of the Redevelopment Agency's long range plan for the revitalization of the Town Center.

New signs directing visitors to Clayton's Town Center were placed at the city's two entrances last week. The signs, one at the Oak Street off ramp and the other at the city's new gateway at Clayton and Marsh Creek Roads, are part of the city's ongoing downtown revitalization plan. It is hoped that the signs will drive passing traffic downtown for dining and shopping.

"Instead of just flying by town at 40 mph, people will now know there's a 'there' there, and hopefully come into town to grab a bite to eat or do some shopping," said local real estate

broker and former mayor Rex Laurence. "The signs look great."

The gateway project, also known as "Daffodil Hill" is a joint effort between the Clayton Redevelopment Agency and the CBCA and includes a new monument sign at the top of the hill. The landscape will be completed by mid to late September.

Irrigation for the hill will come from the well at the library across the street.

The landscape design is still a work in progress and will include drought tolerant shrubs as well as some colorful ornamental planting.

From the Clayton Pioneer, Sept. 11, 2009

Claytonians show civic pride through trail volunteer efforts

Andre Gensburger/
Clayton Pioneer

Clayton's trail system has linked the city on a number

of "great places to live" trails.

As of July 15, 1998, Clayton received 1,000 trail markers, which made it one of the first major walkable, "small cities" in

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Andre Gensburger/Clayton Pioneer

MONIKA MAYTUM, LEFT, WITH SCOUTS NICK SWIATKO, Ted Hall and Anthony Maytum clear debris on the Donner Trail as part of their service to Clayton's Adopt-A-Trail program.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Under the Adopt-A-Trail program, in place earlier this year, each trail can have two adopters — one financial and one for clean-up services. Ted Hall, the 18-year-old son of Clayton's Pauline family, is the first to sign up for the program. They sponsor the most heavily used trail, the Donner Trail, which runs from

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See Adopt-A-Trail, page 6

Adopt-A-Trail, from page 1

the Clayton Library to Lydie Lane Park, crossing three bridges.

"It was obviously to give back to the community," said Jake Pauline, whose company Black Diamond Electric provides the financial sponsorship.

"The trail is always pretty clean," said his wife Cristina, who runs on the trails. She attributes this to the strong sense of civic pride from Clayton residents living near the trail.

"Our lovely trail system and our community's volunteer spirit are among the major reasons our town was chosen as one of the best places to live in the nation," said Mayor Julie Pierce.

The trail program is augmented by Measure B funds, with the goal of providing a venue for volunteers to help Clayton maintain and enhance the popular trails. The annual fee to participate as a financial sponsor is \$1,000. For clean-up adopters, it's \$200. Markers are installed at each trail segment with the names of both the financial sponsor and the clean-up volunteers.

"In this age when cities have had to cut back services, one of

the ways for residents to give back is through volunteer efforts," Jake said. "These trails are a huge bonus for Clayton."

"If everyone can stretch out a bit," Cristina added, "we can keep the community looking beautiful. That's a great attitude to have."

Jake grew up in Clayton and his parents still live here. He and Cristina bought their home in Clayton a few years ago.

"We also get repaid in better property values," Jake said of community service. "And we teach our children the value in giving back to the community. Clayton is a great place to live. People choose to live in Clayton."

THE PRIDE OF VOLUNTEERING

Nick Swiatko of Troop 262 has been a scout for 2½ years, since moving to Clayton from San Leandro. "My friends got me into it," said the 16-year-old, who enjoys the hiking and camping activities as well as pitching in on the trail.

"Leaving the debris is bad for the environment," he said, "because it makes walking difficult and poses a fire hazard."



Andre Gensburger/Clayton Pioneer

THE PAULINE FAMILY, Johnny, Julia, Cristina, Jake and Analisa were the first to adopt a Clayton trail.

So far the trail maintenance has not taken them a lot of time, but Hall believes that is because they are at the start of the program and still organizing what needs to be done.

Anthony Maytum, 11, and his mother Monika are also part of Troop 484. Monika wanted her son to understand how lucky he is to be living in a place like this.

"I hope he will teach it to his kids as well one day," she said. "We have to give back to the community."

"The Adopt-a-Trail program fosters civic pride through vol-

unteerism, philanthropy and cleanliness," said Discard.

"It's not all about the merit badge," Swiatko said. "It is about giving back to the community."

Other Adopt-A-Trail participants include CD Federal Credit Union, the Clayton Business and Community Association, Girl Scout Troops 429 and 31895, Kinder Care and Jeff Waldron.

Both financial sponsors and clean-up volunteers are needed. To adopt a Clayton trail, call 674-7369.

Adopt a Trail status as of 2/8/2010

<u>Adopters/Revenues</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Sponsor Type</u>	<u>Trail Section</u>	<u>Amount Recvd</u>	<u>Date \$ Recvd</u>	<u>Ag. recvd</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Pauline Family	Volunteer Labor	Cardinet Trail (Library - Lydia Ln Pk)	\$200	2/3/2009	Yes	3/1/09
Black Diamond Electric	Financial	Cardinet Trail (Library - Lydia Ln Pk)	\$1000	2/3/2009	Yes	3/1/09
Jeff Waldron <u>Available</u>	Volunteer Labor Financial Sponsor	Bruce Lee Trail Bruce Lee Trail	\$200	2/3/2009	Yes	3/1/09
Employees of CD Federal Credit Union	Volunteer Labor	Blue Oak Trail	\$200	2/9/2009	Yes	3/1/09
CD Federal Credit Union	Financial Sponsor	Blue Oak Trail	\$1000	2/9/2009	Yes	3/1/09
Kinder Care (Knowledge Learning Center) <u>Available</u>	Volunteer Labor Financial Sponsor	Lower Easley Trail Lower Easley Trail	\$200	4/14/2009	Yes	5/1/09
BSA Troops 262 & 284 <u>Available</u>	Volunteer Labor Financial Sponsor	Donner Creek Trail Donner Creek Trail	\$200	7/28/2009	Yes	7/1/09
GSA Troops 30429 & 31895	Volunteer Labor	Cardinet Trail (Lydia Ln Pk - Westwood Pk)	\$200 (from CHK ⁴)	8/7/2009	Yes	8/4/2009
CBCA	Financial Sponsor	Cardinet Trail (Lydia Ln Pk - Westwood Pk)	\$1000	8/7/2009	Yes	8/4/2009
Total Revenues			\$4200			

Adopt a Trail Expenses

<u>Date</u>	<u>purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/8/2009	19.5 hrs maintenance temp labor make/ install signs	\$219.00
4/17/2009	materials for sign posts	\$1527.34
6/23/2009	signs printing (bay area barricade)	\$98.87
6/30/2009	t-shirts	\$289.51
8/9/2009	wood for future sign posts - (dolan's lumber)	\$595.15
8/9/2009	sign printing (bay area barricade)	\$10.93
Total Expenses		\$2740.08

2/8/2010 Account Balance: \$4200 - \$2740.08 = \$1459.92

WHAT IS YOUR TRAILS AND LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE?

The TLC (Trails and Landscape Committee) is made up of 6 volunteers, your neighbors & friends, from the Clayton community. The TLC was formed by the Clayton City Council in August 2007 to help the City implement the voter-approved plan to manage the current and future needs of the City-wide Landscape Maintenance District (the CCLMD).

The TLC serves as the financial oversight committee and provides short-, mid-, and long-term implementation guidance to the City Staff and City Council regarding the spending of the special voter approved funds that can only be used for spending within and for the Landscape Maintenance District.

The Landscape Maintenance District consists of the roadway edge and roadway median landscaping, trail maintenance and fire abatement on trails and open space. City parks & the running of the Clayton Fountain are not included in the District.

The TLC in Action!

The Trails and Landscape Committee meets on a quarterly basis on the 3rd Monday evenings of the month (7pm) at the City Library (Hoyer Hall Meeting Room) 6125 Clayton Road. Residents of Clayton are encouraged to attend these meetings to hear what is being proposed and to provide input and get their questions answered.

The TLC will be evaluating use of targeted hardscape and limited replacement planting options for drought losses as funds and water restrictions allow.

Meeting agendas are posted on: City web site at www.ci.clayton.ca.us
City Hall, 6000 Heritage Trail;
Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Road;
Ohm's Bulletin Board, 1028 Diablo St
Please direct any questions or concerns to the City of Clayton via the website or address above.

Your Trails and Landscape Committee Members

Virginia Siegel (Chair)
Robert Erich
Kelly Marshall
Lorraine Mole
Jake Pauline
Bob Steiner

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FROM YOUR

CLAYTON TRAILS and LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE



2010-2011



WHAT are the STANDARDS and PRIORITIES of the District and the TLC?

- Firebreaks are Mandatory.
- Weeds are now cut along major trails and creeks twice yearly.
- Trees are trimmed for safety purposes first.
- Irrigation breaks are repaired as needed.
- Public roadway landscaping is trimmed twice yearly.
- Landscape areas are now fertilized one time a year as needed.
- Limited funds for targeted improvements of \$20,000 each year.

TLC'S STRATEGIC FOCUS

- Take Care of what we have before planting something new
- Remove unwanted expenditures and control costs with strict oversight.
- Create Equity in the District.
- Implement Cost-Effective measures to improve irrigation and infrastructure and functions.
- Invest in improved equipment as a means to increase maintenance efficiency and effectiveness.
- Implement Seasonal and situational based labor to minimize costs.

HOW IS THE DISTRICT FUNDED ?

The District is funded by a special 10-year parcel tax "Measure B" passed by the Clayton voters in June 2007 that is currently \$ 207.56 per year that appears on your property tax bill. This assessment can only be increased for inflation with a maximum annual increase cap of 3% per year. This is the only source of funding for the Landscape District supplies, electricity, irrigation, water, and labor. All funds are kept separate and only used for the voter approved Landscape District

expenses. *(The operation of the Clayton Fountain was not approved by voters to be included in the District).*



QUICK FACTS of Your Landscape Maintenance DISTRICT --YOUR "FRONT YARD"

- The District landscape covers over 2,000,000 sq. ft.
- There are 40,700 sq. ft. of lawns and flowerbeds.
- There are over 2,871 trees in the City.
- There are 515 acres of open space.
- There are 7 miles of creek side trails and 20 miles of open space trails.
- There are about 50 street islands and medians.
- The District uses equivalent of only three full time staff and includes the use of some seasonal and volunteer workers as needed.
- From May 2008 to May 2010 the Contra Costa Water District had mandatory water reductions of 45% for the Landscape District. The District priorities was to preserve trees, then shrubs and to eliminate watering of lawns and groundcovers to stay within the limits and to avoid financial penalties through even higher water costs.
- Adopt-A- Trail program established to encourage trail maintenance funding and volunteering.