

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Workshop #2: Community Visioning

Date/Time of Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 6:00-7:45 pm

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

OVERVIEW

The second community workshop for the Butte County Upper Ridge Community Plan was attended by approximately 45 community members.

The meeting began with a welcome greeting from Paula Daneluk, Butte County Development Services Director, followed by a PowerPoint presentation led by PlaceWorks (consultant) that included project background, recap of issues and opportunities heard in the first community workshop on May 5th, and overview of the main topics to be covered during the focus group portion of the workshop.

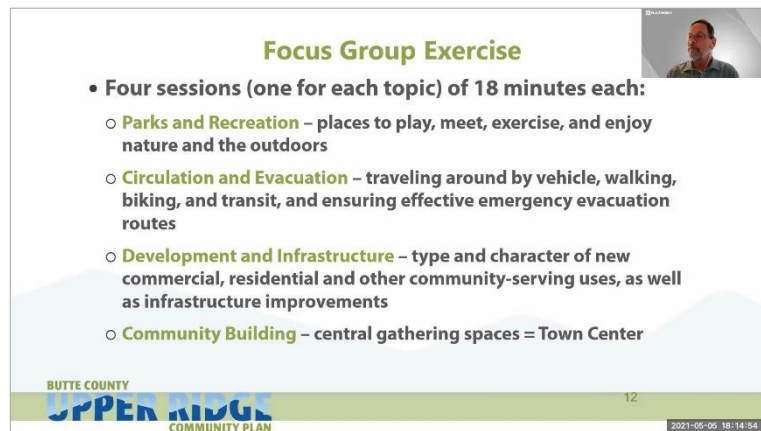
After the brief presentation, attendees participated in “breakout room” discussions in groups of 10-12 people. Each room discussed four topics, one topic per 18-minute session. Participants discussed the following four topics and questions:

- **Parks and Recreation** – Places to play, meet, exercise, and enjoy nature and the outdoors.
 - What enhancements would you like to see to improve parks and recreation on the Upper Ridge?
 - Are there opportunities for parks and open space lands to serve as fire buffer zones and/or refuge spaces?
- **Circulation and Evacuation** – Traveling around by vehicle, walking, biking, and transit, and ensuring effective emergency evacuation routes.
 - Where are opportunities to create additional internal road connectivity or improve existing infrastructure?
 - What are the greatest priorities for improving evacuation from the Upper Ridge?
 - Where are connection improvements for pedestrians, bicycles and transit most needed?
- **Development and Infrastructure** – Type and character of new commercial, residential, and other community-serving uses, as well as infrastructure improvements.
 - Where should new commercial and multifamily residential apartments be located?
 - Are adjustments needed for existing zoning and/or fire-safe building regulations?
- **Community-Building** – Central gathering spaces and Town Center ideas.
 - What is the Upper Ridge Town Center of the future?
 - Where might an Upper Ridge Town Center be located and why?



Following the breakout room discussions, notetakers (from the project team) for each topic reported back to the entire workshop, highlighting key items and themes. Participants' key feedback and ideas for improvements and strategies are presented in the next section.

Following the discussion groups' presentations to the entire workshop group, PlaceWorks briefly described the project's next steps, including the project team's development of initial concepts and strategies based on feedback received during the workshop and previous community participation, and the ensuing Workshop #3 on May 26th to discuss those concepts and strategies. The workshop adjourned at 7:45 pm.



The image is a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "Focus Group Exercise". In the top right corner, there is a small video inset showing a man speaking. The slide content is as follows:

- **Four sessions (one for each topic) of 18 minutes each:**
 - **Parks and Recreation** – places to play, meet, exercise, and enjoy nature and the outdoors
 - **Circulation and Evacuation** – traveling around by vehicle, walking, biking, and transit, and ensuring effective emergency evacuation routes
 - **Development and Infrastructure** – type and character of new commercial, residential and other community-serving uses, as well as infrastructure improvements
 - **Community Building** – central gathering spaces = Town Center

At the bottom of the slide, there is a logo for "BUTTE COUNTY UPPER RIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN" and a timestamp "2021-05-05 16:14:54".

FOCUS GROUPS – KEY TAKEAWAYS

This section summarizes key themes and takeaways from the focus group discussion. In general, the items below represent shared values amongst multiple participants from different discussion groups.

Topic 1: Parks and Recreation

- **Community Space Needs**
 - Sports fields that can accommodate soccer, football, disc golf, etc.
 - Need more playgrounds in the Upper Ridge.
 - Reserve space for public exercise equipment.
 - Consider adding a venue for festivals and concerts.
 - Reserve space to continue and promote farmers markets.
 - Provide necessary resources to Magalia Community Park to continue serving as an area attraction.
 - Support for new community amenities planned for the proposed Lakeridge Park.
- **Access to Amenities**
 - Create more-direct paths connecting neighborhoods to Paradise Lake.
 - Increase accessibility for elderly and disabled populations and ensure park improvements meet Federal accessibility guidelines.
 - Communities on the West side of Skyway need improved access to amenities.
- **Trails**
 - Consider incorporating additional multiuse trails where appropriate – e.g., horse, walking, biking trails.
 - Trails need to be adequately served and regulated to ensure safety of residents.
- **Private/Public Partnerships**
 - Pursue public/private partnerships to expand access to amenities for all residents.
 - Helping equestrians gain access to use large tracts of private and public forest lands.
 - Partner with private entities to promote more community events and attract tourism.
 - Assist Magalia Community church to develop available open space for recreational purposes.
- **Maintenance and Safety**
 - Establish a day-of-action initiative to promote self-maintenance of public parks/.
 - Secure adequate funds to ensure adequate maintenance is being performed regularly.
 - Safety should be a top priority moving forward with any concepts.

- **Fire Safe Planning**

- Preserving green open spaces are essential to maintain fire buffers.
- Maintenance is critical to ensure green spaces serve as successful fire buffers.
- Lake De Sabla makes a good fire refuge area.

Topic 2: Circulation and Evacuation

- **Evacuation Routes and Processes**

- Publish a map showing private and public roadways and include private roads that are publicly accessible in emergencies.
- In general, add new paved roads and improve pave dirt roads to increase safety and condition of evacuation routes.
- Centerville only has one way in and out and road is meant for one-way traffic.
- Skyway needs to be widened over the dam, or maybe there could be a new, separate secondary road providing an east-west connection south of the dam.
- Work with property owner in southernmost portion of the plan area to include Athens Way to connect into Butte Creek Canyon, connecting to Honey Run.
- Nimshew area needs additional evacuation routes, currently Centerville is the only evacuation route and its not safe.
- Nimshew Road could be extended down to Chico.
- Consider improvements to Coutolenc Road to serve as additional evacuation route.
- Road improvements from De Sabla to Hwy 32 are needed to meet evacuation standards.
- Improve roads to have shoulders and are safety to drive on during emergency situations
- Designate safe spaces as refuge areas during emergency events.
- Residents are hesitant to return to the area due to lack of adequate evacuation measures.
- Add signage to existing and new road to help drivers navigate in emergencies.

- **Internal Roadway Connectivity**

- Increase connectivity from upper and lower Magalia through alternate route parallel to Skyway.
- Roads are too narrow to accommodate existing traffic.
- Skyway needs to be widened over the dam, or maybe there could be a new, separate secondary road providing an east-west connection south of the dam.
- Ponderosa Way (west of Magalia Reservoir) needs improvements, currently gets washed out.
- Consider creating a loop in northern part of plan area in Steiffer neighborhood, where there are a lot of dead ends.

- **Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Improvements**

- Incorporate ped, bike, and transit routes to existing roadway network
- Current conditions on Skyway make walking and biking very unpleasant
- Include bike lane or multiuse path on Skyway
- Existing bus routes are sufficient but service frequency needs to be improved to levels prior to the fires

- **Road Improvements**

- Consider annual maintenance on roads

Topic 3: Development and Infrastructure

- **Housing**
 - Consider building new multifamily housing on the southeast corner of Lakeridge.
 - Parcel at the turnout of Rosewood has great potential for multifamily housing.
 - Multifamily housing should match existing area character be smaller in scale.
 - Consider the old mobile park (El Dorado Estates) for multifamily housing.
 - Build housing that accommodates the younger community, older residents looking to downsize, and affordable housing for residents coming back into the Upper Ridge.
- **Future Development**
 - Consider the Lakeridge area – it is centralized and is nearby many essential amenities.
 - Residents would prefer a village style design rather than large blocks.
 - Implement solar where feasible.
 - Study potential opportunities to build in old Magalia.
 - Avoid cookie-cutter design.
- **Constraints to Development**
 - Existing sewage infrastructure may not support larger developments.
 - Existing septic system poses major issues in terms of developing multifamily housing.
 - Consider having duplexes, triplexes, or smaller detached buildings that can be supported by the septic system.
- **Zoning**
 - There are various parcels that should not be RR5 on Skyway.
 - Consider updating zoning on parcels between the RV Park and the ambulance station.
 - Consider adding mixed use designations in rural areas of the Upper Ridge.
 - Look into potential zoning inaccuracies along Skyway.
 - 5ft to 10ft setbacks are difficult to build (RR5 Zoning), makes already narrow lot extremely narrow.
 - Setbacks are hurting the community by shrinking necessary space.
 - Zoning descriptions need to reflect the terrain which it is referring to.
 - Code enforcement and land management should be a top priority.
 - Study feasibility of new zoning restrictions banning the rebuilding of property.

Topic 4: Community-Building

- **Town Center's Future**
 - May serve as an information center for the community and visitors, including during emergencies.
 - Encourages and facilitates socialization to create a neighborly culture.
 - Serves as the hometown square.
 - Provide dining and shopping opportunities for residents.
 - Can serve as a park where the community can gather and host events.
 - The County can start weekly community events at the Town Center.
 - Should serve as an emergency operations center that provides resources during emergencies and provides critical information to residents.
 - Provide robust infrastructure that has strong internet, cell and power capabilities.
 - Include walking spaces with historical signage, pretty overlooks, a dog park, cafés, a hotel, and small venue for concerts.
- **New Town Center Potential Location**
 - On Skyway near Hilltop Café could serve as a center for the existing amenities nearby
 - At the existing Community Center near the farmer's market
 - Next to the post office

- Magalia Community Park
- The upcoming Lakeridge Park
- Connect the existing Rite-Aid and Lakeridge Park with a new Town Center.
- Consider studying potential improvements to existing community center sites, like the Magalia Community Center and Magalia Community Church.

Key Next Steps

- **Conceptual Designs:** to be shared during Workshop #3
- **Workshop #3:** Wednesday, May 26th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm (Zoom)
- **Workshop #4:** Tuesday, June 15th, time and format TBD
- **Draft Community Plan:** September