

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Workshop #1: Community Vision

Date/Time of Meeting:	Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 6:00-7:40 pm
Format:	Virtual- Zoom
Project Team / City Staff:	PlaceWorks: Bruce Brubaker, Abraham Sheppard, Michelle Hook, Spence Koehler, Cliff Lau, Jacqueline Protsman, Ricky Pozos County Staff: Paula Daneluk, Dan Breedon, Rowland Hickel, Pete Calarco, Michal Hanson, Skyler Kriese, Tiffany Lightle, Efrain Ruvalcaba, Tristan Weems

OVERVIEW

The first community workshop for the Butte County Upper Ridge Community Plan was attended by approximately 62 community members.

The meeting began with a welcome greeting from Paula Daneluk, Director of Development Services, followed by a PowerPoint presentation led by PlaceWorks that included project goals, project background, and preliminary Plan Area maps. The presentation also included a recap of issues and concerns heard during prior outreach conducted through meetings with stakeholders in December 2020 and January 2021. Following the presentation was a short question and answer period, which is summarized in the last section of this report.

After the presentation and short discussion, attendees participated in “breakout room” discussions in groups of 10-12 people. Discussion lasted for 45 minutes. Each of the six groups included a facilitator from the PlaceWorks team and a notetaker from County staff. Participants discussed the following three topics:

- **Upper Ridge Plan Area and Neighborhoods Map** – Feedback on the naming and locations of Plan Area neighborhoods, and on the preliminary Plan Area boundaries
- **Issues** – Current issues on the Upper Ridge affecting quality of life, rebuilding, resiliency, etc.
- **Opportunities** – Near-term and long-term opportunities to enhance quality of life and help shape a thriving, resilient, and healthy future for the Upper Ridge community

Following the breakout room discussions, one person from each group reported back to the entire workshop, highlighting the group’s agreed-upon “Top 3 Issues” and “Top 3 Opportunities”. Participants’ key feedback and ideas are presented in the next section.



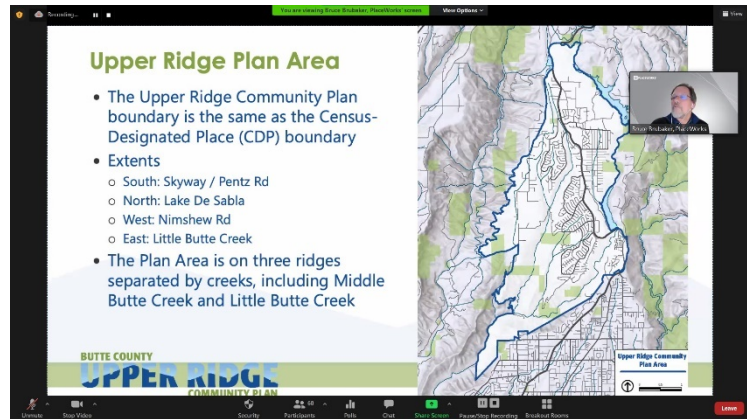
Following the discussion groups’ presentations to the entire workshop group, PlaceWorks briefly discussed next steps and additional opportunities to provide feedback, such as the online survey. The workshop adjourned at 7:40 pm.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

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

Plan Area Map

- Coutolenc should be included in the Plan Area.
 - It is important to include for fire safety reasons.
 - Coutolenc provides access to recreational trails and recreational areas.
- Include additional areas in Nimshew that are west of the preliminary map boundaries.
- Neighborhoods are appropriately mapped and named.



Issues

- **Housing and Homelessness:**
 - Loss of affordable housing
 - Lack of senior housing opportunities
 - Transient populations
 - Caravan of trailers where people are camping without long term plans
- **Medical Services and Livability**
 - People moving back is dependent on access to healthcare
 - Local medical services are necessary and much-needed
 - Crime and problems with drug use in the community (pre- and post-fire)
- **Communications**
 - Emergency notification systems must be improved
 - Poor cell phone service, need more cell phone towers
 - Poor internet service
 - Power shut offs to assist in preventing hazards leave residents at risk of not receiving information to evacuate if necessary.
- **Resiliency/Fire Safety**
 - Need fire hydrants and access to water when power is out for fire suppression.
 - Better implementation to address buildup of fuel and clearance (especially with maintaining properties where owners are not living in the area).
 - Natural fire breaks needed
 - Poor access to evacuation routes and lack of fire hydrants
- **Transportation**
 - Evacuation routes are minimal. Single lane dirt roads are a hazard in terms of evacuation.
 - Lack of connectivity between roads. The road network could be improved greatly to allow more evacuation routes, and adding a "Plan B"
 - Need safe pedestrian path along the Skyway through Magalia

- **Community-Serving Businesses**
 - Loss of businesses is felt by remaining residents, some businesses affected directly by the fire are not coming back
 - Need more community-serving spaces, such as a fitness center and local-serving retail.
 - Make Old Magalia a walkable district
- **Infrastructure**
 - Lack of sewer
 - Lack of water infrastructure makes visitor lodging unfeasible

Opportunities

- **Housing**
 - Affordable housing such as duplexes and more single-family homes
 - Helping people who lost homes come back
 - Use Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) as a method to develop more affordable housing in Magalia and Central Way
- **Medical Services**
 - Medical zone/facility for the entire Upper Ridge area
 - Improved Emergency responsiveness
- **Communications**
 - Rebuild high quality communication infrastructure – undergrounding utilities, fiber optics, more cell phone towers
- **Fire Safe Planning**
 - Better fire hazard planning (such as natural fire breaks and more fire hydrants and other fire suppression).
 - Additional fire-safe gathering areas
 - Work with out-of-town owners to maintain properties for fire safety
- **Transportation and Access**
 - Increased connectivity amongst roads and trails
 - Better evacuation routes that can also be biking trails
 - Alternative roadway for bike/walk/low vehicular traffic within the Upper Ridge and to Paradise
 - Bike Paths
 - Improved access to lakes and between lakes
- **Recreation and Open Space**
 - Add new parks as opportunities to beautify, provide recreation for all ages, and offer safe gathering spaces during crisis
 - More biking and walking trails
 - Utilize forest lands near the PID for open space and trails
 - Promote beautiful trails and ensure preserving lands through land trusts.
 - expanded trails around lakes
- **Commerce and Tourism**
 - Promote the rich history and recreation to attract businesses and visitors
 - Note: Most groups discussed the need for additional commercial services, although the demand was questioned.
- **Community-building**
 - Opportunity to be envisioned as a “work from home” community
 - Social gathering spaces desired

- Have a multi-use building that can be used as a community center and senior center, and could be used as a warming center and gathering place for seniors.
- Magalia to find own unique identity.
- Old Magalia would benefit from infrastructure improvements and maintenance of historic landmarks (including historic designation.)

Q & A Session: Participant Questions and Project Team Responses

Several questions were received during the workshop’s Q&A session, which took place prior to the group discussion period summarized above. Not all questions were addressed at the workshop due to time constraints, but responses to all received questions are indicated below.

- *Would love to see the biking/walking path in Paradise connect to Magalia. Are there opportunities?*

A grant was just awarded to the Paradise Recreation and Park District for funding a trail linking Paradise Lake and Magalia! This approximately 15-mile trail loop will connect the community to recreational areas and provide Upper Ridge residents and visitors with an appealing way to enhance physical and mental wellbeing.

Over the next few months, the project team would like to continue to hear from community members about potential opportunities within the Upper Ridge for people bicycling and walking to destinations including recreational trails and parks.

- *What are the prospects of a bike and skate park?*

A bike/skate park is being explored as part of the conceptual design for Lakeridge Park, west of Magalia Reservoir. Community support for bike/skate facilities has been shown at public meetings about potential recreational uses of the Lakeridge Park property. The Paradise Park and Recreation District is currently pursuing state grant funding to develop the park.

- *Are there any plans for affordable senior living?*

There are currently no projects under review with the Butte County Department of Development Services. This topic will be studied during the development of the Community Plan.

- *I have heard that Paradise is already putting in fiber optics. Is that something that is planned for Magalia as well?*

Communications infrastructure improvements in the Upper Ridge will be studied during the process of developing the Upper Ridge Community Plan.

- *What is being done or what plans to be done to repair the catwalks-and the metal troughs for water flow in the flumes between Coutolenc and all the way down along Pentz Rd? Now the gunnited flumes are stagnant and collect rainwater.*

The flumes are controlled by PG&E. We anticipate the use and maintenance of the flumes will be discussed during development of the Community Plan.

Key Next Steps

- **Existing Conditions Assessment Memos:** to be posted on the website in February
- **Community Design Workshop Series:** three Workshops in May and June
- **Draft Community Plan:** September