

Development and progression of FOCCC plans to initiate grant support for funding

The plan for South Fork has been modified several times since FOCCC's first talks with the US Forest Service (USFS), using community feedback and USFS guidance.

Original Plan – early 2019

FOCCC wanted to replicate the old South Fork picnic area as close as possible to where it had been. We designed a plan for the berm area with 3 picnic tables, 4 to 6 benches in a semicircle for talks, a handicapped accessible trail, a trail to the creek with benches and boulders to sit on, informational signage, and a bathroom. Later in 2019 USFS hydrologists found the only place above the floodplain for a bathroom would be on the hillside above the berm parking area, requiring some excavation. The site looked to some observers to be prone to rain runoff, making us uneasy about it.

Modified Plan—late 2019

Several community members helped craft a modified plan to get around the bathroom location problem: move some parts of the picnic area $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile downstream, where there was a place for a bathroom above the floodplain. This plan had a picnic table and the handicapped accessible trail at the berm, and the bathroom, 2 picnic tables, and the 4 to six benches for talks, and some signage at the downstream site, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from FR 42. This made for two locations, and it was felt that by having the bathroom at the lower location, much visitation of the canyon would start from there, with more people walking the South Fork Road, reducing traffic and human impact upstream.

March 2020 Plan

Comments from local community members and feedback from US Fish and Wildlife Service to the USFS plan indicated our proposed two sites would not pass muster. Accordingly, we accepted that there would be nothing at the berm, and the features of the old picnic area would be a mile downstream from the old picnic site, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from FR 42. This was not a formal plan, but rather a development based on interagency communications and response to local concerns. This site would then have 3 picnic tables, a bathroom, a handicapped accessible trail to the creek, informational signage, benches, and some benches along the road. There would also be a new trail sign at the berm for the South Fork Trail.