

Blue Oak School: K-5 with 674 Students

2391 Merrychase Drive, Cameron Park

Audit Conducted: 09/12/2007

School Location

Blue Oak Elementary School is located in the growing suburban area of Cameron Park. Blue Oak is one of two schools located along Merrychase Drive between Cambridge Drive to the east and Country Club Drive to the northwest. Camerado Springs Middle School borders Blue Oak on the east. Blue Oak Elementary is located near the intersection of Merrychase Drive and Country Club Drive. Both roadways are two-lane roads with shoulders approximately two to four feet wide. Country Club Drive is a major access road for nearby developments. Sidewalks are located on the primary frontage of this school and toward Country Club Drive but are sporadic and discontinuous heading east on Merrychase Drive. Christa McAuliffe Park, offering soccer fields and a skate park, is located across from Blue Oak.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ The school is located near residential neighborhoods.
- ✓ The school has a conveniently located bike rack.
- ✓ There is an existing sidewalk along Merrychase Drive located on the east, school side of the street continuing north to Country Club Drive.
- ✓ There is a crossing guard appointed to the Country Club Drive crossing.
- ✗ Automobiles picking up students create excessive congestion near the school.
- ✗ Sidewalks are sporadic and discontinuous to the east.

Audit Summary

In September 2007, EDCTC staff conducted an audit at Blue Oak Elementary School in the afternoon during the primary student pick up time. Blue Oak shares traffic congestion issues with Camerado Springs Middle School, east of Blue Oak. During pick up time traffic was at a standstill on Merrychase Drive. Parents were parking along the shoulders of both sides of Merrychase Drive, then walking to the school to pick up children. A stop sign and crosswalk was recently installed near the entrance to Christa McAuliffe Park, which may help to alleviate some of the jaywalking that was observed during the audit (prior to installation of the crosswalk and stop sign). A number of children walked through the field in back of the school to cross Country Club Drive at Castana Drive which has a striped crosswalk and a crossing guard. The school has a bike rack located in front of the school, and there were no bikes parked there at the time of the audit. As evidenced by the walkability ranking, the school is situated in an area that is very accessible for walking.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities/Conditions: 16 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 10 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Stripe crosswalks on Country Club Drive with high visibility international standard or ladder-style crosswalks.

Potential Programs

1. Walking school buses with well established neighborhood drop off points across from Country Club Drive.
2. Implement a School Rideshare Program through "Smart Routes to School."

Buckeye School: K-5 with 505 Students

4561 Buckeye Road, Shingle Springs

Audit Conducted: 11/01/2007

School Location

Buckeye School is located in the rural, unincorporated area of El Dorado County near the Community of Shingle Springs. The school is positioned on Buckeye Road near the intersection with Mother Lode Drive. The shoulder on the west bound lane of Buckeye Road, immediately in front of the school, is one- to two-foot wide composed of gravel, while the east bound land has no shoulder. An informal walking path, crossing a livestock pasture, connects the school with a residential neighborhood approximately a half mile away.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ The school is located in a pedestrian accessible area.
- ✓ The school has functional bike racks.
- ✗ No sidewalks are located near the school.
- ✗ No bike paths exist on either Buckeye Road or Shingle Springs Drive.

Audit Summary

In November 2007, EDCTC staff conducted an audit at Buckeye School during the morning student drop off. All students appeared to arrive by bus and automobile.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities/Conditions: 6 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 2 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Develop a bike path / pedestrian trail from the school site to the westerly intersection of Buckeye Road and Mother Lode Drive.
2. Create a safe bicycle / pedestrian crossing on Mother Lode Drive to connect school with adjacent residential neighborhood on the south side of Mother Lode Drive.

Potential Programs

1. Implement a school rideshare program through "Smart Routes to School."

Camerado Springs School: 6-8 with 720 Students

2480 Merrychase Drive, Cameron Park

Audit Conducted: 09/12/2007

School Location

Camerado Springs Middle School is located in the growing suburban area of Cameron Park. Camerado Springs is one of two schools located along Merrychase Drive, between Cambridge Drive to the east and Country Club Drive to the northwest. Camerado Springs is bordered on the west by Blue Oak Elementary School. Camerado Springs nearest intersection is to the east at Greenwood Lane and Merrychase Drive. Both Merrychase and Country Club Drive are two-lane roads with shoulders approximately two to four feet wide. There is a major park, soccer field, and skateboard park located across Merrychase Drive from the school.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ The school is located in close proximity to nearby neighborhoods.
- ✓ The school has a conveniently located bike rack.
- ✗ Student pick up by automobile creates excessive congestion near the school.
- ✗ Sidewalks are sporadic and discontinuous.
- ✗ There are no crosswalks in front of school with a major park located across the street.

Audit Summary

In September 2007, EDCTC staff conducted an audit at Camerado Springs Middle School during the afternoon student pick up rush. Traffic was at a standstill on Merrychase Drive. Buses were exiting the school onto Merrychase Drive during a period of excessive automobile and pedestrian traffic. A stop sign and crosswalk was recently installed near the entrance to Christa McAuliffe Park, which may help to alleviate some of the jaywalking that was observed during the audit (prior to installation of the crosswalk and stop sign). There are existing sidewalks from Cambridge Drive to Greenwood Lane on the same side of the street as the school which is located on the north side of Merrychase Drive. Behind the school, there is a sidewalk on Country Club Drive and sidewalks on each side of Meadow and Greenwood Lanes. Many children were exiting the school campus across an empty parcel to the northeast toward Greenwood and Meadow Lanes. Residential apartments are located on Greenwood Lane. Children were also exiting the back of the school walking toward Country Club Drive which has both a crosswalk and crossing guard at the Castana intersection. An additional striped crosswalk is located at Country Club and Placitas Drives, east of Castana. Similar to Blue Oaks, Camerado Springs Walkability ranking demonstrates that it positioned to be very accessible for walking access.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities/Conditions: 15 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 10 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Stripe crosswalks on Country Club Drive with high visibility international standard or ladder-style crosswalks.
2. Continue sidewalks on Merrychase Drive from the School east to Cambridge Drive.

Potential Programs

1. Walking school buses with well established neighborhood drop off points in the neighborhoods north of Country Club Drive.
2. Implement a School Rideshare Program through "Smart Routes to School."

Oak Meadow School: K-5 with 683 Students

7701 Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills

Audit Conducted: 9/28/2007

School Location

Oak Meadow is a relatively new school located at the southern end of Silva Valley Parkway. Silva Valley Parkway now extends under US 50 to White Rock and Latrobe Roads to the southwest. A new interchange is proposed at Silva Valley Road and US Highway 50, which could potentially increase congestion near the school. It will be important to consider the schools circulation patterns when developing the interchange.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ Silva Valley Road has wide shoulders and bike lanes to the south.
- ✓ The school has functional bike racks.
- ✓ Silva Valley Road has wide sidewalks.

Audit Summary

Silva Valley Parkway, south of the school has bike lanes on both sides but no sidewalks beyond the school site. There are sidewalks adjacent to the school which continue as you head north on Silva Valley on the east, school side. On the west side there is a natural surface walking path merging into sidewalks to the north near Serrano Parkway. Silva Valley Road has wide four-foot shoulders on both sides. The school is located adjacent to a gated community. Pedestrian access from the gated community is facilitated by a gateway on the east side of the school parking lot. The school also provides pedestrian access via the soccer field at the northeast corner of the campus.



Pedestrian access through adjacent community



Pedestrian access through soccer field

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities/Conditions: 16 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 7 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Ensure safe pedestrian access through the proposed Silva Valley Interchange.
2. Develop sidewalks along the southern extent of the Silva Valley Parkway.

Potential Programs

1. Implement safe Walking School Bus drop-off sites to encourage walking and divert automobile traffic from the school site.
2. Start a bicycle education program and hold a bike rodeo to encourage safe bicycling.
3. Implement a school rideshare program through "Smart Routes to School."

Rolling Hills School: 6-8 with 959 Students

7141 Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills

Audit Conducted: 9/28/2007

School Location

Rolling Hills School is located in the growing urbanized area of El Dorado Hills. Rolling Hills is located along Silva Valley Parkway, a four-lane, divided, minor arterial with four-foot wide shoulders and five-foot wide separated sidewalks at the end of Harvard Way. The school is adjacent to Oak Ridge High School near the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Park/Pool and Skate Park. It is connected to a residential neighborhood via a nearby bike path network.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ Silva Valley Road has wide shoulders and bike lanes to the south.
- ✓ The school has functional bike racks.
- ✓ Silva Valley Road has wide sidewalks.
- ✓ There is a bike path on Harvard Way connecting to a bike path along El Dorado Hills Boulevard.
- ✗ High automobile traffic during drop off and pick up times.

Audit Summary

In September 2007, Rolling Hills School was audited during the afternoon pick up period. The area experiences heavy automobile traffic during pickup times due to the high number of parents picking up kids from school. However, some children were observed walking and cycling from school. The accessibility to the nearby bike path on Harvard Way should provide the extra safety and security needed to encourage these middle-school aged kids to bike to or from school. The Harvard Way bike path intersects with a bike path that runs north and south along El Dorado Hills Boulevard, providing a safe pathway for kids to travel longer distances to or from school by bike. The sidewalk system around this school is separated from the roadway and continuous along Silva Valley Parkway.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities/Conditions: 17 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 9 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

None

Potential Programs

1. Implement safe Walking School Bus drop-off sites to encourage walking and divert automobile traffic from the school site.
2. Start a bicycle education program and hold a bike rodeo to encourage safe bicycling.
3. Implement a School Rideshare Program through "Smart Routes to School."

Silva Valley School: K-5 with 652 Students

3001 Golden Eagle Lane, El Dorado Hills

Audit Conducted: 09/28/2007

School Location

Silva Valley School is located in the growing, urbanized area of El Dorado Hills. It is one of three schools located along Silva Valley Parkway between Harvard Way to the north and Tong Road to the south. Silva Valley School is located at the intersection of Golden Eagle Lane and Silva Valley Parkway, a four-lane divided arterial with four-foot wide shoulders and five-foot wide separated sidewalks.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ Silva Valley Parkway has excellent existing separated sidewalks.
- ✓ The school has a conveniently located bike rack.
- ✓ Many kids walk, bike or ride scooters to this school.
- ✗ Student drop offs by automobile creates excessive congestion near the school.
- ✗ Configuration of the automobile drop off and bus drop off areas increases congestion issues.

Audit Summary

In September 2007, EDCTC and DOT staff conducted an audit at Silva Valley Elementary School in the afternoon. During this audit, it appeared many children were walking with parents, or alone, and many more were being picked up by parents in cars. A number of children may have been walking from the school site to parents' vehicles parked along Silva Valley Parkway. There are normally two crossing guards working at the intersection of Silva Valley Parkway and Golden Eagle Lane. On the occasion of our audit, only one crossing guard was available. The audit team estimated that over 200 persons crossed at the target intersection during the afternoon audit.

A five-foot wide sidewalk in excellent condition parallels Silva Valley Parkway separated by a four to six foot wide landscaped buffer. The Silva Valley sidewalk extends to the entrances of all residential developments between Green Valley Road and Oak Meadow Elementary School.



Intersection and crosswalk at Silva Valley and Golden Eagle Lane



Bicyclist on sidewalk along Silva Valley Parkway

When the audit was conducted, during the afternoon in September, the existing bike rack was overloaded with bicycles and scooters. Many children were seen riding their bikes from the school site on the five-foot wide separated sidewalk along Silva Valley Parkway. However, children were not observed riding their bikes in the four-foot paved shoulder along Silva Valley Parkway due to the permitted on-street parking used by parents waiting to pick up their children. The same shoulder is blocked by cars parked all day near Oak Ridge High School.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities and Conditions: 15 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 7 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Add an additional bike rack.
2. Stripe crosswalks with high visibility, international standard or ladder-style crosswalks.



Bike rack at Silva Valley School

Potential Programs

1. Appoint three crossing guards to the Silva Valley and Golden Eagle Drive intersection.
2. Implement Walking School Bus drop-offs at a safe nearby location to encourage walking and to divert traffic from the school site.
3. Start a bicycle education program and facilitate a bike rodeo to encourage safe bicycling.
4. Implement a School Rideshare Program through "Smart Routes to School."

William Brooks School: K-5 with 494 Students

3610 Park Drive, El Dorado Hills

Audit Conducted: 8/28/2007

School Location

William Brooks School is located at the bottom of a hill in an established area of El Dorado Hills along Park Drive. Park Drive is accessible from El Dorado Hills Boulevard via Lassen Lane. The school is centrally positioned in a developed residential neighborhood with limited activity centers or public interest destinations other than a local park adjacent to the school.

Existing Conditions: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ✓ The school has sufficient access from either Park Drive or from the backside of Bertelsen Park.
- ✓ The school has bike rack.
- ✓ Park drive has a very wide pedestrian and bike friendly shoulder.
- ✗ Sidewalks are limited near the school.

Audit Summary

The audit was conducted during the morning hours in August of 2007. Traffic flows fairly well at the school due to the parking lot configuration, but can get heavy at times. There did not appear to be a lot of children walking to school, although some parents from the adjacent neighborhood were walking their kids to school. The school is accessible from two sides which improves bicycling and walking accessibility. Park Drive has a wide four-foot shoulder that can be utilized as a walkway or bike lane. Crosswalks near the school are striped with high visibility yellow paint. There are a limited number of sidewalks on the actual frontage of the school, but many nearby neighborhood roadways do have sidewalks.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Ranking

Facilities/Conditions: 12 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 7 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Integrate outlying sidewalks with new sidewalks near the school.

Potential Programs

1. Walking school buses with well established neighborhood drop off locations.
2. Implement a school rideshare program through "Smart Routes to School."