



Trails

Annual Trail Report - Fiscal Year 2010-11

Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

8th Edition

Release Date: July 1, 2011

Identify	Study	Plan	Design	Construct	Open
100% of projects have been identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database 21.76 miles awaiting further development	81.94% of projects have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment. 12.76 miles	72.24% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development. 36.61 miles	44.30% of projects have been or are currently being designed, resulting in construction documents. 3.97 miles	41.33% of projects have been or are currently being constructed. 0.00 miles	40.77% of projects are open to the public. 53.69 miles* 35.99 (paved) 17.70 (interim)



Program Overview

The Trail Program's mission is to develop a 100-mile trail network comprised of 35 individual trail systems as defined by the Greenprint and consistent with the Mayor and City Council's Green Vision.

This eighth annual report updates residents, the Mayor and City Council, and other stakeholders on progress made over the past 12 months.

Readers of this report will note that many of the on-going projects result in master plans and construction documents. These projects do not provide immediate public access but place the City in an excellent position to competitively pursue grants that can lead to construction of additional trails.

* Baseline mileage was adjusted over the past year with a mileage corrections along existing and futures reaches of Coyote Creek, Five Wounds, and Canoas Creek trails.

Program Updates

Awards and Recognition

An Award of Merit was received at the California Trails and Greenways Conference for the program's innovative Pedestrian Bridge Inspection Process.



The American Trails Symposium gave the program its State-of-the-Art Award for the program's comprehensive Trail Signage and Mileage Marker guidelines.



The Federal Highway Administration has awarded San José's Trail Program with its Transportation Planning Excellence Award (TPEA) for its planning and development practices.



San José maintained its bronze status with the League of American Bicyclists as a bicycle friendly city in part due to the large and growing trail network.

Access to recreation played a role in acknowledgement from Forbes Magazine. San José was ranked as the No. 10 least stressful city. The publication said that residents and visitors “benefitted from abundant opportunities to commune with nature, and exercise rates are higher than most”.

Trail Count 2010

Volunteers from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and others joined with City of San José staff to conduct the fourth annual count of trail users. The September 2010 count captured volumes at six count stations along the Guadalupe River (2), Los Gatos Creek (2), Coyote Creek and Highway 87 Bikeway. The data supports trail planning, competitive grant writing and supports the notion that trails are an integral part of our transportation system.



- A 5.6% increase was documented at the Guadalupe River / Coleman Avenue Count station - this station has recorded increased traffic each year of the count.
- The Los Gatos Creek count station at Auzerais Avenue saw a 62% increase during peak travel times.

The Trail Count Fact Sheet and detailed Summary Report have been sourced by the *Rails to Trails Conservancy* as a guide for other agencies to follow in documenting trail usage.

See the “Reports” section of the website for more information about Trail Count.

Green Vision

The City’s Green Vision sets forth ten goals to make San José the epicenter of the clean technology economy. Goal 10 guides staff in delivery of 100 miles of interconnected trails by 2022.

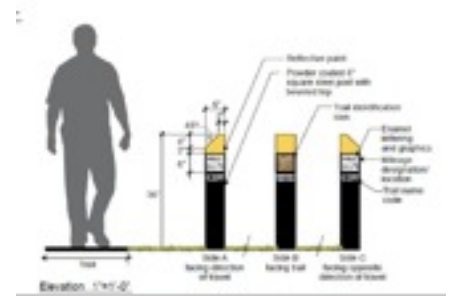
During this past fiscal year, pavement of new trails lags the Green Vision annual target (1.0 mile vs. 3.3 mile target). However, over 9 miles (mostly along Coyote Creek) are currently being master planned and will be ready for design and construction as funding becomes available.

Signage / Milestone Marker Guidelines

Guidelines for new signs and mileage markers were completed in 2010. The signs are more graphics-based and easier to understand. Their unified design theme, scale and size permit them to be clustered in a visually-cohesive manner.

The initial deployment of signage and markers occurred along the Los Alamitos and Calero Creek Trails. Installations along the Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek and Los Gatos Creek are on-going. Funds have been secured to deploy more of these elements along other trail systems in the network.

Reflective centerline striping has been installed with markers to define the right of way and encourage persons to walk or bike to the right. Staff developed specifications for striping that yields the greatest reflectivity while keeping the thermoplastic paint ultra-thin. A video documenting the reflectivity of the striping can be found on the Trail Program web site - click on “Reports”.



In April, the City Council accepted staff’s work plan for deployment of signage, markers and striping. The council also adopted an ordinance that limited the length of a dog leash to 6’ and fixed length. This new rule is consistent with County rules and reflects that trails are narrow passageways even though they often travel through open space.

Grant Writing

Staff utilizes a Council-approved prioritization process to rank and align projects with grant funding opportunities. This approach ensures that the existing trail systems continue to expand in a logical manner and that the City targets grant applications in the most strategic manner. Over the past year, staff wrote and submitted 14 grant applications (four times the average annual rate) seeking over \$9.6M in funding.

Project	Grant / Amount	Status
Coyote Crk (237-Tasman)	\$350,000	Awarded
Coyote Crk (237-Tasman)	\$941,182	Pending
Thompson Crk (Tully-Quimby)	\$200,000	Not awarded
Tasman Drive Under-Crossing	\$165,000	Awarded
Bay Trail Reach 9	\$200,000	Awarded
Three Creeks Trail (Interim)	\$450,000	Pending
Three Creeks Trail (Master Plan)	\$300,000	Pending
Edenvale Pedestrian Bridge (Study) - 2011	\$200,000	Pending
Edenvale Pedestrian Bridge (Study) - 2010	\$200,000	Declined
Hetch-Hetchy Ramp	\$500,000	Declined
Coyote Crk (237-Tasman)	\$1,055,000	Declined
Bay Trail Under-Crossing	\$1,900,000	Pending
Component Parkway	\$200,000	Pending
Three Creeks Trail Planning & Development	\$3,000,000	Pending

Social Networking

A Twitter account (SanJoseTrails) was established in March 2010. Over 125 “Tweets” have been posted with project updates, upcoming trail closures, and news items.



San José’s trails are now part of TrailLink.com - an on-line resource to help people find trails near home or when traveling. TrailLink is a product of the Rails to Trails Conservancy; a national advocacy organization.



Future Funding

All identified and developing San José trails are now included in the Valley Transportation Authority’s regional transportation plan (VTP2040). Being part of the plan is important because use of some state and federal funds can only occur if a project is listed in the regional plan. There is no immediate funding as a result of being in the plan, but staff will monitor regional funding resources and is prepared to pursue funds when they become available.

Project Updates

Bay Trail Reach 9B - Alviso Slough, near Gold Street

Design and environmental work continue for a 540 foot pedestrian bridge and three under-crossing structures.

When funding for construction is secured, the future bridge and related improvements will link the Guadalupe River system to the Bay Trail and the County’s Alviso Marina. The project is being developed in partnership with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*, with joint use of lands and technical assistance. A grant was secured to design 1.1 mile of connecting trail and staff submitted a \$1.9M grant application to fund development of under-crossings to link Lower Guadalupe River to the Bay Trail.

Coyote Creek - Montague Expressway to Story Road

A master plan was completed and approved by the City Council for the trail from Highway 101 to Story Road. Master planning of the remaining reach (Montague Expressway to Highway 101) continues and master approval is anticipated in August of 2011. Both trail reaches are being studied as part of a federally-funded project. The resulting documentation will support efforts to secure funds for construction. Development of the 9-mile trail extension will require at least five pedestrian bridges and 11 under-crossings. The project team regularly consults with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District* because of their concurrent planning for flood protection improvements along the creek.



Coyote Creek - Tully Road to Los Lagos Golf Course - OPEN

The trail opened in July 2009 with a community celebration and designation of the entire trail system as part of the *Bay Area Ridge Trail*.

The project includes a gateway element along

Tully Road to draw the attention of residents and encourage use of the trail system. The trail system follows the creek alongside the Tully Road Ball Fields and links to Stonegate Park and older reaches of the Coyote Creek Trail system.

The project received an Award of Merit from the *California Parks and Recreation Society*.

Guadalupe Creek - Meridian Avenue to Singletree Way

Interim improvements were installed last year. Gravel surfacing and minimal signage helped to better define the trail entry at Singletree Way.

Construction documents are being prepared for future development of a

paved trail (about 500', leading users from the Singletree Way entry to the creek). Further development of the gravel maintenance roads along the creek require additional funding that has yet to be identified.

Guadalupe River - Alviso to Highway 880

Construction documents have been completed and the City awaits permits from the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Francisco PUC. The past year has been spent preparing biological studies requested by permitting agencies and finalizing construction documents.

All studies are now completed and a final review of plans and studies is underway.

Staff expects minor comments. With any necessary revisions, staff anticipates that construction of the project will commence during Winter 2011.

Guadalupe River - Woz Way to Virginia Street - OPEN

A construction contract was awarded for construction of 0.4 mile trail extension. The meandering trail follows the river, from the Children's Discovery Museum to Virginia Street, with a light rail station nearby. The project results from years of planning and careful coordination and approvals from *Caltrans* and the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*.



The paved trail, enhanced gateways and signage / striping was completed in April 2011.

Highway 237 Bikeway - Tasman Drive to Coyote Creek

A \$350,000 grant application was submitted and approved for funding. The new funding will support reconstruction of a deteriorated road built only for temporary access during construction of the highway 15 years ago. Staff coordinated with Calpine and the California Public Utilities Commission to secure and additional \$29,000 for the project's development. Construction documents are at the 95% stage and construction is likely to get underway during winter of 2011.

**Lower Silver Creek - Silverstone Place (Foxdale Drive to Ocala Avenue) - OPEN**

The 0.3 mile project includes a meandering trail, landscaping, seating areas and retention basins. The landscaped area becomes part of a series of park spaces along the Lower Silver Creek Trail corridor that will someday link Thompson Creek to Coyote Creek. Construction was completed in September 2010. The project is developed upon *Pacific Gas & Electric* property and will operate through a joint use easement.

Lower Silver Creek / Thompson Creek - Aborn Road to Tully Avenue

An interim trail opened along the creek in June 2008. Construction documents are being prepared for a paved trail, with gateway elements leading to the sunny trail corridor. The project developed in partnership with the *Santa Clara Valley Water District*, with joint use of lands and technical assistance. No funds have yet been

identified for construction of the paved trail improvements.

Penitencia Creek Trail (King Road to Mabury Road) - OPEN

The 0.3 mile trail opened in November 2009. The short trail improves the condition of an existing cut-through along the creek. The project strategically includes final paved surfacing for a third of its distance. The remaining gravel surface is in place since flood protection improvements along the creek are planned for construction within the next 10 years and would likely require removal and relocation of that portion of the trail.

Penitencia Creek Trail (Alum Rock Park to Noble Avenue)

Design work got underway to define a trail alignment that meanders near and along the roadway. A \$300,000 grant from the *Santa Clara Valley Water District* has been secured for construction of the trail between Noble Avenue and Dorel Drive. Construction documents are at the 95% stage and staff is seeking permits.

Three Creeks Trail (formerly Willow Glen Spur Trail)- Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek

Negotiations continue with the property owner with acquisitions from Lonus Street to Minnesota Avenue expected to be completed by November 2011. The California Department of Toxics Substance Control (DTSC) is overseeing clean up of the sites during the summer and fall of 2011. Two grants were submitted to advance development of the trail system.

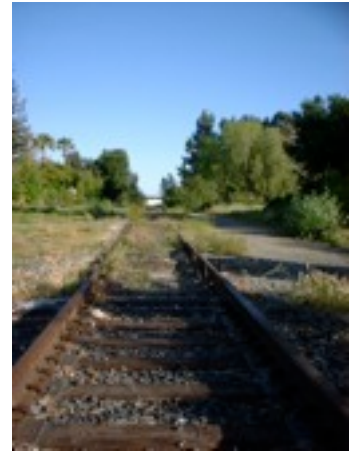


Strategies for Rapid Development

Staff is pursuing the following strategies to increase the rate of trail development in order to keep pace with the 3.3 mile / year target set by the Green Vision.

- Complete master plans that define all alignments to be designed and constructed.
- Track SCVWD progress with flood control and seek funds to pursue design and construction immediately after those projects.
- Continue to aggressively pursue all grant funds.
- Continue to build national awareness of San Jose trails through awards, conference attendance and speaking opportunities.

- Build relationships with a broad set of stakeholders.
- Include all projects in the VTA's VTP regional transportation plan so that they are eligible for future funding opportunities.



Partners

Development of trails can only occur through partnerships with agencies, community groups and hardworking individuals. Many of the projects in this report would not be possible without the support of:

- City of San José City Council
- Santa Clara Valley Water District - Board of Directors and Staff
- City of San José Departments and Offices
 - Public Works
 - Transportation
 - General Services
 - Environmental Services
 - Police
 - City Attorney's Office
 - Redevelopment Agency
 - City Manager's Budget Office
- Park Managers
- County of Santa Clara
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
- State of California
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Many residents, bike groups and trail advocates who encourage and support expansion of the trail network.

About this code: A QR (*Quick Response*) code is a specific matrix barcode readable by smart phones. Follow this code to the trail program website - or www.sjpark.org/trails





San José's Trail Program

Mission: Complete a 100-mile network of trail systems to enhance, strengthen and connect neighborhoods

Annual Trail Program Report

Fiscal Year 2010-11

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