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*Memorandum*  
by City Manager's Office

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Albert Balagso

**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL RECREATIONAL  
TRAIL DESIGNATION

**DATE:** 06-02-09

Approved

Date

6/5/09

### INFORMATION

On May 28, 2009, San Jose's Trail Network was designated as part of the National Recreational Trail (NRT) system. The designation applies to 16.4 miles of the city's existing 51 mile network. The NRT designation seeks to account for interconnected trails. Currently, the Lower Guadalupe River, Highway 237 Bikeway, and Coyote Creek Trail are interconnected and form the longest uninterrupted trail experience within the Network. As these trails are expanded and linked to existing and future trails, staff will submit update reports to the National Park Service to extend the scope of the City's designation.

The City Council authorized the City Manager on August 25, 2008 to submit the application for NRT designation. Pursuing NRT designation for the city's Trail Network is a strategic opportunity to secure greater access to grant funding, increase public awareness and access educational resources. With NRT designation, the City is eligible for grant funding through the following:

- \* National Park Service's Challenge Cost Share Program
- \* Bureau of Land Management's Challenge Cost Share Program
- \* USDA Forest Service's Challenge Cost Share Programs

Unlike most other NRT designees, San Jose is unique with its interconnected trail systems that support recreation and commuting. Most designated trails follow a single alignment and do not serve the needs of commuters to the extent found in San Jose. This differentiation has been an asset to the City in pursuing federal transportation funds for several recent projects. Data gathered as part of Trail Count 2008 indicates that nearly 1,000 people use the Guadalupe River Trail daily and 58% report that they are commuting to and from work.

Development of trails in San Jose is consistent with Goal 10 of the Green Vision. Through partnerships with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other public agencies, San Jose is developing trails throughout the city to provide 100 miles of interconnected trails by 2022.

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The Trail Network website ([www.sjpark.org/trails](http://www.sjpark.org/trails)) offers more information about awards and recognition like the NRT designation.

The NRT program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the USDA Forest Service in conjunction with a number of other Federal and nonprofit partners. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar designated 22 trails in 13 states as newly recognized National Recreation Trails, adding more than 525 miles of trails to the National Trails System. San Jose is the only agency in California as part of this year's designations.

The National Trail System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543) authorized creation of a national trail system. The act sought to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation. To accomplish this, trails were to be established primarily near urban areas and within scenic areas and along historic travel routes.



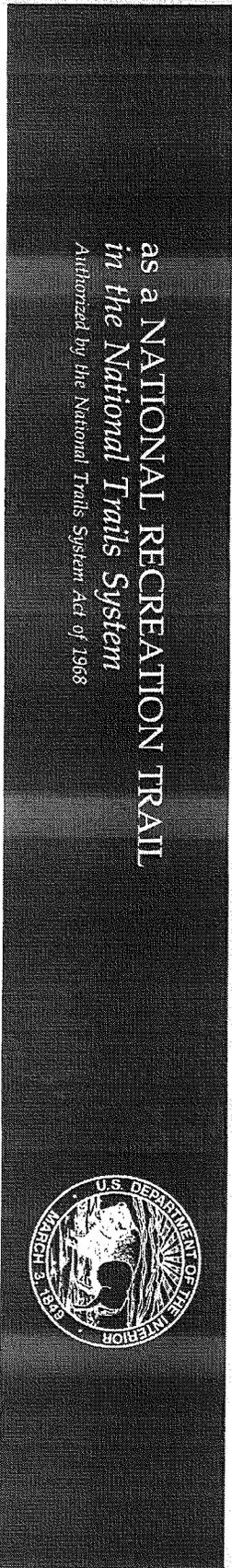
ALBERT BALAGSO  
Director of Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services

Attachment: Certificate

For questions please contact Yves Zsutty, Trail Manager, at 408 793-5561.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

In recognition of achievements by the  
*City of San José, Department of Parks,  
Recreation & Neighborhood Services*  
hereby designates the  
*San José Trail Network*



*Ken Salazar*  
Secretary of the Interior

*Daniel M. Weale*  
Director, National Park Service

This 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2013