

CORRESPONDENCE

Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, September 5, 2018
5:30 P.M.

San Jose City Hall
Wing Rooms 118/119
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113



District 1	Daphna Woolfe, Vice Chair
District 2	Charles Dougherty, Jr.
District 3	Lawrence Ames
District 4	Kelly Snider
District 5	Gregory Lovely
District 6	Vacant
District 7	Trami Cron
District 8	Chet Mandair
District 9	Rudy Flores, Chair
District 10	Brian Quint
Citywide	George Adas

Councilmember Tam Nguyen,
Council Liaison

Jon Cicerelli, Acting Director, PRNS

Angel Rios, Deputy City Manager supervising parks.
Jon Cicirelli, Interim PRNS Director
Nicolle Burnham, Deputy PRNS Director
Yves Zsutty, GreenPrint Project Manager
Janine Bray, GreenPrint Acting Staff Specialist

re: Some thoughts and comments on the SJ GreenPrint (aka "Activate SJ"?)

Hello, all,

I, as a Taskforce member, am writing some thoughts down so that they can be considered for the GreenPrint update.

I am sad that, since this (possibly last) GreenPrint Taskforce meeting was rescheduled to a time when I had a pre-disclosed conflict, I will probably have to leave early. And, as there is no draft of the GreenPrint for us to review, it is all the more difficult to give comments, as some of these points may already have been addressed in your working draft.

Having served on both the original 2000 GreenPrint Taskforce and on the 2009 Update effort, I feel that the current process is "disjointed". Part of this is due to the change in personnel, both on the project and in the department. There has been too long of a gap in the process, and additional meetings are needed to get the Taskforce back up to speed and for Staff to be able to receive their comments.

There should also be a very public review process of the final draft: you want the community to "buy in" and support both the plan and parks in general.

In case this actually is the last meeting of the GreenPrint Taskforce, here are some of my thoughts, questions, and recommendations.

Some basic overriding thoughts and comments:

- ***Parks are very important for our city*** – any city! – as they help keep the residents physically healthy and active. Parks also help counter social isolation by enabling and encouraging people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds to intermingle and network, which is important for both one's mental health and for a healthy community.
- Parks, trails, plazas and other open spaces are ***especially important in dense residential areas*** where the residents may lack private backyards.
- Parks, trails, etc. are especially ***important in less affluent neighborhoods*** where the residents may be less likely to, for example, fly off to Disneyland or off on a ski trip in Utah.
- Parks are also ***important in employment districts***, be it for company picnics or for employees to be able to find some peace and quiet for creative thoughts and escaping from chaotic office life. Trails are important for both mental relaxation and for transportation that's free of an internal combustion engine.
- The GreenPrint is meant to be an all-inclusive plan, as indicated by the catchphrase, "8 to 80". I would submit that ***"one to one-hundred"*** is just as catchy and better serves the target population, including the preschoolers (in their tot-lots) and also the seniors (with the all-accessible plazas and park trails).

The GreenPrint is for the entire PRNS Department: Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services. I feel that the Taskforce has spent scant time on the “RNS” portion of the PRNS.

- ***Viva Calle SJ is great!*** I hope it continues, and perhaps can be expanded to be several times a year. I recognize it’s an extra challenge, but it is nice to explore different areas each time to showcase various parts of town: perhaps including Alviso one time, Alum Rock another, and out west on Stevens Creek a third.
- ***Encourage festivals and events!*** Sidewalk chalk-art at Backesto, Shakespeare at Willow St/Bramhall, Odon in Japantown, Pumpkins in the Guadalupe! Maybe encourage and support regional events such as Willow Glen’s “Dancin’ On The Avenue,” Shasta/Hanchett-Park’s “Stroll the Alameda,” and festivals over in Little Portugal or down in New Almaden. (At the very least, PRNS can share their experiences in arranging for street closures and security, so as to simplify the process for the event organizers.)
- Does PRNS still have ***recreational programs***? Decades ago I used to participate in evening volleyball leagues at the local high school, but I haven’t been following it and am not aware of them now: are such programs still around, or were they cut during the budget crisis? Are there also Summertime Midnight Basketball games – especially in denser and/or underserved neighborhoods? Summer Day Camps for school-age kids? Aquatics and water-sports? Organized hikes for various age-groups/capabilities along various trails? (Tours of Alum Rock, Kelley Park? Possibly PRNS could coordinate with other agencies for nearby parks such as Heintz or Hellyer.)
- Also, isn’t the ***GreenPrint supposed to cover Neighborhood Services*** – the “NS” part of PRNS? Senior lunches and adult daycare? Gang prevention? Senior transportation? I don’t recall any discussion by the group on those matters.

Financing

- I feel that ***it’s important to keep the “3.5 A/1000 residents” requirement***, since that allows the City to collect the park impact fees. Can there be a corresponding impact fee on commercial developments – some number of acres per 1000 employees – to help pay for picnic sites, ball fields, plazas, and trails that likely could/would be used during the day by employees?
- ***Do not “dilute” the Park Impact Fee:*** we need to push back to make sure that the fee is not diluted by discounts, incentives, or overly relaxed estimates of the average number of residents per dwelling unit.
- ***Areas with “affordable housing” also need parks***, and probably more so than in the more affluent areas: if parkland in-lieu fees are waived to make development of affordable units more financially feasible, then the needed parklands need to be financed by some other means. (Idea: seek citywide financing of parklands near affordable housing projects? If the public isn’t willing to have affordable housing “built in their back yards”, perhaps they’d be willing at least to pay for parkland to serve the affordable housing that is built elsewhere?)
- I’m disappointed that the city’s contemplated park bond fell thru this year and instead is being redirected: ***parks need some source of funding*** to recover from the years of maintenance cutbacks following the Great Recession: we have a lot of aging infrastructure that needs attention.

I understand the City's desire to sign on to the international goal of a park within a half kilometer of every resident (or whatever the goal is), but I don't feel that that is as important for a suburban city like San José as it is for the denser cities of Europe.

- Repeating my statement from above, **residents in dense housing need nearby parks** to be able to get outdoors; those in suburban areas often can use their backyards.
- In the dense urban areas, there may be hundreds or even thousands of residents within easy walking distance of a park, whereas there might only be a dozen in the more sparse areas within the city limits: we should **concentrate on where the most people need the parks** and shouldn't be constrained by an arbitrary goal.
- **Parks need to be designed to accommodate the anticipated usage**: it's not enough to build a small pocket park and then say that meets the needs of all the nearby high-rise residents, even though, technically, they all are within walking distance of it.
- **Needs may vary**: the urban parks need to be able to handle the heavy foot traffic, while in suburban areas, residents are more likely to have access to cars and are more likely to drive to a park. Perhaps these suburban areas can have more widely dispersed but larger parks (e.g., for field sports league play) and may need to provide parking lots.

Trails

There are many types of trail users, and there should be a variety of types of trails. Just as vehicular roads vary according to need – with freeways for the interstate truck traffic, local residential streets, scenic byways, and quiet parking lots where people can learn to drive – likewise there's a range of trails and paths.

- The major creek trails (Los Gatos, Guadalupe, Coyote, etc.) serve a range of purposes (commuter thru-traffic as well as for recreation and enjoying the scenery). **The solution to overcrowded trails is to provide more trails** to help spread the load and satisfy the demand.
- Coordinate with cities and county to **connect and maintain the trails** and on-street bikeways: together they provide an excellent non-motorized transportation network that helps reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gases and also helps invigorate and relax the bike-commuters for improved work productivity.
- Just as highways are wider where car traffic is heavier, **trails should be wider in high-use places**: a 12' path is fine in many areas, but the trails downtown (e.g., the Los Gatos Creek Trail by Diridon) should be wider and/or use-separated with a trail for thru cyclists, a parallel trail for strolling pedestrians, and maybe even a quiet footpath down by the water's edge.
- **Quiet nature-hike loops** thru parks serve as scenic byways
- **Trails within and around park picnic areas and playgrounds** are great for beginners learning to ride.
- **Spur trails**, such as perhaps along Ross Creek or Silver Creek, can serve like residential feeder roads, connecting local neighborhoods to the regional trail network.

Design the trails with the users in mind. I can point out examples (e.g., on the Guadalupe River Trail south of I-880) where the paths were laid out to look interesting on a map, but which (thanks to numerous unlabeled forks and sharp hairpin turns) are confusing and difficult to traverse on the ground.

Maintenance

It's nice to build new facilities, but it's also important to ***maintain what we have***. I recall once pointing out some minor roof damage somewhere (not in our parks) and being told that they didn't have the funds to patch the roof, but then said not to worry – in a few years they will just get a grant to replace the entire building. (As a taxpayer, I shuddered – if they'd just patched the roof, they wouldn't have needed to replace the building!) I do recognize that there is a balance: we wouldn't want to waste money forever trying to patch a leaky irrigation system when it'd be cheaper to replace it, but also don't go around replacing buildings just because they need minor repairs or a new coat of paint!

It makes sense to me that new neighborhood parks should be funded by the developers who create the demand: that's the thought behind the park impact fees and the 3/4 mile nexus. However, once built, the parks become part of the public system and are there for everyone's use, and it seems fair to me that everyone should share in the maintenance of the entire system: ***maintenance funding should come from a citywide source*** (e.g., the General Fund or a special citywide Parks Fund).

Design

Not all houses in the city are alike, even though they have many features (toilets, stoves, etc.) in common. Likewise, not all parks should be alike, even if they too have common features such as standard-model picnic tables or playground structures.

- ***The different parks can have varied features*** that can differentiate the parks, and perhaps reflect the character of the neighborhood: Victorian details for St. James, perhaps, mid-century touches for Blossom Valley or western San Jose, maybe some futuristic-looking design for the new Diridon-area high-tech campus area. Some parks have ***historic structures*** that can be incorporated.
- Designs could also feature ***cultural variations***, reflecting the neighborhoods such as Japantown, Little Italy, and Little Portugal.
- San Jose has a ***Sister-City program***: how about coordinating a parks design (or redesign) with planners from Dublin, San Jose Costa Rica, Okayama, and others?
- And ***design with nature in mind***: some parks are along streams or creeks, others have hills or slopes, even the micro-climates vary across the city. The park designs can embrace and enhance these features. Designs may also need to address sensitive habitats: fencing, lighting, placement of features.

Maintainability

Parks should be designed to be sustainable: easily maintained and requiring minimal water. Emphasize the use of native plants rather than thirsty exotics. An "English Garden" with its beds of pansies and petunias is pretty, but it requires too much labor to maintain, and also is just not "San Jose".

Safety

Parks are not enjoyed if they're not used, and ***the public won't use the parks if they don't feel safe***. Since the SJ Police Department discontinued their park-patrol unit some years ago, it falls to PRNS to utilize Park Rangers to patrol the system.

- The Park Rangers need to be ***properly trained – and adequately compensated*** so that they're not easily hired away after they're trained.

- The Park Rangers need to be ***properly equipped*** for the situations they may encounter, especially since the Police Department discontinued its Park Patrol Unit. (I hear that there is a Ranger Study coming before Council in October where the issue of arming the rangers will be discussed. While I'm uncomfortable approaching an armed officer to ask the location of the bathroom, I also do appreciate that the Rangers may encounter drug dealers and drugged individuals in the squatter-encampments that are now all-too-common along some of our creeks and trails.)

Parks should also be ***designed and maintained with safety in mind***:

- Trees trimmed for improved visibility.
- Trails designed in a manner to avoid blind curves, hidden ambushes, or entrapping fencing.
- And the homeless encampments should be removed and the areas kept clear.

I am somewhat disappointed by the anticipated ***overall format*** of the (still unfinished) GreenPrint as well. The 2000 and 2009 versions served us well, highlighting existing and planned park facilities and future possibilities. When Union Pacific abandoned the Willow Glen Spur line, we were able to show the 2000 GreenPrint to Councilmembers and say, "see: the GreenPrint calls for the rail Right-of-Way to become a trail that serves these communities in Districts 6 and 7." The GreenPrint enabled trail advocates to challenge the plans of the developers, and enable us and the city to preserve open space and trail connections for numerous communities.

There are a number of items I was hoping would be included in this next rendition of the GreenPrint. I was hoping, among other points, that the GreenPrint would:

- Study how to "close the gap" in the Los Gatos Creek Trail: make the connection between Meridian and Lincoln.
- Coordinate with developers on an improved plan for the Los Gatos Creek Trail in the Diridon Station Area, given the anticipated influx of development and subsequent increased usage.
- Highlight plans to complete the Coyote Creek Trail, connecting Kelley and Stonegate Parks, and to complete the Guadalupe River Trail, connecting Virginia Street and Chynoweth Avenue.
- Feature "Coyote Meadows" – the former landfill and homeless encampment / future 50-acre park that could connect Kelley Park to Olinder and William Street Parks: a "mention" in the GreenPrint could prove useful in future discussions between advocates and Councilmembers!
- Outline the development plans for St. James Park, and the public/private development of the Levitt Pavilion.
- Prioritize the refurbishment and maintenance of major parks such as Overfelt, the Japanese Tea Garden, and others.
- Plan for ethnic centers such as the Vietnamese Garden.
- Discuss how to serve the East Side, given the mix of city and unincorporated county pockets.
- Discuss the future of the city-owned golf courses: Municipal, Los Lagos, and Rancho del Pueblo. How can they be operated in a manner that doesn't burden the city?
- Enumerate what has been accomplished thanks to the past Park Bond Measures and list what promised projects remain to be completed. (Aren't we still owed a soccer facility somewhere?)
- And include a "wish list" of points that could be included in a future bond measure proposal.

I'm sure that there are many more items that I and my fellow Taskforce members could come up with, given some more time for thought and discussion.

I wish that the Draft GreenPrint had been available for review: many of these comments may already have been addressed. I also wish that I did not have the schedule conflict that will preclude my participation in the group discussion.

On the other hand, there may not have been time to discuss all these points, and also it's nice to have a written copy so that details are not forgotten.

I hope that there will be additional GreenPrint Taskforce meetings once the draft document is completed. Allow sufficient time for review, suggestions and revisions – from both the Taskforce *and* the Public. And allow time for Staff to make any needed revisions prior to it being submitted to City Council for final adoption.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Larry Ames,
GreenPrint Taskforce member (2000, 2009, and 2018).

email: PRC3@SanJoseCA.gov, Aug. 30, 2018

online copy of this letter: www.WGBackfence.net/GP-LLA_2018.pdf

August-September

Community Meetings/ Event Schedule				
Date	Event	Location	Time	Staff Lead
Tuesday 8/28/2018	Viva Parks Neighborhood: McLaughlin Park	McLaughlin Park	6:00 PM- 8:30 PM	Danny Perez
Wednesday 8/29/2018	Tamien Community Meeting	Alma Community Center	6:00 PM- 7:00 PM	Robin Spear
Wednesday 8/29/2018	Viva Parks Neighborhood: Meadowfair Park	Meadowfair Park	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Danny Perez
Thursday 8/30/2018	Activate SJ Steering Committee	Camden Community Center Room 1	5:30 PM- 8:00 PM	Yves Zsutty
Thursday 8/30/2018	Viva Parks Neighborhood: Capitol Park	Capitol Park	6:30 PM -8:30 PM	Danny Perez
Tuesday 9/4/2018	Groesbeck Hill Park 2nd Community Meeting	East Valley Church	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	Jason Condit, Robin Spear, Yoshi Yano
Wednesday 9/12/2018	Trail Count 2018	San Jose Trail Network (8 Count Stations)	7:00 AM- 7:00 PM	Yves Zsutty, Beth Tidwell, Mollie Tobias
Wednesday 9/12/2018	Neighborhood Commissions Meeting	Wing 118	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	TBD
Wednesday 9/12/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Wine and Painting	Plaza de César Chavez	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Thursday 9/13/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Local Show	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Thursday 9/13/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Citydance	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales

August-September

Date	Event	Location	Time	Staff Lead
Friday 9/14/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Night Market	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Friday 9/14/2018	Neighbor Nights	11 Community Centers throughout San José	6:30 PM- 8:30 PM	RCS
Saturday 9/15/2018	Viva Parks Downtown Starlight Cinema: E.T.	St. James Park	7:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Anthony Morales
Monday 9/17/2018	Pellier Park Community Meeting	Tabard Theater @ San Pedro Square	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Robin Spear
9/19/2018	Viv Parks Downtown Bodacious Bubble Station	St. James Park	12:00 PM- 1:30 PM	Anthony Morales
Thursday 9/20/2018	Volunteer Event: PayPal (Jai's Group)	San Jose Municipal Rose Garden	1:00 PM- 3:30 PM	Mollie Tobias
Thursday 9/20/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Citydance	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Thursday 9/20/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Local Show	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Friday 9/21/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Night Market	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Saturday 9/22/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Nami Walk Silicon Valley	Plaza de César Chavez	8:30 AM- 1 :30 PM	Anthony Morales
Sunday 9/23/2018	Viva Callé SJ	SoFA, the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, and Martial Cottle Park (Activity Hubs)	10:00 AM- 2:00 PM	Ed Solis

August-September

Date	Event	Location	Time	Staff Lead
Monday 9/24/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Grace Community Center Arts and Crafts	St. James Park	2:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Anthony Morales/ Morace McKay
Monday 9/24/2018	San José Park Advocates Meeting (Activate SJ Presentation)	Willow Glen Library Community Room	7:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Yves Zsutty
Thursday 9/27/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Citydance	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Thursday 9/27/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Local Show	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Friday 9/28/2018	Viva Parks Downtown: Night Market	Plaza de César Chavez	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Anthony Morales
Saturday 9/29/2018	Grand Opening Celebration of the Vietnamese American Cultural Center and Moon Festival	Vietnamese American Cultural Center	2:00 PM- 7:00 PM	Yu-Wen Huang

***Viva Parks Downtown at St. James Park from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM (Anthony Morales)**

Every Monday and Wednesday until 9/26/2018: **Yoga**

Every Tuesday until 9/25/2018: **Meditation**

Every Thursday until 9/27/2018: **Mindful Movement**

The background features a dark, almost black space filled with vibrant, ethereal light trails. On the left and right sides, there are sweeping, curved lines of bright blue and cyan light, interspersed with thin, delicate lines of orange and red. These lines appear to be composed of many fine, overlapping strands, creating a sense of depth and movement. In the upper right quadrant, a more intense and concentrated trail of orange and yellow light descends, surrounded by a cloud of small, glowing particles and sparks, suggesting a point of energy or a celestial event. The overall composition is balanced and visually striking, with the light trails framing the central text.

SAN JOSE LIGHT TOWER

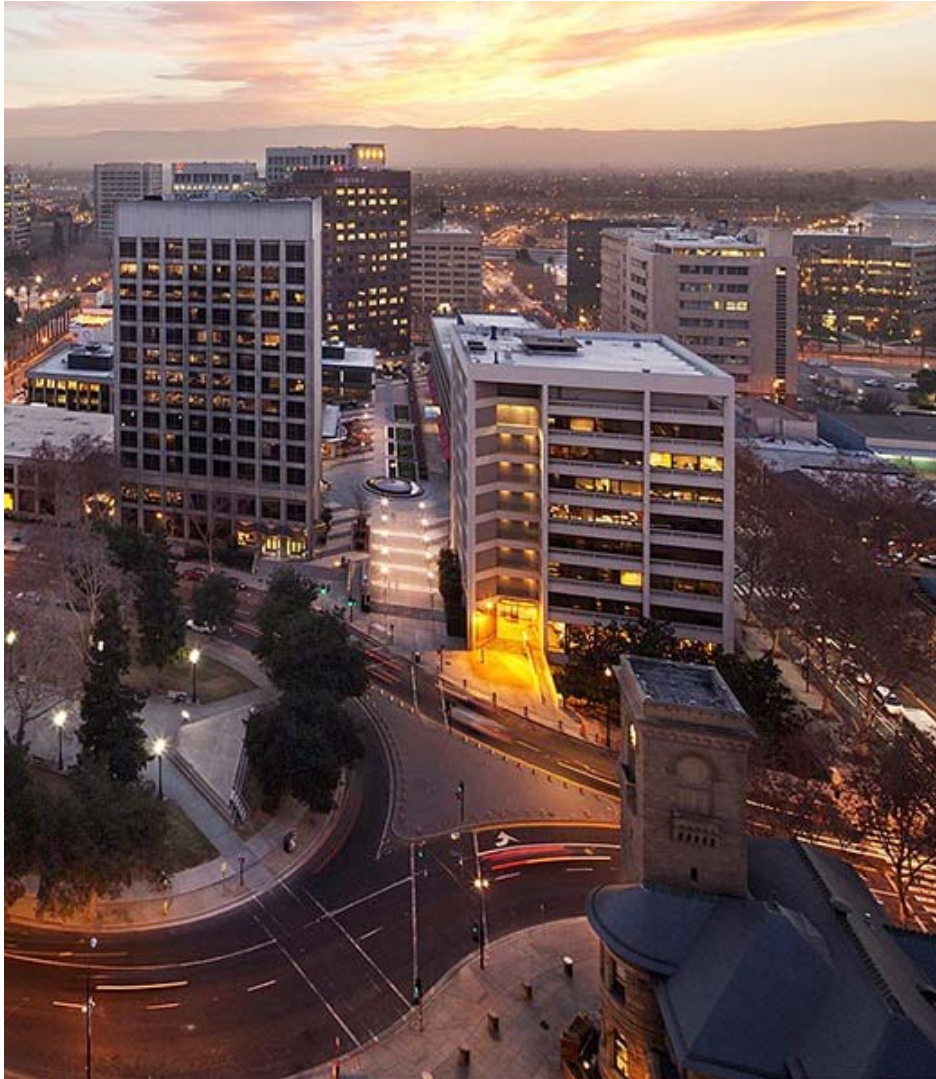
CORPORATION

THE HISTORY

1881

237-feet tall





MISSION

To create an artistically-inspired and iconic structure that builds civic pride within San Jose and Silicon Valley.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL



“

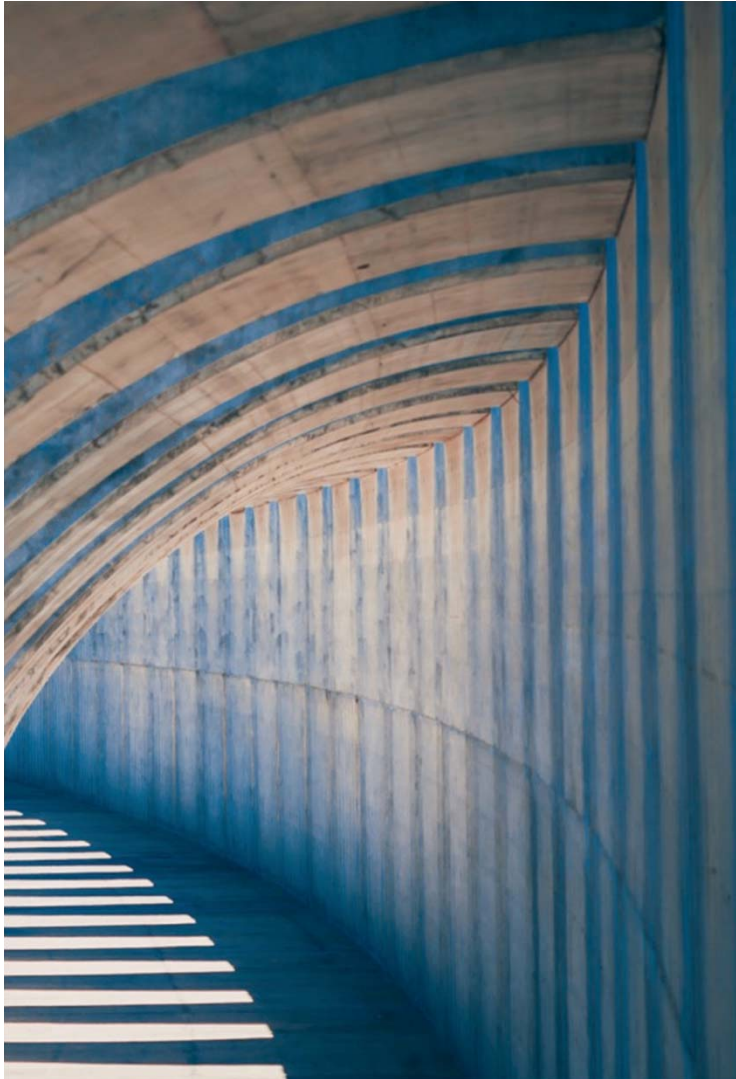
This iconic structure will help tell the story of San Jose and Silicon Valley.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Liccardo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose

MAY 2, 2018

The San Jose City Council unanimously approves the San Jose Light Tower Corporation to move forward with plans...



THE PURPOSE

Recognizable symbolic structure

Internationally respected

Destination landmark

Intersection of innovation, technology, art

Connect innovative people around the globe

GLOBAL ICONS



PHASES



DOCUMENTARY
FILM



SITE
SELECTION



INTERNATIONAL
IDEAS
COMPETITION



CONSTRUCTION

LEADING THE CAUSE



Steve Borkenhagen



Jon Ball



Tom Wohlmut



Linda Lester



Madison Nguyen



Erik Schoennauer

GENEROUS DONOR ADVOCATES

\$150
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Those who get left out...

20%



1 in every 5 individuals today live with a visible or invisible disability resulting in PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, AUDITORY, or VISUAL impairment.

Playgrounds are vital places for community connection. Yet when it comes to meeting the needs of everyone, they have fallen short.

Until now.

Leveraging the innovative spirit of Silicon Valley, Magical Bridge Playgrounds are mindfully designed to address the unique needs of an entire community.

With an underlying message of kindness, we remove the physical and social barriers of today's typical playgrounds and give everyone a place to play.

...find a place where everyone plays.



Introducing a new kind of community playground, where everyone *truly* plays together

Since opening in 2015, Silicon Valley's Magical Bridge is heralded as the nation's most innovative and inclusive playground. Mindfully designed for everyone, **we welcome everyone to come out and play, regardless of ability, disability, size, or age!**

This story started with a mother, two daughters and a playground need...

Despite ADA*- compliant playgrounds everywhere she looked, not a single one was right for Olenka's disabled daughter Ava. It became painfully clear that public parks were overlooking the needs of not only her family, but far too many others.

Determined to create the kind of outdoor space that her disabled and non-disabled daughters (and their friends) could love, she led a team of volunteers and spearheaded the first Magical Bridge playground in Palo Alto, California. By removing the social and physical barriers of today's typical parks, visitors of all ages and abilities come together and experience a real community playground. Today, the Palo Alto playground receives over 25,000 guests monthly!

Requests from around the world continue pouring in from those seeking a Magical Bridge playground of their own, and **a movement to reimagine play has begun.** First in cities around Silicon Valley, and soon to school communities and beyond, Magical Bridge is transforming the world of play for everyone. In collaboration with Jill Asher, Olenka created Magical Bridge Foundation as a non-profit organization in 2016 to bring the magic of play, kindness, and new friendships to as many communities as possible.

*ADA - The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability.

Olenka Villarreal

Founder

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Jill Asher

Co-Founder

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www.magicalbridge.org

Magical Bridge Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent recommended by your tax advisor.

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all abilities

all ages

all welcome

Building innovative playgrounds and more inclusive communities

DESIGN • FUNDRAISING • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Reimagine play with us.



Bring the “magic” of truly inclusive play to millions of families every year, and give people with and without disabilities a chance to play as never before



FUNDRAISING EXPERTISE

It takes a village to build a Magical Bridge Playground. We engage with city officials, businesses, foundations, and the community at large to ensure each project is fully funded. Every donation is meaningful, appreciated and acknowledged.



INNOVATIVE DESIGN

We’re disrupting the playground industry to make sure no one is left out. Partnering with thought-leaders, academics, and playground-users, we create a fun and welcoming space for all. Building on a decade of research and development, our universal design meets the unique needs of everyone, including those often forgotten.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stemming from our commitment to kindness, we unite and excite the entire community. From partner programming to media relations and school coin drives, **no one is too young or too old to be part of the Magical Bridge Movement.**

“

Our dream is that we no longer have to use the words, “inclusive” or “accessible” when building something as simple as a playground.

– Olenka Villareal, *Founder*
Magical Bridge Foundation

The overwhelming requests that we get every day underscore the urgent need for more playgrounds like Magical Bridge.

– Jill Asher, *Co-Founder*, Magical Bridge Foundation

Leave a lasting legacy.

Sponsor a play zone and enjoy having your name prominently displayed inside the playground of your choice. Your generous support will be appreciated now and for generations to come.

Kindly contact us for details.

150k



Spirited Spin Zone

150k



Imagination Innovation Zone

75k



Meditative and Wellness Garden

150k



Kindness Corner

150k



Splendid Slide Mound

350k



by Barbara Butler

Community Treehouse and Stage

50k



by various local artists

Interactive Art Piece(s)

150k



Friendly Tot Zone

150k



Sensory Swing and Sway Zone

25k



by Barbara Butler

Peaceful Hideaway Hut(s)

10k



by various local artists

Welcoming Buddy Bench(es)

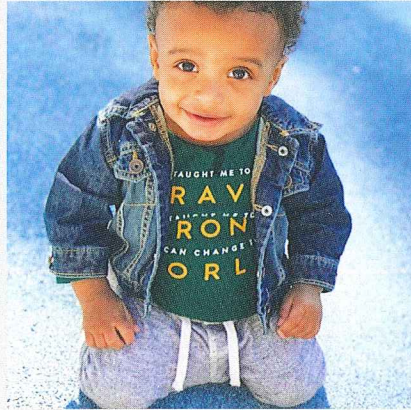
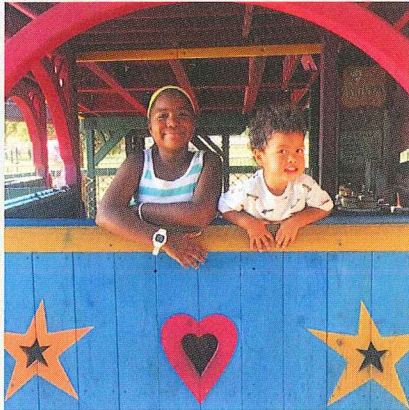
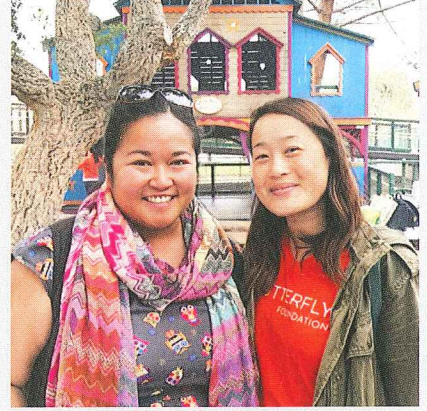
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Many thanks to our vibrant community for sharing their photos and stories with us.

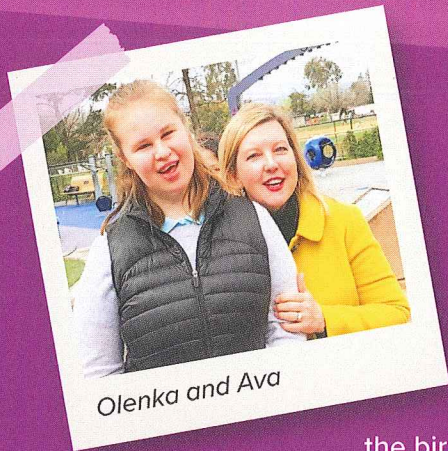


**Building innovative playgrounds
and more inclusive communities**

all abilities

all ages

all welcome



Our story starts with a mom, two daughters and a playground need.

It was only after the birth of her second daughter that Olenka discovered how isolating a playground could be.

A place which brought joy and community connections with her older daughter had become a dreaded outing when she realized there were no parks designed for families like her own. A family who had two children with very different needs.

Determined to create the kind of outdoor space that both her disabled and non-disabled daughters (and all their friends!) would love, she mobilized a team of volunteers to fulfill a dream to create such a place. While she found many playgrounds designed for the disabled population, none brought visitors of every age and ability group together in the welcoming way she envisioned.

For seven years, Olenka and her team continued to dream, research and raise the funds necessary

to create a new kind of playground in Palo Alto, California, called Magical Bridge.

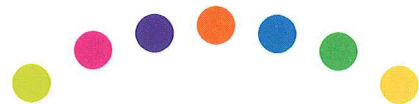
In 2015, the playground opened to great enthusiasm, and today, Kindness Ambassadors roam the park and welcome over 25,000 visitors monthly who come to experience a sense of belonging and fun.

With longtime friend and team member Jill Asher, Olenka created Magical Bridge Foundation as a non-profit organization in 2016. Since then, the success of the playground has inspired an awareness that today's parks leave far too many behind. In response, Santa Clara County allocated \$10 million of funds to create more playgrounds like Magical Bridge. New school play solutions are underway as well.

The foundation is beginning to extend its reach beyond the Bay Area and continues to bring the joy of play, kindness and new friendships to as many families as possible.

Our dream is that we no longer have to use the words, “inclusive” or “accessible” when building something as simple as a playground.

– Olenka Villarreal, Founder, Magical Bridge Foundation



**Our mission is for everyone
to experience the love of play and
the joy of community connections.**


20%

One in every five of us lives with a visible or invisible disability, it's a population that any one of us can become a part of at any time.

Playgrounds are vital places for community connection, yet when it comes to meeting the needs of everyone, they have fallen short.

With an underlying message of kindness, we remove the physical and social barriers of today's typical playgrounds and give everyone a place to play.

Today's playgrounds are not designed for everyone

Unfortunately, many of today's community playgrounds have limitations. Be it safety, seating, shade, or any of the elements listed below, Magical Bridge is driven to change and improve all components for truly inclusive gathering and play experience for everyone.



LOOSE SURFACE

Tan bark & sand are not easily traversed with a mobility device and they impair breathing for those using oxygen tubes.

RAISED LEVELS

Different levels can be inaccessible to wheelchair users and those with various physical limitations.

DEFINED PATHS

These walkways offer little play value or opportunity for creative exploration.

RAISED BORDERS

A raised perimeter border keeps those who use a wheelchair or mobility device out.

DULL EQUIPMENT

Unimaginative equipment is not fun for anybody, and is aesthetically unappealing.

NO GATES

Without perimeter fencing around a playground, many children run or wander off, often into busy streets.

NO PLAY AREA FOR TEENS OR ADULTS

This structure offers little to no equipment for teens and adults.

NO GROUP PLAY

This structure offers few collaborative play elements which limits opportunities for group play.

DISORDER

Dense structures are frenetic and over-stimulating for children with sensory issues and autism.

NO RETREATS

The frenetic pace of kids running the maze of these paths makes it difficult for children with autism to enjoy.

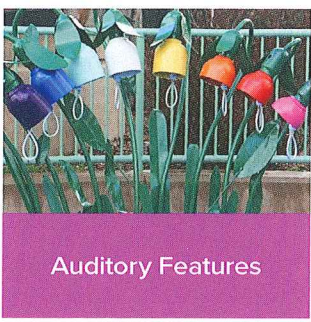
CHALLENGE LEVELS

Challenging climbing and stepping activities do not consider less daring visitors or those with physical disabilities.

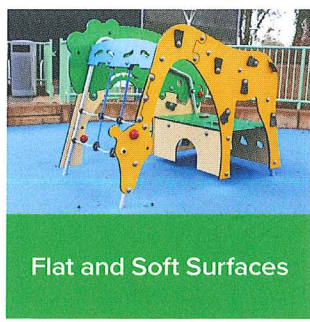
NO SHADE • NOT FOR EVERYONE • NO AUDITORY FEATURES • NO SEATING • NO COMMUNITY BUILDING • ONLY FOR KIDS

A Magical Bridge playground for all

Our playgrounds are mindfully designed to meet the needs of everyone. We collaborate with communities to gather insight and feedback, including from those with a range of disabilities, developmental experts, and (of course) kids!



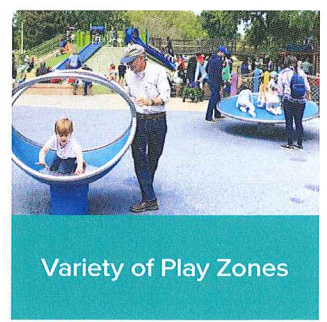
Auditory Features



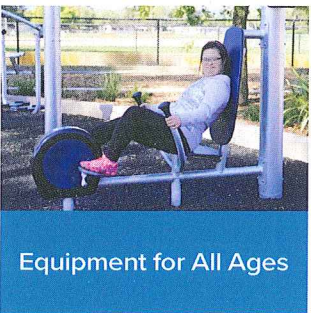
Flat and Soft Surfaces



Retreat Spaces



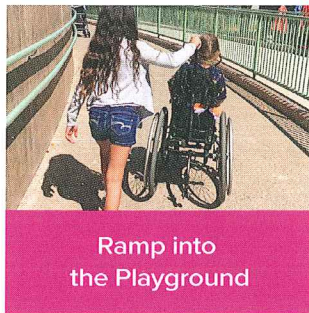
Variety of Play Zones



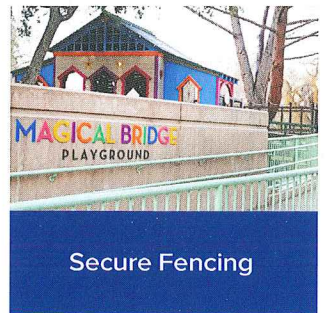
Equipment for All Ages



Majority of Equipment Wheelchair Accessible



Ramp into the Playground



Secure Fencing



We design and build outdoor spaces to ensure people with and without disabilities thrive in their communities.

DESIGN • FUNDRAISING • COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



INNOVATIVE DESIGN

We're disrupting the playground industry to make sure no one is left out. Partnering with community leaders, academics, and playground-users, we create a fun and welcoming space for all. Building on a decade of research and development, our universal design meets the unique needs of everyone, including those often forgotten.



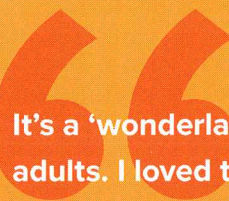
FUNDRAISING EXPERTISE

It takes a village to build a Magical Bridge Playground. We engage with city officials, local businesses, foundations, and the community at large to ensure each project is fully funded. Every donation given is meaningful, appreciated and acknowledged.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stemming from our commitment to kindness, we unite and excite the entire community. From programming to media relations and school coin drives, **no one is too young or too old to be part of the Magical Bridge Movement.**



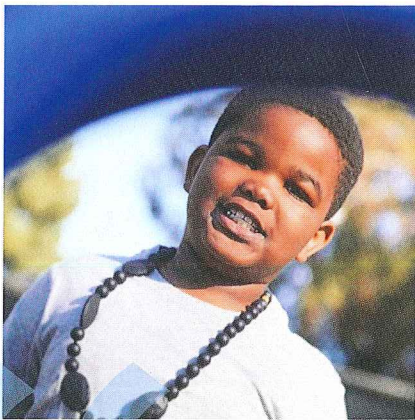
It's a 'wonderland' for children as well as adults. I loved the fact that there was an area where the adults can relax while overlooking their little ones. It's not all about the kids only.

– Grandfather (Oakland, CA)



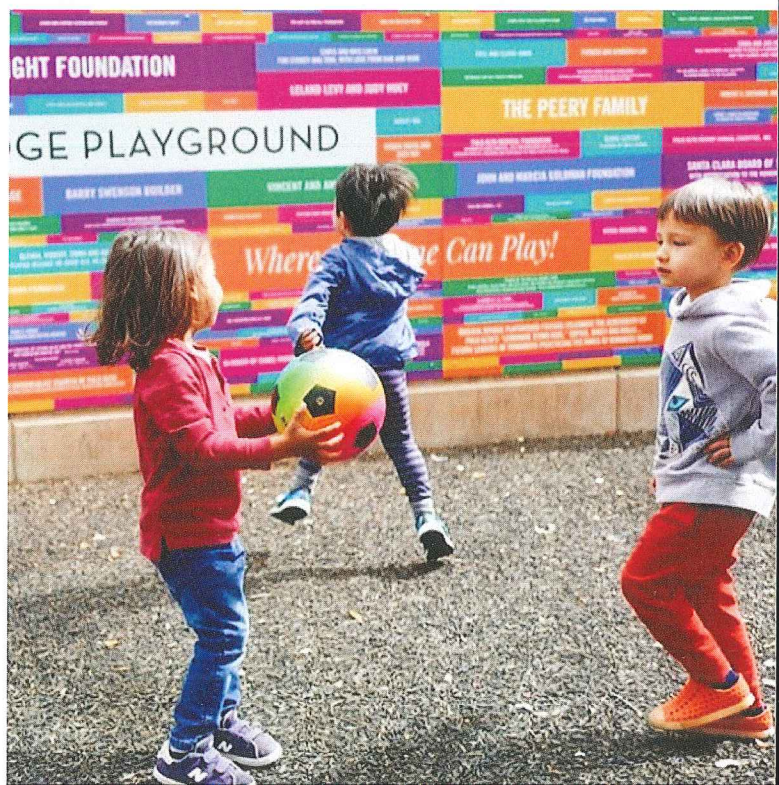
There is something so basic and human to the act of play. My child, at a one and half years old, got a chance to ride a merry-go-round with children from all walks of life, including a wheel-chaired child. Places like Magical Bridge allow inclusivity and empowerment for all children. What a treasure to have such a place... we need more Magical Bridges!

– Mom (Redwood City, CA)



What a beautiful, magical, place! The fact that it is so inclusionary and accessible without looking like a special-needs facility shows the thought, expertise, consideration, and love that went into it.

– Teacher (San Carlos)





We'd love to hear from you.

Olenka Villarreal
Founder
Executive Director
Olenka@MagicalBridge.org
TEL 650.380.1557

Jill Asher
co-Founder
co-Executive Director
Jill@MagicalBridge.org
TEL 650.520.8512



Magical Bridge Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent recommended by your tax advisor.
Tax ID: #81-2377796

MAGICAL BRIDGE FOUNDATION | 650 Gilman Street • Palo Alto, CA 94301

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“

Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.

– *Kay R. Jamison*

We're making real progress in creating playgrounds for kids and adults of all abilities – spaces where everyone feels welcome, and has a place to meet friends, have fun and play. This is how we, as a local government, can have a real impact on our communities.

– *Joe Simitian, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors*

”

www.magicalbridge.org



Jill Asher

Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director

jill@magicalbridge.org • Cell 650.520.8512
650 Gilman Street, Palo Alto, California 94301
501(c)(3) non-profit organization • Tax ID: #81-2377796

A photograph of children in yellow shirts fishing by a stream. The scene is bright and sunny, with reflections on the water. The children are focused on their fishing rods.

SAN JOSE
PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Trail Program Update

2017 / 18 Annual Report



Building Community Through Fun

Open Miles

59.49

(60.21) as of August

35 Projects

New Miles

0.6

Budget

\$25.3M

\$600k


External Funds

Currently managing over \$10,000,000 in secured grants

Project	Grant Program	Amount
SF Bay Trail / Hwy 237 Bikeway Upgrades	In Kind Services	\$500,000
SF Bay Trail / Hwy 237 Bikeway Study	Coastal Conservancy	\$100,000

Usage

TRAIL COUNT



2017

11th Annual Count of Trail Users in San José

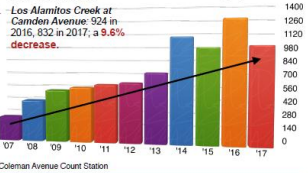
San José's eleventh annual count of trail users occurred on Wednesday, September 13 at six count stations.

The related survey results are published via the *Trail Count 2017 Summary Report*.


In general, we documented decreasing traffic, but in all instances, the drop was less than the substantial increases noted in 2016. The long-term trend line indicates increasing trail usage.

- Guadalupe River at Coleman Avenue:** 1,269 in 2016, 996 in 2017, a 21.6% decrease. This station had recorded a 29.9% increase in 2016, a 1-day special event is believed to have increased traffic that year.
- Guadalupe River at Riverpark Towers (New station):** visited by 724 users.
- Guadalupe River at River Oaks Parkway:** 2,325 in 2016, 2,376 in 2017, a 2.2% increase.
- Los Gatos Creek at Hamilton Avenue:** 1,380 in 2016, 1,135 in 2017, a 17.8% decrease. This station had recorded a 21% increase in 2016.
- Los Gatos Creek at Auzerais Avenue:** 163 in 2016, 160 in 2017, a 1.8% decrease. AM and PM counts only.
- Los Alamitos Creek at Camden Avenue:** 524 in 2016, 632 in 2017, a 9.8% decrease.
- NEW: On-Street Bike lanes, San Fernando Street,** used by 136 from 7:00-9:00am and 173 from 4:00-7:00pm. Fourth Street used by 43 in morning and 69 in evening. Eighty-four skateboarders were counted along both routes during the evening count.


Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers, advocates, agency partners & local companies like Callander Associates and Mark Thomas & Company.




Year	Count
'07	~100
'08	~150
'09	~200
'10	~250
'11	~300
'12	~350
'13	~400
'14	~450
'15	~500
'16	~1200
'17	~900



SAN JOSE
PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES




TRAIL COUNT




2017

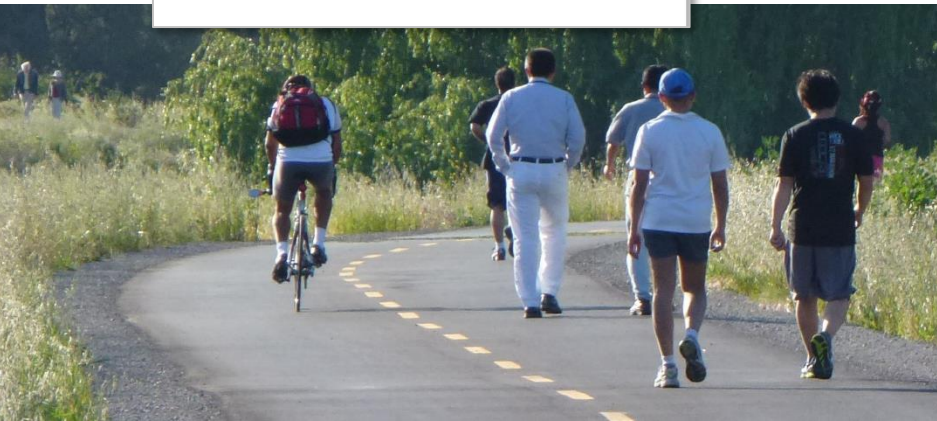
Annual Count & Survey of San José Trails



CITY OF
SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

SAN JOSE
**PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**





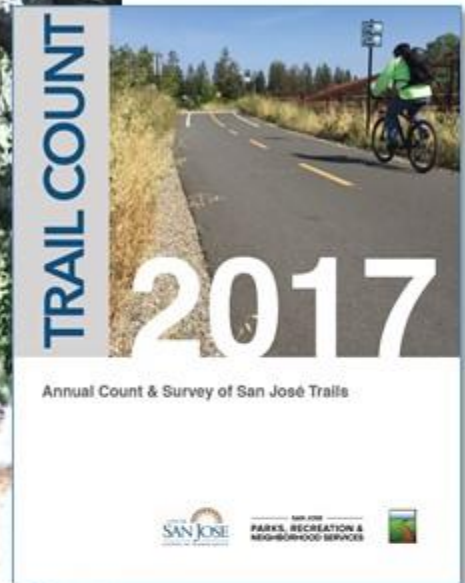
Guadalupe River Trail
Coleman Avenue
21.5% Decrease

Guadalupe River Trail
River Oaks Parkway
2.2% Increase

Los Gatos Creek Trail
Auzerais Avenue
1.8% Decrease

Los Gatos Creek Trail
Hamilton Avenue
17.8% Decrease

Los Alamitos Creek Trail
Camden Avenue
9.6% Decrease



GUADALUPE RIVER TRAIL RIVER OAKS PARKWAY

Annual Trip Estimate: **878,946 Trips**

TRAIL COUNT
2017



TRAIL COUNT

2017

Annual Count & Survey of San José Trails



2017 SAN JOSÉ
PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



Count Station (high volume sites only)	12-hour Count	Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)	Annual Volume
Guadalupe at River Park Towers	724	765.41	279,375
Guadalupe at Coleman	996	1,058.38	386,309
Guadalupe at River Oaks Pkwy	2,376	2,408.07	878,946
Los Gatos at Auzerais	160	118.62	43,296
Los Gatos at Hamilton	1,135	1,214.20	443,183
Los Alamitos at Camden	832	944.82	344,859



TRAIL COUNT 2018

September 12, 2018 – 7:00am to 7:00pm



Honorable
Mention

AWARD – Three Creeks Trail



Silicon Valley Chapter

Project of the Year

AWARD – Penitencia Creek Trail

TRAIL SIGNAGE GUIDELINES

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ TRAIL PROGRAM

Revised
December 22, 2017

SAN JOSÉ
PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



In collaboration with
CALLANDER ASSOCIATES



SAN JOSÉ TRAIL NETWORK TOOLKIT

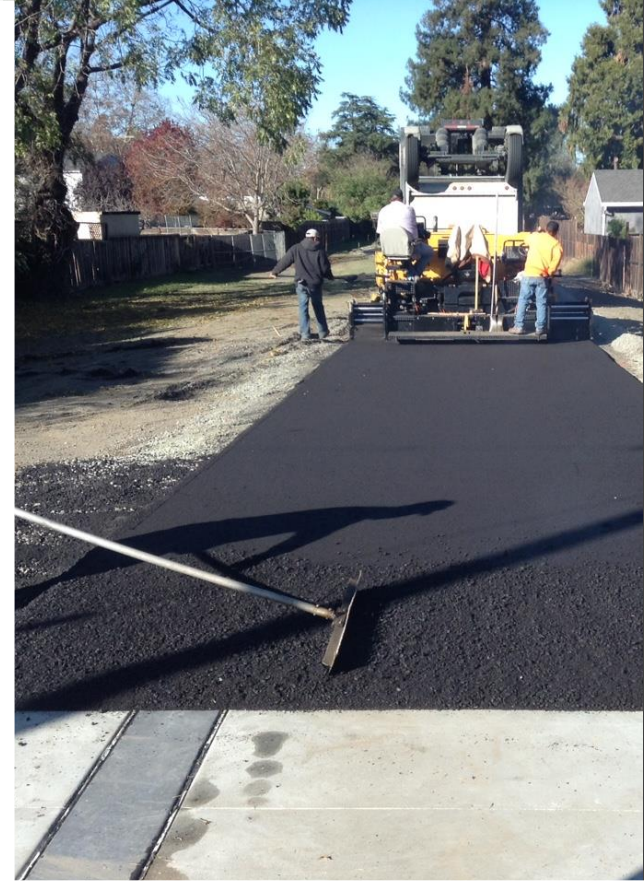
PLANNING & DESIGN

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION
AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

TRAIL PROGRAM
In collaboration with
MIG, INC.

JULY 2018
BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH FUN



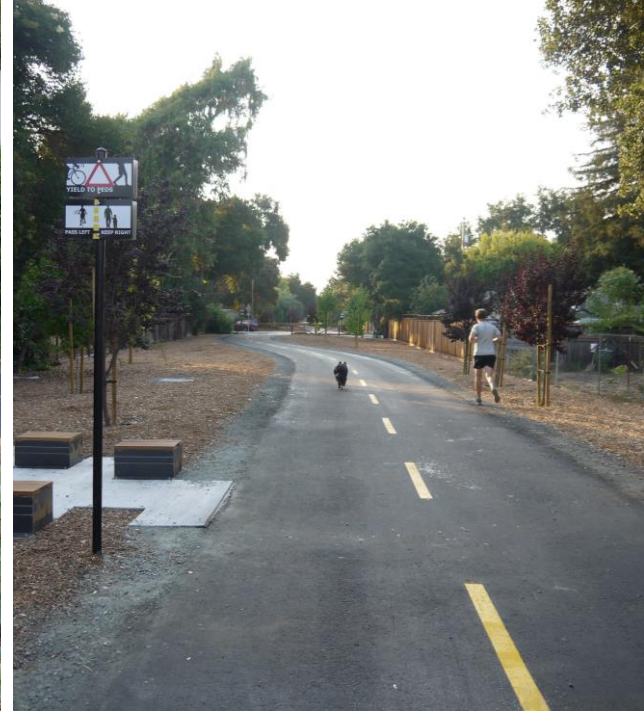


Construction











QUESTIONS?



Yves Zsutty, Trail Network Manager

408 793-5561

Yves.Zsutty@sanjoseca.gov



[@SanJoséTrails](https://www.instagram.com/SanJoseTrails)

A photograph of children in yellow shirts fishing by a stream. The scene is bright and sunny, with reflections on the water. The children are focused on their fishing rods.

SAN JOSE
**PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Trail Program Toolkit

Planning & Design Guidelines

Building Community Through **Fun**



Purpose

Share experience
and
best practices



Subject Matter



- Use of Toolkit
- Planning
- Working with Partners
- Design Details
- References & Resources

PLANNING AND DESIGN DECISIONS



IDENTIFY



Define the point A and B of the project

STUDY



Determine primary project challenges that can be resolved; coordinate with property owners and easement holders

PLAN



Identify the opportunities and constraints; plan a viable trail alignment that addresses both

DESIGN



Develop plans based on this Toolkit's guidance and appropriate local, state, and national guidance and requirements

CONSTRUCT



Build the project consistent with San José trail guidance and define it as an addition to the trail network

Intended Audience

- Community
- City Council
- City Staff
- Developers
- Partner Agencies



Anticipated Benefits

- Engage our stakeholders
- Streamline project development
- Sustain inter-agency partnerships





US Army Corps of Engineers®

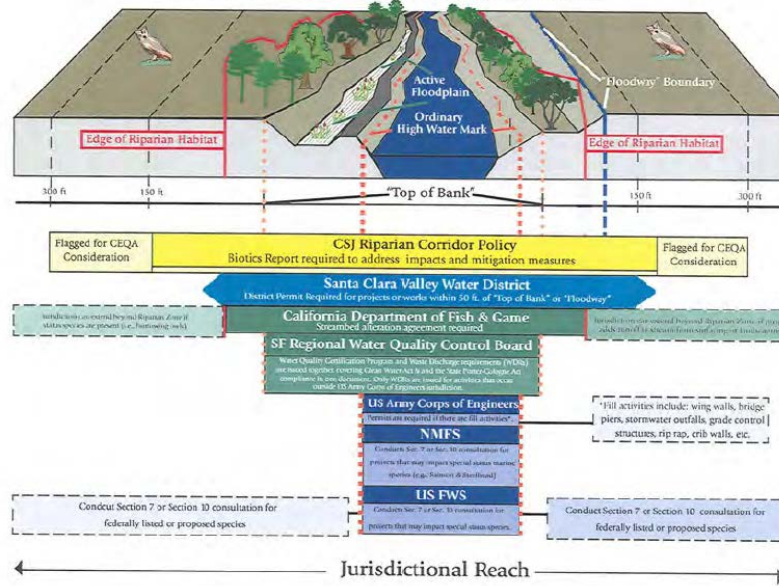
Association of Bay Area Governments



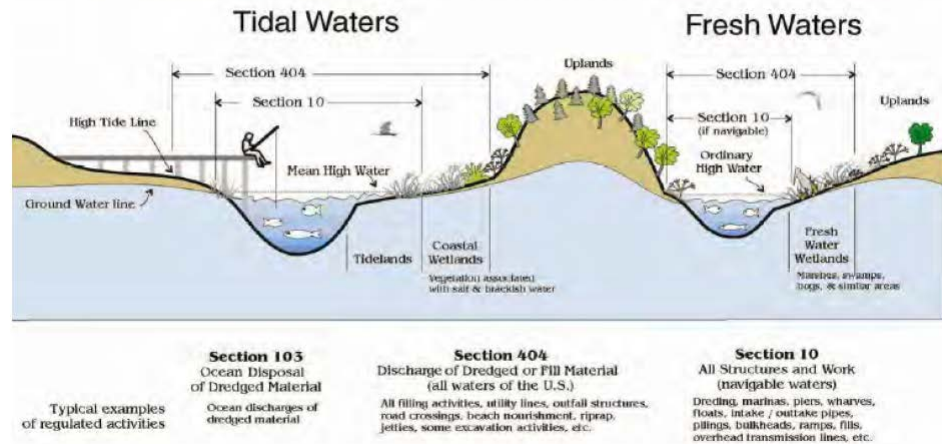
Caltrans®



Jurisdictional Overview of Resource Agency Permitting

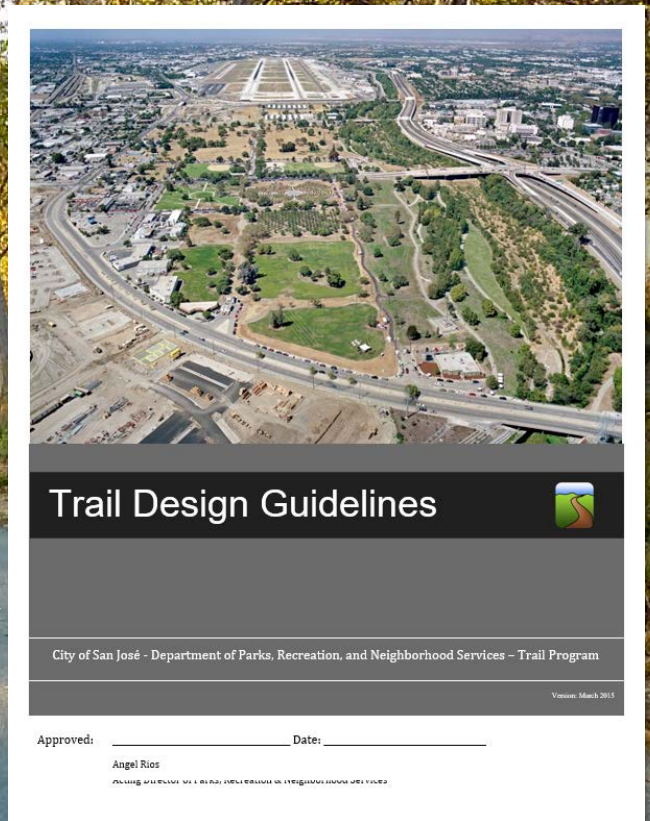


CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY JURISDICTION



Content Development Process

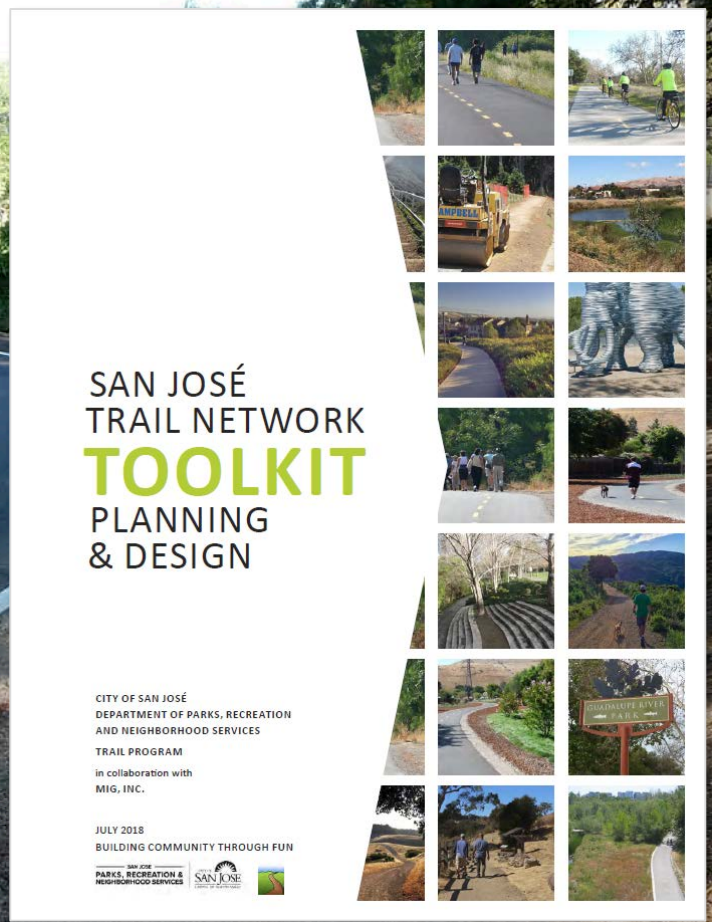
- Planning documents
- Best practices
- Lessons learned
- Engage experts
- Consult with partners



Inter-agency coordination



- Reduce operation impacts
- Minimize operation costs
- Build awareness of roles



QUESTIONS?



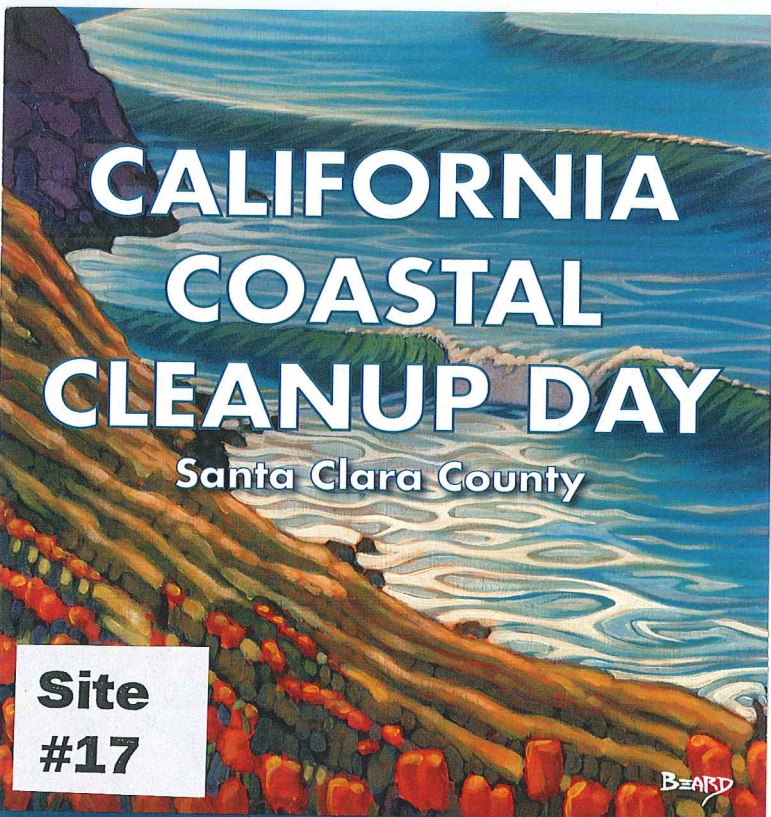
Yves Zsutty, Trail Network Manager

408 793-5561

Yves.Zsutty@sanjoseca.gov



@SanJoséTrails



CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Santa Clara County

**Site
#17**

BEARD

Saturday, September 15, 2018 | 9 a.m. - Noon

Volunteers needed to pick up litter. For more information:

www.cleanacreek.org



CALIFORNIA
COASTAL
COMMISSION

 #CCD2018

volunteer@valleywater.org