



Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

FROM: Nicolle Burnham

SUBJECT: ANNUAL TRAIL REPORT

DATE: August 20, 2018

Approved

Date

INFORMATION

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services will provide a Trail Program Update.

The presentation will focus on the recently released 2017/18 Annual Report and discuss the following:

- Status of Trail Network
- Awards and recognition
- Trail Count 2017 findings and preparation for Trail Count 2018
- Grant funding
- Documentation development
- Review of active projects
- Questions and answers

/s/

NICOLLE BURNHAM
Deputy Director
Department of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services

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

Attachment: [Link](#) to 2017/18 Annual Report

TRAIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



Identify

Undeveloped projects identified in the Trail Database
14.27 miles

Study

Projects that have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment.
17.46 miles

Plan

Projects that have been or are currently being master planned for future development.
40.74 miles

Design

Projects that have been or are currently being designed (construction documents).
9.76 miles

Build

Projects that are under construction.
0.72 miles

Open

Projects that are open to the public.
59.49 miles, composed of:
 50.62 miles (paved)
 8.87 miles (interim)

Overview

San José seeks to be the national leader in urban trail development. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services' Trail Program advances this vision by delivering the highest quality trails, meeting a Class I Bikeway standard across a distributed citywide network.

Once fully developed, the Trail Network will offer 100 miles of interconnected trails across 40 trail systems. Linkages to hiking trails within San José's parks and regional systems will support recreation and active transportation in the region. This large number and interface with regional, state and national systems reinforces San José as a leading trail city.

The existing 59.49 mile network is already recognized as one of the nation's largest. The scale of the Trail Network grew by 0.60 miles over the past 12 months, with projects along Thompson Creek and Guadalupe River being completed and opened to the public.

Funding for trail projects was substantially higher this fiscal year with \$32,900,000 budgeted. The prior fiscal year (2015/16) provided \$19,000,000 for studies, plans, design and construction work. This report provides an update for many of the active projects over the past 12 months.

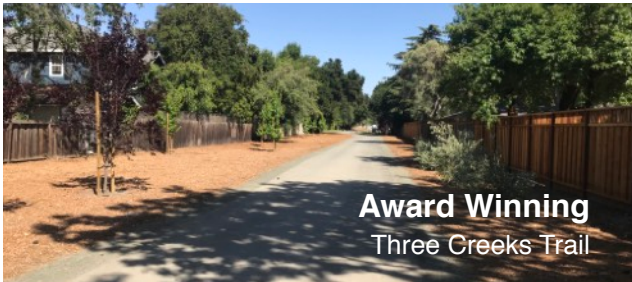
Program Updates

Awards and Recognition

The City of San José and CH2M-Hill (now Jacobs Engineering) received the Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association - Silicon Valley Chapter for the Penitencia Creek Trail Reach 1B project from Noble Avenue to Dorel Avenue.



The project was recognized by the Transportation Category for projects in the \$2M to \$5M range. The newly delivered reach of the Penitencia Creek Trail is the City's first boardwalk trail, with three spans passing over the sensitive roots of native California Sycamore trees found along the narrow creek channel. The trail is designated as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and was funded through grants from the Open Space Authority, Coastal Conservancy and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD).

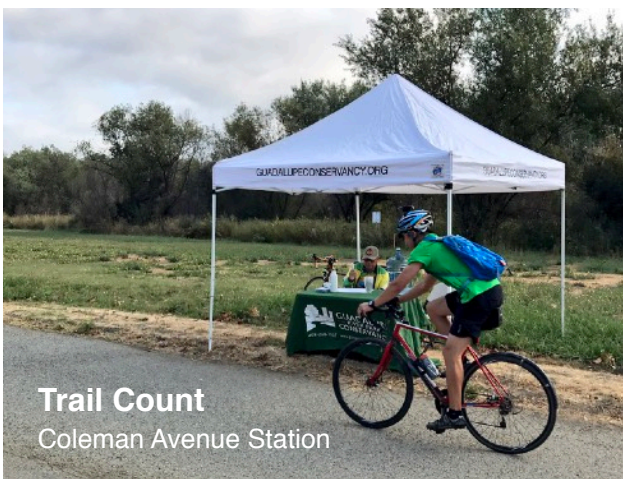


The Three Creeks Trail is nearing completion and has already received an Honorable Mention from the California Trails & Greenways Conference. The 0.7-mile project extends from Coe Avenue to Minnesota Avenue and features architecture and landscape to interpret the corridor's agricultural, canning and railway past. Click more [information](#).

Trail Count 2017

San José's eleventh annual count of trail users occurred on Wednesday, September 13. Volunteers at six count stations counted and offered survey cards to trail users. Additional volunteers staffed two on-street to county usage along bike lanes.

In general, volume was lower than 2016. But the decline was less than the substantial increases recorded at several count stations in 2016.



Reviewing counts over the past 11 years documents an upward trend in usage along the Trail Network.

1. Guadalupe River at Coleman Avenue: 1,269 users; a 21.5% decrease from 2016.
2. **NEW:** Guadalupe River at Riverpark Towers (New station): 724 users for this first time station.
3. Guadalupe River at River Oaks Parkway: 2,325 users; a 2.2% increase.
4. Los Gatos Creek at Hamilton Avenue: 1,380 users; a 17.8% decrease.
5. Los Gatos Creek at Auzerais Avenue: 163 users; a 1.8% decrease. AM and PM counts only.
6. Los Alamitos Creek at Camden Avenue: 924 users; a 9.6% decrease.
7. **NEW:** On-Street Bike Lanes;
 - a. San Fernando Street, used by 136 from 7:00-9:00am and 173 from 4:00-7:00pm.
 - b. Fourth Street used by 43 in morning and 69 in evening.

Eighty-four skateboarders were counted along both on-street routes during the evening counts.

The data gathered from Trail Count supports trail planning and competitive grant writing. A Fact Sheet and comprehensive Summary Report were produced by the following week, and offer data to the community and leaders that trails are an integral part of our balanced transportation system.

The successful event was made possible with volunteer support from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Save Our Trails, Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace Neighborhood, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful and community members.

Visit the [Trail Count page](#) for more information about Trail Count 2017.

Grant Funding

Staff is currently managing a portfolio of grants valued at over \$10,000,000. Staff was successful in securing a new grant in 2017/18 and coordinating an arrangement with a private company to fund and repave the Highway 237 Bikeway from Great America Parkway to Lower Guadalupe River Trail.

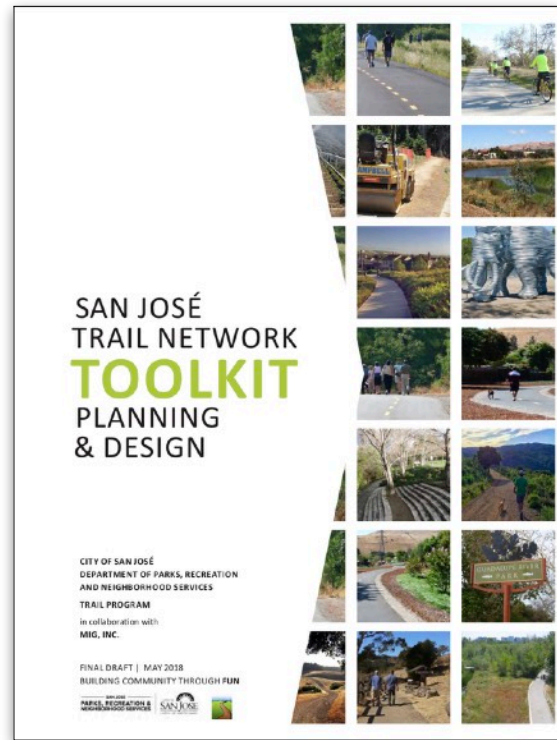
Project	Amount	Status
Highway 237 Bikeway Study (SF Bay Trail)	\$100k	Awarded
Highway 237 Bikeway Repaving (Provided work)	\$500k est.	In Progress

Documentation

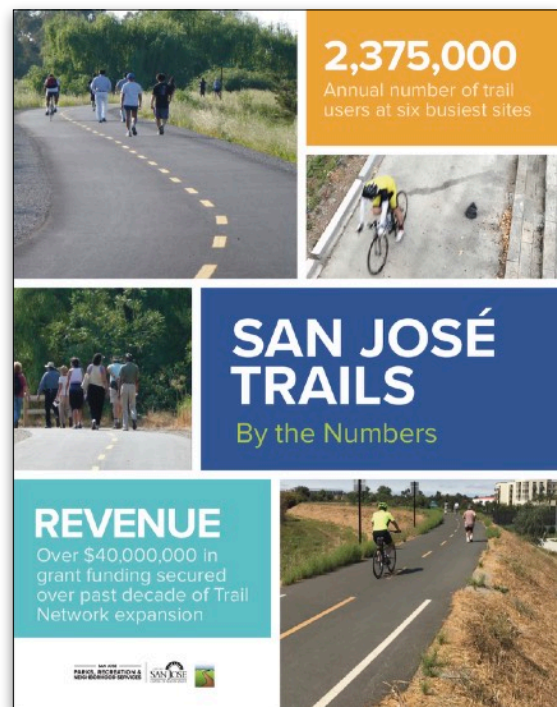
Trail Signage Guidelines: The [guideline](#) for all signage and markers received its first major update in December 2017. A variety of new signs were added to better address common advisory and warning needs. The guidelines are referenced when designing or updating a San Jose trail system.



Trail Planning & Design “Toolkit”: The [document](#) was completed in June and supports a common understanding of the planning and design approach used along San Jose Trails. The document was developed in consultation with the Public Works Department and SCVWD staff to help public agencies and developers navigate common project challenges and deliver the best trail experience for users, while preserving the interests of public land owners and managers.

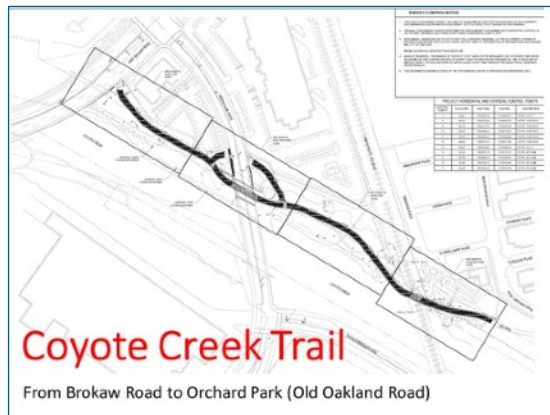


By the Numbers: A [Fact Sheet](#) was developed based upon trail usage data, surveys and a property valuation study. The fact sheet supports a common understanding of the value of San José Trails. The document is intended for use when meeting with developers, advocates and granting agencies.



Active Trail Projects

Coyote Creek Trail (Brokaw Road to Orchard Park): Design work reached the 95% stage of development for future trail improvements that includes under-crossings beneath Ridder Park Drive and Union Pacific Railroad. The project team is now pursuing permits and California Public Utilities Commission's review due to the passage beneath an active railway. Funding is in place for future construction.



Coyote Creek Trail (Mabury Road to Empire Street): A Request for Proposals was issued to hire an engineering consultant based upon the project's scope. The RFP process has been completed. The City Council approved hiring of the firm in June. Caltrans now auditing the firm as part of its typical process, prior to commencement of design work.

Coyote Creek Trail (Highway 280 to Story Road): Staff has worked with Caltrans over the past 12 months to release federal funds for the project. Construction documents have been revised to reflect changes in field conditions. The plans and a package of documentation were submitted to the State agency in late May. Staff anticipates receiving a notice to proceed from the Caltrans in August and would proceed immediately with bidding. Funding is in place for construction.

Coyote Creek Trail (Story Avenue to Phelan Avenue): Plans have been prepared to the 95% stage and staff is pursuing construction permits. Once permits are secured, staff will make final adjustments to the plans and proceed with bidding. Funding is in place to award a construction contract.

Coyote Creek Trail (Phelan Avenue to Tully Road): The project was master planned in 2008. The project team conducted a site visit in May to revisit the alignment and determine site challenges, such as topography, real estate needs, and constrained areas. The design consultant is surveying the site in order to



define a viable alignment and options for options for addressing the most difficult sites conditions. The City's Real Estate team is reaching out to one property owner with property that extends to the water's edge. Design work is expected to proceed in the new fiscal year.

Coyote Creek Trail (Singleton Road Barrier Removal & Bridge): An Initial Study is being prepared per the California Environmental Quality Act. Hiring of a design consultant for design work is ongoing. City and SCVWD staff have formed a Focus Group to investigate potential short-term alternatives to remove the in-channel fish barrier. The alternatives will be presented to regulatory agencies to weigh benefits and timing of short-term and permanent solutions at this site.

Guadalupe River / River Oaks Parkway Study: A small study was completed to recommend appropriate signage and striping for the busy trail intersection. Per Trail Count 2017, this site is used by 858,000 annually. A contract has been awarded and installation of enhancements are anticipated by this fall.

Five Wounds Trail (William Avenue to Whitton Avenue, Acquisition): Negotiations are on-going with the property owner, with formal Terms and Conditions agreed upon. Funding arrangements have been made with two other public agencies to support multi-agency ownership of the former rail corridor, and its future use as an urban trail. Acquisition is expected to occur in the Fall.

Guadalupe River Trail (Coleman Road Under-Crossing): Construction of the 600-foot under-crossing and related ramp improvements have been completed. The project supports a full walking loop around Lake Almaden, and better connectivity to the Guadalupe Creek and Guadalupe River Trails, with the nearby Almaden Light Rail Station. Related mitigation work is now being installed.



Los Gatos Creek Trail (Reach 5B/C Under-Crossing): Caltrain has completed its bridge project. Design work on the trail under-crossing has resumed, with development of a 95% design package now underway. The final 5% will be completed as construction funds are identified as it may impact the permits required.



Lower Silver Creek (Alum Rock Avenue to Dobern Avenue): Design work on the trail and landscaped plaza at Kammerer Drive is now complete. Staff is monitoring well-aligned grant programs to support future development.

Penitencia Creek Trail (King Road to Berryessa BART): Construction of the paved trail has been completed and links King Road to the new BART transit station (under construction). Project includes two traffic signals to permit controlled crossings at King Road and the new Berryessa Station Way. Opening of



San Tomas Aquino Trail (Study, City of Campbell): City staff is working collaboratively with City of Campbell to complete a study defining a trail that would travel through both jurisdictions.

Thompson Creek Trail (Tully Road to Quimby Road): Construction of the trail and its 500' retaining wall was completed in August 2017. The paved trail includes a connection to a new traffic signal from Eastridge Station Way to support greater multi-modal access. The project also includes a pipeline to facilitate the SCVWD's annual maintenance of the creek channel.



Thompson Creek Trail (Quimby Road to Aborn Court): Design work has been completed. Staff is monitoring well-aligned grant programs to support future development.

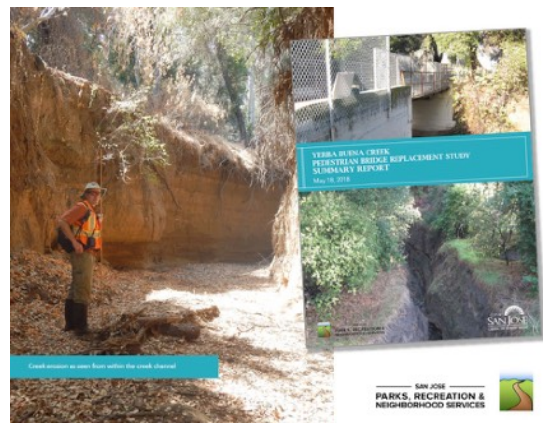


Three Creeks Trail (Lonus Avenue to Minnesota Avenue): Construction commenced in May 2017 for improvements from Coe Avenue to Minnesota Avenue. Construction of the

paved trail and landscaping is substantially complete. Installation of gateway features and interpretive elements occurred late in the year, with final striping and signage just completed. The trail will be opened in Summer 2018.



Yerba Buena Creek Pedestrian Bridge Study: The study has been completed and confirms three viable and one preferred bridge alignment. The future bridge will support community access to the trail and nearby Evergreen Community College. Funding to advance design of the project was approved as part of the 2018/19 Budget.





Social Media

Twitter@sanjosetrails was initiated in January 2010 to offer regular Trail project updates, program milestones, upcoming closures and relevant news stories. The platform continues to draw an audience. In the past 12 months, the audience grew by **9.9%**; from 2,675 to 2,943 followers.

Instagram@SanJoseTrails has a stronger visual focus, with filtered images of projects under construction, progress updates and downtown San José's best places to visit. In the past 12 months, the audience has grown by **103%**; from 270 to 547 followers.

Partners

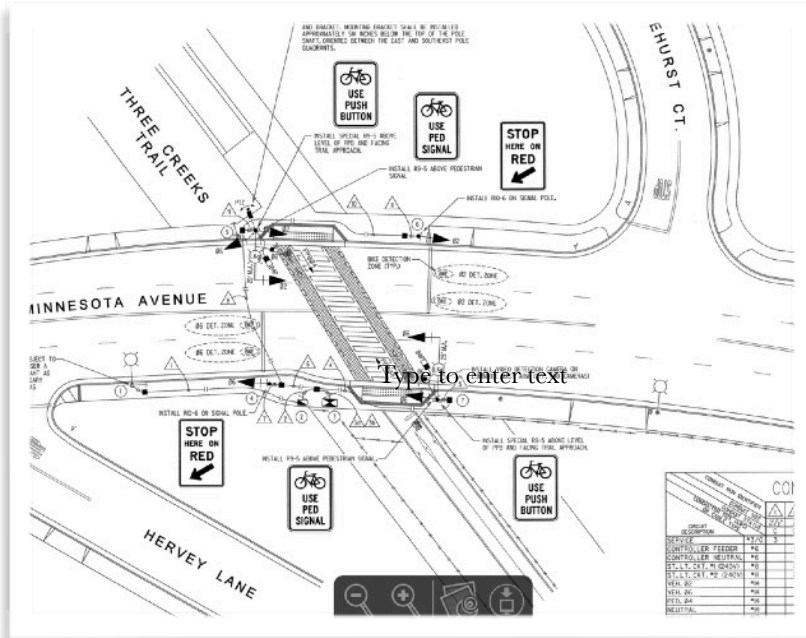
Development of trails can only occur through partnerships with agencies, community groups and hardworking individuals.

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
- Staff from City of San José departments and offices
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- 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
- Many residents, neighborhood groups and trail advocates who encourage and support expansion of the trail network.



Afternoon walk along Los Gatos Creek Trail



Three Creeks Trail:
 Installation of San José's first hybrid crosswalks at Coe Avenue, Broadway Avenue and Minnesota Avenue.

Working collaboratively with San José's Department of Transportation for on-street improvements to deliver these project features.

