



# Trails

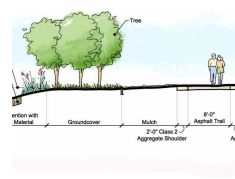
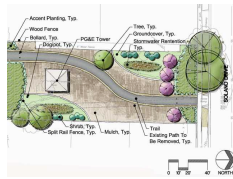
## Annual Trail Report - Fiscal Year 2007-08

Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

5th Edition

Release Date: July 1, 2008

Identify	Study	Plan	Design	Construct	Open
100% of projects have been identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database for future development. <b>25.78 miles</b>	79.22% of projects have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment. <b>12.06 miles</b>	69.62% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development. <b>33.16 miles</b>	43.22% of projects have been or are currently being designed, resulting in construction documents. <b>4.31 miles</b>	39.79% of projects have been or are currently being constructed. <b>0.26 miles</b>	39.58% of projects are constructed and open to the public. <b>49.72 miles</b>  32.73 (paved) 16.99 (interim)



### Program Overview

The Trail Program's mission is to develop a 100-mile trail network comprised of 32 individual trail systems as defined by the Greenprint and consistent with the Mayor's Green Vision.

This is the fifth annual report that serves to update the community, City Council and stakeholders on progress made over the past 12 months.

With 49.72 miles of open trails, the Program is nearing an important milestone. It is expected that 50% of the network will be open to the public during Fiscal Year 2008-09. Readers of this report will note that many of the on-going projects are resulting 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 and opening of additional trails.

### Program Updates

#### Awards

The Program's website was honored by the American Trails Organization in 2007. It was designated as the *Best Community Trail System* website. The award acknowledged the site's comprehensive approach to posting user-friendly information.

Visit the website today and find maps of all open trails, closure notices, past and current annual reports, special studies and Fact Sheets about trail benefits.

San Jose's trail received *Program Merit Award* in May at the Trails and Greenways Conference. The award acknowledged the scale of trail development, partnering efforts, website, data-driven decision-making and sensitivity to aesthetics and quality design.

**Website Development**

The program’s website continued to improve over the past year with some notable additions:

- “Search by Zip” helps residents find trails near home
- Maps showing many new planned alignments
- Public meeting presentations
- Trail maps now show nearby on-street bikeways

**Trail Count 2007**

Volunteers from the *Friends of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens* and the *Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition* joined with City of San Jose staff to conduct the first count of trail traffic along the Guadalupe River Trail. Two 12-hour counts were conducted on consecutive Wednesdays. Trail



Count 2007 tells us that nearly 1,000 people use the trail system daily and nearly 40% of those people are commuting to work. See the “Reports” section of the website for a Fact Sheet about the count.

**Recycled Asphalt Study**

In conjunction with the Department of Environmental Services, PRNS commissioned a study to determine the viability and costs associated with use of recycled asphalt.

The report found that the material is readily available, contributes to local and State goals for landfill diversion, and is cost competitive with traditional paving. The report is posted on the program’s website under “Reports.”

**Permeable Pavement Test**

Staff began the planning effort necessary for installation of permeable asphalt concrete pavement along portions of the Lower Guadalupe River Trail. The installations are intended to test the viability of such material for future trails. Permeable pavement is necessary in order to meet stricter storm water runoff requirements and minimize overflow that can undermine river banks. Staff will test the material for durability. Input will be sought from trail users on the surface quality and other factors. Funds were secured as part of the Mayor’s Green Vision initiative, and the test installation is expected to occur in FY2008-09.

**Green Vision**

During Fiscal Year 2007-08, Mayor Chuck Reed announced his Green Vision and the ten goals that the City seeks to achieve to improve the environment and support economic development. Goal 10 states that 100 miles of interconnected trails will be open to the public within 15 years. This goal adds a timeline to the existing Greenprint goal which initially defined the network in 2000. Staff estimates that planning, design and construction of the network will require approximately \$335,000,000. By year’s end, staff was reporting on the on-going development work throughout the network and continued to make the City Council aware of grant opportunities and associated project recommendations.

**Grant Writing**

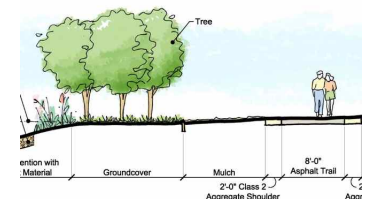
Staff utilizes a Council-approved prioritization process to rank projects and align them with grant funding opportunities. This approach ensures that the existing trail systems continue to expand in a logical manner and that the City targets grant applications in the most strategic manner. Over the past year, staff prepared four grant applications and secured nearly \$1,000,000 additional dollars for design or construction of new trails.

Project	Grant / Amount	Status
Penitencia Creek (Mabury to King)	BARTC / \$150,000	Awarded
Coyote Creek (Story to Phelan)	BARTC / \$300,000	Not awarded
Guadalupe River (Woz to Virginia)	State / \$700,000	Awarded
Guadalupe River (Woz to Virginia)	State / \$123,000	Awarded
Bay Trail (Gold to 237)	ABAG / \$150,000	Not awarded

**Project Updates**

**Albertson Parkway - Cresta Vista Drive to Curie Drive**

Construction documents were prepared, grant funding secured and a construction contract is





being prepared for bid that will lead to redevelopment of the existing trail system in south San Jose. The underdeveloped site will include wider trails, landscaping, storm water retention basins and interpretive and memorial signage.



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

Funding was secured through the Federal Transportation Bill and preparation of construction documents has commenced. Once completed, the plans will

define a 540 foot pedestrian bridge and three under-crossing structures. Funding for construction has yet to be identified. When built, the improvements will link the Guadalupe River system to the Bay Trail and the County's Alviso Marina with its related levee trails around the salt ponds.

### **Coyote Alamos Canal - Miracle Mountain Drive to Monterey Highway**



An engineering study was completed in December 2007. The study defined the cost of improvements required to permit public access.

The completed study supports the Council's

decision-making process for future development of a trail system.

### **Coyote Creek - (Hwy 237) Lower Silver Creek to Story Road**

A master plan was completed and adopted by the City Council in June 2008. The plan defines a 3.0 mile trail system from Lower Silver Creek to Story Road. The plan substantially reflects the alignment defined in a 2004 feasibility study but includes the necessary environmental documentation required for further development. Staff is awaiting approval of the region's Transportation Improvement Plan by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in order to access Federal Transportation dollars that will permit preparation of additional planning documents for the reach from Hwy 237 to Lower Silver Creek, and preparation of construction documents for the reach from Lower Silver Creek to Story Road.

### **Coyote Creek - Tully Road to Los Lagos Golf Course**

Construction documents for the 1.0 mile trail have been completed and bid documents are being prepared in order to award a construction contract during the summer of 2008. 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 will travel along side the Tully Road Ball Fields and link to Stonegate Park where the Coyote Creek Trail system currently terminates.



### **Fowler Creek - Mackin Woods Lane to Altia Avenue**

Construction of the trail and surrounding park was completed in 2007. The trail system extends through the park, and links to a short pedestrian bridge that provides access to the larger Evergreen landscaped pathway system.



### **Guadalupe Creek - Almaden Expressway to Singletree Way**

An existing Water District maintenance road was opened as an interim trail from the expressway to Meridian Avenue. Securing an easement from PG&E has delayed opening of the trail to Singletree Way. Coordination with PG&E continues and staff anticipates opening of the remaining trail late in 2008.

### **Guadalupe River - Alviso to Highway 880**

Existing maintenance roads were officially opened as interim trails during the fiscal year. Signage and adjustments to existing fencing occurred to improve public access.

Completion of under-crossings at Airport Parkway and Highway 101 now result in a continuous 9.0-mile trail system from Gold



Street in Alviso to Highway 280 and the Guadalupe River Park.

**Guadalupe River - Airport Parkway and Highway 101 Under-Crossings**



Construction of the two under-crossing projects was completed in late 2007. The paved structures eliminate a barrier to use of a continuous 9.0 mile trail system. Existing sidewalk on the north side of Airport Parkway bridge was

widened to meet trail standards, permitting trail users to travel beneath the structure and cross the river to follow the continuous trail alignment.

**Guadalupe River - Woz Way to Virginia Street**

Staff has secured Caltrans’ support for development of the future trail upon the State’s property along Highway 87. Through careful cost cutting, staff has been able to secure Caltrans’ approval for issuance of an easement through a relatively



straight-forward permitting process as opposed to a more lengthy and costly process reserved for projects costing over \$1,000,000.

Construction documents are at the 95% stage. A grant request is pending with the State’s Resources Agency to make up for a funding shortfall. Funds would support construction of the bond-funded project during the summer of 2009.

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**Los Gatos Creek - Santa Clara Street to San Carlos Street**



A master plan was approved by the City Council in June. The plan defines the final reach of one of the valley’s most popular trail systems. The plan defines a strategy for addressing a number of site challenges, ie. an under-crossing will be required beneath an active railway track, widened sidewalks will lead users to the signalized crossing at

Montgomery Avenue/Park Avenue in order to avoid a long box culvert structure, and future park development will permit the trail to reach the Guadalupe River Park.

Staff is currently working with the VTA to secure the next round of funding to support preparation of construction documents.

**Los Gatos Creek - San Carlos Street to Auzerais Avenue**

The paved trail has been substantially completed by a private developer. Negotiations with the SCVWD are on-going to resolve property ownership along the trail in order to permit public access. The project was built as part of KB Homes’ Monte Vista development, and follows a landscaped zone between the new homes with the riparian corridor. Interpretive signage along the route discusses the watershed and the growing trail system.



**Los Gatos Creek - Auzerais Avenue to Lonus Street**

Approximately 10 years of study, planning and design concluded in October 2007 with the opening of a 0.3 mile reach of trail along Los Gatos Creek. The project includes an under-crossing structure beneath



Highway 280 and is accessible from the Gregory Street neighborhood via a pedestrian bridge. The lengthy development process is not unusual for a trail project because the planned work often occurs within very constrained and environmentally sensitive areas.

**Penitencia Creek - at Viceroy Drive**

The Penitencia Creek Trail has an at-grade crossing at its intersection with Viceroy Drive.

To enhance pedestrian safety at the crossing, sidewalk, a median island and flashing beacons were installed. The project resulted from PRNS and the City’s Department of Transportation collaborating to ensure that





the trail system is well integrated with on-street traffic safety improvements.

### **Penitencia Creek - King Road to Mabury Avenue**

Construction documents were completed and permits secured for construction of a 0.3 mile reach of gravel and paved trail. The lower cost gravel surface approach was justified since flood control improvements are planned along the creek within 10 years. In June, the City Council authorized the execution of a joint trail agreement with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and Coastal Conservancy for construction to occur during the summer of 2008.

### **Lower Silver Creek - Coyote Creek to Thompson Creek**

A master plan was adopted by the City Council for a 6.6 mile trail system which will follow the creek and a utility corridor, increasing access to existing neighborhood parks, schools and retail establishments. Acquisition of an easement from PG&E is on-going as is the preparation of construction documents for the Silverstone Place reach of that trail system

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



Referenced above, the property is currently defined by aerial power lines and neglected open space. Once constructed, the neighborhood will enjoy a landscaped trail system.

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



Installation of interim improvements like signage and fencing modifications now permit public access along an existing SCVWD maintenance road. The interim trail opened in June.

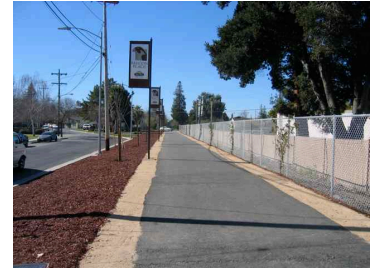
A master plan was completed several years ago and describes a paved trail alignment that will develop as funding becomes available.

### **Willow Glen Spur - Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek**

The City is seeking to acquire several parcels between Los Gatos Creek and Highway 87.

A short reach of the trail system between Alma Avenue and the Guadalupe River has been opened as part of a new housing development by Pinn Brothers Homes.

The City has convened a Focus Group to assist in determining how development of a trail system might occur between the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek. Available parcels provide an opportunity to link the proposed trail system to special event centers (Spartan Stadium, San Jose Giants) and Kelley Park. Physical challenges like an active railway corridor and mid-block crossings need to be looked at carefully.



## **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 Jose City Council
- City of San Jose Departments and Offices
  - Public Works
  - Transportation
  - General Services
  - Environmental Services
  - Police
  - City Attorney's Office
  - Redevelopment Agency
  - City Manager's Budget Office
- Santa Clara Valley Water District - Board of Directors and Staff
- 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
- Park Managers

# San Jose's Trail Program

*Mission: A network of 34 trail systems providing 100 miles of recreation and commute opportunities.*



Lower Guadalupe River Trail

Track progress and get maps at: [www.sjpark.org/trails](http://www.sjpark.org/trails)