

TRAIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

San José Trail Program



Lower Silver Creek Trail

Identify	Study	Plan	Design	Build	Open
100% of projects have been identified in the City's Greenprint or trail database 21.21 miles awaiting further development	4% of projects have been or are currently being studied to determine a feasible alignment. 12.61 miles	74% of projects have been or are currently being master planned for future development. 31.38 miles	43% of projects have been or are currently being designed, resulting in construction documents. 8.91 miles	43% of projects have been or are currently being constructed. 0.29 miles	7% of projects are open to the public. 55.02 miles* 44.18 (paved) 10.84 (interim)

Program Overview

The Trail Program's vision is to be the national leader in the integration of urban trails. Within that context, the program is developing a 100-mile trail network comprised of 36 individual trail systems as defined by the Greenprint and consistent with the Mayor and City Council's Green Vision. The existing 55-mile network is already recognized as one of the nation's largest - doubling this mileage is an ambitious effort and this report presents the projects over the past 12 months that have supported that outcome.

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.

Program Updates

Awards and Recognition

Three awards were secured over the past year for the 6.7-mile Lower Guadalupe River Trail project. The project was completed in April 2012.

Bikeway Project of the Year awarded by the San Francisco Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Award of Merit awarded by the California Trails and Greenways Conference.

Sustainable-Green Project of the Year awarded by the Silicon Valley Section of the American Public Works Association.

Trail Count 2013

The September 2013 count captured volumes at eight count stations along the Guadalupe River (3 stations), Los Gatos Creek (2 stations), Los Alamitos Creek, Three Creeks, and future Five Wounds Trail alignment.



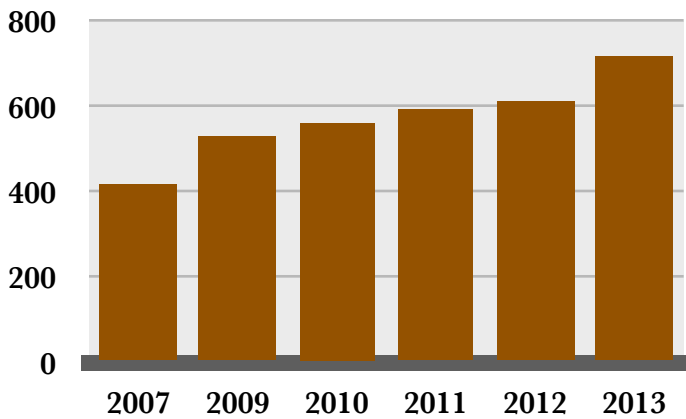


Lower Silver Creek Trail

Three Creeks Trail



Coleman Avenue Count Station



No. of users of 12-hour period

The data supports trail planning and competitive grant writing. It also reminds the community and leaders that trails are an integral part of our transportation system. Volunteers from the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Save Our Trails, Five Wounds/ Brookwood Terrace Neighborhood and others joined with City of San José staff to conduct the seventh annual count and survey of trail users.

Traffic volume along the Guadalupe River Trail has increased for the 7th consecutive year. Growing trail use was documented at the Guadalupe River / Coleman Avenue count station - with 719 trail users passing by this station over the 12-hour count period.

The San Fernando Street Count Station along the Guadalupe River Trail was relocated to reduce the

potential for double counting. The station saw 899 users. This was a 46.7% increase over the prior year.

The River Oaks Count station counted for only 7 hours. 1,127 users were counted even with the shorter count period. Many trail users were crossing the River Oaks Bridge that links Light Rail to the Rivermark Community in Santa Clara. Further evidence of the integration of trails within the region's transportation system.

Both Los Gatos Creek Trail and Los Alamitos Creek Trail documented high usage, with over 1,500 counted along each popular trail.

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

Promoting Tourism

Bay Area Bike Share arrived in Downtown San Jose, San Francisco and the Peninsula. The availability of rental bikes and the renovated and enlarged



convention center may encourage more visits to Downtown's Guadalupe River Trail. A Tourism Map was developed to show "out of town" visitors that the Guadalupe River Trail, a Bike Share bike and pedal power can help them see San José and the Silicon Valley. The map is posted on the Trail Program website, and has been shared with stakeholder groups like the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, SPUR, and the Downtown Association. The map supports multi-modal travel with VTA Light Rail and Caltrain stations noted.

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 3 grant applications seeking nearly \$18M in funding. Several grants were awarded from submissions during the prior fiscal year (2010-11). Staff secured over \$1,712,000 in new grant funding. A \$63,000 grant was secured jointly with the Association of Bay Area Governments to plan for improved north San Jose Trail integration. And a \$50,000 award through the Trust for Public Lands was secured to document the economic impact of parks and trails in San José.

Social Networking

San Jose Trails have been on Twitter ("SanJoseTrails") since March 2010. Over the past 12 months, 500 "Tweets" were posted to provide project updates, upcoming trail closures, and other news items. The number of followers doubled to 970.

Project Updates

Coyote Creek - Highway 237 Bikeway to Tasman Drive

Design work was delayed for most of the year as the SCVWD made necessary repairs to the levee structure. Design work is now proceeding to support construction of paved trail improvements during the summer of 2015.

Coyote Creek - Phelan Avenue to Story Road

Design work commenced on this 0.9 mile paved trail project. The alignment will follow the east bank of the creek through Happy Hollow / Kelley Park. The trail design includes decorative gateways at both streets, an under-crossing beneath the pedestrian bridge leading to the zoo, and access ramps to reach the public restroom. No funds for construction have been identified at this time.

Coyote Creek - Story Road to Selma Olinder Park

Design documents have been developed to the 95% stage and staff is now pursuing regulatory agency



Three small parks (about 0.25 acre each) were added along the Guadalupe River in collaboration with the Santa Clara Valley Water District

The park sites are found along Harliss Avenue, Palm Street and Edwards Avenue - generally between Virginia Street and Willow Street.

Guadalupe River Trail - Public Art

Progress on the “Lupe the Mammoth” public art piece progressed, with engineering documents under review at the end of the year. The plans are expected to support manufacturing and installation of the large art work in late Fall 2014.

Guadalupe River Trail - Coleman Road Under-Crossing

Design of a second under-crossing beneath Coleman Road in south San Jose reached the 65% stage. The project includes ramps and extension of the trail to permit persons to walk along the perimeter of Lake Almaden.

Highway 87 Bikeway - Enhancements

Signage, striping and fencing improvements were installed along the bikeway from Willow Street to Santa Teresa Boulevard. The project includes mileage markers to support reporting of incidents.

Lower Guadalupe River - Tasman Under-Crossing

Construction documents were completed and permits have been secured. Construction work is scheduled to commence in mid-August 2014 and extend to October. The project will elevate the existing surface elevation by 3’ to reduce the impact of tidal flooding. Reconstruction of the entire paved surface will occur to remove the highly textured pavement surface that limits access for bike commuters using road tires.

Los Alamitos Creek Trail - Harry Road gateway

No one knows exactly why, but the final 200’ of the trail system near Harry Road was never developed. Plans were completed and a contract awarded. Construction is now underway to pave the entrance to this popular trail system in South San José.

Los Gatos Creek Trail - San Carlos Street Under-crossing

Design and environmental work is underway. Staff is working closely with Caltrain as that agency is seeking to replace its existing railway bridge structure. Proposals for mitigation measures and creek restoration work is now being developed in order to engage the many permitting agencies with oversight over this narrow and degraded channel. No funding has yet been identified for construction of the project.

Lower Silver Creek Trail - Alum Rock to Hwy 680

Plans are developed to the 35% stage. The project will pave an existing gravel maintenance road and include two ramp systems to provide access for the Dobern Avenue neighborhood (north-west of Highway 680). Project includes a ramp to and from the Kammerer Avenue Pedestrian Bridge.

Lower Silver Creek Trail - Dobern Bridge to Story Road

Construction was completed on the 0.30 mile paved trail project through Capitol Park. The trail links to the existing Lower Silver Creek Trail’s Dobern Bridge. The project widened an existing park path to meet Class I trail standards and included a band of dark concrete with a recurring fish motif to guide people back to the creek-side section of the trail system.

Penitencia Creek Trail - Noble Avenue to Dorel Drive

Design work has been completed and permits are being secured for a unique trail project. The trail alignment follows the creek and will be near three large native California Sycamore trees. The trees are not like the common sycamore (London Plain Tree) found on many streets. The native species is prone to hybridization with the street tree. Efforts to protect these sensitive species result in large sections of this trail reach being accomplished with boardwalk structures. The trail’s gateway feature near Dorel Drive will include an interpretive sign about these special considerations. Construction to occur during summer 2014 if permits are secured in a timely manner.

Penitencia Creek Trail - King Road to Berryessa BART

San José is collaborating with the VTA to develop a 0.3 mile extension to the trail system. Design is now underway for paved trail improvements along the creek that will lead directly to the new BART station. The project includes decorative gateways, seating areas and will be linked by two traffic signals. A construction schedule is not yet available.

Thompson Creek - Tully Avenue to Quimby Road

Through the permitting process, staff gained a better understanding of the annual clean-up effort conducted by the SCVWD.

The work had not been fully understand a decade ago when the damaging storm water impacts had only begun in the Evergreen area. At this time, staff is working with the SCVWD and VTA to explore an alternate alignment that would minimize prolonged closures and unavoidable damage to trail pavement. Staff expects to be developing plans for an alternate alignment during the new fiscal year.

Three Creeks Trail - Los Gatos Creek to Coyote Creek

The master plan for the western alignment (from Los Gatos Creek to Guadalupe River) is being finalized after several community workshops. Staff expects to present the plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council in September 2014. The master plan guides landscaping with native and drought-tolerant plants, architectural gateways and interpretive signage. A \$1,000,000 grant was secured for design and construction of the trail.

Permits were secured for construction of a free-span pedestrian bridge over Los Gatos Creek. Staff is awaiting a court decision on proceeding with removal of an existing trestle structure located at the site.

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
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Save Our Trails (community organization)
- Five Wounds Neighborhood / Communiversity
- California Coastal Conservancy
- Many residents, bike groups and trail advocates who encourage and support expansion of the trail network.



“Lupe the Mammoth”

A major public art work to be installed in 2014 along the Guadalupe River Trail, at Trimble Avenue. The piece recalls the discovery of mammoth fossils found within the river.

