

Blossom Crest Trail

Reach 7 - (Mary Jo Way to Copeland Lane)

Feasibility Study

Prepared by:
City of San Jose
Public Works Department
December 2017

Prepared for:
Department of Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services
Trail Program



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



Background:

This study evaluates the feasibility of developing a pedestrian and bicycle trail connection across a utility corridor within the Blossom Crest neighborhood. A connection in the area may improve and facilitate access between the nearby school systems and neighborhood. Roadway and sidewalk improvements are not fully developed in the immediate area so the project would offer a preferable route. The study site is considered as one reach of a larger (and not yet planned) trail system.

The Blossom Crest Neighborhood is located in southwest San Jose, framed generally by Blossom Hill Road, Highway 85, Camden Avenue and Westchester Drive. The area is composed of single family homes. Children in the neighborhood likely attend Noddin Elementary School and Leigh High School. Public improvements including sidewalks are along most streets, with exception of Chevalier Drive. Lack of pedestrian improvements between Mary Jo Way and Copeland Lane may limit student travel to the nearby schools.

This study has been prepared to determine if a PG&E Utility Corridor with Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) infrastructure could viably support development of future pedestrian/bicycle improvements to support walkability in the neighborhood.



Site Challenges: PG&E aerial utilities and SCVWD pipeline infrastructure.

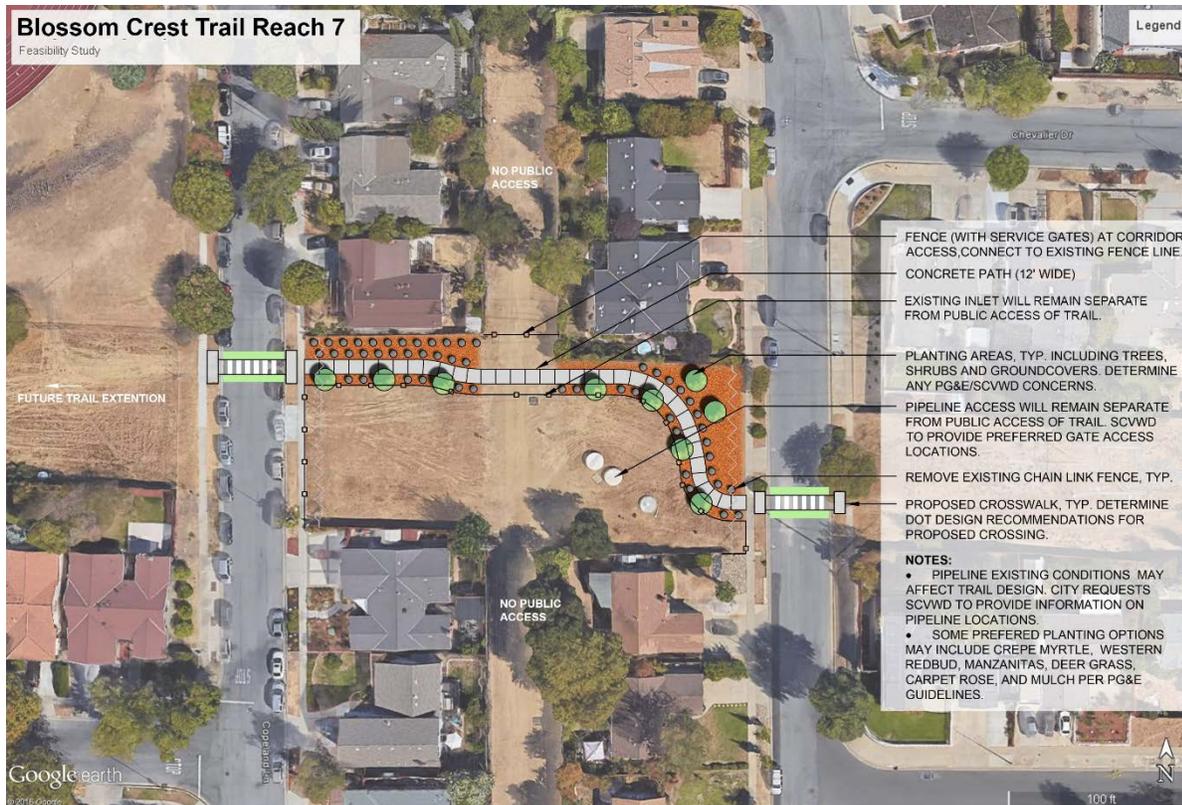


Site Map: Red indicates areas without sidewalks.



Chevalier Drive, lack of sidewalk (Google Streetview).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



Schematic Design

The proposed trail alignment would connect Mary Jo Way to Copeland Lane directly through an existing PG&E utility easement from east to west and an SCVWD easement from north to south.

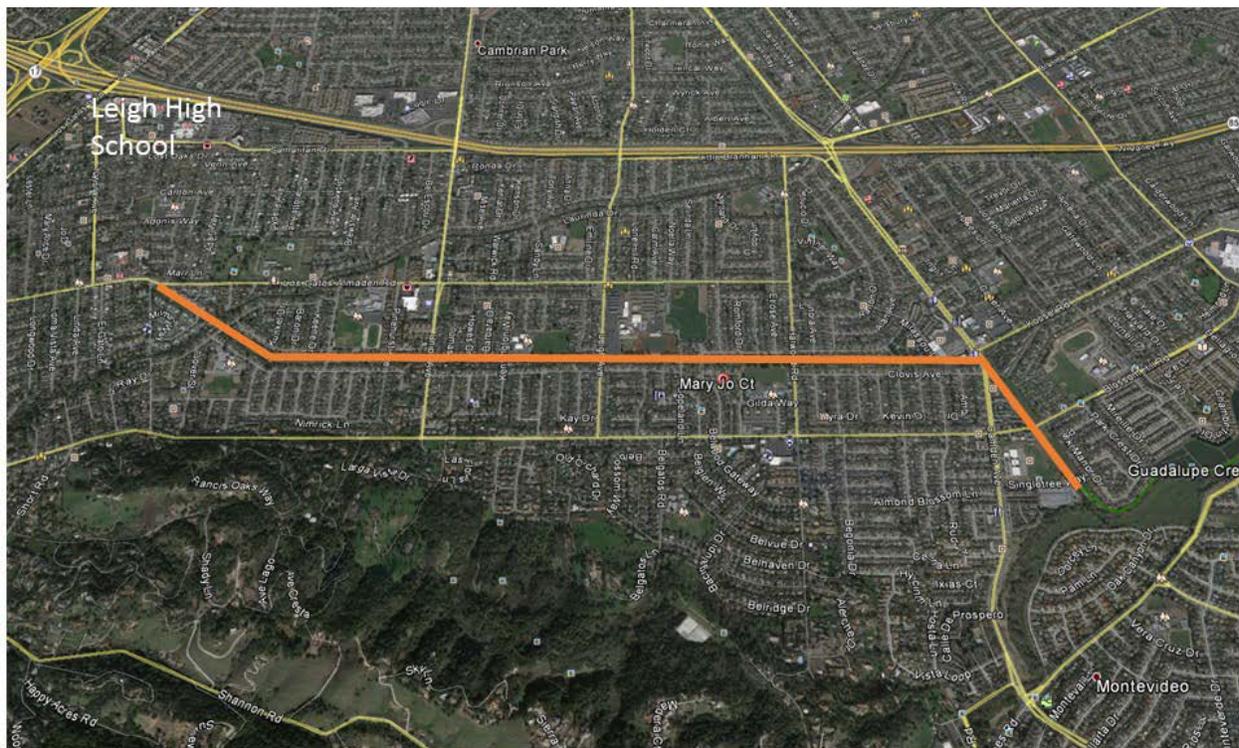
The trail improvements may include:

- 12' wide concrete trail,
- handicap ramps,
- striped pedestrian/bicycle crosswalks (at Mary Jo Way and Copeland Lane crossings),
- fencing, and
- landscape improvements along the trail alignment.

Preparation of this study has confirmed that this proposed design would not interfere with SCVWD activities involving the underground Almaden Creek pipeline. The proposed design would also comply with PG&E easement overhead requirements.

TRAIL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT:

The Blossom Crest Trail improvements, from Copeland Lane and Mary Jo Way, provide approximately 400' of improvements. The Trail Program Database has been updated to represent this project as Reach 7 of a larger trail system. That larger trail system has not been studied or master planned, so it is in generally defined by the Database as an "Identified" system. It extends from Westchester Drive to Camden Avenue and would be about 10,000' in distance. The project is conceptually aligned to follow the PG&E Alignment. <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/73605>



Conceptual view of future Blossom Crest Trail alignment (not yet planned)

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The project team met with DOT, SCVWD and PG&E representatives on September 13, 2016. From meeting notes, the design challenges were generally identified as:

1. Navigating the trail alignment to ensure public safety and avoid SCVWD pipeline access points.
2. Complying with PG&E overhead clearance standards in the selection of plant material along the trail.
3. Directing pedestrian traffic across Mary Jo Way and Copeland Lane via proposed crosswalks.
4. Aligning the trail, handicap ramps, and crosswalks where the least amount of grading impact would occur to meet ADA requirements.

PROBLEM-SOLVING:

The project team worked collaboratively with SCVWD and PG&E staff to identify the following design parameters that would lead to a supported and permitted project by both agencies. The future Blossom Crest Trail, between Copeland Lane and Mary Jo Way should include the following:

1. A 12' wide trail alignment to accommodate both pedestrian traffic and bicycle traffic throughout the day.
2. An engaging planting palette and decorative fencing that both invites and directs users through the path, while separating users from SCVWD and PG&E activities in the channel.
3. Striped crosswalks with bicycle lanes at both the Mary Jo Way and Copeland Lane crossings to slow traffic and provide safety to users.



Existing Site Challenges – Coordinating access through the channel and separating pedestrians from SCVWD and PG&E activities.

NEXT STEPS:

The Department of Public Works has estimated the project per two design approaches:

1. Per the attached graphic (paved trail, landscaping, irrigation, fencing).
2. Limited to paved trail improvements only.

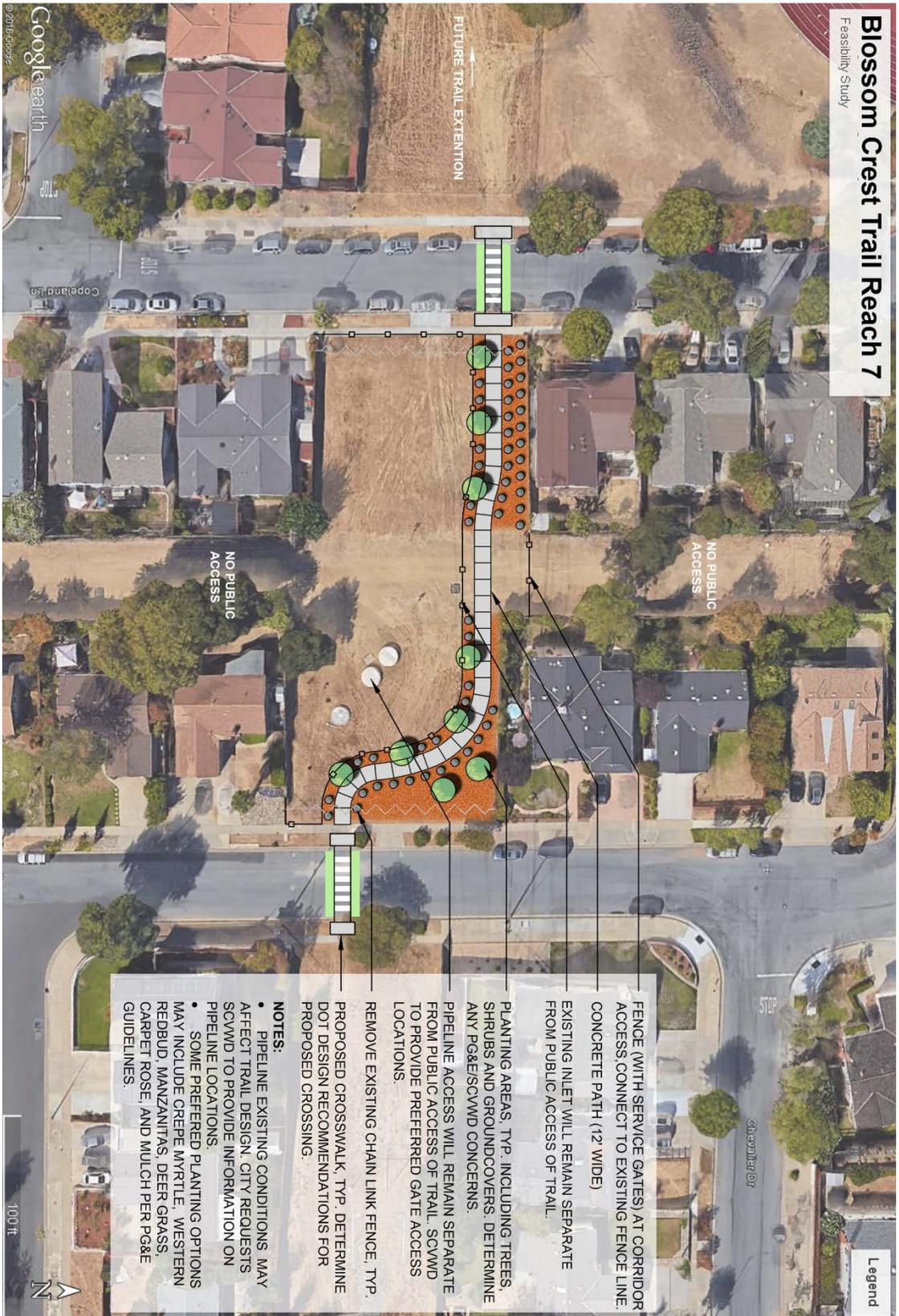
At the time of this study, the project (including design development, environmental clearance, and construction) is estimated to cost **\$630,000** per the graphic (Option 1), and **\$560,000** as a lower cost interim improvement (Option 2).

The cost to prepare a master plan would require further field investigation and was not the focus of his study.

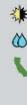
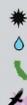
ATTACHMENT 1: Existing Site Photos



ATTACHMENT 3: Schematic Design



ATTACHMENT 4: Examples of Preferred Planting Palette

TREES	SHRUBS	GROUNDCOVERS	GRASSES
   <p><i>Acer macrophyllum</i> - big leaf maple</p>	   <p><i>Arctostaphylos drnaiflora</i> 'Howard McVinn' - Howard McVinn Manzanita</p>	   <p><i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i> - Monterey manzanita</p>	   <p><i>Elymus triticoides</i> - creeping wild rye</p>
   <p><i>Aesculus californica</i> - California buckeye</p>	   <p><i>Ceanothus griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> 'Yankee Point' - wild lilac</p>	   <p><i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i> 'Emily Brown' - wild lilac</p>	   <p><i>Festuca idahoensis</i> - Idaho fescue</p>
   <p><i>Cornus occidentalis</i> - Western redbud</p>	   <p><i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Fuehrer's Choice' - Fuehrer's Choice California fuchsia</p>	   <p><i>Iris douglasiana</i> - Douglas iris</p>	   <p><i>Juncus petronis</i> - common rush</p>
   <p><i>Quercus agrifolia</i> - coast live oak</p>	   <p><i>Heteromela arbustifolia</i> 'Topsy'</p>	   <p><i>Monardella villosa</i> - coyote mint</p>	   <p><i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> - deer grass</p>
   <p><i>Quercus lobata</i> - Valley oak</p>	   <p><i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> 'Margaret's Gold' - beard tongue</p>	   <p><i>Ribes viburnifolium</i> - Catalina perfume</p>	   <p><i>Stipa pulchra</i> - Purple needle grass</p>



SAN JOSE
CALIFORNIA

THREE CREEKS TRAIL SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

PLANT FACT SHEET

 Full Sun

 Partial Sun

 Full Shade

 Very Low / Low Water

 Med Water

 High Water

 CA Native

 Butterflies

 Birds