

Trail Design & EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Fire Department

On August 15, 2009, the City of San Jose and other agencies celebrated the opening of the newest extension of the Coyote Creek Trail. The event included dedication of the entire trail system as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

At the event, staff was made aware by Fire Department personnel that the trail had played an important role in extinguishing a brush fire during the week of May 24. The Fire Department was called in response to a small fire along the creek's grass-covered banks just south of Tully Road.

The newly constructed paved trail provided direct access to the creek corridor for equipment and personnel. Four large trucks were

deployed with 9 firefighters (Engine 26, Engine 18, Water Tender 18, & Battalion 1). They entered the site from Tully Road along the gateway structure and traveled along the trail that had been design to support the weight and turning movements of the large vehicles typically used for creek maintenance. The paved surface was easy to navigate and supported fire fighting operations – no damage occurred.

Had the trail not been in place, Fire Department officials believe that the fire could have grown significantly worse and may have posed a public safety issue for vagrants known to camp in the area.

Fire Department staff report that trails provide great access

for all emergency vehicles (police, ambulances, and fire).



Police Department

Planning and design of the Coyote Creek Trail between Tully Road and Stonegate Park occurred in collaboration with the Equestrian Unit of the San Jose Police Department. The unit's horse stables are along the trail and now have direct access to the trail for easier patrolling of the area.