

PLANNING COMMISSION GIVES APPLE APPROVAL FOR MODIFICATIONS TO CAFETERIA PLANS

*Revised plans call for more
square footage, higher roof*

BY MATT WILSON

Apple Inc. employees soon could have another private place to talk business and grab a snack.

The Cupertino Planning Commission on Sept. 11 gave unanimous approval on modifications for Apple's planned 24,056-square-foot cafeteria on the northeast corner of Bandle and Alves drives. The five-member commission gave the project unanimous approval on April 24.

Apple plans to soon bring a two-story, cafeteria-style facility to 20625 Alves Drive in an effort to accommodate employees who work out of the various Apple-occupied or -owned satellite buildings on the west side of De Anza Boulevard.

Apple employees are a frequent sight on De Anza Boulevard around lunchtime on weekdays; most of these employees walk or bike across the busy boulevard to the cafeteria located in the Infinite Loop campus.

Since April 24, Apple revised cafeteria plans to add another 2,588 square feet and increase the building height from roughly 30 to 34 feet in order to enclose all rooftop equipment. Architecture will get a more modern look as well.

Roof eaves will have more style and definition, and modifications will be made to the interior for better circulation. The roof will also include solar panels.

"This design is very much simplified. I think we end up with a more elegant building," said Jason Lundgaard, Apple's manager of state and local government

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Market Share: 99 Ranch Market to take over vacant Lucky Supermarket space..... page 6

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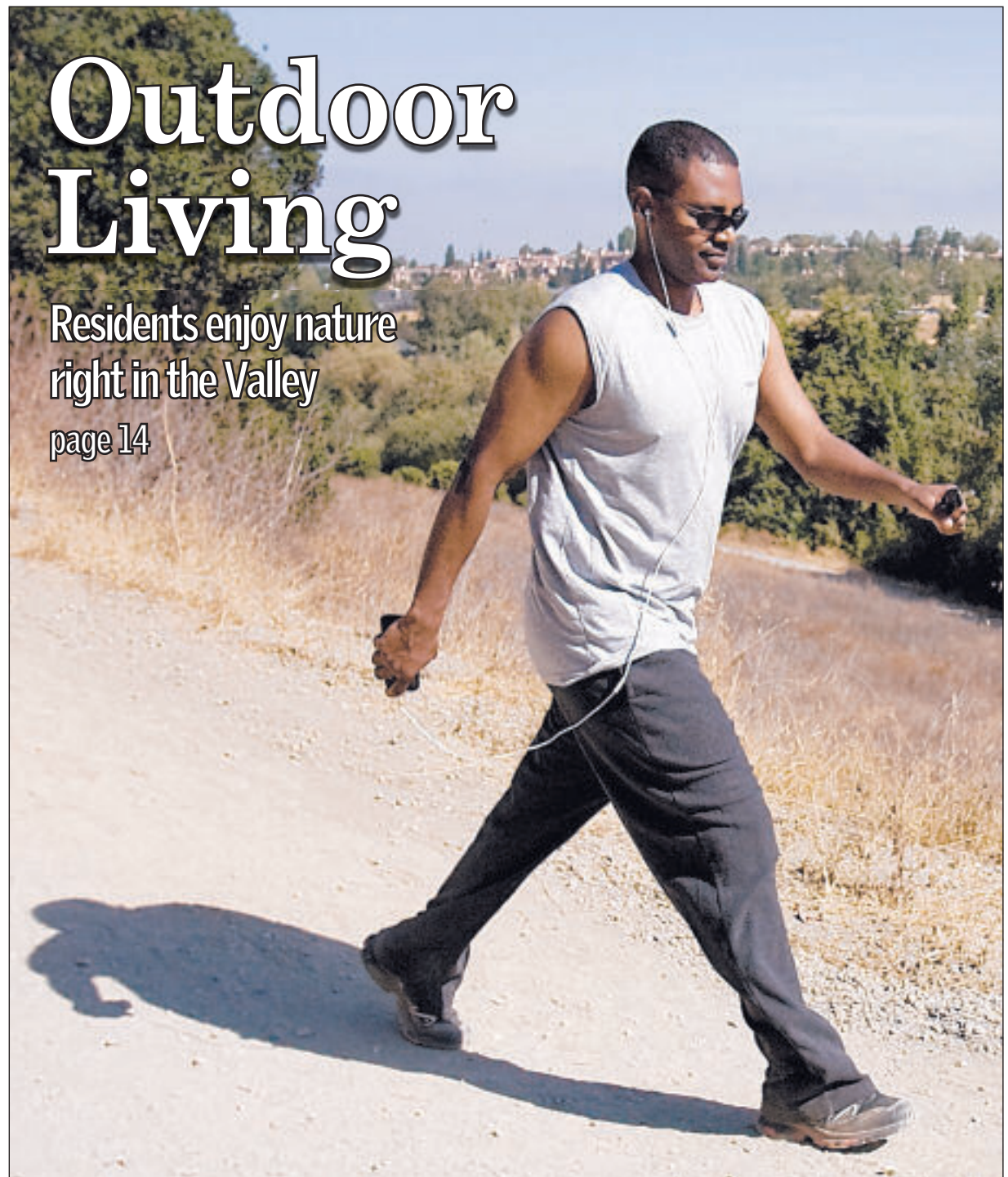
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PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

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A hiker works his way down the PG&E Trail at Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve.



Hikers Ruby Lopez, left, Carolina Morimoto, center, Aralia Contreras, 4, and Maribel Garcia, right, work their way down the PG&E Trail at Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve in Cupertino.

Take to the Trail

Vast open space gives locals plenty to do

By ALIA WILSON AND MATT WILSON

Photographs by JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

Summer is packing up soon and taking its precious extra hours of daylight. Escaping to a national park or a long trip outdoors will not be the convenience it was even a few weeks ago.

However, residents of the Santa Clara Valley have a surprising number of biking, hiking and walking trails in their

neighborhoods. Just beyond the outskirts of busy streets and suburban homes buzzing with the latest electronic gadgets are miles of trails ideal for long hikes and bikes.

A good portion of the West Valley is lined with the region's open space, with one of the biggest being Rancho San Antonio Park, which is part of a 3,988-

acre preserve. The park's 23 miles of trails are intended for hikers and joggers of various skill levels.

Visitors will find a network of combined trails that form loops of different lengths and difficulties. The 3-mile Wildcat Loop Trail and the 4-mile Black Mountain Trail are popular routes that disappear into tree-

and plant-covered wilderness.

"Rancho has to be my favorite," says Diane Keh, co-owner of FitGeek, a running apparel store in Cupertino. "It has a little bit of everything and lots of foliage; I really like being in all that foliage. The place has so many different options."

A popular destination along the trails for families is Deer

Hollow Farm, a historical working farm that is home to chickens, pigs, goats, sheep and a cow.

The farm acts as an informal barrier between simple flat trails and more demanding inclines.

"The more strenuous trails

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are past the farm, and the last I heard most of these are hiking only," says Kevin Jackson, a member of Sunnyvale's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission.

The park also has bicycling and equestrian trails, which connect with additional trails within the preserve.

"Rancho San Antonio has one long-level trail and some nicely graded, not too steep trails through the woods on the hill-sides. The rest in both places can get pretty steep," says Aaron Grossman of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail.

"It's easy to forget that you're parallel to the freeway and right behind a residential area when you're out there."

Fremont Older

Southern Cupertino and Saratoga residents will find the Fremont Older Open Space Preserve very near their back yards. The area has 11 miles of multi-use trails located on the fringe of both cities.

The 739-acre preserve offers trails that lead to great views of the region, including Hunters Point, a 900-foot hilltop that offers a photo-caliber view of the Santa Clara Valley.

"This has some of the best network of trails and a good mix," says Amy Weaver, manager of Chain Reaction Bicycles in the Foothill Crossing Shopping Center in Los Altos.

There are approximately nine miles of trails connecting Prospect Road to Regnart Road and Stevens Creek County Park. A popular hike is from the Prospect Road entrance up through the Hayfield to Hunters Point and then around the Seven Springs Trail loop. The main preserve entrance is on Prospect Road in Cupertino.

The terrain is challenging for runners and serves as the main training ground of the Monta Vista High School cross country team.

"The hills at Fremont Older are similar or a little harder than the terrain that the team will face during a race," says Kirk Flatow, the team's coach.



A jogger takes to the trail at Baylands Park in Sunnyvale for a morning run.

"Being able to run in Fremont Older regularly is a gift and has made Monta Vista cross country very competitive when we race on challenging courses.

"Getting up to the Coyote Ridge and Bayview trails is a lot of work, no matter which way you choose," he added. "Getting up there on either the Hayfield or Toyon trails is a good workout, however, and the runners are rewarded with great views from the top. For a real challenge, make the climb from the Stevens Canyon Park side of the ridge."

Stevens Creek County Park

Stevens Creek County Park lies at the edge of unincorporated Cupertino and connects with Fremont Older. The 1,077-acre park sits on Stevens Canyon Road and Mt. Eden Road.

The park is a haven for hikers and bikers to enjoy more than six miles of single track and multi-use trails.

Mountain biking is one of the more popular recreational activities at Stevens Creek Park, as is birding. More than 125 species have been sighted and recorded to date, according to the park's website.

Developers also have plans to extend trails near the park. Parkside Trails LLC is proposing a project to the city of Cupertino for 42.5 acres of undeveloped land on Stevens Canyon Road. Land owners propose a development that would dedicate 33.5 acres as open space and another nine acres to low-density housing, after rezoning. More trail work could be done in the future.

Stevens Creek Trail

A popular trail with multiple uses that's been growing over the years is the Stevens Creek Trail. The trail runs through tidal marshlands and riparian habitats that make for lively nature walks, as well as bird watching.

The length of the trail runs south from Mountain View's connection to the Bay Trail in Shoreline Park. A study is in progress to extend it south through Sunnyvale and connect to the Cupertino segment.

Segments of the trail sometimes provide a quick escape into serene nature. McClellan Ranch Preserve in Cupertino, for instance, is an 18-acre natural preserve park that at one point was a horse ranch in the

1930s and '40s. The trail runs from McClellan Road through Blackberry Farm and along the Stevens Creek.

"I'll nominate Cupertino's 0.7 miles of the Stevens Creek Trail for prettiest multi-use trail in the region," Grossman says.

Portions of the Stevens Creek trail and ranch were given a

multimillion-dollar makeover a few years ago. The city plans to continue to extend the creek trail from Blackberry Farm all the way to Stevens Creek Boulevard, near the Blue Pheasant Restaurant and Blackberry Farm Golf Course's parking lot.

Last year, the city added an entry gate at Scenic Circle, so that students could ride through the property to Kennedy Middle and Monta Vista High schools and avoid the dangerous and narrow hairpin turns on McClellan Road.

McClellan Ranch also houses a nature museum, community garden, an old barn and a few animals. A replica of Baer's Blacksmith Shop is also there for viewing.

The ranch is a popular place to bird watch and catch a glimpse of other wildlife. McClellan Ranch is open from 6 a.m. to dusk and can also be accessed via San Fernando Avenue.

Saratoga Creek Trail

More neighborhood-friendly trails also exist. A portion of the Saratoga Creek Trail follows the creek from Bollinger Road to Prospect Road, near Cupertino and San Jose. The roughly one-mile trail runs along the bustling Lawrence Expressway, while also providing a look at

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Jack Walton, 4½, plays on some stretching bars after riding a trail in a double stroller with his sister, Stella, and powered by dad, Rhodes, at Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve in Cupertino.

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the creek.

Bicyclists and walkers from neighborhoods can access the trail by crossing pedestrian bridges near Cupertino's Sterling-Barnhart Park to the north or take the trail to the south through Murdock Park.

John Christian Greenbelt

The John W. Christian Greenbelt passes through many neighborhoods in Sunnyvale, making it a convenient place to exercise and play. Orchard Gardens Park, Lakewood Park and School and Fairwood Park and School are adjacent to the greenbelt.

Collectively, they have tennis courts, play structures, benches, tables and lawns. The greenbelt

connects to Calabazas Creek Trail, which connects to Baylands Park and the Bay Trail, making it possible to make this a long trek, according to Jackson of Sunnyvale BPAC.

The commission offers tours of the area for beginners. The parks tour loops around Sunnyvale, beginning at Murphy Park and ending at Columbia Park. Cyclists can continue out to Baylands Park down Fair Oaks Avenue if they so choose.

The heritage tour is divided into two loops, north and south. The north loop encompasses the civic center, and the south loop snakes around Wolfe Road and Highway 85 and Homestead Road and Remington Drive.

Baylands Park

Baylands Park boasts more than 70 acres of parkland in Sunnyvale, with pathways and picnic areas for families and large groups. Native grasses,

open meadows and expansive views are home to a variety of wildlife. An additional 105 acres of seasonal wetlands is designated as a wetlands preserve.

"In Sunnyvale, we are so lucky. We have the perfect climate; it doesn't get too hot, and you can see wildlife along our trails," says Michelle Poole, sales manager at Walt's Cycle in Sunnyvale. "If you follow the Shoreline Trail past Google and Microsoft, there is a cafe that you can pull up your bike to and park and watch the paddle boating and see Moffett [Field] in the distance. It's really nice."

Poole recommends exploring the trails between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to avoid bicycle commuter traffic. The San Francisco Bay Trail connection from Sunnyvale to Mountain View was completed and opened in September 2010. The Bay Trail is made up of many smaller trails, such as the Stevens Creek and Shoreline trails, and runs intermittently along the edge of the San Francisco and San Pablo



Baylands Park in Sunnyvale offers some small, rolling hills on its trail.

bays.

The trail will cover about 500 miles of open space around the bay once it is completed. To reach the Sunnyvale portion of the Bay Trail, the closest access is at the Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant on Borregas Avenue and Carl Road, just off Caribbean Drive, between Lawrence Expressway and N. Mathilda Avenue.

Bridges

Not all trails are necessarily off the beaten path. A number of bridges exclusively for walkers, joggers and bikers have been erected in the past few years to better connect cities and areas to one another.

The Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge opened on April 30, 2009, as the Mary Avenue Bicycle Footbridge. The 503-foot-long steel bridge spans Interstate 280 and connects the cities of Cupertino and Sunnyvale. The south entrance is near Mary Avenue and Meteor Drive with the north entrance beginning at Homestead High School.

The bridge was rechristened the Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge last year after the California Legislature approved a resolution to rename it in the late former Cupertino mayor's honor.

Three bicycle and pedestrian bridges in Sunnyvale were about 10 years in the making and are being thoroughly enjoyed by cyclists and joggers alike. High-speed traffic posed serious threats for cyclists and pedestrians on Mary, Mathilda and Borregas avenues before the bridges were completed.

"The trails are a lot longer than they used to be," said Mark Van Loo of Walt's Cycle. "All the bridges are now done; Mary Avenue, Borregas, Mathilda and Stevens Creek Trail is longer than it used to be.

"There are some great trails that you can take all the way to the bay."



A runner enjoys a beautiful September morning on the PG&E Trail at Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve.

LOCATIONS

Rancho San Antonio County Park: 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Cupertino.

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve: 22898 Prospect Road, Saratoga.

Stevens Creek County Park: 11401 Stevens Canyon Road, Cupertino.

Stevens Creek Trail: Shoreline Park at 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. or Landels School at 115 W. Dana St., Mountain View.

McClellan Ranch Preserve: 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino.

Blackberry Farm: 21979 San Fernando Ave. or Scenic Circle entry gate, Cupertino.

Saratoga Creek Trail: Near 10486 Sterling Blvd. at Barnhart Avenue, Cupertino.

John Christian Greenbelt: 1000 Colton Ave. near Orchard Gardens Park, Sunnyvale.

Baylands Park: 999 Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale.

San Francisco Bay Trail: Near Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant at 1444 Borregas Ave., Sunnyvale.

Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge: Mary Avenue and Meteor Drive or near Homestead High School, 21370 Homestead Road, Cupertino.

For bicycle maps, visit biking.insunnyvale.com.