

Cupertino capital projects making steady progress

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Like the rushing Stevens Creek, work continues to flow smoothly for the second phase of the Stevens Creek corridor project, with the finishing touches likely only weeks away.

The Cupertino City Council received its monthly project update Feb. 4 from the public works department. The ambitious Stevens Creek Corridor Phase II calls for a new bicycle-pedestrian trail connection from Blackberry Farm Park to Stevens Creek Boulevard, widening and restoring portions of Stevens Creek, and various other amenities near Cupertino's McClellan Ranch Preserve.

"We are getting very near completion," public works director Timm Borden told the council. "It's really looking great out there. If we had more water in the creek, it would look even better."

Borden and city staff have been updating the council during the first meeting of each month on major capital improvement projects active in the city, with the Stevens Creek corridor project as the main focus. Construction began in June.

Currently, the trail runs through Blackberry Farm and dead-ends in the parking lot near an adjacent golf course. Upon completion, the trail will continue out onto Stevens Creek Boulevard, near the Blue Pheasant Restaurant.

During January, workers continued paving trails, added more native plants, did irrigation system work and installed trail side fencing. The month of February will see irrigation work wrap up, the final round of plantings, more amenities installed, and the completion of work at the Stevens Creek Boulevard and Phar Lap Drive intersection.

The creek itself saw restoration end in late October. The creek makeover was similar to the creek work done in 2008 during Phase I of the restoration. New shrubbery was also added along the creek banks at the restored section near Blackberry Farm.

A bridge spanning the restored creek was installed in October. Decorative stone work at the bridge entrance was added to the new bridge.

As Phase II nears completion, park benches, signs and other amenities will be added. New fencing is also being added along the Blackberry Farm Golf Course, which will run along the new trail.

"There will be some plantings in the area between the trail and the fence to soften that a little bit," Borden told the council. New turf and sod is also being added back to portions of the golf course.