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# Plenty more discussion ahead in four cities' Stevens Creek trail plan

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2 COMMENTS

Bridging gaps in the Stevens Creek trail continues to see plenty of debate and discussion, and elected officials in four creek-adjacent cities are still a few months away from seeing formal proposals.

A team of city officials from Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino and Los Altos will meet again July 24 and Aug. 5 to discuss where the trail will run. The meetings were scheduled after a July 20 meeting ran long.

The four cities have been working together for three years on the feasibility of bridging gaps in the Stevens Creek trail network for bicyclists, joggers and walkers. The final goal is to have a seamless trail connection between the four cities.

The discussion of preferred trail alignments by the working team is the next step after a feasibility study was released and debated earlier this year. Goals of the feasibility study centered around assessing potential alignments that could close the gap in the trail between the Dale Avenue-Heatherstone Way pedestrian overcrossing in Mountain View and Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino.

The study area boundaries extend from Heatherstone Way to the north, Mary Avenue to the east, Grant Road to the west and to Stevens Creek Boulevard to the south, the report states. In May and June the cities hosted three meetings that saw residents pack civic centers to comment on the plan, with many residents saying they were not too thrilled with more bikers, walkers and joggers coming through their neighborhoods.

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The deadline for written public comments was July 10 and at that time, 902 comments had been received--199 from Sunnyvale residents, 184 from Los Altos, 111 from Cupertino, 63 from Mountain View, 326 that did not identify a location and 19 that were from other cities.

City officials are now compiling the bevy of comments and crafting a final feasibility study report along with a set of recommendations that will go to the four city councils for discussion and review.

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elected officials and city staff from the four cities, will see city officials pin down preferred trail alignments that will be presented to the four city councils. The official city council presentation packet will be released sometime in September.

A public review period will take place before any information is actually presented to councils for discussion in October and November.

The July 20 meeting saw city officials discuss three of the four trail segments. The working team expressed a preference for a trail alignment along segment one on the creek, near Dale Avenue-Heatherstone Way to Fremont Avenue.

"I think that we really did hear very loud and clear that the creekside alignment was the preferred alignment," said Pat Showalter, a Mountain View councilwoman. "One of the things that I took away from all the comments was that people really treasured the off-road trail. I think there is this really strong alignment for this."

Tara Martin-Milius, vice mayor of Sunnyvale, agreed that the creekside alignment was ideal, but for different reasons.

"The thing that I'm looking at the most is that our streets are not safe, they are not built for bicycles," Martin-Milius said. "We're not taking care of pedestrians and bicyclists but we are putting a lot of stress on autos. We've just had to horrible examples of this in Sunnyvale. We're not very aware as when we're auto-oriented. So something that is off the road, I think, is really good."

Other members of the working team supported a bicycle path along the sound wall that borders Highway 85 on Bernardo. Most of the working team also agreed with having the trail extend to the Rancho San Antonio County Park.

Public comment included residents from all four cities, though the majority of speakers were from Sunnyvale and Cupertino.

"Something that was really important was making sure that this was an addition to the existing network it was not funneling everyone from the other spaces to the Stevens Creek Trail," said Tim Oey, Citizen's Working Group member and Sunnyvale resident. "It was really about finding a really safe route for kids and families."

Other community members wanted to address concerns with the process of the working team.

"As far as transparency and visibility, I request that this body do everything in its power to make everything completely transparent in terms of publishing the preferences of the city council members participating in this body, that the process for developing the task outline are put on the project website," said Steve Elich of Cupertino. "And as things go along that there's opportunity for public input."

The July 24 meeting will be at 1 p.m. in Sunnyvale City Hall's west conference room. The location for the Aug. 5 at 3 p.m. has yet to be determined.

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## High school football: What's the coach get paid? At Bay Area public schools, not much

By Thomas Peele | [Tpeele@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:Tpeele@bayareanewsgroup.com) (mailto:Tpeele@bayareanewsgroup.com)

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Call it crunch time. Or glory days. But as the elite of Bay Area high school football battle for championships and state playoff berths, just don't call it money time. At least not around coaches at public high schools.

When it comes to stalking the sidelines, plotting X's and O's, and helping steer kids toward college, there's very little money in prep football coaching, this newspaper's first-of-its-kind survey of public high school athletic coaches' pay in the region shows.

"I think if you put in enough time, you could take a net loss on your income taxes," said Chris Walsh, president of the California Coaches Association. "A football program is a year-round endeavor."



The average coaching stipend in the 2014 season was just more than \$3,700, public records show, with 22 percent of coaches paid less than \$3,000. Of course, no coach could survive on that stipend alone. Most also work as teachers or hold other school jobs; the figures exclude those salaries.

They also exclude coaching salary data for perennial powerhouse private schools, like Concord's De La Salle, San Jose's Bellarmine

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Oak Grove High School football head coach Jay Braun Prep, and Mountain View's St. Francis, which  
talks to quarterback Tyler McGovern during practice at don't have to make public their compensation  
Oak Grove High School in San Jose, Calif., on data but which have long been reputed to pay  
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. (Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area their coaches handsomely. All three -- which  
News Group) (Nhat V. Meyer)

play public schools in sectional title games this weekend -- declined to participate in the newspaper's survey.

That haves vs. have-not, private vs. public dynamic is even more of a motivator for public school coaches like Oak Grove High's Jay Braun, whose 10-2 Eagles take on St. Francis on Saturday in a playoff game at San Jose City College.

"I don't think I am representing just Oak Grove. I'm representing all public schools," said Braun.

Still, that's miles from football crazy states like Texas and Alabama where the pay of some high school coaches exceeds \$120,000 -- just for coaching, according to published reports.

California coaches noted football is not a religion here, as it is in the South, where top coaches are paid to win, which critics say can be exploitative of student-athletes. Here, coaches' pay isn't based on championships, Walsh said. "That wins and losses doesn't really play into it is a good thing."

Still, coaches said the low pay can be frustrating and that on-field success constitutes more work without more pay.

For example, Braun's stipend is based on 10 games, and he gets nothing more for coaching into December as the Eagles roll off win after win in the playoffs. Saturday's game is Oak Grove's 13th this season.

"People say we don't do it for the money and we don't," Braun said. "But that doesn't mean I shouldn't be fairly compensated for it. They take advantage of our kindness."



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Oak Grove High School football head coach Jay Braun laughs with his team during practice at Oak Grove High School in San Jose, Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. (Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group) (Nhat V. Meyer)

Braun, a full-time history teacher, was paid \$3,778 to coach in 2014, the latest figures publicly available. He estimated that works out to about \$7 an hour for games and practices. Watching game films, scouting rivals, counseling kids, giving them rides home and running bake sales and golf tournaments to raise money for equipment only make that hourly estimate lower. "I have 100 kids to worry about and I get the same (coaching pay) as the tennis coach, who has eight. I'm not a coach, I'm a case manager."

East Side Union High School District

Superintendent Chris Funk wrote in an email that coaches' pay is set by union contract and goes up when teachers' pay also increases, climbing more than 10 percent in recent years.

Oak Grove's not the only public school taking on a private-school powerhouse in big games

Bellarmine and Pleasanton's Foothill High (Matt Sweeney received \$3,927 to coach last year) battles De La Salle.

The Catholic school's storied football team once won 151 games in a row and has been the subject of books and a Hollywood movie. Coach Justin Alumbaugh also declined to reveal his pay, but said he receives no money from "boosters, private donors, and product endorsements.

"Salaries and stipends are private matters between the employer and the employee," said Mark DeMarco, De La Salle's president.



Paul Perenon, who coaches at Hayward's Mount Eden High, knows both sidelines of the public-private school game. He coached at Oakland's private Bishop O'Dowd High for 25 years, winning 209 games before being pushed out in 2010.

At O'Dowd, "anything I wanted within reason we found a way to get," he said. His pay wasn't great, about \$5,000 a season, but he didn't have to raise money for equipment or worry about the pay of his assistants. He was paid \$2,600 to coach Mount Eden last year. The job, he insisted, isn't about winning. "It's about

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Oak Grove High School football head coach Jay Braun talks to his team during practice at Oak Grove High School in San Jose, Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. (Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group) (Nhat V. Meyer)

helping teenagers, mostly boys, (Mount Eden had a female player this year) become young adults who are more apt to be successful in life, to be good employees, good people," he said. "Football is about adversity, it's about dealing with hurdles thrown at you."

Across town at Hayward's Tennyson High, Coach Terry Smith was paid a bit more than Perenon last year -- \$3,300. This year, in his 13th season, he took the Lancers to their first playoff win in school history. "I do it for the love of the game, but I do wish it paid a little more," he said. "Hopefully one day it will."

Those fat coaching salaries in other states look great from a distance, Bay Area prep coaches said. But the expectations that come with them can make the game something other than "the extension of the class room" that it should be, Perenon said.

Regardless of the paycheck, coaching high school football always revolves around one thing, he said: "Motivating teenagers to do things they don't want to do. Show up at practice every day. Run .. do tackling drills."

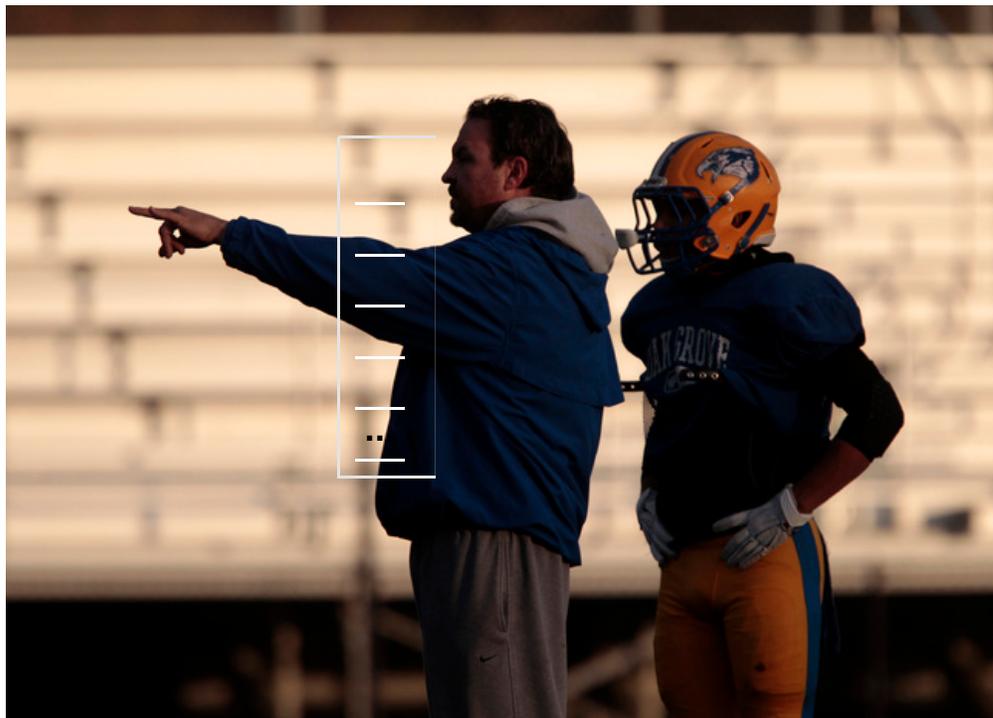
Every coach, he said, "is dealing with the same thing."

They're just not paid the same.

Staff writers Phil Jensen and Darren Sabedra contributed to this story. Follow Thomas Peele at [Twitter.com/thomas.peele](http://Twitter.com/thomas.peele) (<http://Twitter.com/thomas.peele>) Reach him at

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Oak Grove High School football head coach Jay Braun talks to a player during practice at Oak Grove High School in San Jose, Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. (Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group) (Nhat V. Meyer)

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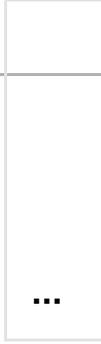
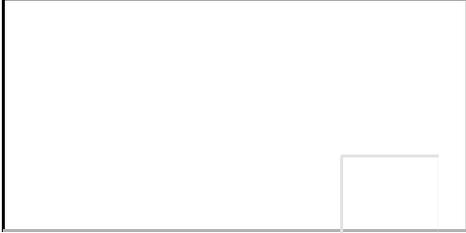
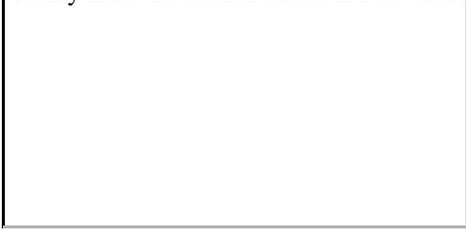
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