



Trailblazer

A Newsletter Published by the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Winter 2000

New, Executive Director for Friends!



(New Executive Director, Susan Brain)

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, which was previously a volunteer driven organization, has recently hired Susie Brain as Executive Director. Brain's experience and enthusiasm will lead the organization into the new millennium by supporting the mission to further extend the trail, build community awareness, and preserve the trail's wildlife corridor. The organization's President, Tom Frankum, says, "We are pleased to welcome Susie whose background and experience directly relate to the goals of our organization."

Brain brings her volunteer management skills and non-profit administration experience to the FOSCT organization. With an undergraduate degree in biology and a postgraduate certificate of education with a major in biology from the University of Wales in Great Britain, Brain last year also received a certificate of non-profit management from San Jose State University.

Most recently, Brain served as volunteer coordinator for the City of Palo Alto's Animal

Services and Placement Center. In this capacity she was responsible for managing the volunteer program. Brain's own volunteer activities include a longtime commitment to Wildlife Rescue, a grass-roots organization that has served Peninsula communities for the last 25 years. She served many years on the organization's Board of Directors, including one term as President and one term as Animal Care Coordinator. For the past three years, she has served as the clinical advisor, supervising and advising animal care staff and volunteers in all areas pertaining to the highest standards of wildlife care.

As Executive Director of FOSCT, Brain will support and advise the Board of Directors in their efforts to carry out the organization's mission. She will be instrumental in fundraising, volunteer management and program development. Brain says, "I am excited about joining FOSCT because I believe in what the Friends are trying to accomplish. I think it is important for people to be able to experience the wonderful riparian habitat that Stevens Creek has to offer. It makes the trail especially important for people living in a highly urbanized area like ours. I'm also looking forward to working with all the dedicated board members and volunteers and becoming part of the team that will help with the continued development and expansion of the trail."

Please join the Board of Directors in welcoming Susie Brain to the team as the Executive Director.

TRAIL UPDATE

Mountain View Reach 2

Access and Mini-Park Construction is well underway to rebuild the dead end of La Avenida into a formal Trail Head facility, with new landscaping and access. This work is being provided by the construction firm of Rudolf and Sletten, as part of the Microsoft Campus Project, which is also nearing completion. Slated to start soon will be extensive re-landscaping of the area bordering the trail at the Microsoft site, from La Avenida down to Hwy 101, with native plants matching those used to landscape the trail. Also in the works will be a minipark-like picnic area under the trees near Hwy 101.

Reach 4 Segment 1 Alignment

The Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission voted on September 8, 1999 to build the segment running from Landels School to Yuba Drive entirely on the east bank of the creek.

Reach 4 Segment 2 Study

On September 14th, The Mountain View City Council, by unanimous vote, approved the consultant contract to conduct the feasibility study. The study is expected to take nearly a year and involve significant input from the neighborhood. Friends President Tom Frankum and founder Rhonda Scherber attended and spoke in support of the trail.

(continued inside)



Map Project Grant

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Receives Award For Local Greenway (San Francisco)

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail received a statewide honor with a joint grant by The California Trails and Greenways Foundation and The Conservation Fund from their California Greenways Creative Grants Program. The \$2000 grant will help to fund the development of a trail user's map of the entire length of the Stevens Creek Trail, including both completed and proposed segments, from the bay end near Shoreline Park, to the ridgetop end in the Montebello Open Space Preserve. In addition to the grant award, The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail will be showcased as a model for its innovative efforts to develop a greenway in Santa Clara County.

The California Trails and Greenways Foundation and The Conservation Fund, a national land and water conservation organization, provide small grants of up to \$2,500 to California nonprofit organizations and government agencies to help develop new action oriented greenway projects. The Creative Grants Awards Program provides seed money

to spark creativity in conservation, outdoor recreation, and greenway development.

“Our number one request from supporters and trail users is for a map”

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail received one of 26 awards given this year for their innovative local efforts to complete the Stevens Creek Trail and to preserve the associated greenway and wildlife corridor through improved awareness and access for recreation and study. “Our number one request from supporters and trail users is for a map” said project management volunteer Scott Harger, “Our one and only existing map is an

eight year old faded blueprint, which we have framed as if it were a copy of the constitution. With this award, we hope to obtain matching funds and produce a map that we can maintain and use electronically and in print.”

According to Richard C. Trudeau, chairman of the California Greenways Board, the organization that evaluated the 60 candidates submitted this year, “The quality of the submissions were of the highest caliber and the projects selected clearly represent some of the best grassroots conservation and innovative community greenway development efforts in the United States.”

The annual California Greenways Creative Grants Awards are made possible through the generous support of the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Bank of America and ARCO foundations, and through the partnership between The Conservation Fund and The California Trails and Greenways Foundation.



The Friends Spearheads a Special School Event

Every year at the beginning of their new term, the Foundry School requires applicants to prove their commitment by, among other things, completing a six mile run in the first week of school. As a special thank you to the Foundry School, The Friends and The City of Mountain View got together to host this special event on the Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View. Volunteers from The Friends laid out a course along the trail and through Shoreline Park to the Rengstorff House, where Rengstorff House Volunteers prepared a picnic for students, parents, and faculty at the completion of the run. (The Foundry School is a special project of the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Nationally recognized, it serves all high school districts within the county. The Foundry students have been vol-



After a purification ceremony, Foundry students start out from Landels School in Mountain View on Stevens Creek Trail, headed for Rengstorff House at Shoreline Park, over 5 miles away. It is the fourth day of the new term.

unteering for Stevens Creek Trail projects for four years, and have provided hundreds of hours of labor.)



(continued from front)

Cupertino—Trail Study Status

The City of Cupertino awarded a contract this summer to Environmental Consultants, Inc. This effort is currently drawing upon planners, geologists, landscape architects, wildlife biologists, civil and traffic engineers to determine the costs and issues of completing the Stevens Creek Trail in Cupertino. Preliminary recommendations regarding the technical feasibility of the routes recommended two years ago by the ad hoc Citizens Committee, appointed by the city council, will be the first product to the council and staff, probably in mid-year. The study doesn't include a formal environmental impact report yet. If required, that would come after decisions on intended locations and features are made, and would serve as one of the final inputs to the decision process.



Trail Amphitheater Gets Built

The Friends completely restored a popular children's' nature studies amphitheater at McClellan Ranch Park in Cupertino in September. This amphitheater had seen heavy use until washed out by El Nino floods. Using a grant from the Synopsys Corporation and in cooperation with The City of Cupertino, The Friends designed and purchased materials and led the volunteer team over three days construction. Volunteers had to clear the site of remains of the old amphitheater, then haul 10-foot logs and a ton concrete and other materials a quarter mile to the site over winding trail. This was followed by digging foundations and assembly. The volunteers were from the Synopsys "Green Team" and The Friends. Tools were provided by Cupertino. The amphitheater is located on the Nature Trail at McClellan Ranch. During the school year, Cupertino schools use the site for [3 classes per day] twice a week. In summer it is used for Nature Camp and Summer Science Camp daily. Audubon Society holds birdwatching



Here volunteers scope out the plans with help from Scott Harger)(



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classes, and Foothill and DeAnza classes hold field lectures there. [The 4H Club also uses the amphitheater, and it is a popular place for rest stops and picnics. The nature trail on which

the amphitheater is located is a level loop trail about one mile long. It starts at the west corner of the McClellan Ranch Park parking lot. Trail guides and restrooms are available, also.

GOings and DOings

Regional Trail Forum

The Friends provided key support in organizing the first California Trail & Greenways Foundation Regional Trails Forum for Northern California and the Bay Area in October. Held on the 15th at Michaels-at-Shoreline and targeted toward agency planners, engineers and Parks operations people, the Stevens Creek Trail provided a backdrop for discussions on creative construction solutions, funding, permit processes, and data sources on the Internet. Highlights:Engineers from Steadfast Bridges presented details of their Stevens Creek Trail bridges. Lauderbaugh Hill Associates, who did landscape planning for part of Stevens Creek Trail provided a wealth of information for anyone trying to estimate trail building costs. And Steve Zales of The O'Brien Group, currently in the process of building a cluster of homes in Cupertino, talked about recently swapping lands and deeding open space to the county to accommodate Stevens Creek Trail. [Approximately 50 attendees from as far as Sacramento each received a massive binder full of reference materials tailored to the local region. The day's agenda ended with an inspection tour of Stevens Creek Trail.] The California Trails & Greenways Foundation is planning to repeat the Regional Trail Forum, tailored to local needs, [at locations] throughout the state of California on a quarterly basis.

Steelhead Need Hands

The Friends is seeking a small core of volunteers interested in signing on for a long-term to help perform annual chores associated with improving and maintaining the Steelhead habitat in Stevens Creek in cooperation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The project has not yet become a formal project. It could range from counting steelhead during certain times of the year, to clearing gravel and debris from fish ladders, to actual light construction. Projects would be a few days per year. Also looking for volunteers to help manage, keep records, and train volunteers in these efforts. Leave a message for Scott Harger on our phone, and refer to Steelhead or Restoration Projects.

The Friends Need You-Trail Signs Need Art

The Friends is seeking a graphic artist or graphic arts student to volunteer to take prototype materials and create one or a series of interpretive signs. The signs are intended for potential use at locations on the Stevens Creek Trail. In a past project, a Cogswell College student performed the same service and used it as part of their Masters Thesis. Maybe some student out there would like to try to do the same for us again? Leave a message for Scott Harger on our phone and refer to Sign Projects.

Gift Catalog Items available for sponsorship:

The Trail

Sponsor surfacing a piece of this scenic urban trail.

- ___ Ribbons of trail (1'x10') (5030 available) \$25
- ___ Parcels of trail (10'x10') (25 available) \$250

Native Trees & Flowers

Trail plans call for the planting and irrigation of more than 50 different varieties of native trees and shrubs, native grasses and fields of colorful wildflowers.

- ___ Ribbons of Wildflowers (3840 available) \$10
- ___ Shrubs (1 gallon) (1638 available) \$20
- ___ Trees (5 gallon) (150 available) \$100
- ___ Trees (15 gallon) (123 available) \$175
- ___ (24" box) (42 available) \$250
- ___ Grove of ~15 trees (6 available) \$1500

Ground Cover, Vines and Grasses

Habitat Restoration—The restoration of California's native plant communities will protect the creek habitat and provide wildlife with additional food and shelter.

- ___ Patches (10'x10') (1400 available) \$125

Trail Amenities

Benches—Comfortable wooden benches provide a place to rest from the day's activities and contemplate the beauty of the creek.

- ___ Benches (6 available) \$1500

Drinking Fountain—Visitors will be able to quench their thirst at this trailside fountain.

- ___ Fountain (1 available) \$2500

Signage—Signs identify the entrance to this beautiful urban trail or point the way to scenic vistas, nature study areas or other trail amenities.

- ___ Entrance signs (3 available) \$2500
- ___ Direction signs (10 available) \$150

Boulder Seating Area—Groupings of boulders along the trail will provide visitors with a place to sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery.

- ___ Boulder seating areas (3 available) \$12,000

Bridge—pedestrian bridges will link the trail to neighborhoods on both sides of the creek.

- ___ Pedestrian bridges (3 available) \$120,000

Undercrossings—Highway 85

To create a continuous trail and connections, trail plans call for two pedestrian and bicycle underpasses under Highway 85. These seasonal underpasses will feature textured walls and a gentle ramp which will ensure the underpass is easy to traverse and is wheelchair-accessible.

- ___ Underpasses (2 available) \$225,000

Trail Planning

Help create a continuous trail from the San Francisco Bay to the Santa Cruz Mountains. Contribute toward trail planning efforts in neighboring communities.

___ I'd like my donation to go toward extending the trail through Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Cupertino and beyond. Please use my donation to help plan the trail in this area.

Sponsored items: _____

My gift is: in honor of _____ in memory of _____ birthday _____ other occasion _____

Donor's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send honorary deed in my name to: ___ me, at the address above or ___ to the person listed below

Gift Recipient's Name _____ Phone _____

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The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Questions? Call: 408-255-5780 or 650-903-6067

Please mail this form and your check made payable to: The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
22221 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95814

Thank you!



Annual Trailblazer Race

Something for Everyone



Our premier community event and fundraiser held on 3 October this year was a festive success. About 2000 runners, walkers, and observers came to Charleston Park to run for prizes or capture one by raffle. Long rows of booths provided giveaways, information, free phone calls, or professional massages on-the-spot. There was free rock climbing, and visiting fire trucks. Even the Bookmobile showed up! Youth Events, sponsored by Cupertino Parks and Recreation, handed out awards to the many enthusiastic participants. Mountain View Parks and Recreation provided a host of services before and during the event, as did key sponsor SGI. With over 100 volunteers as-

sisting, the event venue took in all of Shoreline Park and much of the North Bayshore area. 5K and 10K race results were posted immediately and again in "The Voice". The nature walk was improved with more docents, a series of interpretive signs, more off-street routing, and both shorter and longer options. The 10K race was entirely paved this year, as revealed in faster times in the results. Sponsors provided generous nourishment, including the critical ingredient of Hobee's Coffeecakeō. Trailblazer Nature Walk We would like to thank the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District Docents who volunteered to be on hand on the trail between Stevens Creek Marsh and Crittenden Marsh during the Trailblazer Race in October. We would also like to give special thanks to the Committee for Green Foothills for providing a docent to fill in for the Audubon Society, who had to withdraw at the last minute due to scheduling problems. Our apologies to everyone who expected to find the Audubon docents on the job. We hope to have them back next year. The good news is that we have discovered more talented docents!



ARE YOUR KIDS COUCH POTATOES?

Here is a quiz generated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The following questions can help you gauge whether your young children or teens are active enough to promote healthy bones, muscles, and joints.

- When the weather is nice, how often does your child play outside?
 - Most days
 - Some days
 - Seldom
- How often does your child walk or ride a bike to and from school?
 - Most days
 - Some days
 - Never or almost never
- How often does your child walk or ride a bike to and from other places, such as to a friend's house?
 - Most days
 - Some days
 - Never or almost never
- How often does your family do activities together that involve physical activity, such as walking or swimming?
 - At least once a week
 - Less than once a week
 - Never or almost never

- At least once a week
- Less than once a week
- Never or almost never

5. How often does your child do chores or jobs around the house that provide her or him with physical activity, such as vacuuming, mopping floors, raking leaves, or pushing a mower?

- At least once a week
- Less than once a week
- Never or almost never

6. If your child has a job outside the home, does it provide her or him with physical activity, such as waiting tables, yard work, or other manual labor?

- vigorous physical activity
- moderate physical activity
- principal activity is sitting

7. How often does your child participate in school physical education class?

- 4 to 5 days per week
- 2 to 3 days per week
- None or one day per week

8. If your child is in elementary school, how much per day does she or he participate in recess?

- Twenty minutes or more
- Less than twenty minutes
- Less than daily or never

9. How often does your child participate in physical activities such as youth sports teams, school sports, dance lessons, or recreation classes?

- Most of the year
- Only part of the year
- Never or almost never

10. How much TV does your child watch on a typical day? (Includes time spent watching recorded movies or programs, such as VCR or laserdisk, and playing video games)

- 2 hours or less per day
- 2 to 4 hours per day
- 4 or more hours per day

SCORING: Give yourself 3 points for each a.), 2 points for each b.), and 1 point for each c.), and add them for a total score. 16-30 points: Your child is getting a healthy amount of physical activity. 13-16 points: Your child could benefit from more activity, but some activity is better than none. 9-12 points: Your child is not getting enough physical activity.

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We've Got Acorns!

After discussions between The Friends volunteers and Mountain View city staff, staffers initiated a native plant propagation program in the area along Reach 3 and Reach 4. In October, professionals from Circuit Riders Nursery collected Live Oak acorns and Elderberry seeds, which they will germinate and grow for replanting along Reach 4 if and when that occurs. The timing was too swift for volunteers to be called in, but they may have the opportunity to participate when the next harvesting occurs, which may begin with cottonwood cuttings in February. The Friends is reimbursing Mountain View for the cost of this propagation program from the donations made by you to the Catalog "Sales" Donation Program. If you would like to make a donation to the Trail see the enclosed Gift Catalog donation items.



The Trailblazer is a semi-annual publication sponsored by the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail. The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to generating community support for and involvement in the Stevens Creek Trail and Wildlife Corridor. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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Mark your Calendar !

California Trail Day is on Saturday, 22 April, this coming spring. This is also Earth Day. The Friends will be planning a trail work-day event for this date. If you can join us please call us at 408-255-5780 or 650-903-6067 for more details.

