



Trailblazer

A Newsletter Published by the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Summer 2004



California Trail Day/ Creek Clean-up

On April 17, 2004, twenty-eight community volunteers celebrated California Trail Day and Earth Day by participating in a clean-up of Stevens Creek. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail and the City of Mountain View, the event attracted volunteers who removed trash and debris that would otherwise impact creek habitat or wash into the bay. Teams of volunteers led by a Team Captain focused on creek clean-up between La Avenida and Landels Trailheads. Their efforts resulted in 30 bags of trash. The spring rains had washed down the usual items such as cans, bottles, plastic items, and golf balls, along with one of the larger trash items of the day—a car seat! The day started off with sunny skies but a heavy downpour came down soon after. Luckily the showers did not deter activities, and by lunchtime the group was ready for pizza. Thanks to everyone involved and to Tony & Alba's and Synopsys for their support with lunch.



Trailblazer Race 2004

Mark your calendars for the 10th annual Trailblazer Race on Sunday morning September 26! This is our major annual fundraiser and will once again offer a full range of fun, healthy activities for the whole family. Our USATF certified 10K and 5K races are flat and fast. Our 5K Trail Walk is flat and as fast as you feel like walking.

The Races begin in front of the Microsoft campus and quickly head north on Stevens Creek Trail. The 10K Race actually circles most of Shoreline Park, while the 5K Race turns back shortly after entering the park. The 5K Trail Walk follows a separate route heading south on the Trail and turns back at the Evelyn Avenue trailhead. Free children's fun races following the main events are included as well.

Participants who pre-register by September 10th will receive a natural color T-shirt with the new Egret Trailblazer logo. Day-of-event registrants or online registrants made after September 10th will receive a T-shirt as supplies allow.

| Registration: | Advance | At Event |
|----------------------|---------|----------|
| Adult 5K/10K Race | \$24 | \$28 |
| Adult 5K Trail Walk | \$18 | \$22 |
| Youth 5K/10K or Walk | \$12 | \$15 |
| Children's Fun Races | FREE | FREE |



Design by Palo Alto Artist Bill Murray

Registration is available online through our web site at www.stevenscreektrail.org.

All events start and finish at the Mountain View campus of Microsoft, our host and presenting sponsor, located alongside the Trail. The festival area by the race starting line will provide free food, water, and entertainment following the main events. We will again have our traditional drawing for one of many valuable prizes, with all registered participants automatically entered.

We always need volunteers to help set up, manage, and then take down the entire event. If you are interested in volunteering for the race, please contact Jan Frankum at Jan_Frankum@stevenscreektrail.org or call 408-255-5780. Publicity and raffle prizes are also always welcome. See you at the Trailblazer!





Rich Fischer, Master of Ceremonies presents Jan Frankum with an Award for Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient Jan Frankum

In November, more than 230 members of the community attended the “Celebration of Leaders” event hosted by the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce. Nine community volunteers were honored at this event including Friends’ long-time volunteer, Jan Frankum. Jan became involved in 1994, helped out at the very first Trailblazer Race and has volunteered at every race since then. For the last two years Jan has excelled in her role as Race Volunteer Coordinator. For weeks she worked calmly and tirelessly, e-mailing and phoning prospective and returning volunteers. She coordinated their race day assignments and most importantly made sure they all had breakfast refreshments before they began their early-morning volunteer shifts. Thanks to Jan’s efforts over 158 volunteers helped out at the 9th Trailblazer Race last year.

Jan is also a dedicated Trail Work Day volunteer helping with numerous creek clean-ups, landscaping projects, fence painting, etc. Like so many Mountain View citizens and Trail users, Jan has pride in the Trail and is always ready to pick up litter as she walks along it. Jan has been a spokesperson for promoting the Stevens Creek Trail by volunteering at the Friends’ booth at numerous local Art & Wine Art Festivals. One of Jan’s life goals is to see the Stevens Creek Trail completed to the Creek’s headwaters in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She believes with the help of other volunteers, community leaders, and the Friends of Steven Creek Trail organization that this mission can be accomplished.


Highways 85 and 101 Interchange Construction Update

Those of you who regularly travel the northern portion of the Stevens Creek Trail are undoubtedly aware of the massive construction project taking place at the merge of Highways 85 and 101 in Mountain View. This \$142 million project promises to greatly ease traffic flow along Highway 101 by separating traffic exiting the highway from traffic entering the highway. New ramps have been or will be built at the Moffett Boulevard, Old Middlefield Way, and Shoreline Boulevard interchanges. A high-speed, carpool-to-carpool ramp will be built from Highway 85 to Highway 101, and a new street connecting Pear Avenue and La Avenida will be constructed. With all of the new ramps and lanes, Highway 101 will be seventeen lanes across at its widest point! The entire project is due to be complete by early 2006.

The Valley Transportation Authority and the City of Mountain View have coordinated with Friends of Stevens Creek Trail to minimize construction disruption to Trail users. Initial plans called for seasonal closure of the Trail where it crosses under Highway 101. Fortunately, by installing a protective tunnel, Trail closures have been avoided. The tunnel was removed for the rainy season, but is likely to be rebuilt as construction continues. Please be cautious while crossing under the highway—visibility may be limited and construction noise may mask the sound of oncoming Trail traffic.

For more information on the project please see the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority website at www.vta.org/ or call the Mountain View Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311.






Save the Date!

Trailblazer Race 2004

Sunday, September 26



We are proud to announce the 10th Annual Trailblazer!


Come for the 10K or 5K Races, the 5K Trail Walk, or the Children’s Races.

For more general information or to register online, go to our website at: www.stevenscreektrail.org.

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Jan Frankum at:
Jan_Frankum@stevenscreektrail.org

Hope to see you there!



Trail Advocates and Volunteers Stay in Touch!

Many people have asked for e-mail notification of upcoming Trail advocacy issues, community meetings, and volunteer opportunities. If you have not been receiving any of these lately, we may not have your current e-mail in our records. Please send your e-mail address to:

friends@stevenscreektrail.org



TRAIL UPDATE

Mountain View Approves Reach 4 Segment 2

The lucky folks living in and around Mountain View are already enjoying four miles of the Stevens Creek Trail. On June 22, 2004, the Mountain View City Council approved the study to continue the Trail across El Camino south to Mountain View High School. It will connect where the Trail currently ends at Yuba Drive near Highway 85 and El Camino Real and follow the creek as it crosses Highway 85 and then cross back over to the high school.

By approving the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Mitigation measures, the City may now begin developing construction documents and identifying funding for construction. In response to the over 250 comments received on the draft EIR, the Trail design and alignment has been modified to mitigate the impacts while retaining what will be a wonderful trail experience. Now that the City Council has approved the final EIR, we are eager to see the City pursue construction.

Be sure you are signed up on our Mountain View e-mail alert list to keep up with the latest. Send an e-mail to: MVsignup@stevenscreektrail.org—or visit our website at www.stevenscreektrail.org.

Cupertino Update

In September 2002, the Cupertino City Council accepted the Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility Report. That document was the product of a year of analysis, public meetings of the Stevens Creek Trail Task Force, and several neighborhood meetings. The Study recommended 7.7 miles of off-street trails and on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities within four study areas. These study areas would connect Rancho San Antonio to Stevens Creek Boulevard, and Stevens Creek Boulevard to Stevens Creek County Park. Since then, no specific action has been taken to construct the Trail. However, last winter the Cupertino City Council affirmed its Goals of 2004, one of which was support for multi-use trail through the Stevens Creek Corridor.

In January 2004, the City Council granted permission to the Cupertino Historical Society to raise funds for restoration of several historic buildings in the Stevens Creek Corridor, including the Stocklmeir House, barn and blacksmith shop.

The City of Cupertino has also been working on a Stevens Creek Corridor Master Plan. As part of that process, Cupertino is working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District on a plan for stream restoration. Cupertino expects to receive that report soon, at which time it will be incorporated into the Master Plan.

If you'd like to see a trail developed in Cupertino's Stevens Creek Corridor, let the Cupertino City Council know it's a priority for you. And support the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail!



Formally known as the Common or American Egret

One of the delights of using Stevens Creek Trail is the privilege to observe wildlife up-close. Reach 1 of the Trail, which begins close to the Stevens Creek Tidal March and ends at the La Avenida Trailhead, provides a prime spot to observe the Great Egret. These magnificent, large (39 inches), white birds can be seen close to the Trail and marshes hunting for small rodents, insects, frogs and fish. These white herons have distinctive large yellow bills and glossy black legs and feet. Thankfully, the Great Egret is now widespread in wetland areas, and their populations have rebounded since they were almost decimated by plume hunters in the early 1900's. Their long, lacy feather plumes can be observed during breeding season on the egret's back extending beyond the tail. We encourage you to spend some time watching these beautiful birds while they stealthily forage. Seemingly unphased by passing bicyclists, walkers and joggers, the birds often stand motionless and still-hunt their prey.



Welcome New Board Members!

Please help us welcome our new board members:

Kathy Bettman from Mountain View
Dipti Pratt from Mountain View
Bill Sheppard from Sunnyvale

They bring a wealth of experience and talent to the organization. We look forward to working with them to continue the Trail upstream.



Thanks to Microsoft and all who made the Trailblazer Race 2003 a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

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Trailblazer Race 2003 Volunteers and Booth Participants too numerous to mention individually—Thank You!

**Friends of Stevens Creek Trail
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**Online Registration:
www.stevenscreektrail.org**

**Trailblazer Race 2004
Sunday, September 26th**



**Mark your calendar for a day of fun
for the entire family!**

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