

Stevens Creek Trail Expected to Gain New Segment in Cupertino

CUPERTINO, November 20, 2019 – Residents of Cupertino will soon be able to enjoy a longer Stevens Creek Trail thanks to a generous land donation by former mayor Richard Lowenthal and his wife Ellen, along with the strong support of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, a nonprofit group that advocates for trail development.

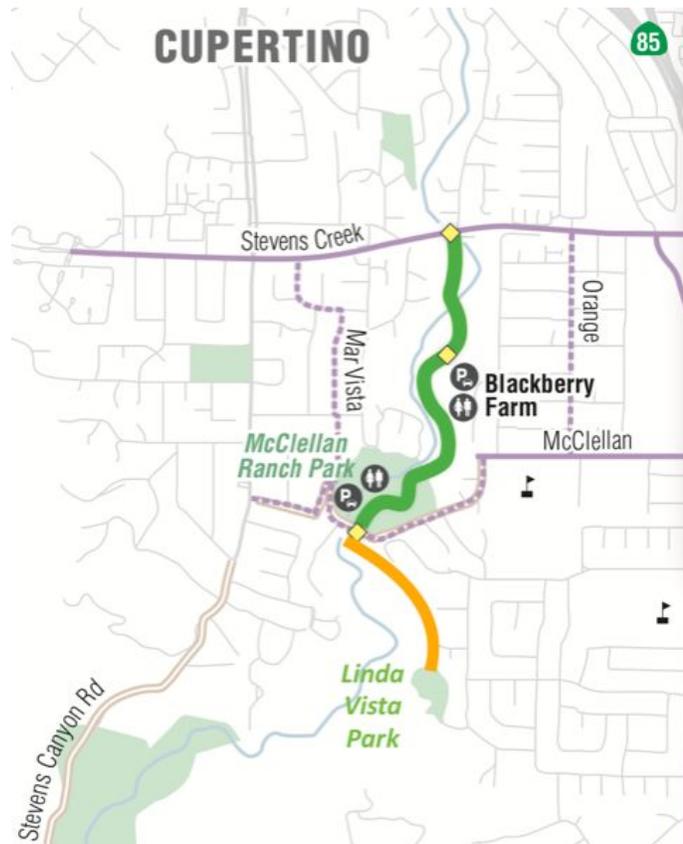
Under terms of the donation agreement between the Lowenthals and the city, the new trail segment, measuring about one-third of a mile, will extend the current southern end of the trail at McClellan Road to Linda Vista Park, following a route adjacent to Deep Cliff Golf Course. It will connect the current one-mile trail segment wending through McClellan Ranch and Blackberry Farm to a short existing trail near Linda Vista Park, adding roughly half a mile, in total, to the trail.

The agreement was made possible when the Lowenthals approached the city earlier this year with a proposal to donate the 1.5-acre parcel of land in exchange for the city's commitment to make improvements necessary for safe and enjoyable trail use. The Friends with the assistance of kindred organization Walk-Bike Cupertino, strongly backed the proposal and rallied community support behind it.

The Cupertino City Council unanimously approved the proposal in principle at its July 16 meeting. It also committed \$615,000 to make the necessary improvements, including a proposed new pedestrian crossing joining the old and new segments across McClellan Road.

A detailed final agreement was approved by the council on October 15.

“We are deeply thankful to Richard and Ellen Lowenthal for their generous land donation and strong public support of the Stevens Creek Trail,” said Steve Garrity, president of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail.



“This new segment, when ready for use, will bring the many recreational and practical benefits of an urban trail system within reach of an even greater number of community members. It will

also extend Stevens Creek Trail, which originates near the San Francisco Bay in Mountain View, to more than six miles.”

“Ellen and I are pleased to be able to work with the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail to make this important trail segment possible,” said Richard Lowenthal. “We are looking forward to watching folks enjoying a walk or ride from Linda Vista Park near our home to Stevens Creek Boulevard, all on the Stevens Creek Trail.”

As currently planned, the new trail segment will initially consist of a prepared dirt surface best suited for walkers, joggers and mountain bikers. The gently sloped topography affords scenic views of the golf course, Santa Cruz Mountains and surrounding natural environment. The area is home to deer, bobcats, foxes and countless species of small animals and native birds, as well as native plants.

The Lowenthals’ donation includes a stipulation that the trail segment must be open for public use within two years.

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that promotes community pride and involvement in the completion, enhancement and enjoyment of the Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek trails and wildlife corridors. It was founded in 1992.