



Trailblazer

A Newsletter Published by the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Summer 2008

14th Trailblazer Race is Sunday, September 28th Proceeds Benefit Trail Extension and Upkeep

Welcome walkers, runners and volunteers! Save Sunday, September 28, for the 2008 Trailblazer Race and Trail Walk. This fun family event is for all ages and experience levels—first-timers, recreational runners and children, as well as serious athletes. For great outdoor fun in wonderful early-autumn weather, Stevens Creek Trail is the place to be.

This year's program again features two certified runs, a 10K (6.2-mile) and 5K (3.1-mile), plus a 5K (3.1-mile) trail walk, and a host of free fun races for children. Free food, water and entertainment will be provided. Proceeds support the on-going efforts of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail to complete a multi-use trail all the way through Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino, as well as to maintain and beautify the creek and trail corridor.

"This is by far our most significant and visible annual fundraiser," says Aaron Grossman, Friends' executive director. "What really makes it special is the full range of fun and healthy family-oriented activities we offer to all who attend. These activities showcase the trail and its scenic natural surroundings. Spread the word! Bring your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to enjoy this spectacular event. We thank you wholeheartedly for your support!"

All events start and finish at the Mountain View campus of Microsoft Corporation, the host and presenting sponsor, on La Avenida Avenue near Shoreline Boulevard and Highway 101. The 10K and 5K races are certified by the USA Track &



Field Association and officially timed. The courses are flat and scenic, with major portions running alongside Stevens Creek and tidal wetlands that support several species of migratory birds and native flora. The 10K course loops around most of Shoreline Park while the 5K enters the park periphery, then turns back. The 5K (3.1-mile) walk also begins on the Microsoft campus and then heads south along a very scenic stretch of the trail featuring colorful vegetation, heavily wooded areas and up-close views of the creek.

The free children's events take place at about 9:45 a.m. on the grass lawns and sidewalk paths of the Microsoft campus.

Our new flying hawk race logo by local artist Bill Murray will adorn the natural-color T-shirts given to all paid racers and walkers and to pre-registered volunteers. T-shirts are not included for free children's events. All registered participants are eligible for our traditional post-race drawing for several great prizes. On-line and mail-in registration is available now at www.stevenscreektrail.org. For lower rates, mail your advance registration by September 16. Online registration will be available until 11:59 p.m. September 25.

"We always need plenty of volunteers to help set up the event, direct runners and take down everything afterwards," says Grossman. Volunteers who sign up in advance receive a free race T-shirt. Also, any business, organization or individual can support this popular, community-oriented event with sponsorships or prize donations. Contact us at 408-255-5780 or ED@stevenscreektrail.org.

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Registration	Advance	At Event
Adult 5K or 10K Race	\$25	\$30
Adult 5K Trail Walk	\$15	\$20
Youth* Race or Walk	\$10	\$15

*Youth rates are for ages 19 and under.



Steve Olson Honored as Volunteer of the Year



The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is pleased to recognize Steve Olson as its 2008 Volunteer of the Year. He will be honored in November at Mountain View's annual Celebration of Leaders gala, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Steve joined the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail board of directors in 1999. He served on the board for four years, including two as treasurer, one as vice president, and one as president. Although Steve stepped down from the board in 2004, he continues to regularly volunteer for the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail. Not only do Steve and his family volunteer at trail cleanups, for the last eight years, he has coordinated race registration tables at the Friends' annual Trailblazer Race. This involves making sure hundreds of pre-registered participants receive their race bibs and materials

on race day, and that hundreds more walk-up participants have a carefree registration experience.

Steve and his wife Carol originally learned about the trail in the late 1990's. At that time, Mountain View was planning to extend the trail through his neighborhood. Steve was at first unsure about the prospect of a public trail a stone's throw from his back yard. So he attended public meetings and learned more about the project. Steve realized what a great asset the trail would be, and he's been a supporter ever since. "Actually," says

Steve, "my wife Carol was the early adopter in our family. Before I joined the Friends, she served one year on the board."

When asked what he enjoyed most about serving on the Friends board, Steve was quick to respond. "I really loved working with folks toward a common vision for our neighborhood. Whether volunteers or board members, everyone wanted to see an environmentally sensitive multi-use trail. I also enjoyed the hands-on work at creek cleanups and replanting projects. At one event we planted more than 100 native plants. Also, though it might sound unusual, I liked speaking in support of the trail at public meetings."

"I know the Friends is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities and meet the chal-

lenges ahead. One of the biggest challenges will be to continue fulfilling our obligation as stewards of the creek as more people use the trail. With concerns over climate change and increasing gas prices, we also have a great opportunity to encourage short trips along the trail by bike, foot, or rollerblades, rather than in a car. And with several schools near the existing and planned trail corridor, Stevens Creek Trail serves as a safe route to school."

Steve says the trail has turned his family into regular bike riders. Before the trail was completed in their neighborhood, they didn't bicycle at all. Once the trail bridge over Central Expressway was completed, Steve and his family purchased bikes and began riding regularly. The last two years, Steve and his son Chad have regularly bicycled the trail to Chad's school, Landels Elementary. Occasionally, Steve bike commutes to work via the trail and Shoreline Park. "While it's a little bit of a detour, the benefits of bicycling along the creek and bay are more than worth the few extra minutes it takes."

Steve works in Budget & Policy Planning at Stanford University. He, his wife Carol, son Chad, and daughter Mira live in Mountain View and use the trail several times a week. Congratulations to Steve Olson, our Volunteer of the Year.



Friends Trail Work Day a Success

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail held its annual Trail Work Day this year on April 26th with the help of about 40 volunteers. The event attracted long-time volunteers as well as several people new to the Friends. The good folks with the City of Mountain View provided equipment and helped with coordination. After checking in at Whisman Park for work assignments, volunteers went to work repainting fences, posts and trash cans, as well as cleaning up both the trail and the creek itself. A surprising variety of trash was collected including the following unusual "trophies:" two shopping carts, a car door, a couple car tires, parts of bicycles, a mattress, a safety cone, a bumper, the back seat of a car, as well as the usual bottles, cans, golf balls, paper, plastic, and an infinite number of styrofoam packaging peanuts.

Volunteers worked hard from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then broke for a complimentary (and tasty!) pizza lunch. While working at what first seemed to be an unappreciated job, several volunteers said they received lots of thanks from people traveling along the trail. And, the huge pile of trash on display at the end confirmed for them that they had really accomplished a lot.





Trail Progress

Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, Cupertino



From left to right: Natalie & Ross Heitkamp, Art Takahara, John Brazil, Kathy Bettman, Joe Mitchner, Aaron Grossman, Jeannie Bruins, Roy Verley and Tom Bornheimer at the head of the new section in Mountain View

City Updates

Mountain View

April 12, 2008, the City of Mountain View held a ribbon cutting for the new trail extension under El Camino Real. Nearly two hundred people turned out for this great event. This new segment finally provides a convenient way for pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters and others to cross El Camino Real. It connects the Yuba Drive trailhead north of El Camino to the sidewalk on the south side of El Camino at Highway 85. The project is lined with 17 different native plants. The trail undercrossing includes colored glass sections that allow natural light through.

In June 2008, the Mountain View City Council approved a contract for construction of the next trail segment, which will connect the El Camino trailhead with Sleeper Avenue. Work will begin this summer with completion scheduled for summer 2009. Also, work on the Moffett Boulevard overpass is now under way, with completion scheduled for mid-2009. A well-marked detour routes trial users safely around the construction area. If you see a Mountain View Council member be sure to thank her or him for approving these projects.

Los Altos

Los Altos is in the process of completing a feasibility study to investigate how the trail could connect through Los Altos. To date, the study process has included two community meetings. The first took place May 30, 2007. It focused on defining community goals and clarifying desired attributes. This community meeting gave residents an opportunity to take pen in hand and draw routes that they would like to have considered.

It also helped to establish criteria for evaluating alternatives. Alta Planning & Design, the consultant hired for this phase of the project, completed field studies of various alternatives, met with neighboring jurisdictions and developed five alternatives based on community and city input.

A second community meeting, held November 7, 2007, focused on gathering public input on the five alternatives. Participants "voted" for their preferred alternative, for 'no' trail, or offered another alternative. Los Altos has sent the feasibility study results to neighboring cities and is awaiting feedback. Later this year, the Los Altos City Council will conduct a study session followed by a council meeting where next steps will be determined. Stay tuned.

Cupertino

The City of Cupertino has begun its Creek Restoration project. Phase 1 of this exciting project is scheduled for completion in 2009. Phase 1 will return the creek itself back to a more natural alignment. It will also include a fully accessible trail, protect and restore creekside environment, improve steelhead habitat, and construct an environmental classroom at McClellan Ranch. Phase 1

of the project covers the area between Blackberry Farm and McClellan Ranch. Phase 2 will extend the trail to Stevens Creek Boulevard and restore the creek environment in that area. The city hopes to fund and complete Phase 2 by 2011.

Sunnyvale

Progress continues in Sunnyvale with three positive developments. For 2008 the Sunnyvale City Council funded a study requested by the city's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Titled "Policy Supporting Connections to Regional Bicycle Facilities," it will look at possible connections to trails including Stevens Creek Trail. Sunnyvale has also been providing input to the Los Altos feasibility study. Finally, Sunnyvale conducted a survey as part of its "Parks of the Future Plan" asking residents to rate the importance of 16 specific sports and recreational activities. The top four responses were walking or hiking, swimming, biking, and jogging. A multi-use trail such as the Stevens Creek Trail is ideal for three of the top four activities identified by survey respondents.



Before you recycle,
perhaps you have a friend who
would like to read about the
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail.
Please pass it on!



Benefit for the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail



10K and 5K Races
 5K Trail Walk
 Free Children's Races
 Festival Area

Sunday, September 28, 2008
1065 La Avenida, Mountain View

Start/Finish 1065 La Avenida, Mountain View at Microsoft Campus. Exit Hwy. 101 at Shoreline; follow signs to La Avenida (Bay side of 101). Free parking.

USATF Certified 5K and 10K Race Courses on scenic Stevens Creek Trail & Shoreline Park, mostly asphalt-paved for both serious and casual runners, wheelchair-accessible

5K Trail Walk (3 miles) on mostly flat, stroller-friendly Stevens Creek Trail, with beautiful views of the Creek and wildlife

M/F Age Divisions 12 & under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+

Register Online at www.stevenscreektrail.org

Race Day registration opens 7:30 a.m. Events start 8:30 a.m.

Registration Fee Advance/Race Day

Adult 10K and 5K: \$25/\$30
 Adult 5K Trail Walk: \$15/\$20
 Youth (19 & under) 10K and 5K, 5K Walk: \$10/\$15

Registered Participants & Volunteers Receive official Trailblazer Race T-shirt, free food and drinks, plus entry in post-race raffle for great prizes!

Free Children's Races (no T-shirt) start about 9:45 a.m. near the main stage.

To Volunteer or for Info: Contact us 408-255-5780 or ED@stevenscreektrail.org

Thanks also to the City of Mountain View, KMTV Channel 15, Mountain View Voice, San Jose Mercury News, Hobeys, Trader Joes, Starbucks, California Medical Transport



Official Entry Form — Mail before September 16 or bring with you on race day

Please complete all info and sign waiver. Unsigned forms cannot be accepted. Thank you!

SEX: M F CITY STATE ZIP -

Age on Race Day

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes) S M L XL

PHONE - -

E-MAIL

ADDRESS APT#

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

EVENT 10K 5K 5K WALK VOLUNTEER FREE CHILDREN'S RACES FREE (NO T-SHIRT)

For official use only

Mail your non-refundable check payable to "Friends of Stevens Creek Trail" before September 16 to: Trailblazer Race, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014. Total Enclosed _____

Pick up your race number starting at 7:30 a.m. race morning.

Waiver: In consideration of your accepting this entry, and intending to be legally bound by the agreement, I, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby waive and release any and all rights and claims or damages that may accrue against the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail, Shoreline Park, the City of Mountain View, and the Microsoft Corporation, their subsidiaries, and their respective directors, officers, and employees for any and all injuries that may be suffered by me as a result of my participation in the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Trailblazer Race held on September 28, 2008 or en route to or from the event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for the completion of the event and a medical person has not advised me otherwise. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my name and likeness in any broadcast, telecast, video, web or print media of the event without compensation to me. I understand that the entry fee and numbers, if any, are non-transferable. As part of the waiver, I acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the above.

All entrants must sign waiver (Parent/Guardian if entrant is under 18) SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



A Message from the Board President

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail publishes this newsletter once a year to provide our many supporters and volunteers a brief update on trail progress and related issues.

We sincerely hope each article tells you something interesting and useful about the “what” of our organization—what we’ve accomplished since our last report, and what we hope to undertake next to help achieve our long-term mission.

But we also want to convey a clear sense of the “who, how and why” of our organization—who we are, how we operate and why we believe so passionately in our mission.

The Friends is the only public-benefit, non-profit organization dedicated to the completion, enhancement and enjoyment of the Stevens Creek Trail and Wildlife Corridor. Founded in 1993, we are governed by an all-volunteer board of directors and conduct most of our day-to-day operations through a part-time executive director. While the

Friends and our volunteers do not actually build the trail, we work closely with the four cities along the creek (Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale and Cupertino) to raise awareness, generate community support and help address issues related to trail planning, development and use. We do not advocate for any specific trail alignment.

To fund our operations, we rely primarily on individual donations of private citizens and a single annual fundraising event—the annual Trailblazer Race and Trail Walk. Now in its 14th year, the Trailblazer is a fun, healthful, community-oriented event that showcases the beauty and utility of the trail. The lead article in this newsletter describes the range of race-day activities that makes this event a “must” for competitive runners, joggers, nature lovers and families with children.

The Friends organization has been pursuing our mission for more than 15 years for one reason: we believe a safe, pleasant, multi-use trail is a highly attractive community asset that will

benefit hundreds of thousands of people who live, work or attend school along the Stevens Creek Corridor for years to come. The opening this spring of the newest segment, which extended the trail to the south side of El Camino Real in Mountain View, reaffirmed that belief. With scores of bicyclists, joggers, hikers and families with children enthusiastically looking on, the city of Mountain View showed once again how citizens and city officials can work together to make our communities better.

We were thrilled to be part of that momentous occasion. With the ongoing support of our many volunteers and supporters, we look forward to many more such occasions as the trail works its way upstream in the coming years.

Roy Verley

President of the Board
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail



Friends Welcomes New Board Members Bruins and Williams

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is pleased to announce two new additions to the organization—board members Jeannie Bruins and Garth Williams.

Jeannie is a 20-year resident of Los Altos who lives with her family by the creek. After earning a degree in computer science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Jeannie worked for several years at Hewlett-Packard. In 1998, Jeannie left HP and became a super volunteer at her kids’ schools. She served as a Reading & Math Mentor, a PTA president, a Los Altos Education Foundation member, and a Mountain View-Los Altos High School Foundation member.

When Jeannie’s two sons were old enough for a “long bike ride,” they would take the Stevens Creek Trail out to Shoreline Park. Once in high school, her younger son introduced his friends to the joys of cycling by taking them for rides on the trail. Jeannie’s older son used the trail to commute to his internship at Microsoft. It was a faster, healthier, and more enjoyable commute.

Jeannie wants to see the Stevens Creek Trail and Wildlife Corridor extend to the Los Altos border and on to Cupertino and, ultimately, achieve the vision established over 40 years ago. In 2006

she responded to the call for resident participation in Los Altos’ Stevens Creek Trail feasibility study. City Council established a task force and Jeannie is one of the co-chairs. She is delighted with the approach her city is taking in soliciting community input and evaluating multiple alternatives.

“Jeannie is a hands-on board member when it comes to attending city meetings and building relationships with community leaders,” said Executive Director Aaron Grossman. “In her board application, Jeannie suggested she could volunteer two to four hours a month. She exceeded that in her first few days on the board.”

Though Garth and his family now live near the creek in Sunnyvale, he originally learned of the trail while living in downtown Mountain View from 1997 to 2002. “It’s a beautiful place to run. You don’t have to worry about cars, and you can enjoy the serenity of the creek.” He has been a regular participant in the Trailblazer 10K Race and runner on the trail since the Dana Street trailhead opened in downtown Mountain View.

Garth and his family moved to Sunnyvale in 2002 but Stevens Creek has never been far away. His two daughters attend West Valley Elementary School, which backs up to the Stevens Creek in

Sunnyvale, and he still participates in the Trailblazer Race and uses the trail on long training runs. Upon finishing the race in 2007, Garth stopped by the Friends booth and learned of the need for upstream community board members. He jumped at the chance to help bring the trail closer to his Sunnyvale home. Since joining the board in December of 2007, Garth has been hard at work building support for the trail in Sunnyvale and training for the 2008 Trailblazer race.

Garth likes working in his local community. Before moving to Sunnyvale, he and his family lived in Mountain View where he served on the board of the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association. After completing an engineering degree, he earned an MBA and has worked in financial planning since 1994. “Garth’s financial expertise has been a great resource for the board,” said Board President Roy Verley.

Garth’s goals include sharing the news about Stevens Creek Trail with his neighbors in Sunnyvale. “Once people learn about the trail, they love it. I look forward to the day when my children can walk and bike directly to the trail from our neighborhood.”



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Cupertino, CA 95014

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Online Registration:
www.stevenscreektrail.org

Trailblazer Race 2008
Sunday, September 28th



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

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Aaron Grossman, *Executive Director*

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Thank You Thank You Thank You

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Newsletter Design & Production

Chris Mendible, Page Creations

408-996-1617

mendible@pacbell.net

Articles and Photos

John Brazil, Jeannie Bruins, Davis Fields, Aaron Grossman, Ross Heitkamp, Carol Olson, Roy Verley, Garth Williams