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Repairs begin this summer on Stevens Creek erosion

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People and pets stroll along the popular Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View on Saturday afternoon where erosion has taken its toll on the path.

Clarke Condé/Town Crier



A \$4.7 million erosion mitigation project in Stevens Creek will kick off construction this summer under a shared funding agreement between the city of Mountain View and the Mountain View Whisman School District.

The Mountain View City Council, with a unanimous vote on the city's consent calendar during a meeting on April 28, authorized the city manager to seek out construction bids, ratify a cost-sharing agreement with the school district (MVWSD) and augment costs to consultants involved in the design and review process.

The erosion was caused by a series of wet winters between 2022 and 2024, which degraded the creek banks on Stevens Creek between Middlefield Road and Moffett Boulevard. The erosion mitigation plan is to construct a log crib along the creek bank and regrade eroded edges with a biodegradable fabric. The repair work will also include storm drain pipe repair.

"The log crib structure will improve bank stability by reducing the bank slope and incorporating vegetation to the bank surface. In addition, log rootwads will be installed and anchored at selected locations along the creek to improve stability at the toe of the bank and provide habitat benefits," according to a city staff report.

The city was required to receive permits from regulatory agencies, including the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The MVWSD Board approved funding for the erosion repairs on MVWSD property, which borders the creek, in December of 2025. The total cost of \$4,692,256 will be funded with \$3,215,000 from the city's capital improvement plan reserve, \$200,000 from the storm drain construction fund and up to \$1,277,256 from MVWSD.

Construction, expected to begin in the summer and conclude by October, is expected to cost \$3,026,758. The costs also include an increase to San Jose engineering firm Geomorph Design Group Inc., which conducted reviews of the erosion, and San Francisco's Marina Construction Management, Inc., for inspection support of the environmentally sensitive waterway.

The city will perform a fish survey before the start of construction. If the fish survey identifies Central California Coast steelhead at the construction site, the cost and schedule will be impacted.