



## Woman fights off assault on Stevens Creek Trail

by **Kelsey Mesher**  
**Mountain View Voice Staff**

Police say a 27-year-old Mountain View woman jogging Stevens Creek Trail on Sunday afternoon fought off a sexual assault after she was attacked by a man who tried to pull her into some bushes off the path.

At approximately 1:25 p.m., the victim was jogging along the trail near the Dana Street overcrossing when a man grabbed her in a "bear hug" and attempted to carry her toward bushes near the creek, police said. The woman was able to scratch the man's face, fighting until he dropped her.

Police spokesperson Liz Wylie said the woman jammed her fingers in his mouth and pulled on his jaw, "doing what she could with what she had."

The attacker fled southbound along the trail on a green bicycle and is still at large. Police believe he may have suffered minor scratches.

The victim called 911 with a borrowed cell phone minutes after she was attacked. She suffered no injuries.

"We spent some time on the trail last night," Wylie said Monday, adding that they checked out homeless encampments and have also reviewed known sex offenders on file with the city.

"No leads yet, but we're working on it," she said.

The woman described her assailant as a white man with dark skin, thinning hair and a full goatee. He was approximately 35 years old, of medium build and overweight. He wore a red sweatshirt.

Wylie said there is an average of one mugging or robbery on the trail per year, and one to two misdemeanor or sexual battery-type cases. An attempted sexual assault like this one, she said, is "extremely rare."

"It's definitely an isolated incident for us," she said, "but people should be concerned. We want people to be really vigilant. We're hoping that it doesn't happen again but it certainly could."

Wylie said police are working up a sketch of the attacker to be released sometime this week.

Police caution joggers to only use the trail during daylight hours, and to carry a cell phone with the police department's seven-digit emergency number, (650) 968-1661.

Anyone with information about this crime is encouraged to call the MVPD immediately at (650) 903-6344. Callers may remain anonymous.

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