



2020 Annual Report

Message from the President

2020 was a year like none other in the history of our trails. The stay-at-home orders in the early days of the pandemic were a wake-up call for the importance of urban nature access. Many area residents, some who had never before set foot on the Stevens or Permanente Creek trails discovered that having a nature trail only a short distance from their home was an essential tool for their physical and mental health. The increased usage, combined with new users unfamiliar with trail etiquette led to congestion and in some cases accidents on the trails.

For the Friends, the pandemic forced us to reconsider our goals for the year. Our normal outreach events such as booths at local Art & Wine festivals—not happening. Trail cleanup events—also out of the question. Our tentpole event, the Trailblazer Race, had to be made virtual. We greatly expanded our social media presence and stepped up our newsletter pace to make more people aware of these trails and how to use them safely.

The conversations that arose from the death of George Floyd were also a reminder that not everyone in our local community feels welcome to use our public spaces and we need to work harder to make sure that these green spaces are open and welcoming to all.

In spite of the pandemic, local governments continued to make progress on trail development in both visible and less visible ways. Two very tangible improvements are:

- Extending Stevens Creek Trail in Cupertino south from McClellan Ranch to Linda Vista Park (read more about that below)—trail will open late spring
- Adding a signalized crossing at Charleston Road for the Permanente Creek Trail in Mountain View—completion mid-spring

More significant for the long term was the awarding by the Valley Transportation Authority of Measure B funds for the design of an extension of the Stevens Creek Trail from the current terminus at Dale/Heatherstone in Mountain View to Fremont Avenue in Sunnyvale. This is a joint effort by the cities of Sunnyvale and Mountain View and the result of many years of planning and advocacy for this project.



We don't design, build or fund these trails—the cities and other government agencies do. Our role is to educate and foster support in the community for these projects, provide feedback to the agencies on citizen issues and nurture communication with and between all the stakeholders to try to make these projects happen faster.

Thanks to the hard work of our many volunteers, board members and staff, we continued to make progress on several of our key objectives which you can read about below.

Taking on projects like the Fish Passage Barrier Removal require substantial on-going oversight and management. We are unique among similar “Friends of Trails” groups in having paid part-time staff to make such projects possible. However, staff salaries are also our largest expense. With many donors rightly reallocating their giving to charities directly helping those in need we feared a crippling drop in donations. By cutting all non-essential spending, expanding our outreach and through your generosity, we were able to keep our staff working on our major projects.

I am grateful for the support, both in time and money, of our members and corporate sponsors that have made it possible to continue to promote these trails and advocate for their enhancement. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on the trails in 2021!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Trappe".

Scott Trappe
President

2020 Progress

With the help of our enthusiastic volunteers, supporters and local governments, we are proud to report the following:

Stevens Creek Trail extension to Linda Vista Park

A local resident purchased the “Old Haul Road,” part of a larger parcel of private property, and donated it to the City to make this extension possible. The Friends reached out to trail supporters in Cupertino to show up in force at numerous City Council meetings to demonstrate community support for this project. They did, and the council voted unanimously to allocate \$600K for trail improvements including privacy and safety fencing, grading, and drainage enhancements. This new segment begins at McClellan Road directly across the street from McClellan Ranch (where the trail currently ends) and skirts the eastern edge of Deep Cliff Golf Course before terminating in Linda Vista Park. It will add an additional 0.3 miles to the Trail. For now, the city has designed this as a walking/running trail only—the surface is dirt and gravel; cyclists are advised to walk their bikes. The extension is expected to open later this spring.



Fish Passage Barrier Removal



This is the largest, most complex and expensive project the Friends’ has ever tackled, budgeted at \$175K (double our annual operating budget!). Our effort to remove a barrier to fish passage along Stevens Creek at Deep Cliff Golf Course passed a major milestone, the “35% design and basis of design.” This work was completed on schedule, in spite of the challenges brought on by

the pandemic. We have to get approvals from nearly a dozen local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish even this small project. Navigating the labyrinthine regulatory approval process has been a major challenge for us, with rule changes, questions about the project design and the pandemic adding delays and raising the cost of the project to over \$200K. Our goal remains to get all the necessary approvals by early summer so that we can put the project out to bid and start construction late this summer.

Expanded Local Outreach

We expanded our communication efforts to keep you better informed of upcoming trail closures, advocacy campaigns, outing and volunteer opportunities along the trails as well as sharing information from partner organizations. We made significant progress on our website and increased our social media presence.

Common Signage

Stevens Creek weaves through multiple jurisdictions, and each jurisdiction has their own standards for marking the trail segments within their borders. As the trail begins to connect across jurisdictions, we want to establish a common identity that marks the trail throughout its length—something easy to recognize for all trail users. In 2020, we developed a model concept and presented it to the cities of Cupertino, Mountain View and Sunnyvale, as well as Santa Clara County Parks and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. In 2021, we are working to establish a joint working committee with these jurisdictions and move forward on a pilot launch.



26th Annual Trailblazer Race

In spite of the pandemic, we continued our long tradition of hosting our annual Trailblazer Race by making the 2020 race virtual. We had 159 participants ranging in age from 9 to 88 and from as far away as Bangalore, India! Participants in the US were able to receive our coveted race shirts by mail, maintaining our tradition. We could not have hosted the race without the generous contributions of our sponsors.

Updated Stevens and Permanente Creek Maps

We collaborated with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to update the Santa Clara County Bikeways map. Through our financial support, the map includes an inset that depicts the Permanente and Stevens Creek Trails in detail. The inset now

shows the completed extension of Permanente Creek Trail to Middlefield Road, the soon-to-be-completed extension of the Cupertino segment of the Stevens Creek Trail to Linda Vista Park and the planned extension of the Mountain View segment into Sunnyvale.

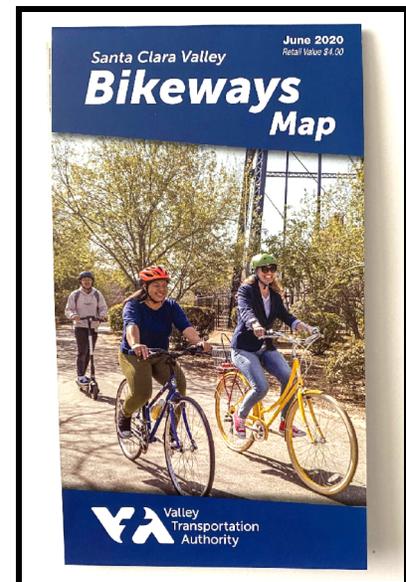
Looking Ahead

We expect that 2021 will look much like 2020, with many of our in-person outreach events not being possible due to the pandemic. Our priorities for 2021 include:

- Completing the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project
- Expanded Social Media outreach to our supporters
- Common Signage
- Diversifying our Board Membership
- Strengthening our Infrastructure
- Improving the trail in Mountain View (safety improvements on the crowded north section of the trail, resurfacing the Central Expressway bridge surface)
- Promoting trail development in Cupertino (extending trail north from Stevens Creek Blvd., extending south from Linda Vista Park, paving the new segment)
- Supporting trail design in Sunnyvale

How You Can Help

Do these projects matter to you, or do you have something you wanted added to our list? If so, get involved! We are a community organization, and our work is done primarily by concerned citizens like you! Reach out to us through any of the means listed below.



Donate

We welcome contributions by check, credit card or through [PayPal](#). We also accept stock donations. For any inquiries or additional information, please send an email to Rajiv Mathur, our executive director at exec-dir@stevenscreektrail.org.

Our grateful thanks to our donors. Many of them went the extra mile to secure matching contributions from their employers. We will not share names without specific prior consent. We are however, very appreciative!

Volunteer

Those who are passionate about the trails or the wildlife corridors and would like to volunteer please contact us at exec-dir@stevenscreektrail.org.

Sponsor

Sponsorships have been an integral part of the fundraising efforts at Friends of Stevens Creek Trail. Here's more information on [sponsorship opportunities](#).

Amazon Smile

Anyone can contribute to the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail when making Amazon purchases by choosing us as the nonprofit to support on [Amazon Smile](#).

Social Media

There's a lot of useful content for trail enthusiasts on our social pages:

 facebook.com/stevenscreektrail

 twitter.com/fosct

 instagram.com/fosct/

 linkedin.com/company/4540943

 youtube.com/channel/UCMOOFR3Eh1042F8UqnAAhaQ

We encourage your feedback on social media. If you have any content suggestions or information you'd like to share please send an email to: AD@stevenscreektrail.org.

We thank our 2020 sponsors! Please help us thank them with your support.

Google



STAR ONE
CREDIT UNION



Fiori
Atwell



Recology.
WASTE ZERO



BP LAW OFFICES OF
BRAID PEZZAGLIA



FENWICK



HONU
HEALTH MANAGEMENT



THE AMESWELL
HOTEL



EXTREME
TERRAIN
OFF-ROAD OUTFITTERS



alta