

Who We Are

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail (FoSCT) is a publicly supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1992. We foster local efforts in Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino, Los Altos and Santa Clara County to create multi-use trails along Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek and to preserve and protect their wildlife corridors. Thanks to grassroots community action and generous donor support, more than six miles of the paved Stevens Creek Trail exist today, and more are planned. Our Vision, Mission and Values statements help us stay true to the cause.

Our Vision

Welcoming trails and healthy wildlife corridors that connect people from the bay to the mountains in the Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek watershed.

Our Mission

Promote community pride and involvement in the completion, enhancement and enjoyment of the Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek Trails and wildlife corridors.

Our Values

We believe that trails have the power to transform communities and create joyful, vibrant public spaces that are equitable and inclusive. We take seriously the responsibility and opportunity to create valued community space that connects people rather than divides and separates them. We will use this equity lens to inform our decisions, priorities and actions. We will challenge ourselves to be intentional about equity and strive to increase the diversity in our board, employees, volunteers and membership.

The Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is honored to be the public face of the Stevens and Permanente Creek Trails and represent thousands of residents who rely on them for recreation, healthy lifestyles and commuting.

Stevens and Permanente – The Creeks and Trails



Stevens and Permanente Creeks originate from Black Mountain in the Santa Cruz Mountains and are part of the same larger watershed. Both creeks flow into the San Francisco Bay and are interconnected through a diversion channel which reestablishes an old connection — records from 1862¹ show that Permanente Creek was a tributary of Stevens Creek.

Stevens Creek Trail

The official trail today consists of six miles of paved trail in two segments (five miles in Mountain View, one mile in Cupertino) and three miles of dirt trail

within Stevens Creek County Park. The paved route begins at the bay, connects to the Bay Trail, and travels south through many neighborhoods, passing near business centers, parks and school grounds. It currently ends 0.25 miles south of El Camino Real.

At present there is a 3.5 mile gap and then the trail resumes in Cupertino between Stevens Creek Boulevard and McClellan Road. A 0.3 mile extension south from McClellan Road to Linda Vista Park is in development and may open in 2021. The cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale recently were awarded a \$6M grant to extend the Mountain View segment further south to Fremont Boulevard, closing 1.3 miles of the gap. Our goal is to see the two segments joined together, creating nine miles of continuous paved trail from the bay to Linda Vista Park and connecting the cities of Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Cupertino.



South of Linda Vista Park, the plan is for a dirt trail that would wind nearly twenty miles to the headwaters and connect with the Ridge Trail. One 3-mile section has been built in Stevens Creek County Park along the east shore of the reservoir.

Permanente Creek Trail

The creek courses north through Los Altos and Mountain View. The north end of the trail is at the Google main campus near the bay (also connecting with the Bay Trail), and travels south to Middlefield Road. The city of Mountain View has a goal of extending the trail (on existing streets) to a new undercrossing beneath Central Expressway and the Caltrain tracks. Another section of paved trail is found in Rancho San Antonio County Park. We have a long-term goal to see a connection between this trail segment and the Stevens Creek Trail.

¹ Diversion Channel paragraph in https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanente_Creek

Use and the Community

Over 50,000 people live within walking distance of the two trails. The tens of thousands who work near the creeks can benefit from access to the trails for lunch breaks, alternate transportation options and opportunities to relax in natural environments.

Outstanding environmental education opportunities for the community at large exist in the creeks corridor. Four schools adjoin Stevens Creek and 12 additional schools are within one mile of the creek. One school abuts Permanente Creek. Children from these schools will have safe access for hands-on nature study and can participate in trail days to plant native vegetation and cleanup events. The opportunity also exists to adopt a portion of the trail. Tours will be regularly available to familiarize the community with the rare riparian habitat provided by Stevens and Permanente Creeks.

It has always been FoSCT's vision for trails that provide visitors with a beautiful place to walk, jog, cycle or just relax and enjoy the hundreds of acres of open space surrounding the creeks. Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek Trails will link the communities along their banks, offering valley residents a pleasant, safe route to schools and work while combating climate change.

What We Do and Our Impact

Community Outreach

Our outreach efforts are aimed at fostering a sense of community pride in the trails and the watershed. Our endeavors also educate the public on the rare jewels that are the trails, right in the heart of a teeming metropolitan area.



Fairs & Festivals

We host information tables at fairs and festivals in the four cities, such as art & wine festivals, bike-to-work days, Earth Day celebrations, wildlife education days, etc. Besides answering questions, these tabling events help spread awareness of the trails; a more informed public provides the best trail support. These events also help us learn about issues affecting trail users which shape our priorities. We also participate in corporate-organized nonprofit fairs, offering local companies and their employees opportunities to engage in various social causes and the nonprofits that stand for them.

Trail Cleanups

Trail cleanups are fun events, whether for a group of students or a team of colleagues working at the same company. Our trail cleanup days are a big draw. Once such gatherings are permitted again, and thanks to the adoption of stretches of the trail, we will be able to offer such events at relatively short notice.





Trailblazer Race

The Trailblazer Race has become a permanent fixture on the Bay Area calendar. In 2019, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of this flagship event. For the past several years close to 1,000 participants, with help from generous sponsors, have made it a fun, family-friendly celebration. Each year there are events for everyone; from serious runners to casual walkers, activities for children of all ages and plenty of opportunity for volunteers.

Participants look forward to the commemorative race T-shirts just as much as the race itself. Many enthusiasts brag about their race T-shirt collection. Proceeds from this annual event, which is held on Stevens Creek Trail, help fund our activities throughout the year.

Accelerate Trail Completion

Give Voice to the Community

Though six miles of paved Stevens Creek Trail exist and are used by bikers and walkers alike for their commute, pleasure, etc., many more miles remain unbuilt. Completion of the trails is our stated mission but the land through which the creek runs is under the authority of many jurisdictions. Local government looks to hear from its constituents when decisions are made on important issues like approving and funding trail extensions. We participate in city council meetings and encourage our members and other trail advocates to do so as well. We write to the council members and staff and mobilize like-minded residents to let the city government know where they stand with regard to trail proposals. We monitor important dates on the calendars of the councils and keep the trail-user community informed.

Foster Communication Between Agencies

Apart from the cities and county, we also collaborate with regional organizations like Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Parks District and Rails-to-Trails, to name a few. The Bay Area Trail Collaborative, a wing of the national organization Rails-to-Trails, has a vision for a 2,700 mile cyclable trail network for the entire Bay Area that would make it possible to travel to almost any city in the area without leaving the trails. Our [trail-extension project](#) in Mountain View/Sunnyvale has been identified as one of 13 priority projects for making this vision a reality.

Make the Trails More Welcoming

Trail Updates

The various authorities undertake improvements on the trails from time to time. While they take care to let the public know about these or any other changes, we expand their reach by posts on our website, newsletters and social media.

Uniform Signage

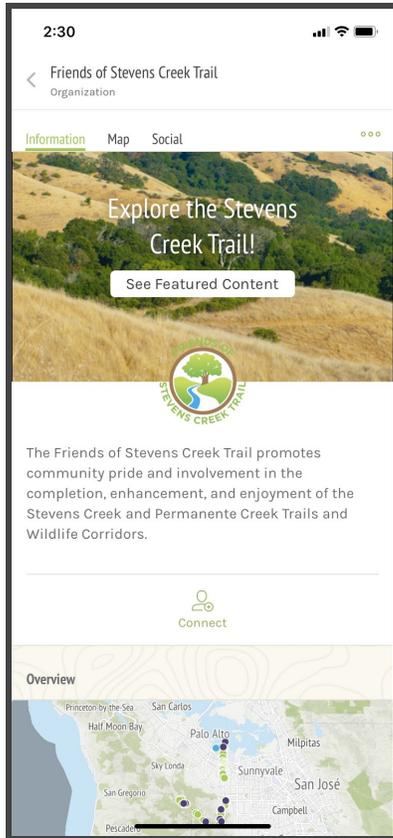
The built-up stretches of the trails are used by bikers and walkers alike for their commute, pleasure, etc. The miles of relatively unpaved trail are also very welcoming but not as clearly marked. Route indications and way-finding at junctions become extremely important on these stretches. We are working with the various jurisdictions to develop a uniform signage for the entire Stevens Creek Trail.



Maps

We have partnered with VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) to develop an enhanced bike map for Santa Clara Valley that includes a large inset for our two trails. We distribute these maps for free at our outreach events. A PDF version of the front side of the map is available [here](#); and the [reverse](#).

For mobile users, we have contracted with [OuterSpatial](#) to include the Stevens Creek Trail in their mobile app, providing trail access locations and points of interest.



Trail Etiquette

When we follow the rules of the trails, the trails become a safe and pleasant experience for all. Together with the city of Mountain View we promote trail etiquette by repeating the message in our newsletters. We also forward suggestions from trail users to the local authorities. In the most recent example, a cyclist's email resulted in lowering the speed limit at two underpasses from 15 to 5 mph.



Enhance Wildlife Corridors



This project will be a step toward restoring steelhead trout migration in Stevens Creek. A project of this magnitude would have not been possible without our outreach efforts to ask for and receive collaboration and funding from the cities of Mountain View, Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Los Altos, Valley Water, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County and Deep Cliff Golf Course.

Promote Volunteerism

We provide many opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the community. At our tabling events at various fairs and festivals, volunteers donate over 300 hours annually sharing information on the trails, creeks and FoSCT. Our trail cleanup events and habitat restoration projects provide opportunities for groups to work for a few hours enhancing the trail ecosystem. Each year close to 200 volunteers help us put on the Trailblazer Race, contributing over a thousand hours.

There are also many volunteering opportunities that are not so visible, such as attending city council meetings or contributing to social media. You can read more about our volunteer [opportunities here](#). Or you can email us at volunteer@stevenscreektrail.org.

We are a small nonprofit and our volunteers are the reason we are able to accomplish as much as we do.

Habitat Restoration

The Habitat Restoration Days sponsored by us in association with Grassroots Ecology aim at removing invasive plant species and giving an opportunity to the native plants to flourish. The region's fauna find sustenance in the native plants and not in the more aggressive invasive species.

Fish Passage

We are implementing a project to remove a barrier to fish passage in Stevens Creek. One of many barriers, it is located in the section of the creek that flows through Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino.



Our History

Founded in December of 1992 to support on-going local government efforts, the Friends was incorporated as a 501(c)3 public benefit nonprofit corporation in March of 1993. The Board of Directors of the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail is made up of local volunteer members from the communities that the creeks run through on their way to the bay.

FoSCT's focus from its inception was on Stevens Creek Trail. Since Stevens Creek and Permanente Creek are part of the same region and watershed, we added Permanente Creek Trail to our mission in 2016.

It takes sustained effort and perseverance to bring about changes in the community. The development of trails is no exception. The Stevens Creek/Permanente Creek Trails map shows the pace at which the trail has been constructed going south from the bay. The first 1.5 miles was built in 1990. Almost four miles were added to that over the next 18 years. Another section was added in

Cupertino in 2014 at McClellan Ranch. Cupertino is also preparing an additional 0.3 mile segment, Linda Vista Trail, for opening in 2021. These segments, along with long-existing 3-mile Tony Look/Stevens Creek Trail in Santa Clara County Park, currently comprise the open portions of the planned 25-mile trail.



How You Can Help Us

Our generous sponsors and supporters will help us in extending the trail in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Cupertino, and eventually realizing the dream of the trails running from the mountains to the bay. This support is what enables us to stay connected with the trail users by holding events, publishing reports and newsletters, and implementing projects like the one for fish passage and for all the activities described above.

Your support of urban trails is a tremendous gift to the community. Now more than ever we need access to nature and open space. The trails offer users wellness benefits both physical and mental, commute alternatives resulting in reduced traffic and pollution and are free, safe and inclusive.

Apart from the deep gratitude from ourselves and the trail users, we also publicly acknowledge all of these vital gifts. Please see the next page for Sponsorship Levels. To sponsor us or to learn more about it, please contact us at exec-dir@stevenscreektrail.org.

We look forward to it.



Sponsorship Levels & Acknowledgement 2020

Sponsorship Levels

Diamond:	\$25,000
Platinum:	\$10,000
Gold:	\$5,000
Silver:	\$1,000
Bronze:	\$500

We welcome all donations, including those below \$500 and gifts-in-kind.

Acknowledgement of Sponsorship for Designated Levels:

Trailblazer Race²

In view of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, this year's Trailblazer Race will be celebrated as a virtual race.³

2020 Sponsorship Acknowledgements — Bronze and Above

- **T-Shirts** - Logos on back, size of logo will be in accordance with level of sponsorship (Last date for logo inclusion on the Trailblazer Race T-shirt is 9/17/2020.)
- **Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Website** - Sponsor logo with Link to Sponsor website
- **Newsletters** - Acknowledgement of sponsorship
- **Annual Report** - Acknowledgement of sponsorship

² The Trailblazer Race has become a permanent fixture on the Bay Area calendar. In 2019 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of this flagship event. Over 800 participants with help from generous sponsors made it a fun, family-friendly celebration. The runners and walkers look forward to the commemorative T-shirts just as much as the race itself. Many enthusiasts brag about their race T-shirt collection. Proceeds from this annual event, which is held on Stevens Creek Trail, help fund our activities throughout the year.

³ Registration for the virtual race is open now. [Register here.](#)