



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 13 miles of Stevens Creek Trail exists today – six miles of paved trail through the urban valley, three miles on county park property and four miles through Mid-Peninsula open space. We are just over 50% done on the eventual trail, with more trail completion being planned. Our Vision and Mission statements help us stay true to the cause.

Our Vision

Welcoming trails and healthy wildlife corridors that connect people from San Francisco 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.

Stevens and Permanente – The Creeks and Trails

Stevens and Permanente creeks originate in the Santa Cruz Mountains on the western flank of Black Mountain and are part of the same larger watershed. Both creeks flow into 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 and over a mile in Cupertino. Three additional miles of dirt trail lie within Stevens Creek County Park. The paved route begins at San Francisco Bay, connects to the Bay Trail, and travels south through many neighborhoods, passing near business centers, parks and schools. It currently ends 0.25 miles south of El Camino Real.

At present there is a 3.5 mile gap from Sleeper Park in southern Mountain View until 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, advocated by the FoSCT, was opened 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, our vision is for a trail that will wind nearly twenty miles to the headwaters and connect with the Ridge Trail. A 3-mile section has been built in Stevens Creek County Park along the east shore of the reservoir. Efforts are ongoing to close the gap from Linda Vista Park to Stevens Creek County Park.

Further upstream, our direct action to create a unified identity for the trail resulted in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District designating four miles of trail in Monte Bello Preserve as part of the Stevens Creek Trail.

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

Permanente Creek Trail

The creek courses north through Los Altos and Mountain View. The trail itself starts at Middlefield Road and ends at Google's main campus where it connects to the Bay Trail. 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.

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.

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 have safe walking/biking paths, opportunity for hands-on nature study and can participate in trail days to plant native vegetation and help with cleanup events.

It is FoSCT's vision to have 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 enhance the quality of life for valley residents by linking the communities along their banks and offering a pleasant, safe route to schools and work while preserving native plants and animals.

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, and those conversations 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 and Maintenance

We have three scheduled trail cleanups per year, open to the interested public, that coincide with Earth Day (in April) and National Rivers Cleanup (in May) and Coastal Cleanup (in September). Volunteers come to these events to clear trash from the creek and trail, and sometimes also remove graffiti on walls or repair fencing. We can also provide "private" cleanup activities, targeted for a specific

corporation or group. Now that such gatherings are permitted again, we are able to support such events at relatively short notice. Trail cleanups are fun events and a means for friends and co-workers to spend casual time together while exploring and preserving the community around them.

In the late spring we often organize de-weeding activities to identify and remove invasive plants along the trail. We are always looking for volunteers to help in these and other endeavors.

When the Friends discover significant problems in the trail surface like cracking, bumping, or other deterioration we report those to the maintenance departments for the city or agency that governs that area.

Trailblazer Race

The Trailblazer Race has become a permanent fixture on the Bay Area calendar. In 2022, we celebrated the 28th anniversary of this flagship event. In past years close to 1,000 people have participated, and we hope for a large turnout again this September. 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). All sponsors at the gold level or above are invited to have a booth at the finish line, and their employees can register for the race at a discount. Sponsors at all levels help to make this event happen and the proceeds from the event, held on the Stevens Creek Trail, help fund our activities throughout the year.

Accelerate Trail Completion

Explore Routes to Close Gaps in the Trail

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. Our board members and volunteers have facilitated a survey of



property lines and new routes, removed old fences, negotiated easements with property owners, and organized volunteer parties for clearing the underbrush or whatever else may be needed to improve the trail.

Give Voice to the Community

The land through which the creek runs is under the authority of many jurisdictions. Local governments look to their constituents when decisions are made on important issues like approving and funding trail extensions. We monitor important dates on the calendars of the city councils, participate in council meetings, and mobilize our members and other trail advocates to do so as well to let the city government know where they stand with regard to trail proposals.

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 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 posting information on our website, newsletters and social media.

Uniform Signage

Unifying segments of Stevens Creek Trail through common signage is an initiative sponsored by the Friends in close cooperation with the cities of Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and Los Altos, and local agencies Santa Clara County Parks, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Ridge Trail and Bay Trail.

These organizations formed a Signage Working Group in 2021 and endorsed a medallion symbol to use

throughout the Trail. Variations will also be used for specific designations and wayfaring. The medallions are now deployed in Montebello Open Space, Stevens Creek County Park, and throughout the trail in the City of Mountain View. The contributions of our Sponsors directly led to the production of these medallions and will do so in the future as they are expanded and maintained.



Maps

We have partnered with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) 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 and tabling events. A PDF version of the front side of the map is available [here](#); and the reverse [here](#). An image is also included on page 8 below.

For mobile users, we contract 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. Recently a cyclist's email resulted in lowering the speed limit at two underpasses from 15 to 5 mph.

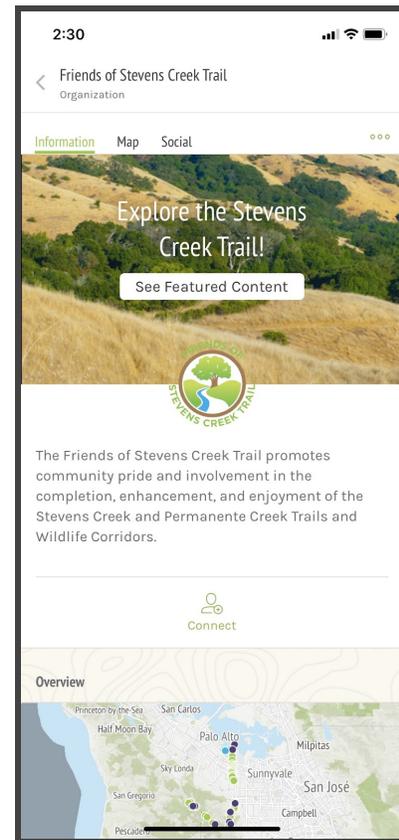
Enhance Wildlife Corridors

Habitat Restoration

The Habitat Restoration Days sponsored by us in association with Grassroots Ecology aimed to remove invasive plant species and give an opportunity to the native plants to flourish. Native plants provide higher quality habitat for the region's fauna than invasive species do.

Fish Passage

We completed a project to remove a barrier to fish passage in Stevens Creek. One of many barriers, it was located in the section of the creek that flows through Deep Cliff Golf Course in Cupertino. This project is 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. We are also grateful for additional grants received from Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District and Los Altos Community Foundation.



Promote Volunteerism

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

We provide many opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the trail, local ecosystem and our community. Annual tabling events at various fairs and festivals exceed 300 volunteer hours sharing information on the trails, creeks and FoSCT and its events. Our trail cleanup events and habitat restoration projects provide work teams, families and neighbors the opportunity to spend a couple quality hours together while 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, work on short-term projects, or contributing to social media. You can read more about our volunteer [opportunities on our website](#) or email us at volunteer@stevenscreektrail.org.

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 were 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 followed by an additional 0.3 mile segment to Linda Vista Park which opened in 2021. 2021 also saw the designation of 4 miles of trail in Midpen's Monte Bello Preserve as part of the Stevens Creek Trail. 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 free, safe and inclusive trails offer physical and mental wellness benefits, provide commute alternatives and connect our neighborhoods with businesses.

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

Donate

We welcome contributions by check, credit card or through [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com). We also accept stock donations. For any inquiries or additional information, please write to donations@stevenscreektrail.org.

Our grateful thanks to our donors. Many of them went the extra mile to secure matching contributions from their employers through [benevity.org](https://www.benevity.org) or other giving platforms.

Volunteer

Those who are passionate about the trails or the wildlife corridors and would like to volunteer, please contact us at volunteers@stevenscreektrail.org. You can also stay in touch with us on social media:





Sponsorship Levels & Acknowledgement 2023

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Diamond
Sponsorship Level	\$500	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
Benefits:					
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail Website Sponsor logo with link to Sponsor website (logo in desired format and link to be provided by the sponsor).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Newsletters Acknowledgement of sponsorship.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Report Acknowledgement of sponsorship.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Banner at the Trailblazer Race Banner to be provided by the sponsor.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logos on Commemorative Trailblazer Race T-shirts Sponsor logo on back, positioned in accordance with level of sponsorship. Every race registrant and event volunteer receives a complimentary T-shirt.*		✓	✓	✓	✓
Trailblazer Festival Area Booth Canopy, table & chairs provided.			✓	✓	✓
Employee Discount on Trailblazer Race Registration - Unlimited quantity.			20%	40%	60%
Complimentary Team Building Event(s) on Stevens Creek Trail Trail cleanup or other activity.				1x	2x

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

*The Trailblazer Race has become a permanent fixture on the Bay Area calendar. This year will be the 29th instance of this flagship event. Owing to the pandemic, it was held as a virtual event in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, our first time back to an in-person event over 350 runners and walkers helped make it a fun, family-friendly celebration. We expect greater attendance in 2023. The participants 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.