



Trail Development Along Waterways Within Santa Clara County

August 22, 2017

Successful Trail Development

- Over 50 miles of trail constructed on District property along 30 creeks, 2 pipelines, 10 reservoirs and 9 groundwater recharge facilities
- 14 public agencies including 11 cities, Santa Clara County, Open Space Authority, Berryessa School District
- 67 active Joint Use Agreements

| Participating Creeks | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Adobe | Alamitos | Sierra |
| Permanente | Calero | Silver |
| San Francisquito | Golf | Thompson |
| Stevens | Guadalupe | Edmundson |
| Sunnyvale West | Los Gatos | Lions |
| Calabazas | Ross | Madrone |
| Regnart | Smith | S. Morey |
| San Tomas | Coyote | W. Branch Llagas |
| Saratoga | Berryessa | W. Little Llagas |
| Wildcat | Penitencia | Uvas |

Trail Development Along Waterways

- Most trails were constructed over levee or maintenance roads for recreational use



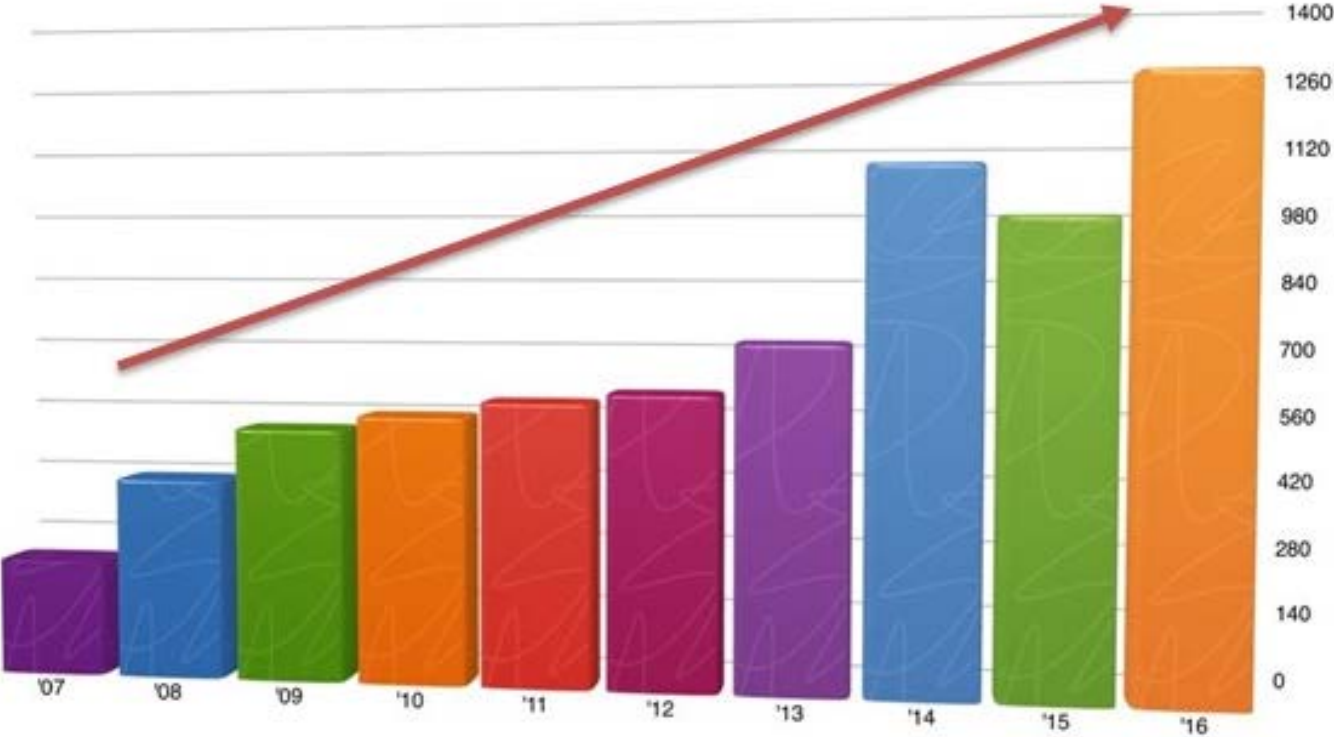
Trail Development Along Waterways

- Early projects and trail master plans developed to preserve the integrity of creek environment and the need for parks and public access



Trail Development Results

- Increased trail usage



Guadalupe River Trail – Coleman Avenue Count Station

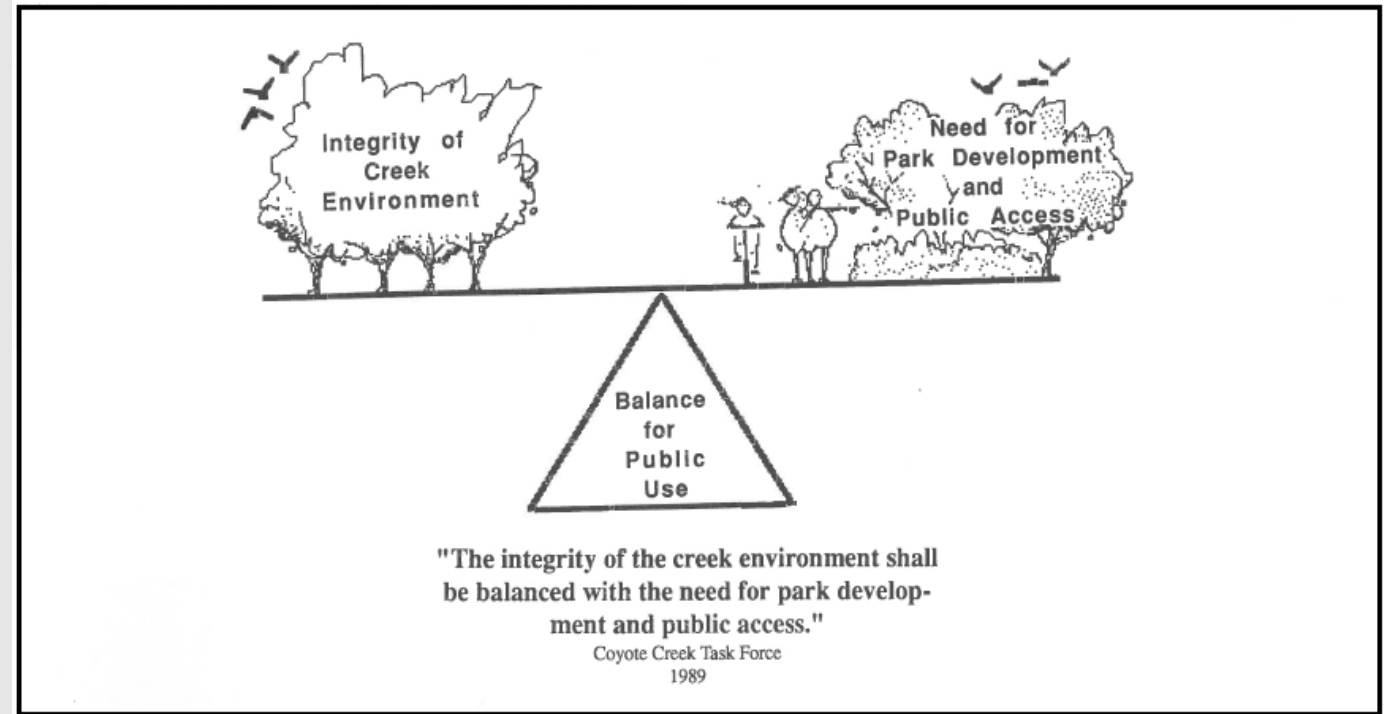
Balancing Trail Development with Stream Stewardship and District Operations

- Increasing demand for additional trails, transportation corridors, bridge crossings and trail undercrossings
- Inclusion of urban amenities such as artwork, kiosks, and lighting within the stream corridor and riparian areas



Challenges to Trail Development

- District staff has recognized challenges in reconciling trail design and alignment with at least two ends policies of the District
 - E-4.2.2. Support healthy communities by providing access to additional trails, parks, and open space along creeks and in the watershed
 - E-4.1.1. Preserve creeks, bay, and ecosystems through environmental stewardship.



Stream Corridor Impacts

- **Transportation**

- Efficient direct route
- Smooth paved surface
- Wide widths and shoulders
- Gentle grades
- 24/7 operational hours
- All weather availability

- **Space limitations**

- Direct trail alignments through riparian corridor
- Place trails in channel, on lower maintenance roads, under bridges, inside floodwalls
- Require significant infrastructure such as retaining walls

- **Urban amenities**

- Lighting, artwork, fountains, kiosks, signs
- Call boxes, benches, aesthetic landscaping
- Decorative pavement and waterfront cafes



Operational Impacts

Transportation

- Closures for mowing, tree removal, in stream vegetation and sediment removal.
- Increased District costs for security, compromised safety of staff and the public.
- Trail construction removes vegetation and results in mitigation measures on District property.

Hardscape and Urban Amenities

- Operations modified to avoid damage to walls, pavement, and disruption to trail users
- Compromised access and increased cost

Bridges

- Disrupt maintenance access
- Require exclusionary netting or reduces work window due to nesting birds
- The proliferation of access points and levee access ramps poses safety concerns and interrupts operations
- Trail proximity to top of bank increases bank erosion



Trail Guidance

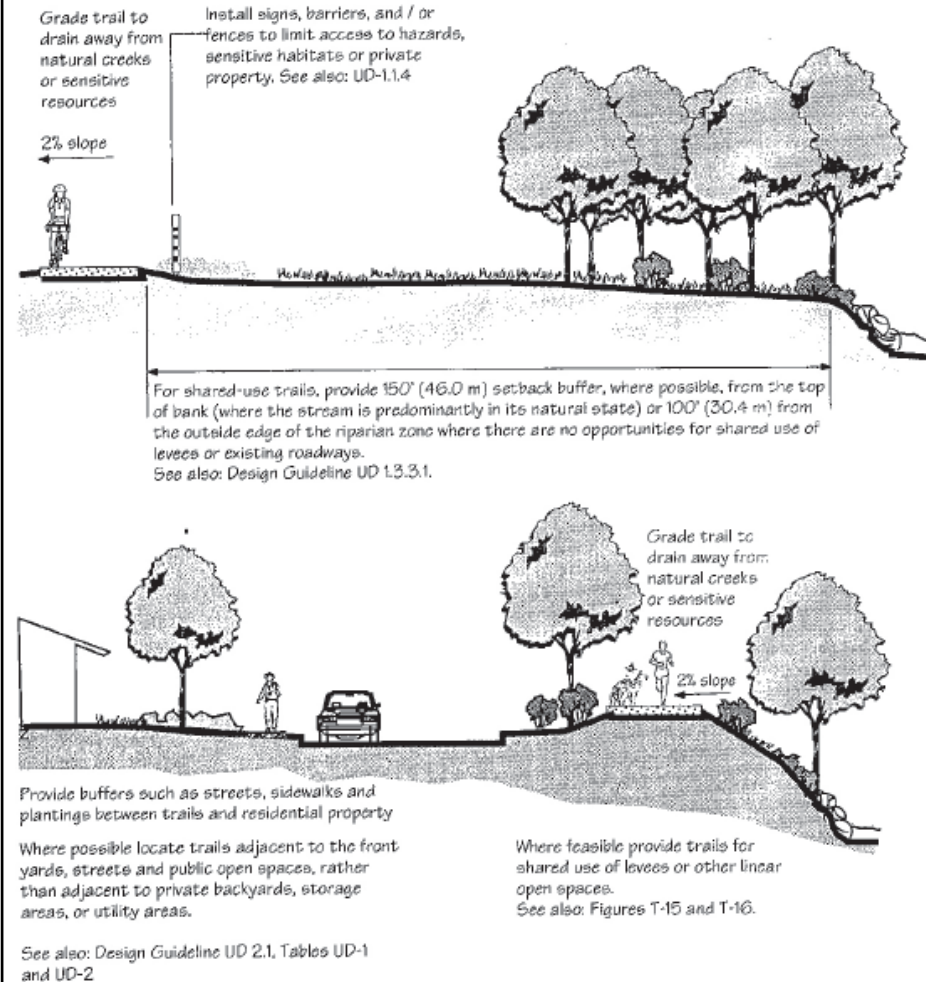
Variety of efforts in the past and currently ongoing regarding trail guidance in the following documents:

- *Uniform Interjurisdictional Trail Design, Use and Management Guidelines – Santa Clara County Interjurisdictional Trails Committee - April 15, 1999*
- *Guidance for Trail Design – Guidelines & Standards for Land Use Near Streams – 2007*
- *Coyote Watershed Aesthetic Guidelines – SCVWD – December 23, 2000*
- *One Water Plan for Santa Clara County – 2016*
- *San Jose Trail Network Design Guidelines – (Toolkit): in progress*
- *VTA Update to Countywide Bike Plan – in progress*

Trail Placement Adjacent to Streams T-18

*Uniform Interjurisdictional Trail Design, Use, and Management Guidelines
Santa Clara County Interjurisdictional Trails Committee*

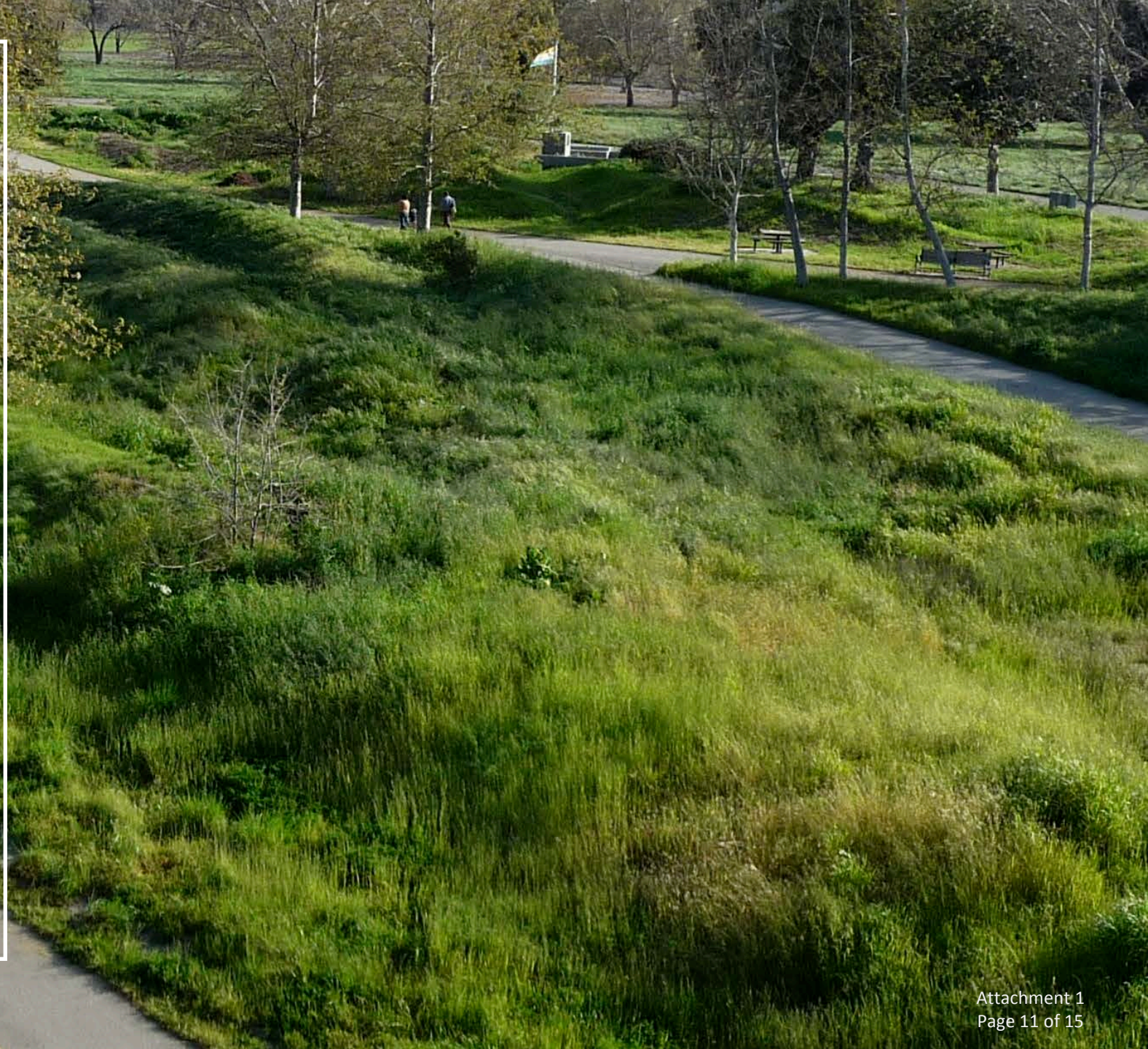
Relationship to property lines, environmentally sensitive areas & residences



Related Policies: UD-1.1.1; UD-1.3.3.14; UD 1.1.4

Recent Board of Directors Involvement

- The Board has expressed a desire to conduct outreach on trails with various stakeholders group.
- Director Keegan gave a presentation to the Silicon Valley Coalition on creek trails in which she gave an overview of compatible uses, minimizing riparian corridor impacts, neighborhood considerations and opportunities for community engagement.
- Director Kremen requested District staff come back to the full Board with an update on trail.



Community Outreach Opportunities

- Opportunity and successes from District involvement in trail development
- Primary mission and need for community support based on environmental and operational needs
- Harm and hazards from some popular or highly requested trail development proposals
 - Bridges, kiosks, retail, high volume transportation, 24/7 operations
- Preferred approach for quality trail development that meets community needs and sustains our environment
- Gathering input from the community



Current Collaboration Efforts With Cities

- Ensuring that pavement is kept to one side of the creek channel
- Minimizing
 - A trail's encroachment into the riparian corridor and below top of bank
 - The occurrence of access ramps on the back slope of levees and trail connection access points to serve the public
 - The number of pedestrian bridges, the amount of hardscape improvements, lighting



Future Outreach and Next Steps

- Continue working with the City of San Jose to develop *Trail Network Design Guidelines (Toolkit)*
- Continue working with VTA in the development of an update to *Countywide Bike Plan (CBP)* and with various cities in the development of trail Master Plans
- Analysis of proposed trail systems across the County to identify constraints along with operations and maintenance needs and identify opportunities with various stakeholders



Future Outreach and Next Steps

- Additional outreach via stakeholder meetings in Mountain View, San Jose, and South County in 2018.
- Outreach in 2018 through One Water Plan to include trails and recreation as one component of watershed-based water resources master planning.
- Staff will return to Board to communicate feedback from stakeholder meetings to be included in the design guidelines.

COYOTE CREEK TRAIL

Rules and Regulations

Trail Users:

- Stay on designated trail
- Keep Right
- Keep dogs on leash/Clean up after pets
- Pick up litter
- No fires
- No motor vehicles
- Alcohol prohibited

Bicyclists:

- Yield to pedestrians
- Ride cautiously
- Maximum speed is 15 mph
- All bicyclists must wear helmets

You are responsible for knowing trail rules and regulations

Thank you for your cooperation
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation