

Examples of Cooperative Projects between Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation

Coyote Parkway Lakes Sites 10 A and 10B

In 2005, the County completed improvements on Stevens Canyon Road to alleviate flooding from Stevens Creek. To address environmental impacts from the project, the County identified District-owned lands at Stevens Creek reservoir to complete environmental mitigation. In exchange, the County agreed to sell the Coyote Parkway Lakes Sites 10A and 10B, which were used by the District for the Coyote Wetlands Restoration project

Trails

The 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan updated trail maps and policies dating from 1980 for inclusion in the County General Plan. The District and the County have worked cooperatively in developing a significant portion of the master plan trail system, including feasibility studies for trail alignments as they pass through and are subsequently implemented by area cities. The District provides trail grants, provides District owned property at no cost, and incorporates trail-compatible design features in its flood protection projects for subsequent trail development. District operational and maintenance activities are modified or prioritized in consideration of this public use.

Ogier Ponds

The County's Ogier Ponds are located at a flooded former aggregate quarry through which Coyote Creek flows. County Parks is agreeable to the evaluation of the separation pond and creek restoration as an ecological benefit and, if feasible, for subsequent use as a water supply/flood attenuation facility as long as County Parks' primary objective for recreational use is maintained. The County and District entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to study the feasibility of creek/lake separation and a multi-use facility.

Metcalf Ponds

These ponds, owned in part by both agencies, are also a location where the separation of the creek and the ponds is desired for ecological restoration purposes. Feasibility studies of creek/ pond separation proposals are planned, with the assistance of grant funds from the District.

Edenvale Stream Gauge Project – Coyote Creek

The District owns and operates the Edenvale Stream Gauge, located on County property, as an important potential flood monitoring instrument and for measuring water supply releases from Anderson Reservoir. The stream channel, which supports the stream gauge, had become overgrown and inoperable. The District worked with County for several months on an onsite mitigation plan that included re-establishment of a low flow channel, removal of invasive plants, pruning heritage oaks for health and vigor and improving the structure of the riparian canopy. The District desires to secure land rights to operate the gage. Access to the Stream Gauge and other District access to County Parks property was provided for in the now expired Master License Agreement which the County proposed be included in the new Master Partnership Agreement.

Lake Silveira Acquisition, Upper Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project

The District desires to acquire land rights at Lake Silveira in Morgan Hill. Lake Silveira, a flooded former aggregate quarry along Llagas Creek in San Martin, was purchased by the County with the express intent of partnering with the City of Morgan Hill to build an

urban park. Funding was limited, and the park did not get developed. In 2010, the District approached County Parks about purchasing the property for compensatory mitigation for the Upper Llagas Creek Project. Detailed negotiations have been ongoing, with more recent coordination focused on a tri-party agreement between the District, City of Morgan Hill and the County whereby recreation and open space will be preserved within the compensatory mitigation site.

Rancho San Antonio Detention Basin, Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project

The County granted approximately 12 acres of easement at Rancho San Antonio Park for a detention basin to reduce downstream flooding from Permanente Creek in Mountain View and Los Altos. The project was designed to minimize disturbance to the park and entailed extensive collaboration with County Parks and Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District, who manages the park for the County. The project will also replace and expand the existing South Meadow parking lot and provide restrooms. The project will enhance many acres of wildlife habitat, establish native trees and remove non-native trees that compete with native species.

Master License Agreement for Access

From 2008 to 2012, the County provided the District with a master license agreement to allow for District access to County Parks land to conduct minor activities such as surveying, environmental sampling, vehicle staging, meter reading, etc. which has benefitted the District.