



SARATOGA
California



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2020

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**SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS**

37 Miles of Trails Connecting Saratoga to the Sea

SARATOGA, CA – The City of Saratoga is proud to announce the completion of the Saratoga to the Skyline Trail from Quarry Park. This 9.7-mile trail is the final segment needed to realize a dream that began over 50 years ago to connect Saratoga to the Pacific Ocean via 37 miles of hiking trails from Saratoga through County and State Parks in collaboration with the County of Santa Clara, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and San Jose Water Company.

“As I hike the trails at Quarry Park, I am reminded of all those who worked for so many decades to make this trail from Saratoga to the Pacific Ocean a reality,” said Saratoga Mayor Howard Miller. “Throughout the hike, there are beautiful vistas, views of wonderful creeks, and interpretive signs to teach you about the area. I encourage you to take your time, and enjoy nature and all it has to offer.”

Quarry Park, a 64-acre property once used by Santa Clara County to mine rock and gravel for roads in the County, opened to the public on October 31, 2015. Located in the hills of Saratoga, the park features picturesque trails and picnic spots and was acquired by the City with the support of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the County of Santa Clara Department of Parks and Recreation.

The partnerships that helped make the opening of Quarry Park possible were also essential to this opening of the Saratoga to the Skyline Trail just 5 years later. San Jose Water Company donated a trail easement across their property adjacent to Quarry Park. Major funding for the 3.6-mile trail through San Jose Water Company property and Quarry Park was provided by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, thanks to the Measure AA general obligation bond passed by voters in 2014. The City of Saratoga provided the funding to complete the project and contracted with the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz to build Saratoga’s portion of



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the trail due to their sustainable trail construction approach and specialization in local terrain. The remaining 6.1 miles of the Saratoga to the Skyline Trail within Sanborn County Park were completed by County of Santa Clara Department of Parks and Recreation.

“This is an accomplishment literally decades in the making,” said Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian. “We can finally say yes, we can go from Saratoga to the Sea. So many good folks came together to make this happen – the City, the County, and the folks at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. It’s been a real joy working with them all.”

The Saratoga to the Skyline Trail connects Saratoga’s Quarry Park with Santa Clara County’s Sanborn Park. From there, avid hikers can take the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, completed almost 40 years ago, for the full journey from the Santa Cruz Mountains through Castle Rock State Park and Big Basin Redwoods State Park to the Pacific Ocean. There are several campsites along the way, offering spectacular views and opportunities for families and backpackers to enjoy California’s incredible scenery at their leisure.

In lieu of a traditional Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please enjoy these videos celebrating the grand opening of the trail, showcasing the new trail's features, and hiking the new 3.6-mile trail segment.



Almaden Times

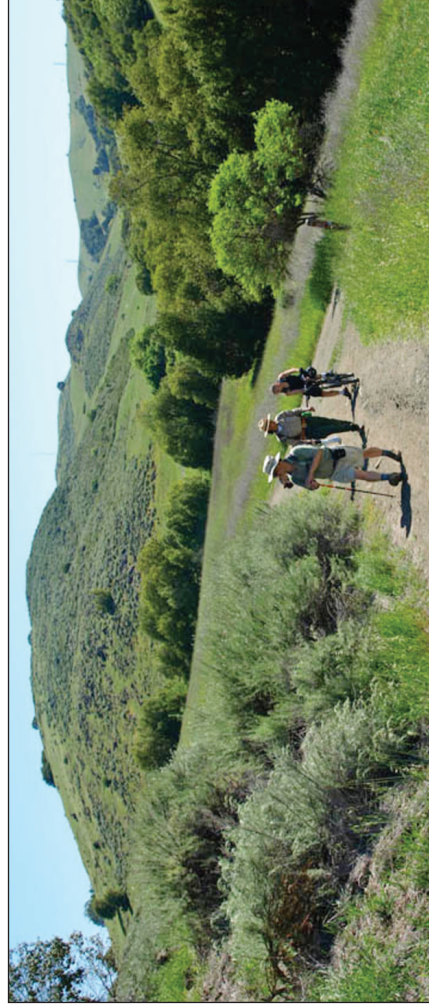
April 29, 2022

Park connection expands open space opportunities

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a 47-acre property that will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to build a trail connecting Santa Teresa and Calero County Parks.

The \$8.5 million purchase will not only connect the two heavily used parks but could potentially expand parking and enhance pedestrian and equestrian safety.

The proposed trail at Fortini and McKean Roads will extend from Santa Teresa's Stile Ranch trail to Calero's Lisa Killough trail, allowing hikers, cyclists, and equestrians to connect to nearly 30 miles of existing trails and bike-ways throughout the two County parks.



Walking trails are popular at Santa Teresa County Park.

"This is an exciting opportunity," said County Supervisor Joe Simitian, in whose district the property is located. "Not only do we now have the possibility for residents to enjoy twice the park space, but with the purchase of this property we also have an opportunity to address parking challenges and pedestrian and equestrian safety."

Insufficient parking at the two parks is a consistent issue; vehicles often park illegally on nearby roads, causing complaints from neighbors. There are no parking options for

horse trailers at Stiles Ranch, and very little trailer parking at Rancho San Vicente, which means equestrians and cyclists often cross McKean Road without a designated road crossing, which can be unsafe as vehicles often exceed the posted 45 mph speed limit.

The acquisition of this property could provide an expanded visitor staging area and a safe trail across McKean Road. "The connection in and of itself is wonderful," said Simitian, "but the potential improvements over time are really an added bonus."

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

June 17, 2022

New regional trail to connect open spaces in San Mateo, Santa Clara counties

Construction on project's first phase set to begin in July

By Sue Dremann

Work on a regional trail project that would link open spaces between San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will begin on July 13 and continue through the end of October, thanks to \$272,711 approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on June 7.

The Alpine Road Regional Trail Improvement Project would create a 2.3-mile regional trail for hikers, cyclists and equestrians connecting from Page Mill Road to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves, including Coal Creek and Monte Bello, along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The trail also will provide connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and to other trail systems within open space preserves and other park systems.

The trail is on a portion of Alpine Road between Portola Valley and Page Mill Road that has been closed to motor vehicles since 1979. Sections of the road have been impassable due to washouts, landslides and gullies since the 1990s, according to the district.

The approval by the board is the most recent in a series of actions dating back more than two decades to mitigate the impacts of development

authorized by the Stanford University 2000 General Use Permit.

In early 2020, Supervisor Joe Simitian, who previously served on the state Legislature representing portions of San Mateo County, suggested using funds from the Stanford Recreation Mitigation Fund for projects in San Mateo County affected by development at Stanford. Prior to Simitian's proposal, most of the trail mitigation funds had been spent in Santa Clara County, despite the fact that development impacts occurred in both counties, he noted.

In late 2020, the supervisors voted to fund seven projects, including the Alpine Trail project, using more than \$10 million in funds stemming from the 2000 Stanford University General Use Permit approval. Six of the projects are located in San Mateo County communities. The funds were made available as an in-lieu payment by Stanford after the university was unable to come to an agreement with San Mateo County regarding a trail alignment. The trail alignment had been a required mitigation for the university's more than 2 million square feet of development authorized in 2000.

Construction on Alpine Trail is expected to end in late October. A second construction phase will likely take place between June and October



Courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

A section of Alpine Road in the Coal Creek Open Space Preserve is part of a trail project that spans San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

2023. The Alpine Road Trail will be closed during the construction.

"The Alpine Road Trail is a really great reminder that when we work together, we can accomplish so much more. I'm pleased that our county is able to provide funding to help Midpen complete this significant trail segment. It will be enjoyed by generations of hikers, cyclists, and equestrians for a very long time," Simitian said.

"I was actually on the Board of Supervisors in 2000 when the trail mitigation requirement was approved. Little did I expect that I would be back to help ensure that the intended mitigation

would be realized more than two decades later. "I'm glad to see these funds going to projects that will benefit the community for many years."

Ana María Ruiz, Midpen's general manager, said the county's support will allow the district to repurpose an abandoned segment of Alpine Road, which connects the valley floor to the Skyline corridor. The project will also allow the district to address sedimentation from the old, unpaved roadbed, which is affecting the water quality of Corte Madera Creek. ■

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