

A dirt trail winds through a lush green field with trees in the background under a clear blue sky. The trail is the central focus, leading the eye from the foreground into the distance. The vegetation is dense and vibrant, suggesting a healthy natural environment.

# **McLaren Park Trails Improvements - Project Plans for Four Priority Areas**

**MAY 20, 2020**

# AGENDA

- **Project Team Introductions**
- **Past work and approvals summarized**
- **Four Priority Areas – Capital Improvement Scope Detailed**
- **Next Steps**
- **Wrap Up and Questions**

*“...unspoiled alpine joy in the city.”*

- John McLaren, 1927

# TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

**Lauren Chavez – *Project Manger* – SF Rec & Park**

**Lisa Wayne – *Natural Resources Manager* – SF Rec & Park**

**Anthony Copioli – *Urban Trails Supervisor* – SF Rec & Park**

**Koa Pickering – *Landscape Architect* – SF Public Works**

**LaMonté Bishop – *Outreach Coordinator* – SF Rec & Park**

**Peter Moore – *Outreach Coordinator* – SF Rec & Park**

*“...unspoiled alpine joy in the city.”*

- John McLaren, 1927

# PROJECT FUNDING

2012 Clean & Safe Neighborhood Park Bond:

- \$2,000,000 for Trails
- \$1,500,000 for Natural Features

Outdoor Environmental Education Grant: \$250,000

Habitat Conservation Fund Grant: \$207,000

*McLaren Park received an additional \$10,000,000 from 2012 Bond*

*“...unspoiled alpine joy in the city.”*

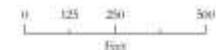
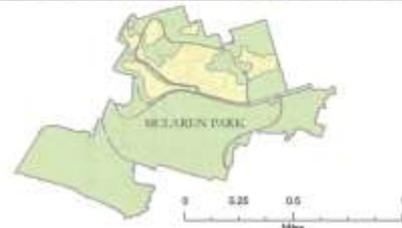
- John McLaren, 1927

# McLAREN PARK NATURAL AREAS



Source: Management areas and trails data collected by San Francisco Department of Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program (NAP), 2005; trails data digitized by San Francisco State University Institute for GIS (SF-NU GIS), 2005; streets data excerpted from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc.'s StreetMap 2000 data copyright ESRI 1998-2001; aerial photography San Francisco Department of Public Works, 2002, Orthophoto - San Francisco - 1 Foot Resolution - 2001; City of San Francisco Department of Public Works, San Francisco; all data are in California State Plane Zone III projection, NAD 1983; map produced using ArcGIS 9.0 software by ESRI.

Map created May 20, 2005 by Debra Dwyer, San Francisco State University, Institute for Geographic Information Science, revised August 23, 2005.



**FIGURE 6.19 - 11**  
**MANAGEMENT AREAS**  
**AND TRAIL PLAN**

**McLaren Park**

Significant Natural Resource Areas  
Management Plan

San Francisco, California

# EASY

# MODERATE

# CHALLENGING

WATER TOWER  
(270° VIEW OF CITY)

GAMBIER PLAZA

YOSEMITE MARSH

JERRY GARCIA  
AMPHITHEATER

LOUIS SUTTER  
ROUNDHOUSE

REDWOOD GROVE

UPPER RESERVOIR

EXCELSIOR

"GREEN TUNNEL"

PHILOSOPHER'S HILL  
& LABYRINTH

HIGHEST POINT  
(515 FT)

CLUB HOUSE

GLENEAGLES  
GOLF COURSE

"LOVER'S ROCK"

VISITACION VALLEY

CROCKER AMAZON

University Mound  
Reservoirs  
(covered)

PORTOLA

MCNAB LAKE

"HIDDEN BRIDGES"

WILDE OVERLOOK  
TOWER

HERZ PLAYGROUND  
& COFFMAN POOL

- STREETS
- FIRM & STABLE PAVED SURFACES
- PAVED & SOIL SURFACES & INCLINES
- CHALLENGING INCLINES & SURFACES
- ≡ STAIRS

## The Vision Plan process included extensive community engagement, plus additional meetings around trail projects:

- A Treasure Hunt kickoff with over 250 participants
- Three community workshops
- Two trails workshops
- One trail walk, plus an informal site walk with a dozen neighbors
- A half-dozen trail-specific meetings with core stakeholders
- Regular attendance and updates at the McLaren Collaborative
- Staff attendance at a variety of community association meetings and community events to promote the project and solicit feedback



# MCLAREN PARK

## VISION PLAN REPORT



# **TRAILS & PATHS GOALS**

**Ensure safe recreation and access**

**Maintain and build on natural character**

**Protect natural resources**

**Clarify circulation routes**

# McLaren Park Trails Framework and Tools



### TRAILS + PATHS

- PRIMARY NETWORK
- SECONDARY NETWORK
- TERTIARY NETWORK (AREA TRAIL)
- TERTIARY NETWORK (PERIMETER)

### TRAILS + PATHS TERMS

**TRAIL:** EITHER OF TRACKS OR CREATED FROM SURFACES

**PATH:** WOOD SURFACES OR GENERALLY COMPOSED OF BARK MULCH

**WALKWAY:** ALL OTHER TYPES OF SURFACES, INCLUDING CRACKS AND TIGHT TURNS AND A MINIMUM OF 5' (1.5M) FOR USE BY STROLLERS

**PERIMETER TRAIL:** TRAIL OR A TRAIL ALONG THE PERIMETER OF A PROPERTY

**AREA TRAIL:** TRAIL OR A TRAIL ALONG THE PERIMETER OF A PROPERTY

**ROADWAY:** TRAIL OR A TRAIL ALONG THE PERIMETER OF A PROPERTY

### SIZE

- PRIMARY NETWORK: 1/2" - 3/4"
- SECONDARY NETWORK: 3/4" - 1"
- ROADWAY: 1" - 1 1/2"
- PERIMETER TRAIL: 1 1/2" - 2"
- AREA TRAIL: 2" - 3"
- PERIMETER TRAIL: 3" - 4"
- ROADWAY: 4" - 6"
- PERIMETER TRAIL: 6" - 8"
- ROADWAY: 8" - 12"
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- ROADWAY: 18" - 24"
- PERIMETER TRAIL: 24" - 36"
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# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

## Slope, Drainage, Erosion Control & Surfacing



# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Decommissioning, Hazard Tree Work & Habitat Restoration



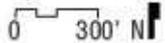
Trail width standards:

3' minimum for pedestrian trails

5' minimum for multi-use trails



Trail and Path Improvements Map



# PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS

# CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESS BEGAN IN 2019

- November 16<sup>th</sup> trail walk of Visitacion Avenue
- March 7<sup>th</sup> trail walk through three priority areas
- Survey follow up from March 7<sup>th</sup> conceptual design

# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FROM TRAIL WALKS

- **Keep it wild!**
- Minimize built features
- Provide a variety of trail experiences (difficulty, views, etc.)
- Align trails to follow desire lines in order to minimize shortcutting and creation of additional social trails
- Design trails to accommodate a variety of users
- Protect and restore habitat for plants and animals, and enhance experiences of nature for people
- Continue to communicate and involve the community in the design process



Trail and Path Improvements Map

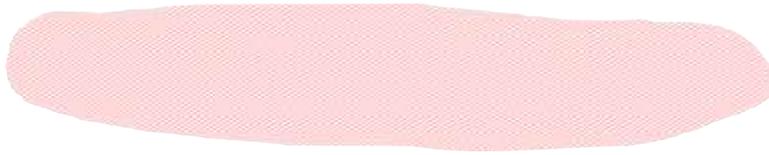
# PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

TIER ONE PRIORITY PROJECTS

# LEGEND



Decommission trail



Trail decommissioning, erosion mitigation, restoration planting



Approximate new trail alignment



Approximate trail alignment  
(pending funding)



Existing trail to remain



Possible split rail fencing



## VISITACION AVE CORRIDOR

- SIDEWALK (NEW) FROM PARK ENTRY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL, ALONG EASTERN SIDE OF THE ROAD
- MULTI-USE TRAIL (NEW) FROM PARK ENTRY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL: STABILIZED TRAIL SURFACE (SANDY AREA)
- ADD A CROSSWALK FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TO FIRE ROAD TRAIL ENTRY
- HABITAT RESTORATION PLANTING

# PRIORITY AREA: VISITACION AVENUE TRAIL

## LEGEND

 Approximate new trail alignment



## KEY

Yellow ribbon shows approximate alignment of new stabilized natural trail from Hahn Ave to Visitacion Valley Middle School

(A) Trailhead at Hahn is slightly off the corner, to allow for rolling access between trail and sidewalk

(B) Project will be coordinated with the installation of a new native plant garden, primarily funded by Community Challenge Grant

(C) The existing dirt pathway along the east side of the upper segment of trail will not be removed as part of the capital project

(D) Trailhead location at the Middle School is still TBD; the project team is engaging the Mid Vis community as well as MTA

(E) New crosswalk from north of Mid Vis driveway to fire road enhances connectivity between Visitacion Valley and the rest of the McLaren Park trail network



A

NEW TRAIL SEGMENT LOOKING TOWARDS HAHN





**B-C PINCH POINT AT PUC RAIN GARDEN, NEAR COMMUNITY GARDEN**



**B-C** EXISTING FOOTPATH NEAR RAYMOND, LOOKING SOUTH



**C-D SLOPED HILLSIDE WITH SOME NATIVE GRASSES AND TREES**



C

**EXISTING DIRT PATHWAY IN GOOD CONDITION TO REMAIN**



**D**

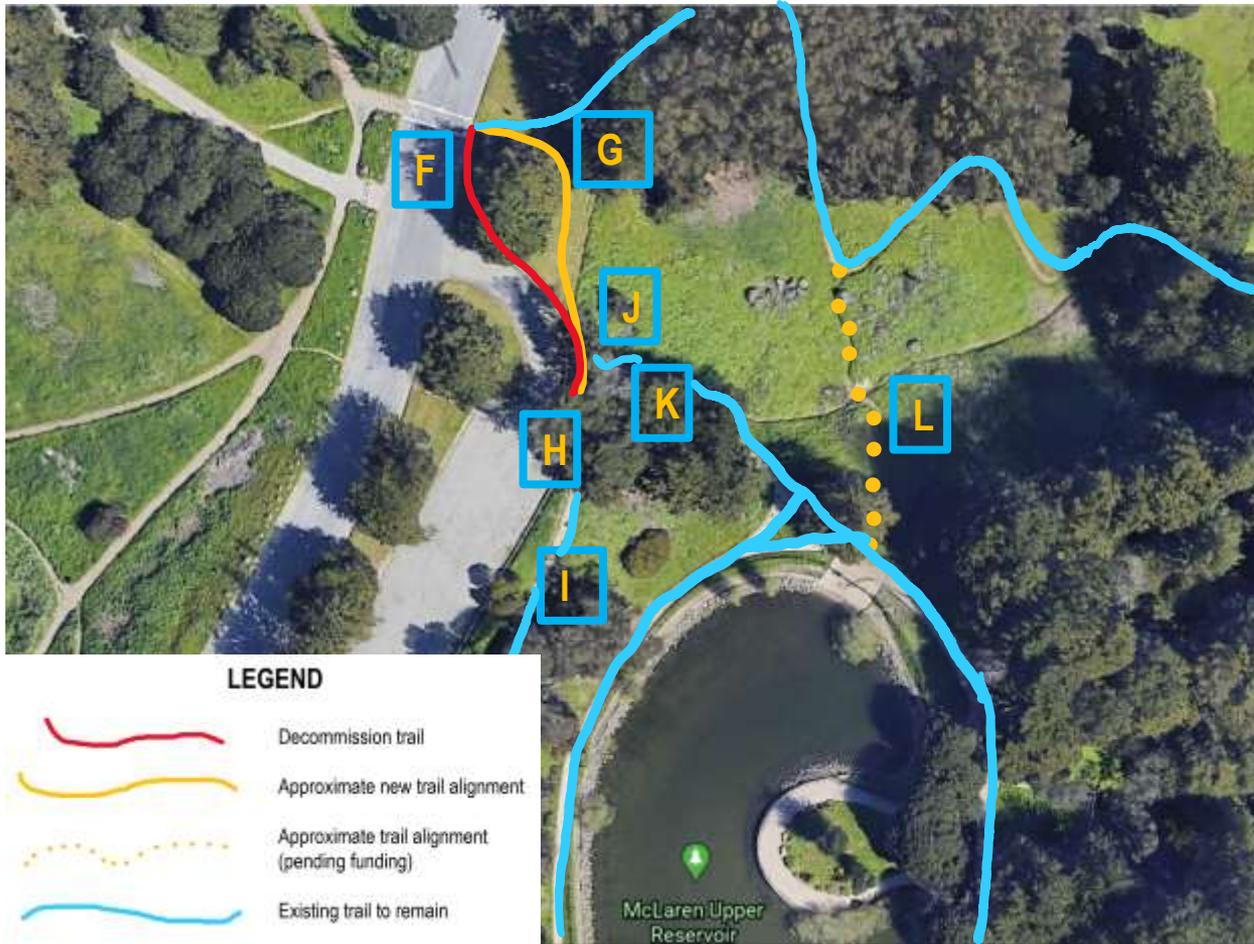
**TRAILHEAD AT VISITACION VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL TBD**

## UPPER RESERVOIR

- REPLACE ASPHALT AND WOOD STEPS WITH A SUSTAINABLE MULTI-USE TRAIL APPROACH TO RESERVOIR
- ADD A CROSSWALK AT SHELLEY
- MITIGATE DRAINAGE PROBLEMS



# PRIORITY AREA: UPPER RESERVOIR



## KEY

(F) Formalize crosswalk

(G) Decommission existing asphalt path and add stabilized natural surface trail to parking lot along more accessible alignment

(H) ADA striping for van accessible parking spot and add curb ramp

(I) Repair (E) asphalt path west of reservoir for improved accessibility

(J) Remove asphalt drain ditch, add drainage swales and plantings

(K) Replace box steps and asphalt path and replace in-kind with stabilized natural surface trail

(L) New habitat enhancement area/seasonal wetland and construct trail improvements to maintain (E) trail



**F**

**ADD CROSSWALK STRIPING AND CURB CUT AT SHELLEY**

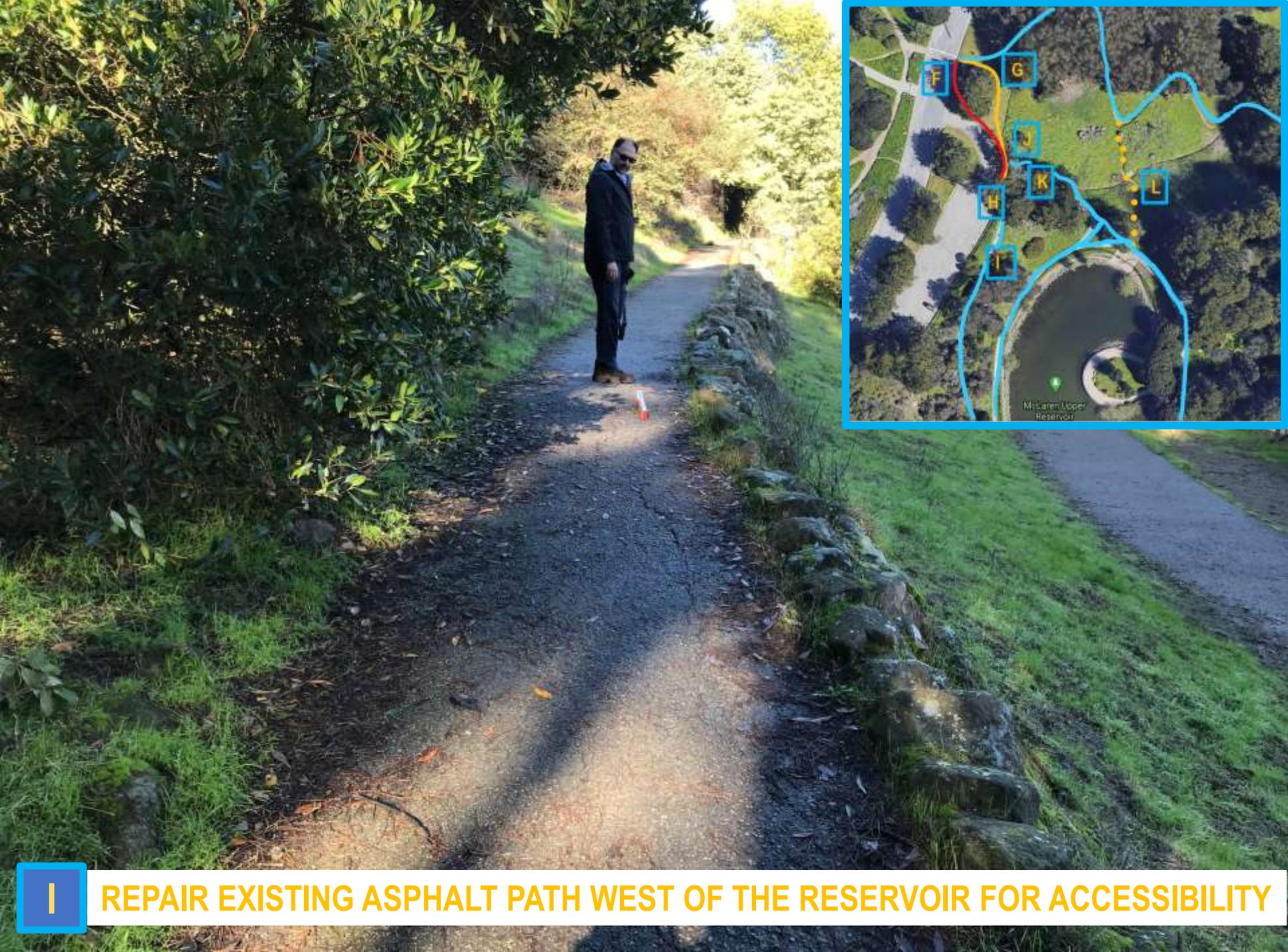


**G**

**NEW STABILIZED NATURAL SURFACING TRAIL FROM CROSSWALK TO LOT**



**H** NEW CURB RAMP AND ADA RESTIPING AT PARKING LOT



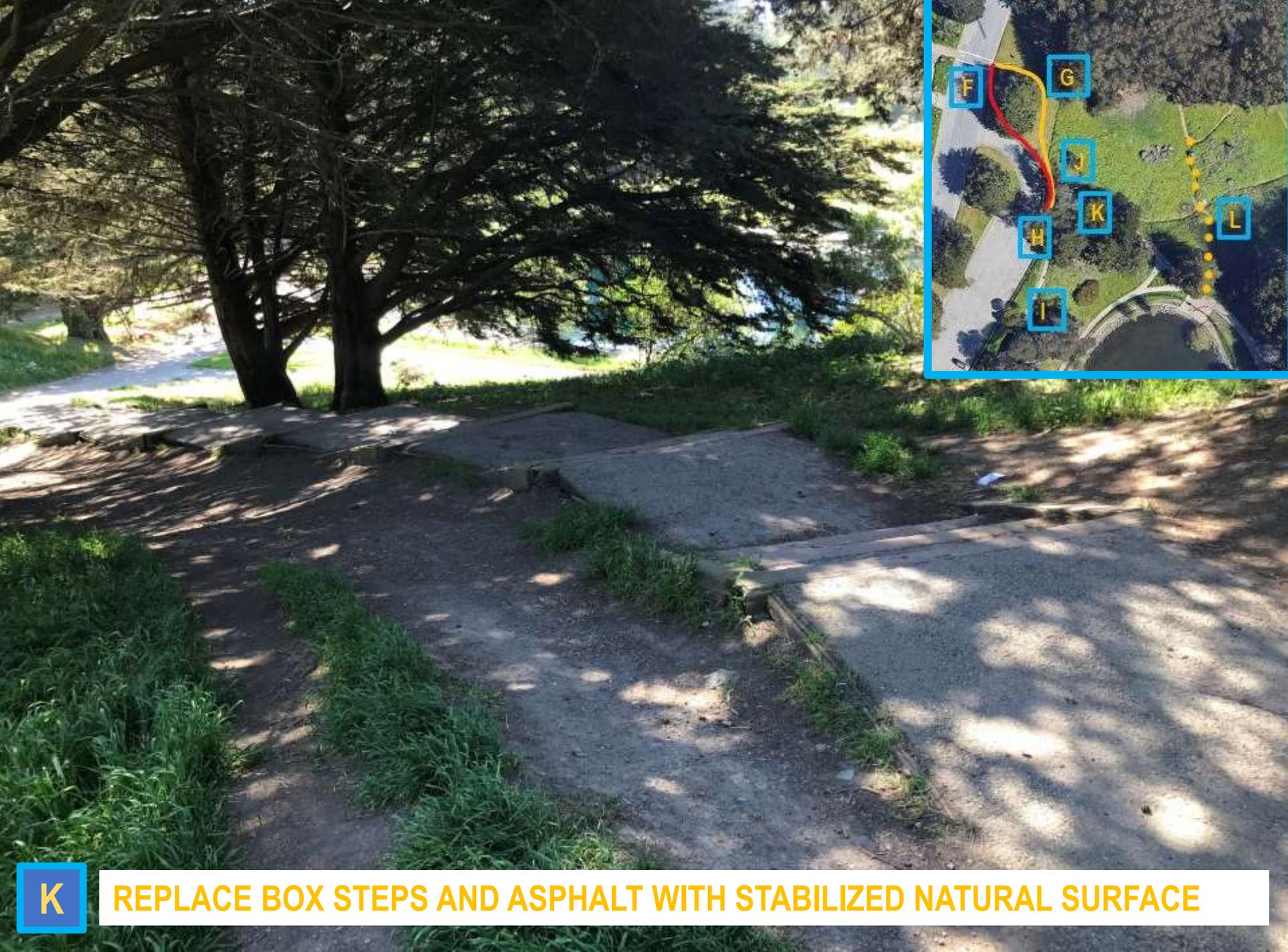
I

REPAIR EXISTING ASPHALT PATH WEST OF THE RESERVOIR FOR ACCESSIBILITY



**J**

**REMOVE ASPHALT AND CONCRETE DITCH, ADD SWALES AND NATIVE PLANTING**



**K**

**REPLACE BOX STEPS AND ASPHALT WITH STABILIZED NATURAL SURFACE**



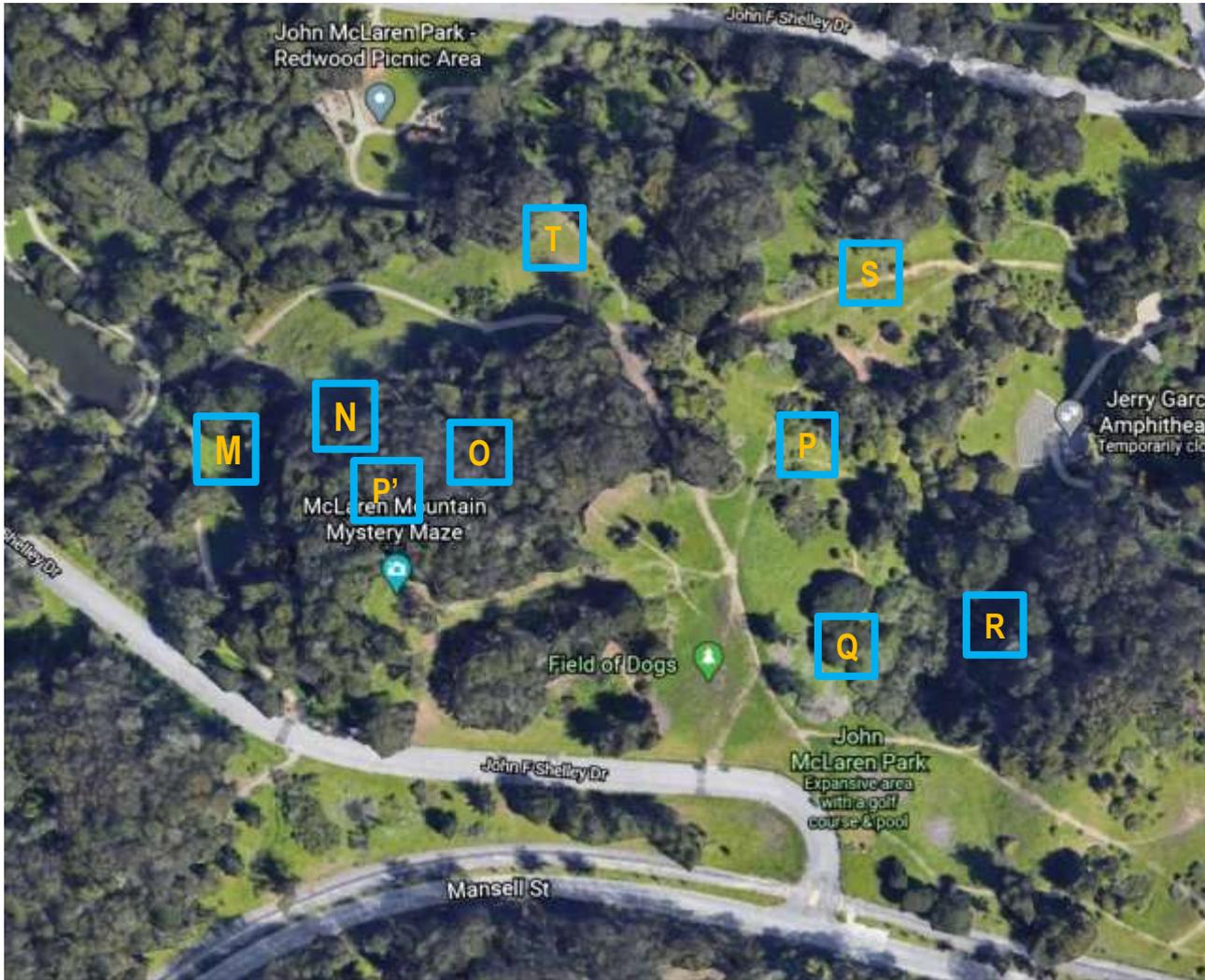
**L** HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FOR SEASONAL WETLAND; TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

## TRAILS WITHIN UPPER HALF CORE

- CLARIFY TRAIL ALIGNMENTS
- REPAIR TRAIL SURFACE EROSION DAMAGE
- IMPROVE DRAINAGE TO MINIMIZE FUTURE EROSION
- REMOVE TRAILS IMPACTING THE CREEK AND CONSOLIDATE TRAILS TO INCREASE CONNECTIVITY
- HABITAT RESTORATION PLANTING



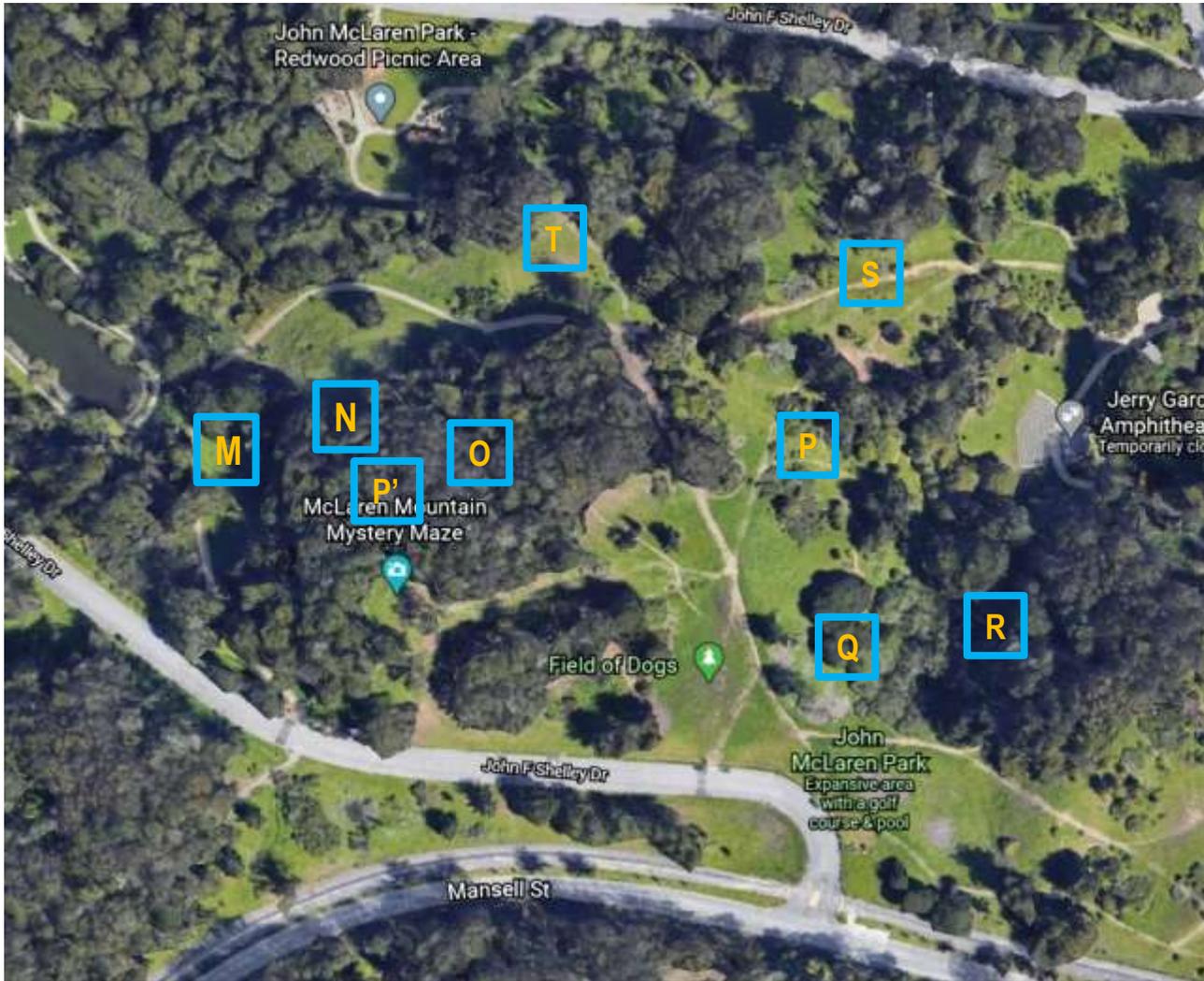
# PRIORITY AREA: SHELLY LOOP INTERIOR



## KEY

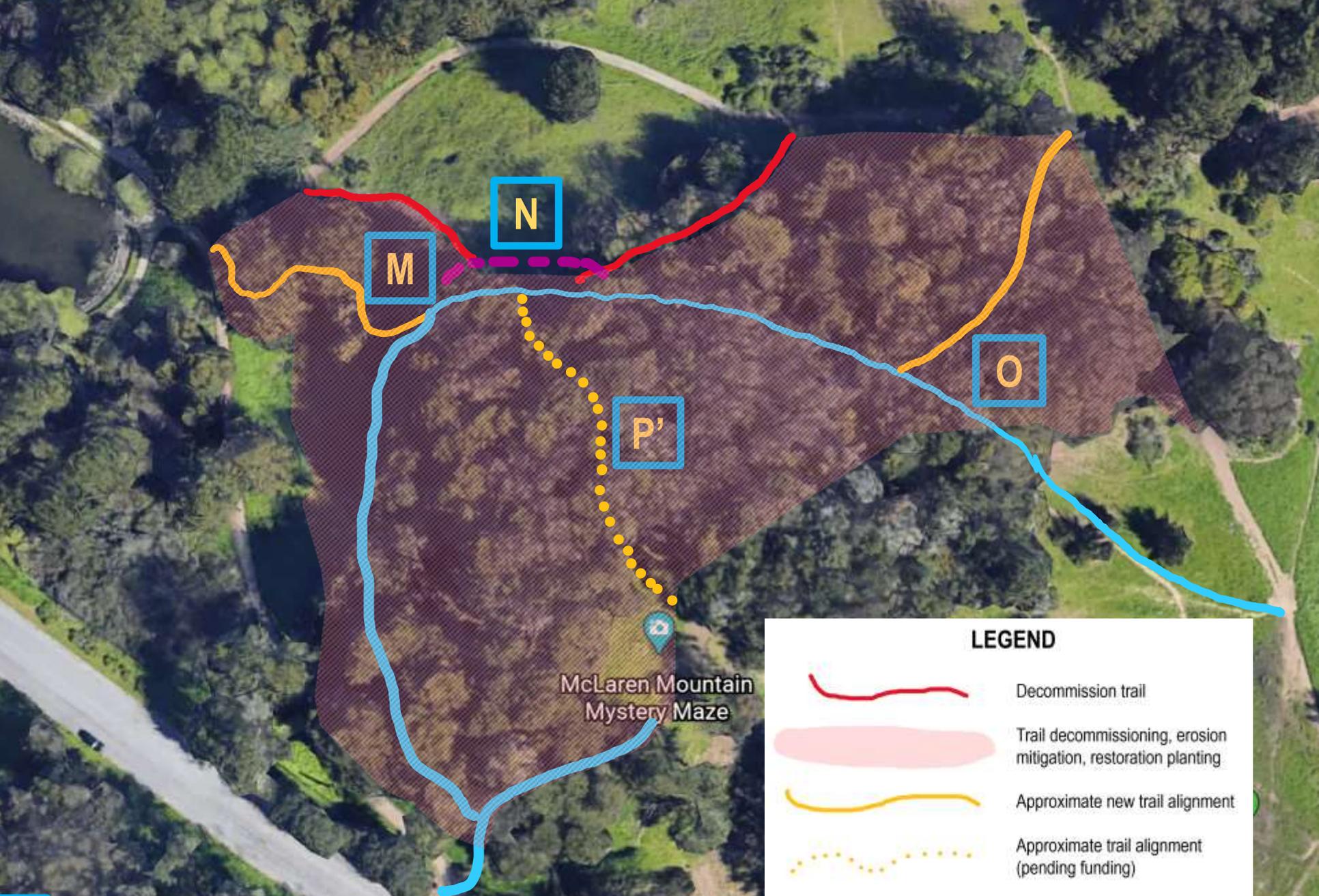
- (M) Formalize sustainable trail
- (N) Shape overlook at Sidalcea slope
- (O) Reinforce VoCal trail and connect to 1<sup>st</sup> and Main
- (P') Formalize new trail to top of hill
- (P) Consolidate trails and enhance scrub habitat
- (Q) Consolidate trails above Grey Fox Creek riparian zone
- (R) Formalize trail through cypress eucalyptus; remove trails across and adjacent to creek; establish a new overlook at riparian zone
- (S) Repair and slightly reroute access road to mitigate erosion and improve accessibility
- (T) Consolidate trails to improve connection between 1<sup>st</sup> and Main and Group Picnic Area

# PRIORITY AREA: SHELLY LOOP INTERIOR



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McLaren Mountain  
Mystery Maze

### LEGEND

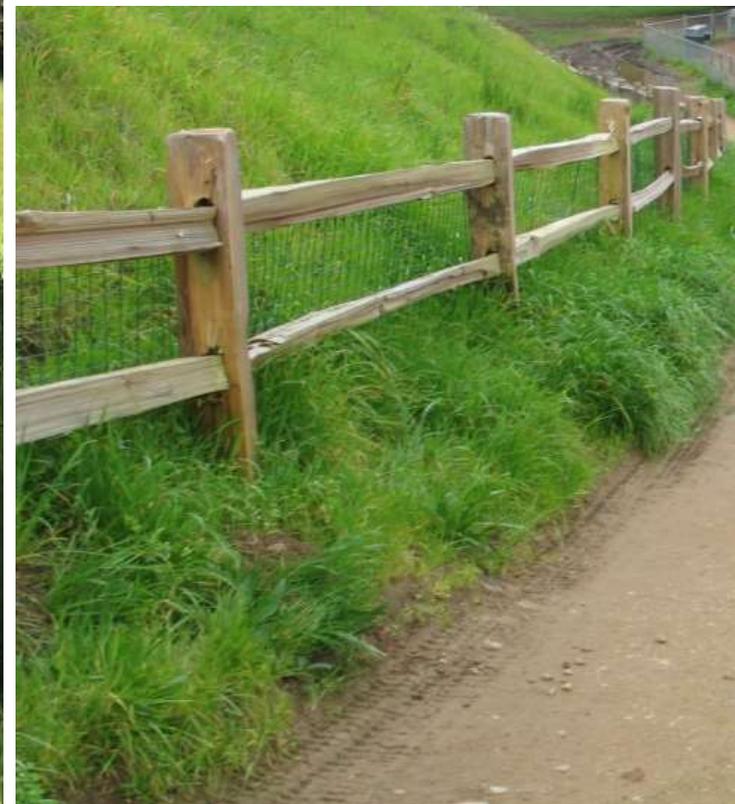
-  Decommission trail
-  Trail decommissioning, erosion mitigation, restoration planting
-  Approximate new trail alignment
-  Approximate trail alignment (pending funding)
-  Existing trail to remain
-  Possible split rail fencing

**P'** PHILOSOPHER'S HILL



**M**

**FORMALIZE SUSTAINABLE TRAIL AND DECOMMISSION OTHERS**



**N** SIDALCEA SLOPE OVERLOOK



O

REINFORCE VOCAL TRAIL AND CONNECT TO 1<sup>ST</sup> AND MAIN



**LEGEND**

-  Decommission trail
-  Trail decommissioning, erosion mitigation, restoration planting
-  Approximate new trail alignment
-  Existing trail to remain
-  Possible split rail fencing

John McLaren Park

**P-R**

**CONSOLIDATE TRAILS AND ENHANCE HABITAT IN CORE**



P

**CONSOLIDATE GRASSLAND TRAILS TO EXPAND HABITAT**



P

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE AMPHITHEATER



Q

**CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE RIPARIAN ZONE**



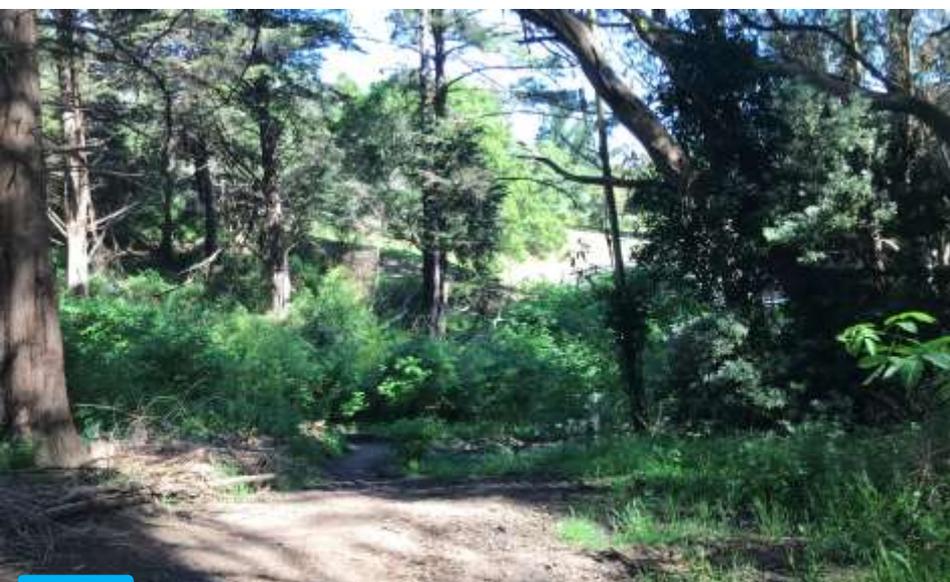
Q

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE RIPARIAN ZONE



**R**

**REMOVE TRAIL THROUGH GREY FOX CREEK AND ENHANCE RIPARIAN HABITAT**



R

REMOVE TRAILS ADJACENT TO GREY FOX CREEK



R

CREATE AN OVERLOOK AT RIPARIAN AREA, TOWARDS AMPHITHEATER



R

CREATE NEW TRAIL THROUGH THE CYPRESS AND EUCALYPTUS



**S-T**

**IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND REDUCE EROSION**



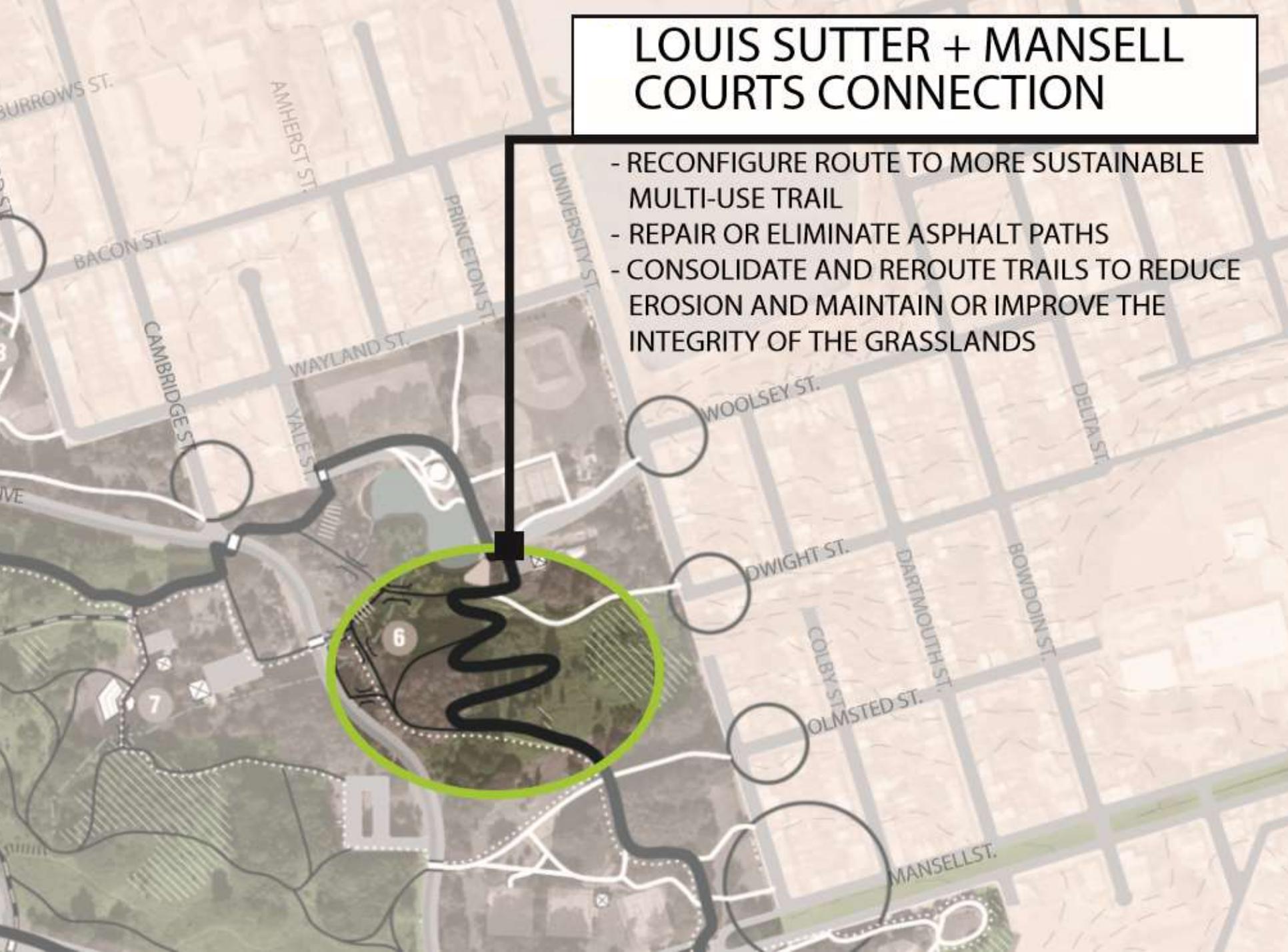
S

MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EROSION AND REPAIR ACCESS ROAD



# LOUIS SUTTER + MANSSELL COURTS CONNECTION

- RECONFIGURE ROUTE TO MORE SUSTAINABLE MULTI-USE TRAIL
- REPAIR OR ELIMINATE ASPHALT PATHS
- CONSOLIDATE AND REROUTE TRAILS TO REDUCE EROSION AND MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE GRASSLANDS



# PRIORITY AREA: UNIVERSITY HILL



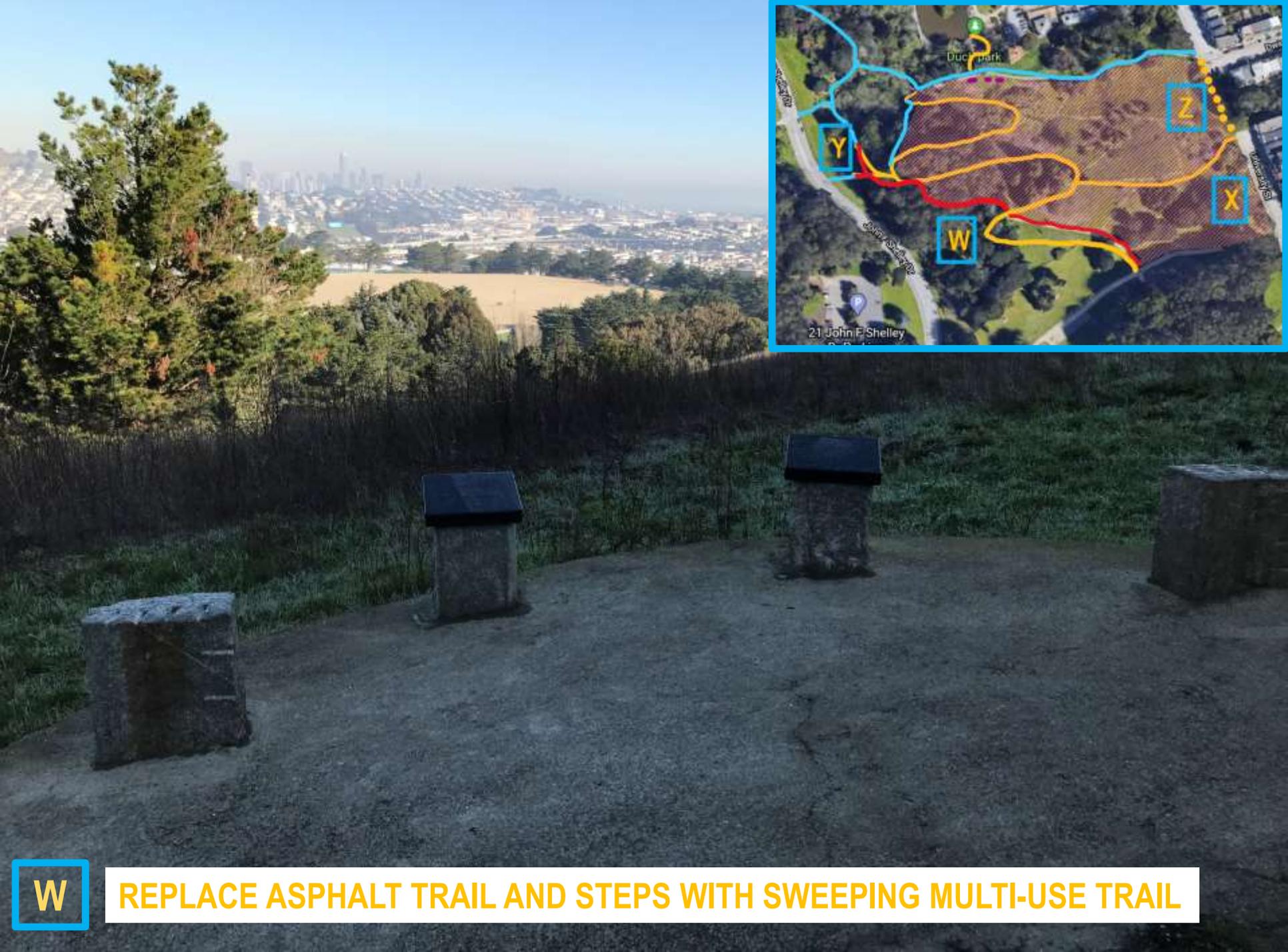
## KEY

(W) Remove asphalt and steps; add stabilized natural surface trail with several switchbacks, from Louis Sutter Playground to Mansell Courts. New ribbon of 6' wide trail weaves through the trees and the western edge of the grassland

(X) Consolidate erosive switchback trails across grassland to a single trail on grade, from new stabilized natural surface trail to dead end at the uphill side of University

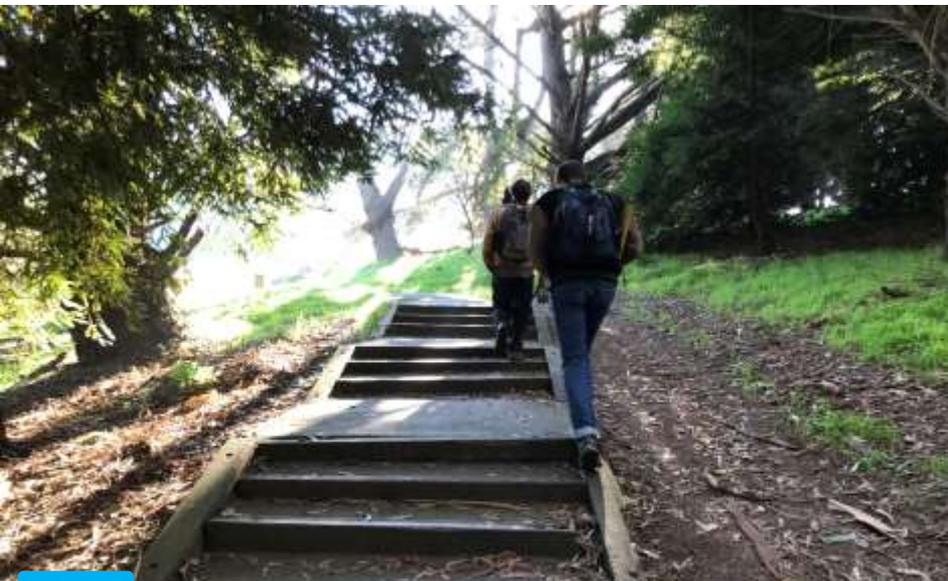
(Y) Remove asphalt and steps; add stabilized natural surface trail connections with minimal stairs to connect Hidden Bridges and picnic area with main trail.

(Z) Possibly add a run of box steps from upper University to lower University at Dwight (IF budget allows)



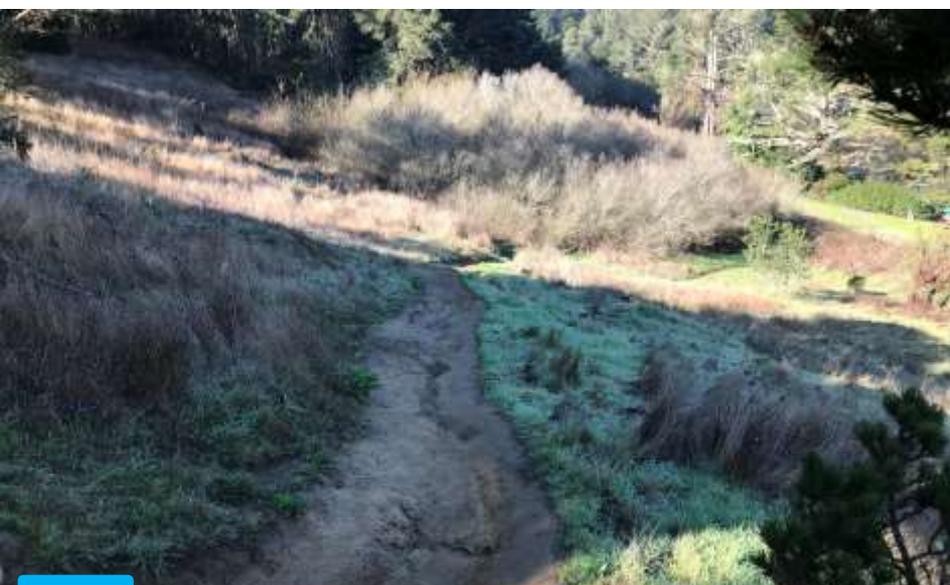
W

REPLACE ASPHALT TRAIL AND STEPS WITH SWEEPING MULTI-USE TRAIL



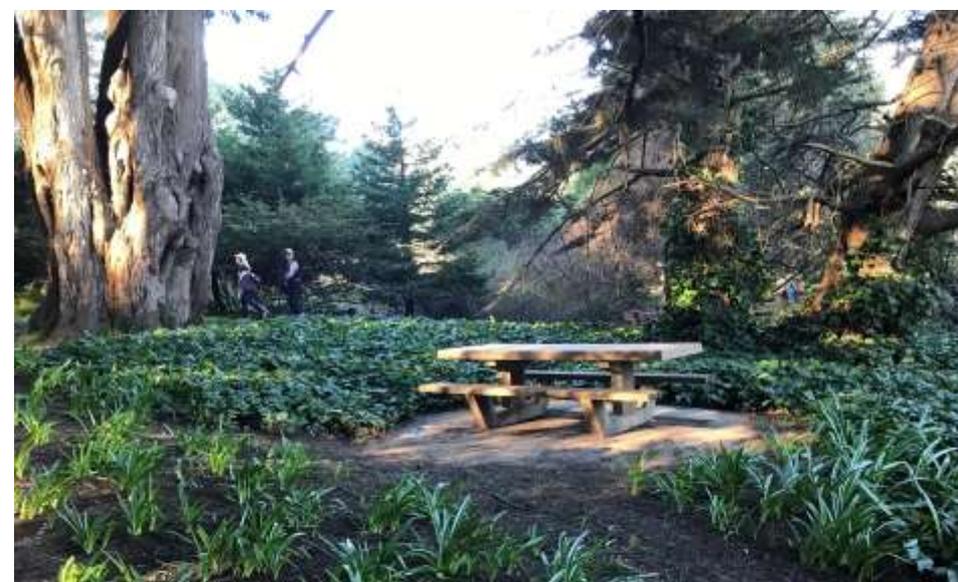
W

REPLACE ASPHALT TRAIL AND STEPS WITH SWEEPING MULTI-USE TRAIL



X

REMOVE EROSION SWITCHBACKS FROM GRASSLAND HILLSIDE



Y

REMOVE ASPHALT STEPS AND TRAILS AND IMPROVE CIRCULATION

# NEXT STEPS

Share presentation slides, Q&A, and notes

Solicit additional community feedback

Detailed survey of key areas

Refine conceptual design

Revise project cost estimate

Environmental review

Present final conceptual design to Recreation and Parks Commission (target summer 2020)

# PROJECT CONTACT

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[Lauren.Chavez@sfgov.org](mailto:Lauren.Chavez@sfgov.org)

415-581-2551

## THANK YOU!

*“...unspoiled alpine joy in the city.”*

- John McLaren, 1927