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
TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Lauren Chavez – *Project Manager* – 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 $8,500,000 from 2012 Bond

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- John McLaren, 1927
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
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
Trail width standards:
3’ minimum for pedestrian trails
5’ minimum for multi-use trails
PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

From the 2017 McLaren Park Vision Plan
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESS BEGAN IN 2019

- November 16th trail walk of Visitacion Avenue
- March 7th trail walk through three priority areas
- Survey follow up from March 7th 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
PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

From the 2017 McLaren Park Vision Plan
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

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
NEW TRAIL SEGMENT LOOKING TOWARDS HAHN
BUCKEYE TREES AT FUTURE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
PINCH POINT AT PUC RAIN GARDEN, NEAR COMMUNITY GARDEN
EXISTING FOOTPATH NEAR RAYMOND, LOOKING SOUTH
SLOPED HILLSIDE WITH SOME NATIVE GRASSES AND TREES
EXISTING DIRT PATHWAY IN GOOD CONDITION TO REMAIN
TRAILHEAD AT VISITACION VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL TBD
- 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
ADD CROSSWALK STRIPING AND CURB CUT AT SHELLEY
NEW STABILIZED NATURAL SURFACING TRAIL FROM CROSSWALK TO LOT
NEW CURB RAMP AND ADA RESTIPING AT PARKING LOT
REPAIR EXISTING ASPHALT PATH WEST OF THE RESERVOIR FOR ACCESSIBILITY
REMOVE ASPHALT AND CONCRETE DITCH, ADD SWALES AND NATIVE PLANTING
REPLACE BOX STEPS AND ASPHALT WITH STABILIZED NATURAL SURFACE
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
Formalize sustainable trail

Shape overlook at Sidalcea slope

Reinforce VoCal trail and connect to 1st and Main

Formalize new trail to top of hill

Consolidate trails and enhance scrub habitat

Consolidate trails above Grey Fox Creek riparian zone

Formalize trail through cypress eucalyptus; remove trails across and adjacent to creek; establish a new overlook at riparian zone

Repair and slightly reroute access road to mitigate erosion and improve accessibility

Consolidate trails to improve connection between 1st and Main and Group Picnic Area
(M) Formalize sustainable trail

(N) Shape overlook at Sidalcea slope

(O) Reinforce VoCal trail and connect to 1st 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 1st and Main and Group Picnic Area
FORMALIZE SUSTAINABLE TRAIL AND DECOMMISSION OTHERS
CONSOLIDATE TRAILS AND ENHANCE HABITAT IN CORE
CONSOLIDATE GRASSLAND TRAILS TO EXPAND HABITAT
CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE AMPHITHEATER
CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE RIPARIAN ZONE
CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE RIPARIAN ZONE
REMOVE TRAIL THROUGH GREY FOX CREEK AND ENHANCE RIPARIAN HABITAT
REMOVE TRAILS ADJACENT TO GREY FOX CREEK
CREATE AN OVERLOOK AT RIPARIAN AREA, TOWARDS AMPHITHEATER
CREATE NEW TRAIL THROUGH THE CYPRESS AND EUCALYPTUS
IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND REDUCE EROSION
MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EROSION AND REPAIR ACCESS ROAD
CONSOLIDATE TRAILS BETWEEN 1ST AND MAIN AND GROUP PICNIC AREA
LOUIS SUTTER + MANSELL 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

(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).
REPLACE ASPHALT TRAIL AND STEPS WITH SWEEPING MULTI-USE TRAIL
REPLACE ASPHALT TRAIL AND STEPS WITH SWEEPING MULTI-USE TRAIL
REMOVE EROSIVE SWITCHBACKS FROM GRASSLAND HILLSIDE
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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THANK YOU!

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