

STEVENS CREEK TRAIL

Heatherstone Way in Mountain View to Homestead Road in Sunnyvale



**BAY AREA TRAILS
COLLABORATIVE**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Stevens Creek Trail project will ultimately establish a low-stress pedestrian and bicycling connection on the southern end of the San Francisco Peninsula between the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail in Santa Clara County. When complete, the 27-mile route will pass through four cities—Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos and Cupertino—and more than a dozen neighborhoods before snaking up into the Palo Alto hills along its namesake creek. More than 40,000 residents and 30,000 employees are within walking distance of the corridor.

Stevens Creek runs through the property lines of four schools and less than a mile from 14 additional schools, providing hands-on environmental education and stewardship opportunities—as well as a safe, healthy and car-free commute option—for students and the community at-large. The route is also located mere blocks from local businesses, parks and open space.

The Stevens Creek Trail currently exists in three segments: a 5-mile stretch from Shoreline Park on the San Francisco Bay to Heatherstone Way in Mountain View, a 1-mile stretch from Stevens Creek Boulevard to McClellan Road near Downtown Cupertino, and a 10-mile hiking and mountain biking segment connecting Stevens Creek Reservoir to the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Uniform signage was installed on all existing sections of the trail in 2022–2023, tying them together as parts of the whole vision.

There is a 4.1-mile gap between the trail's existing urban segments, of which 2.6 miles were analyzed in a 2015 feasibility study. Since the release of the study, the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale have partnered on developing design plans. Mountain View is focusing on the 0.8 mile of trail continuing from Heatherstone Way to Mountain View High School and Remington Drive in Sunnyvale. Sunnyvale is working on the further 0.8-mile trail connection between Remington Drive and Fremont Avenue. Future plans include developing a 1-mile segment between Fremont Avenue and Homestead Road.

The Stevens Creek Trail is one of 12 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,600-mile regional trail network. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails to Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model regional trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.



Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View | Joe LaCroix

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Connections to Nature: The creekside trail will provide access to hundreds of acres of open space, from tidal marshlands to riparian habitat and redwood forest, establishing a direct connection between the dense urban landscape of the South Bay and the verdant terrain of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Safe Routes to Schools, Jobs and Transit: The Stevens Creek Trail provides residents with safe connections to key destinations throughout the region. By offering low-stress pedestrian and bicycle access between residential areas, schools, employment hubs and Downtown Mountain View's Caltrain and VTA light rail stations, the corridor plays a significant role in reducing local carbon emissions. The route, which links Shoreline Business Park, Downtown Cupertino and other trail-adjacent businesses, offers car-free job access to 30,000+ employees.

Protecting Native Wildlife: Stevens Creek is home to a host of native fauna that also use it as a safe path of travel between feeding areas. Existing trail plans are focused on restoring and preserving the creek's natural environment, including planting native vegetation to protect existing habitats and providing local wildlife with additional sources of food and shelter. A project was recently completed that removed barriers for juvenile steelhead trout traveling downstream from upper Stevens Creek to the Bay.

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PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Complete design of 0.8-mile extension in Mountain View between Heatherstone Way and Mountain View High School and Remington Drive.
- Complete the design of a 0.8-mile section in Sunnyvale between Remington Drive and Fremont Avenue.
- Secure funding for the development of a 0.8-mile section in Mountain View between Heatherstone Way and Mountain View High School and Remington Drive.
- Secure funding for the development of a 0.8-mile section in Sunnyvale between Remington Drive and Fremont Avenue.
- Conduct a traffic study to advance the development of a 1-mile Class I bikeway in Sunnyvale along Bernardo Avenue between Fremont Avenue and Homestead Road.
- Establish a multijurisdictional wayfinding signage plan for the entire trail.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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