




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	March 7, 2025
TITLE	Trail Projects Overview and Workplan
DIVISION	Acquisition, Stewardship, and Development
FROM	Brian Holt, Division Lead of Planning, Trails & GIS Ken Wysocki, Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Development
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

INTRODUCTION

Development, maintenance, and management of the East Bay Regional Park District's (Park District) trail system requires effort from multiple departments and divisions. The Park District operates roughly 1,330 miles of paved multi-use regional trails, natural surface roads, and natural surface trails within its two-county district. During this 2025 Trails Board Study Session, staff will discuss Park District goals in the development, maintenance, and management of trails; recently completed projects; this year's workplan; and future areas of focus and consideration.

The following report highlights the majority of active trail projects led by the Trails Program and Small Trails Crew units. There are 24 projects included (listed in no particular order) in various stages of development. Of these 24 projects, 14 are managed by the Trails Program unit and 10 are managed by the Small Trails Crew. Additional trail related projects, led by others throughout the Park District, will be discussed during the Board Study Session presentation.

BACKGROUND

Trails Program

The Trails Program focuses on the development and expansion of newly paved and unpaved trails from the design concept and feasibility/planning studies to construction. Trail development may be included in the initial planning process for a park or may occur as a stand-alone project within an existing park or public right of way (ROW). As a project progresses, steps include acquisition of the appropriate regulatory permits, identifying appropriate mitigation, additional studies and refinements required by those permits, final design and bidding, and the final construction phase that may include contracted labor or the appropriate Park District personnel and equipment to construct the trail. This is completed through a mix of Park District staff, Small Trails Crew, Conservation Corps crews or qualified contractors, depending on project complexity and staff capacity.

Small Trails Crew

The Small Trails Crew at the Park District is responsible for maintaining, repairing, and improving the district's extensive trail network. This specialized team focuses on tasks such as clearing overgrown vegetation, repairing erosion damage, building and maintaining trail structures like steps, retaining walls, bridges, and drainage systems, and ensuring trail surfaces are safe and accessible for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The Small Trails Crew also supports the Trails Program on new trail construction projects and volunteer projects as capacity allows.

TRAIL PROJECTS COMPLETED

I. Pleasanton Ridge: Valle Vista Trail

The Valle Vista Trail (formerly the Mariposa Trail) was completed in summer of 2024 by Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship through an on-call services agreement. With the completion of this trail and the Tyler Ranch Trail (2022), approximately 2.38 miles out of the 5 miles of permitted trail have been constructed. The Philip Scholz Trail is scheduled to begin construction in summer/fall of 2025. Following the completion of the Philip Scholz Trail, the Tehan Canyon Trail is the significant trail remaining under this permit package. Design of the Tehan Canyon Trail will be finalized in 2025.



Valle Vista Trail 2024

2. Sibley / McCosker: Pacific Pea Trail

The Pacific Pea Trail was constructed in 2024 by the Small Trails Crew. This trail connects the McCosker property to Huckleberry Preserve and totals approximately 0.4 mile. This trail travels mostly through oak-bay woodlands and allows trail users an alternative route to the narrow and dangerous Pinehurst Road to connect these two parks.



Pacific Pea Trail

3. Cull Canyon: Chabot to Garin Trail Improvements

The Small Trails Crew re-graded and out-sloped approximately 1-mile of the Garin to Chabot Trail. The project consisted of three different interlocking retaining wall structures and installation of 48 lifts of geocell to repair winter slide damage.



Chabot to Garin Trail Improvements

4. Tilden Nature Area: 24ft Trail Bridge

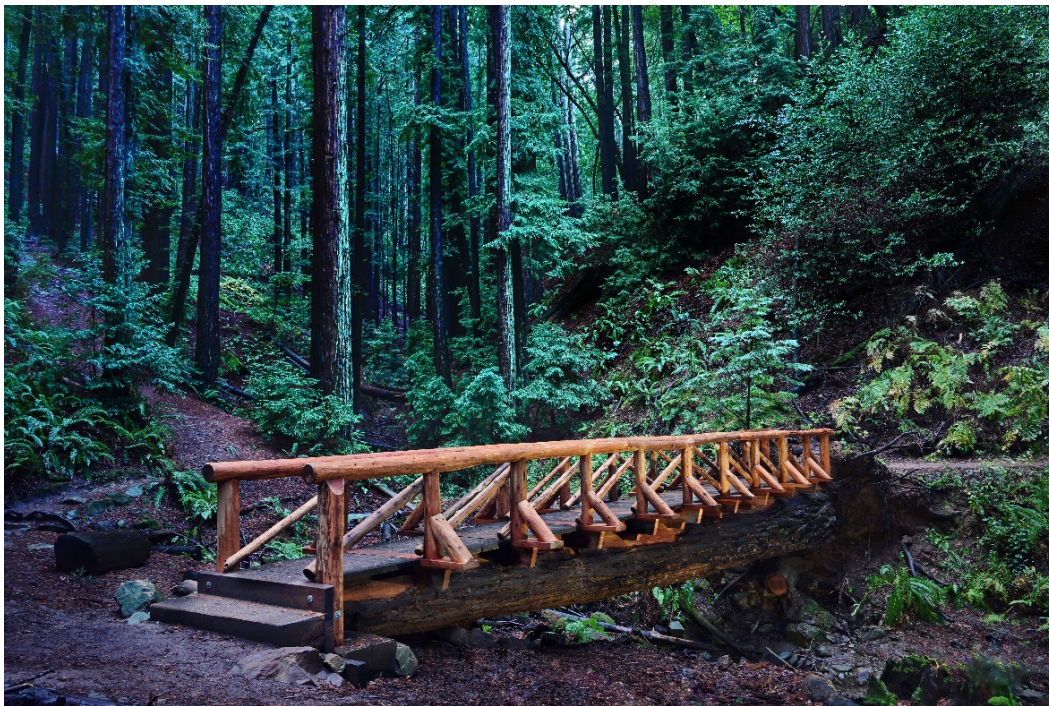
The Small Trails Crew, with support from Tilden staff, removed a failed 18-foot bridge from the stream channel along the Sylvan / Jewel Lake Trail and replaced it with a new 24-foot milled redwood stringer bridge.

5. Tilden Park: Memory Trail 24ft Trail Bridge

The Small Trails Crew re-graded and out-sloped approximately 0.22-mile of Memory Trail, removed defunct trail steps, and repaired major gullying erosion. With occasional help from the East Bay Civicorps, staff removed a failed 20-foot bridge from the stream channel and replaced it with a new 24-foot milled redwood stringer bridge.

6. Redwood Park: 55ft Redwood Log Bridge

The Small Trails Crew, East Bay Civicorps and additional Park staff stabilized, milled and modified a fallen 55-foot redwood log on the Tres Sendas Trail. They constructed a natural timber railing and decking to create a new, safe, elevated crossing of the creek at the trail junction of Tres Sendas, French and Stream Trail.



Tres Sendas Redwood Log Bridge

TRAIL PROJECTS IN CONSTRUCTION

7. San Francisco Bay Trail: Pt. Molate Phase I

The Park District plans to advertise this project for bid in March 2025 and begin construction (pending bid results) in spring 2025. A “value engineering” review was completed, and the new bid package has been prepared with some minor changes to reduce cost.

Grant funds have been secured from the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant program administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); the California Natural Resources Agency’s Trails and Greenways Prop 68 grant program; and the California State Department of Parks and Recreation’s (State Parks) Recreational Trail Program (RTP). The project needs to be completed by December 2026 – before grant funds expire. The previous lowest responsible bid identified for the project as advertised in 2024 was roughly \$10.5 million. The City of Richmond applied for RM3 Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Cycle I funds with support of the Park District in late 2024. The project ranked 34th out of 51 projects and was not awarded funding. The Park District’s recent application for Measure AA funds from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority was also not recommended for funding.

8. Pleasanton Ridge: Philip Scholz Trail

The 2.25-mile Philip Scholz Trail is scheduled for construction in the summer/fall of 2025 under contract with Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship (SCMTS). In 2024, SCMTS proved their skill with completion of the Valle Vista Trail. This project is also the proposed alignment of the Calaveras Ridge Trail and is proposed to be funded partially through Calaveras Ridge Trail Measure WW funds and by a donation from the Philip Scholz Foundation.



Proposed route of the Philip Scholz Trail

9. Bay Area Ridge Trail: Llama Lane Connector

Settlement of a complex easement dispute resulted in the Park District acquiring a 15-foot-wide trail easement that provides access to the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Five Canyons Parkway near Garin Regional Park. The Park District received \$1 million through a settlement agreement to partially fund trail construction of this 0.3-mile segment that is scheduled for construction in 2025. Costs for final design and construction are estimated at \$1.5 million.

10. Sibley / McCosker: Coyote Brush / Restore Ridge Trail

The Coyote Brush Trail is the second of two new trails being constructed that improves connectivity between Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve and Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve. This trail is a 0.76-mile reroute of a steep and eroding segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail/Skyline Trail. This new route meanders through a eucalyptus forest, grasslands, and oak-bay woodlands as it connects the valley floor to the ridge. Initial trail corridor clearing for this project is scheduled for fall 2025, with trail construction to follow in 2026.

The existing 0.59-mile-long segment of the Ridge Trail to be closed will be restored and naturalized to address erosion and promote re-vegetation. This work is planned to be conducted in the next two years following the completion of the Coyote Brush Trail. These projects were included in the permit package for the Alder Creek / Leatherwood Creek Restoration project completed in 2023.

11. Martinez Radke Shoreline: Steel Stringer Bridge Replacement

The Small Trails Crew, in coordination with East Bay Civicorps, plans to replace the 30-foot steel bridge on the Duck Pond Trail during the summer of 2025 under the Park District's routine maintenance permit.

12. Anthony Chabot: Bird Trail 2 x 24 ft Trail Bridge Replacements

The Small Trails Crew, in coordination with East Bay Civicorps, plans to replace two small trail bridges on the Bird Trail near Redwood Road that has exceeded its lifespan and failed during winter storm damage.

13. Redwood Park: Golden Spike Trail Stabilization

The Small Trails Crew plans to replace the retaining wall on the Golden Spike Trail that is undersized and was built with inferior materials. The structure is failing due to drainage scouring and will be redesigned and replaced with more suitable materials.

14. Wildcat Canyon: 2 x Trail Bridge Replacements

The Small Trails Crew, in coordination with East Bay Civicorps, plans to replace two small trail bridges that are undersized on the Laurel Canyon Trail that washed out during storm events.

15. Pleasanton Ridge: Woodland Trail Stabilization

The Small Trails Crew will re-grade and out-slope 0.87-mile of the Woodland Trail. Several switchbacks will be restabilized and reconfigured to discourage off-trail use.

TRAIL PROJECTS BEING DESIGNED OR PERMITTED

16. Bay Area Ridge Trail: Garin to Vallejo Mill Park

Staff is securing final regulatory permits for construction of the trail and drainage improvements along this 5-mile extension of the Ridge Trail. In 2023, the Park District received approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the at-grade crossing of the Niles Canyon Railway (NCR), owned by Alameda County and operated by the Pacific Locomotive Association (PLA). As mitigation, the CPUC requires installation of pedestrian safety features to the Killcare Road at-grade crossing in Sunol. The Park District is finalizing design of the new crossing and pedestrian safety mitigation elements of the Killcare Road at-grade crossing. The new at-grade railroad crossing is scheduled to be advertised for construction in summer of 2025. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.8 million, which exceeds the existing budget. Annual maintenance and inspection contract funds will be required to safely operate the new signal.

17. San Francisco Bay Trail: Nejedly Staging Area to Berrellesa Street – Martinez

In 2024, the Park District filed an amendment to the 2003 CEQA MND and received preliminary approval for design of the SF Bay Trail: Nejedly Staging Area to Berrellesa Street and at-grade crossing. Federal grant funding has been awarded to this project through the California State Recreational Trails Program in the amount of \$917,784 and funds from the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program in the amount of \$925,000. These grant sources require additional documentation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planned to be completed in early 2025.

The Park District has entered into a cooperative funding agreement with CCTA to implement the Martinez Bay Trail Project. The Park District will complete CEQA/NEPA and receive 35% design approval from UPRR prior to handing off the project to CCTA to finalize design and construct in 2026, at the earliest. The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$4.5 million.



SF Bay Trail: Nejedly to Berrellesa Street looking east

18. Calaveras Ridge Trail: Olympic Boulevard to Rohrer Drive

The Park District is working with the City of Lafayette (City) to extend the Calaveras Ridge Trail along Burton Ridge from Olympic Boulevard to Rohrer Drive. The City and the Park District are finalizing agreements for the necessary right-of-way (ROW) to construct the trail. The Initial Study MND was released for public review in January 2025, with anticipated adoption of the CEQA document in spring 2025. The Park District is planning to begin construction of the trail in 2026.



View looking east from the Calaveras Ridge Trail: Burton Ridge

19. Iron Horse Trail: Marsh Drive to Imhoff Drive

The replacement of the Marsh Drive bridge over the Walnut Creek channel in Concord was funded by Caltrans through the Highway Bridge Program and included an extension of the Iron Horse Trail (IHT). Caltrans requires that construction of a northern IHT extension begin within five years of project completion. BKF Engineers is currently under contract to complete design plans for the trail extension from the Marsh Drive bridge to Imhoff Drive. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027.

There are just over \$1.6 million in remediation funds in the Iron Horse Trail / Tosco – Walnut Creek channel project that will fully fund trail design and only a portion of the construction costs. Park District staff are also working with property owners north of this project to secure easements for the future extension north from Imhoff Drive to Waterbird Regional Preserve.



Proposed Iron Horse Trail: Marsh Drive to Imhoff Drive

TRAIL PROJECTS IN PRELIMINARY DESIGN

20. San Francisco Bay Trail: Point Pinole to Wilson Point

Preliminary engineering and design for this 0.9-mile gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail from Point Pinole to Wilson Point is underway. A portion of the trail to the east will be in the outer portion 15 feet of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) corridor, as included in the 2016 amended and restated Memorandum of Understanding between the Park District and UPRR. The project team is coordinating design review with the UPRR and has identified all utilities in the project corridor. Portions of the trail to the west will be within a 50-foot trail easement dedicated to the Park District from Pinole Point Properties. Additional ROW will be required and is currently being negotiated with Contra Costa County. It is anticipated that the CEQA document for this project will be ready for review in spring 2025.

This project was awarded \$500,000 from the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC). This funding is anticipated to be used for final design but will likely not cover final design entirely. Preliminary construction cost estimates for this project are approximately \$10.6 million. The Park District's application for CA Active Transportation Program Cycle 7 funding was unsuccessful and scored very poorly. Funding for construction of this segment has not been secured.



SF Bay Trail: Point Pinole to Wilson Point

21. Garin to Pleasanton Ridge Trail – Chouinard-Owen Public Access

This is a proposed 0.35-mile natural surface trail that connects Garin Regional Park and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The acquisition of the Chouinard Winery property provides the opportunity to develop a staging area and design a trail and safe crossing of Palomares Road. The Park District has hired GHD to prepare the CEQA document for the Public Access Project and provide design plans. The CEQA document may be ready for public review in March or April of 2025.

Planning staff presented the preferred design to the Board Executive Committee in November 2024, based on internal staff analysis, review of the feasibility and technical studies, and public input. The project is planned to go to the Board for project approval in the late spring or summer of 2025.



Garin to Pleasanton Ridge Trail corridor looking east

22. Wildcat Canyon: Wildcat Flow Trail

In 2021, the Park District was approached by the Northern California chapter of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), trail advocates who support the development of a new bike optimized flow trail within Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. The Trails Program unit worked with Stewardship staff to identify a feasible trail corridor within Wildcat Canyon that seeks to have minimal impact to biological and cultural resources.

Nomad Ecology conducted a jurisdictional wetland delineation, a special-status plant survey, vegetation mapping, and prepared a biological resources assessment to identify avoidance and mitigation measures. The studies completed to date have concluded there are no jurisdictional wetlands within the corridor, and that the small amount of Sensitive Natural Communities within the study corridor can be avoided through design. Preconstruction surveys and biomonitoring measures will alleviate any potential impacts to wildlife species that may be present during trail construction (e.g., bumble bees, California red-legged frog, Alameda whipsnake, nesting birds, etc.).

A draft Initial Study was completed in 2024 by Ascent Environmental. Due to the amount of public interest in this project, the Park District will prepare the appropriate CEQA document that adequately discloses potential project impacts and allows for a robust level of public engagement.

23. Tassajara Creek Trail: Tassajara Creek Staging to Windemere Parkway

The Park District has successfully negotiated with the US Army to revise easements for two segments of trail totaling about 1 mile through the Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (Camp Parks) in the City of Dublin. Completion of the Camp Parks segment would create a 4-mile continuous stretch of the Tassajara Creek Trail that connects residents from Dublin and San Ramon to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART and the Iron Horse Trail. The Army approved the Park District's proposal and preliminary design of the trail alignment. The Trails Program unit will continue to work with Land Acquisition department to ensure the Army continues to draft the easements that will optimistically be dedicated and recorded in 2025. Approximately \$150,000 has been appropriated for design and environmental studies. The total project cost estimates are approximately \$2.1 million.

24. Sunol Regional Wilderness: Alameda Creek Overlook Pavilion

The Small Trails Crew in collaboration with Stewardship, Design & Construction and Operations staff is designing a solution to the public encroachment issues at the Alameda Creek Overlook (formerly referred to as "Little Yosemite"). In Sunol Regional Wilderness, along Geary Road, the public has created several bootleg paths down into the waterfall areas of Alameda Creek. Public interest in this area is at odds with Park District priorities of preserving habitat for listed species such as the Red Legged Frog. In the interest of balancing conservation with public recreation, the Small Trails Crew is designing a pavilion area at Geary Road above the rockfalls where the public can view the site and view several informational panels, relax on mortared rock walls and benches, while being prevented from entering the creek at this location. The project is in the initial design phase and will require additional funding for materials and interpretive panels, as well additional staff efforts to educate the public during implementation.