



NOVEMBER 2022

# Walking Routes, Trails, and Publicly Accessible Open Space

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

## Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	3
<b>Overview</b>	4
<b>Section 1: Published walking loops</b>	7
Initial suggested walks	7
Oak Avenue/Church Walk	7
Main Street Stroll	10
Napa River Walk	12
West Side Neighborhoods Walk	15
Additional walk ideas	17
Activities needed to bring published routes to fruition	18
 <b>Section 2: Existing opportunities for walking paths and trails</b>	 20
Current General Plan and Pedestrian Plan existing pedestrian paths	20
Napa River Walk Loop ( <i>more study by city</i> )	22
Adams-Pine Pathway	24
City-owned walking opportunities	26
Lower Reservoir Trail	26
Wappo Loop	27
Bridge View Spur	29
York Creek Trail	31
Valley Floor Walk	32
Bell Canyon Upper and Lower Trails	34
City-owned easement walking opportunities	37
Sulphur Creek Dry Crossing	37
North Crane Sulphur Creek Path ( <i>more study by city</i> )	38
Activities needed to expand or open these walking paths	40
 <b>Section 3: Voluntary open space easements or access</b>	 44
Activities needed to bring voluntary pedestrian access or easements	45
 <b>Section 4: Development agreement</b>	 48
Activities needed to bring development agreement to fruition	49

<b>Section 5: Implementation framework</b>	<b>51</b>
Results and costs by year	51
Elements of capital improvements and expenses	52
 <b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A: Updates needed to the General Plan’s Pedestrian Map	56
Appendix B: Plastic and metal detritus within the catchment basin	65
Appendix C: Sample trail easement and access legal agreements	66
Appendix D: Easement agreement between City of St. Helena and 899 Adams St.	71
Appendix E: Resources	79
San Francisco’s Crosstown Trail	79
Walnut Creek signs and maps	79
Lake Hennessey regulation signs, other signs, and maps	81
Stanford Dish regulation sign and map	84
Legal issues associated with trails	85
San Jose, California trails	86
Working with landowners	87
Bear Yuba Land Trust	87
California Recreational Use Trail Immunity Laws	87
Placer Land Trust trails	87
Summit County, Colorado trail example easement and access agreement	87
Lexington, Kentucky Town Branch Trail Master Plan	88
Pitkin County Open Space Management Plan	90
Boulder, Colorado trails	90
Hudson River Greenway trails and open space	90
Galiano Trails	93
City of Morgan Hill Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan	90
Solano Land Trust Trail Crew Day	90
Garland Ranch Regional Park trails	91

## Executive Summary

In this report, the Parks & Recreation Commission's Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walking Routes, Trails, and Publicly Accessible Open Space presents its findings and recommendations to help the City of St. Helena become a world-class rural walking town.

The report provides the sequence of steps, budget, timeline, and suggested staff and community resources over an anticipated four-year period. The aim is to protect existing walking paths, expand walking opportunities today, and create ways to enhance this legacy in the future. The key components of the report are:

(1) A proposed set of ***published walking loops & trails*** which will require minimal planning and development activities. These could be accomplished in Q1 to Q3 of 2022-23, and ready for a celebratory "Opening Day" on April 22 (Earth Day), 2023.

(2) A number of ***existing opportunities for walking paths and trails***. These include already identified and existing pedestrian paths in the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan, city-owned walking opportunity properties, and city-owned easements that could be converted to walking opportunities. Signage and fairly minimal restoration work are identified as well as a timeline for the work running through Q3 of 2026. New trail openings could be celebrated on Earth Day in April of each year for the next 4 years.

(3) A ***plan for voluntary open space easements or access***, to allow open space lands to remain open for those property owners who volunteer to allow access—creating a win-win for property owners and walkers. It is expected that a demonstration route could be completed within year 1 in time for spring 2023.

(4) A model for ***development agreements***, in which new projects contribute to St. Helena's network of walking trails as part of their permit approval process. These agreements to include walking trails have a long history in this town and should be codified as part of the city's negotiation posture. Updates to the city's permitting process could be complete mid-way through FY 2023-24.

Low- to no- cost opportunities (of which there are many) will be taken on first. Undertakings requiring more meaningful funding are presented as potential, but optional, opportunities for the future. Taken together, the work represents a modest investment with large scale benefit. There will also be some private participation in certain items, such as benches. City staff will oversee the activities in partnership with subcommittee members, other residents, Parks and Recreation committee members and other interested parties from the community.

This report is the result of over 2.5 years of work by local volunteers under the auspices of the Parks & Recreation Commission and helps lay the groundwork for a significant community amenity that will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors

## Overview

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walking Routes, Trails, and Publicly Accessible Open Space was created by the Parks & Recreation Commission in early 2019. Its mission is to develop a comprehensive and clearly articulated framework for the City of St. Helena to deliver the walking, access, passive recreation, and connectivity goals contained within the 2019 General Plan and the 2017 Pedestrian Plan.

The city can be a center for walking and passive recreation, creating a year-round amenity for those who live, work, and visit our lovely town. As we have seen during the pandemic, we are a walking and walkable rural town—and not just by those needing to get in their steps. By adding the specific elements within this plan, we believe the city can further take advantage of existing but currently unavailable pathways and our spectacular setting and abundant rural charm, providing an additional world-class amenity beyond our wines, wineries, food, and hospitality.

Adopting all the elements of this plan—protecting existing walking paths, expanding walking opportunities today, and creating ways to enhance this legacy in the future—will improve the quality of life for full-time residents, will attract new visitors, and will encourage existing visitors to spend additional time in town, which will also further help our downtown to remain a lively and active place and help our merchants.

The goal of this report is to preserve, develop and open walking paths. Walking paths, as compared with multi-modal trails, are attractive for several reasons: they can be used more safely by older walkers and younger children, who may not mix well with fast-moving bicycle traffic; they have less impact on the surrounding environment and on neighbors and neighborhoods; and they are cheaper and easier to develop, build and maintain. At the same time, multimodal and bicycle paths are an important part of transportation and recreation in this town, and the existing Napa River Walk included in this report is in fact a multimodal trail.

**The city should adopt these policies under the banner of “St. Helena Trails and Open Space” as other cities do, to allow for a unified name and branding.**

This report contains 5 sections and an appendix:

**1. Published walking loops and trails**

**Page 7**

Mapped and signed walking paths of various lengths which start and finish at the chamber headquarters downtown, to take advantage of existing historic, open space, church and residential walks for visitors.

**2. Existing opportunities for walking paths and trails**

**Page 20**

A set of no- to low-cost improvements to be made to the City of St. Helena's existing pedestrian paths as shown in the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan, as well as opening up existing trails on city-owned property to enhance the walking experience for residents and guests. Some require additional work with other stakeholders before adoption.

**3. Voluntary open space access or easements**

**Page 44**

Agreements the city can use with property owners who voluntarily welcome pedestrians to specific pathways on their property in exchange for liability coverage, allowing an expansion of walking opportunities in St. Helena.

**4. Development agreements**

**Page 48**

These are agreements the city can use to encourage walking access and dedicated easements in larger developments in town. It is expected that most times these follow existing walking routes that have been used by residents for years when the land either lay fallow or was used for agricultural uses.

**5. Implementation Framework**

**Page 51**

Anticipated as a four year project, the plan provides the sequence of activities, budget, timeline, and suggested staff and community resources.

**6. Appendices**

**Page 56**

Maps, resources from other jurisdictions, and additional findings to help create a truly walkable town uncovered during our investigations.

Those that contributed to this report include:

- Committee members
  - Anne Cottrell, law
  - Michelle Deasy, non-profit management
  - Bob Frescura, retired landscaping
  - David Knudsen, data and technology
  - Richard Seiferheld, retired real-estate
  - Pam Smithers, retired accounting
  - Rebekah Weeman, marketing
- Staff
  - Mark Prestwich, City Manager
  - Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building Director
  - Andre Pichly, Parks & Recreation Director (former)
  - Mark Rincón-Ibarra, Public Works Director/City Engineer
  - John Wanger, Public Works/Engineering Consultant, Coastland
- Parks & Recreation Commission
  - Matthew Demchuk, Chair
  - Rebekah Weeman, Vice-chair
  - Michelle Deasy
  - Tye Taylor
  - Susan Kenward (former)

Thanks also to many members of the public with whom the subcommittee met, and who provided both insight and help, and gave advice and thoughts throughout this process, and with whom we've spent many hours walking together within our city's boundaries and beyond.

## Section 1: Published walking loops and trails

St. Helena Trails and Open Space published walking loops and trails will be mapped and signed walking routes, which start and finish at the Main Street and Hunt Avenue intersection, near the Chamber of Commerce's headquarters downtown. These routes will take advantage of historic, open space, church, and residential walks for visitors, similar to the signed bicycle routes through town. Maps will be available at City Hall and at the Chamber of Commerce, as well as on the web or on apps, and will promote additional activities for first-time and returning visitors to St. Helena.

Walks will be of a variety of distances and types. From a short 20 minute walk to longer loops, they will guide walkers to various parts of St. Helena, including our public parks, Historic St. Helena, open space and vineyard-adjacent walks and will point out specific sites. There should be a walk to appeal to each and every visitor. They will be governed by a set of rules and regulations similar to the city's current rules for Crane Park and other parks. This is consistent with what other municipalities do, including the City of Napa.

Note—these walks are not the complete list of walks shown in the General Plan or Pedestrian Plan—many of those are so-called 'secret walks,' connecting neighborhoods or dead-end streets, and are generally discoverable while walking or exploring by St. Helena residents and frequent visitors. Rather, these published walks are a jumping-off point for welcoming visitors and encouraging them to enjoy St. Helena's many amenities, including our parks, our businesses, our neighborhoods, and our agricultural setting.

Proposed amenities for each walk will be:

- Signage on route (coordinated with downtown streetscape or other related city signs such as historical markers, and with the same quality)
- Benches en route (recommended at least every mile)
- Complimentary paper map at the Chamber Commerce
- Maps on city and chamber websites

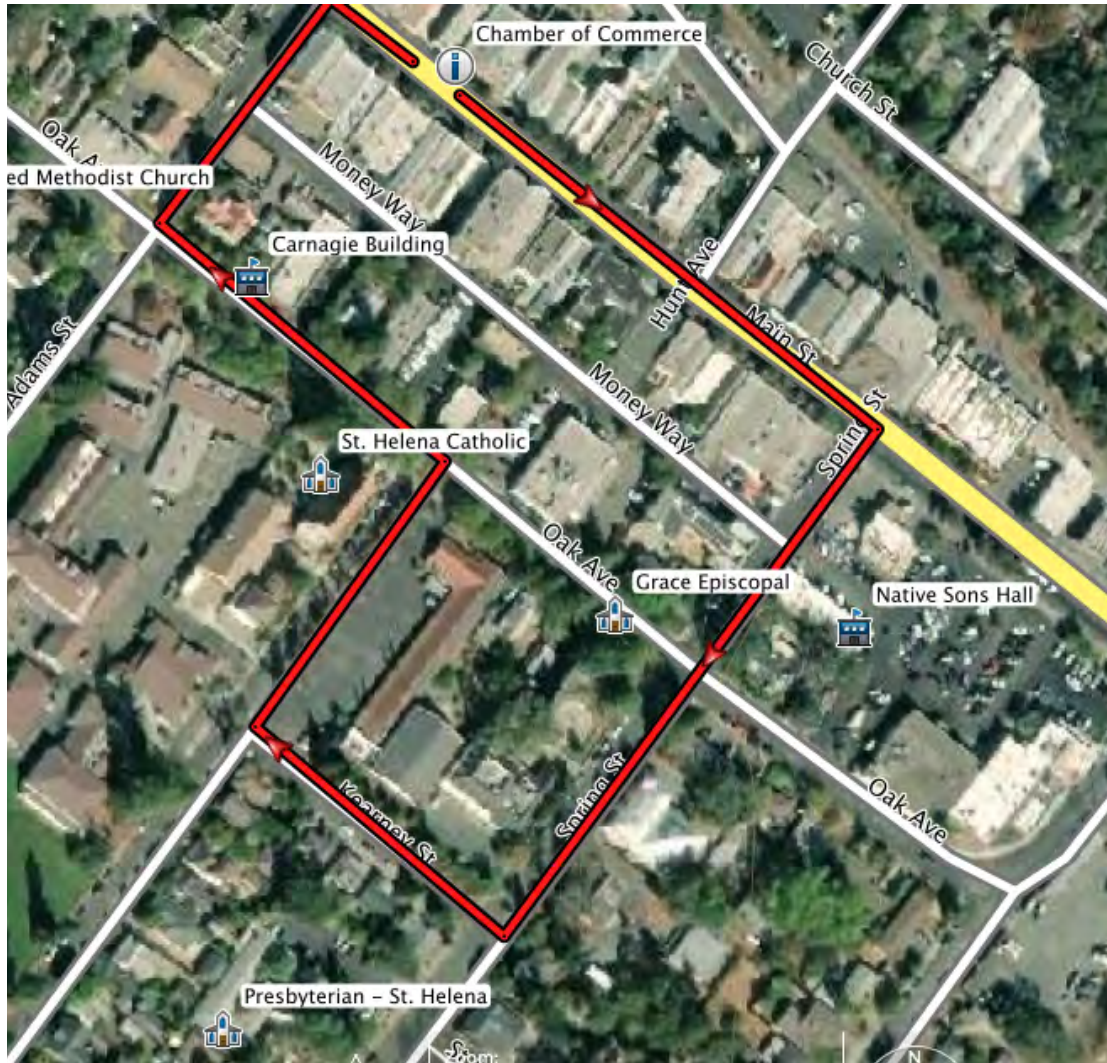
Additionally, these walks should also be promoted on hiking and walking sites and apps such as [www.alltrails.com](http://www.alltrails.com) and [www.trailforks.com](http://www.trailforks.com) to appeal to outdoor-minded visitors.

Initial walks suggested by the subcommittee with input from the Chamber include:

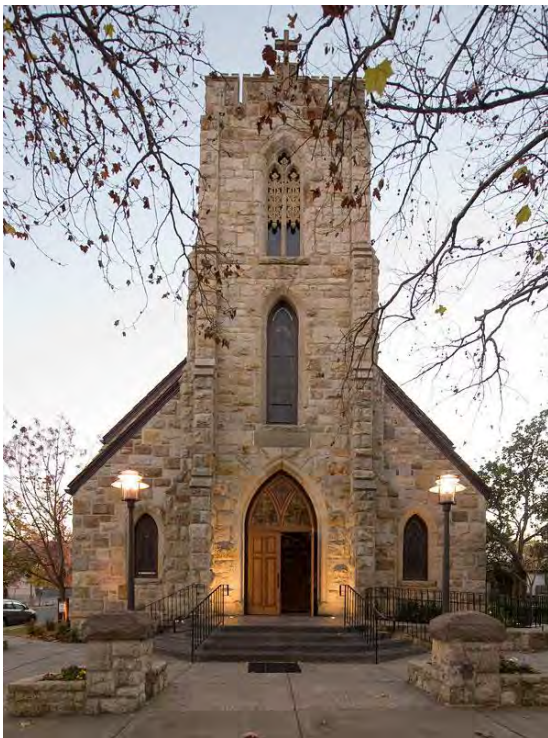
### 1. Oak Avenue/Church Walk

A short walk that brings the walker to many historic St. Helena churches, just off Main Street.





Oak Avenue/Church Walk



Total length: .6 miles

Time to complete: 20-30 minutes

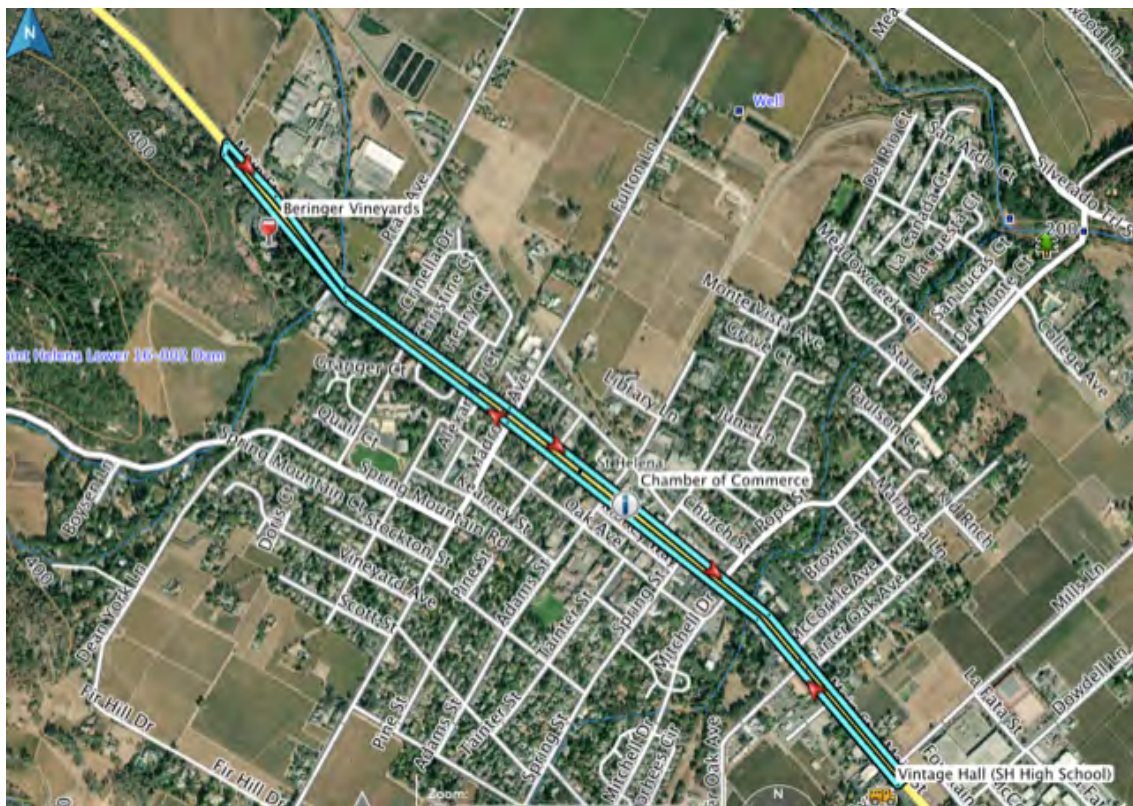


Notable waypoints:

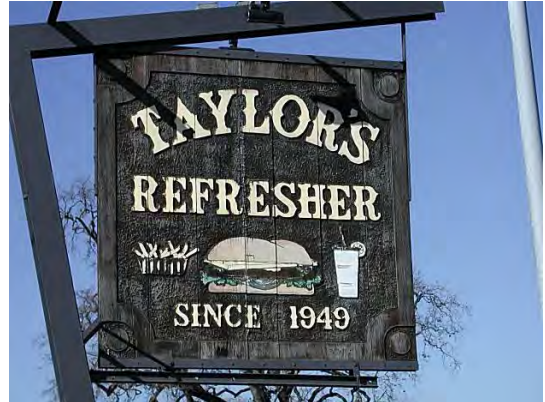
- United Methodist Church
- St. Helena Catholic Church
- Grace Episcopal Church and Labyrinth Walk
- Native Sons Hall
- Presbyterian Church-St. Helena
- Carnegie Building

## 2. Main Street Stroll

A walk amidst the historic stone, masonry, and stick-built structures that dot our Main Street, from Beringer Vineyards' iconic setting in the northern reaches of our town, to beautiful St. Helena High School's Vintage Hall which anchors the southern entrance to town.



Main Street Stroll



Total length: 3.0 miles roundtrip for both directions  
1.5 miles roundtrip for each wing

Time to complete: 2 hours round-trip for both direction  
1 hour for each wing

End-points:

- Beringer Vineyards (north)
- St. Helena High School's Vintage Hall (south)

Notable waypoints:

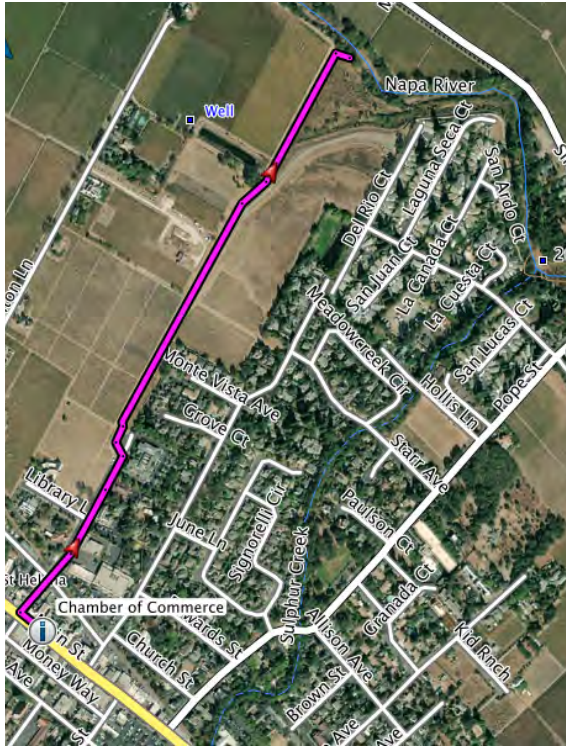
- Lyman Park
- The Star Building (Caldwell Snyder Gallery)
- The Sherry Building (Charter Oak)
- Taylor Refresher Sign (Gott's)
- Sulphur Creek Bridge
- York Creek Bridge

### **3. Napa River Walk**

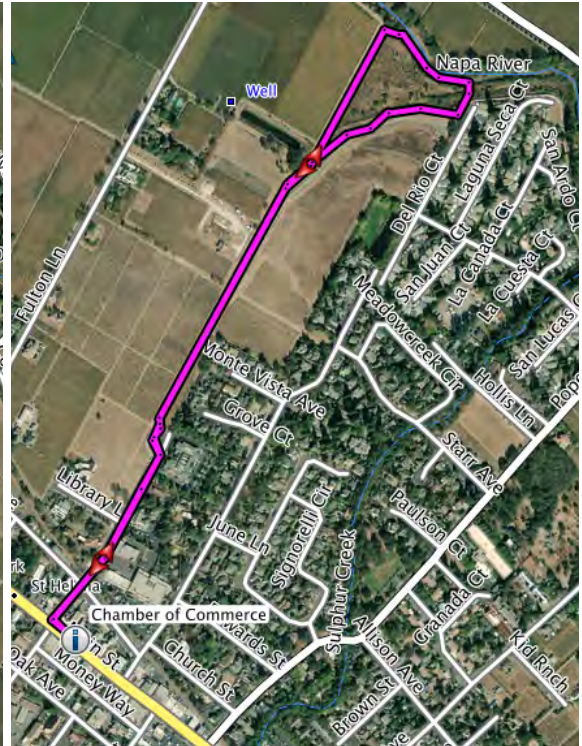
A walk along agricultural lands and open space vineyards from downtown to a Napa River overlook, also with a possible loop extension around the flood control project's overflow catchment basin and return along the top of the levee. The loop extension goes partially along a path on the top of the Napa River banks, detailed in the city's General Plans going back three decades, if not more.

The loop extension could be combined with a further loop through eastside neighborhoods and along Sulphur Creek. More details about this walk and desired improvements are included in Section 2 below.

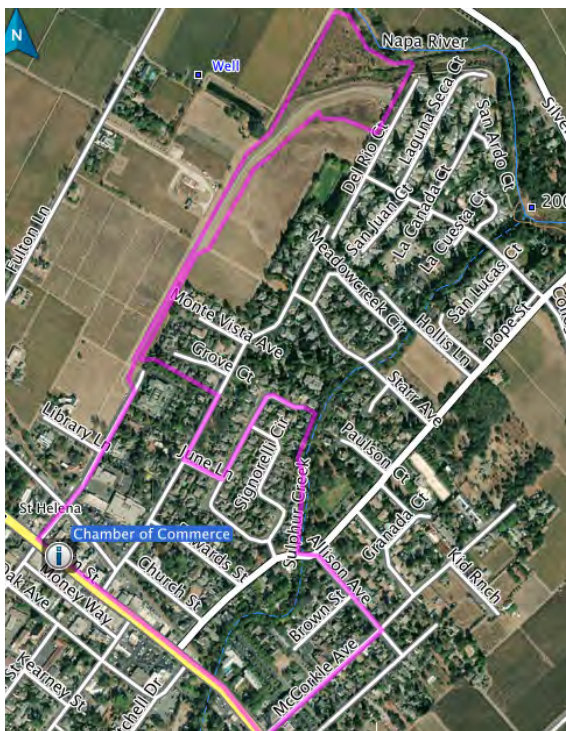




Napa River Walk (existing)

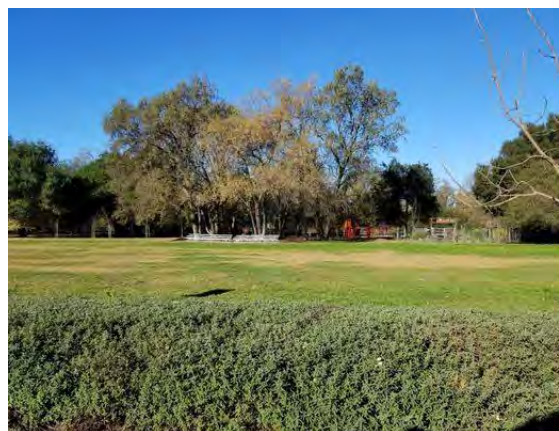


Napa River Walk (with levee return)



Napa River Walk (with levee return and eastside extension)





Total length:

- Out-and-back only: 2 mi round trip
- Including loop extension: 2.2 mi
- With eastside extension: 3 mi

Time to complete:

- Out-and-back only: 45 minutes total
- Including levee return: 1 hour round-trip
- With eastside extension: 1½ hours total

End-point: Napa River overlook

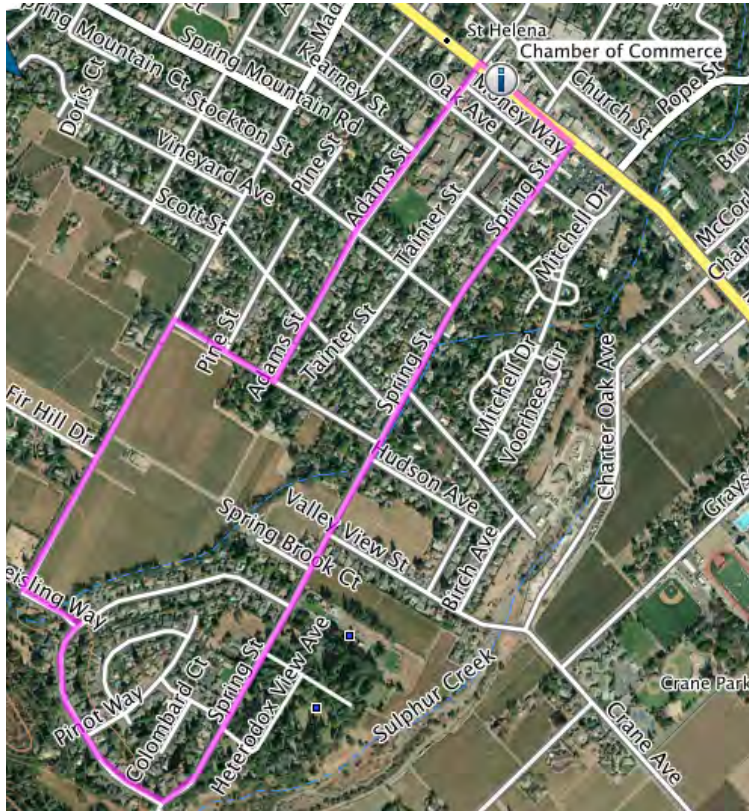
Notable waypoints:

- St. Helena Library
- Napa River overlook
- Napa River conservation catchment basin
- Napa River levee
- Sulphur Creek
- Jacob Meilly Park

- Sulphur Creek Bridge

#### 4. Westside Neighborhoods walk

A popular walk among local residents, this walk takes the stroller along historic Spring Street, out amongst residential neighborhoods, vineyards and open space and back into town.



Westside Neighborhoods Walk







Total length: 2.75 mi loop

Time to complete: 1.5 hours

End-point: Entry of Sulphur Creek Canyon

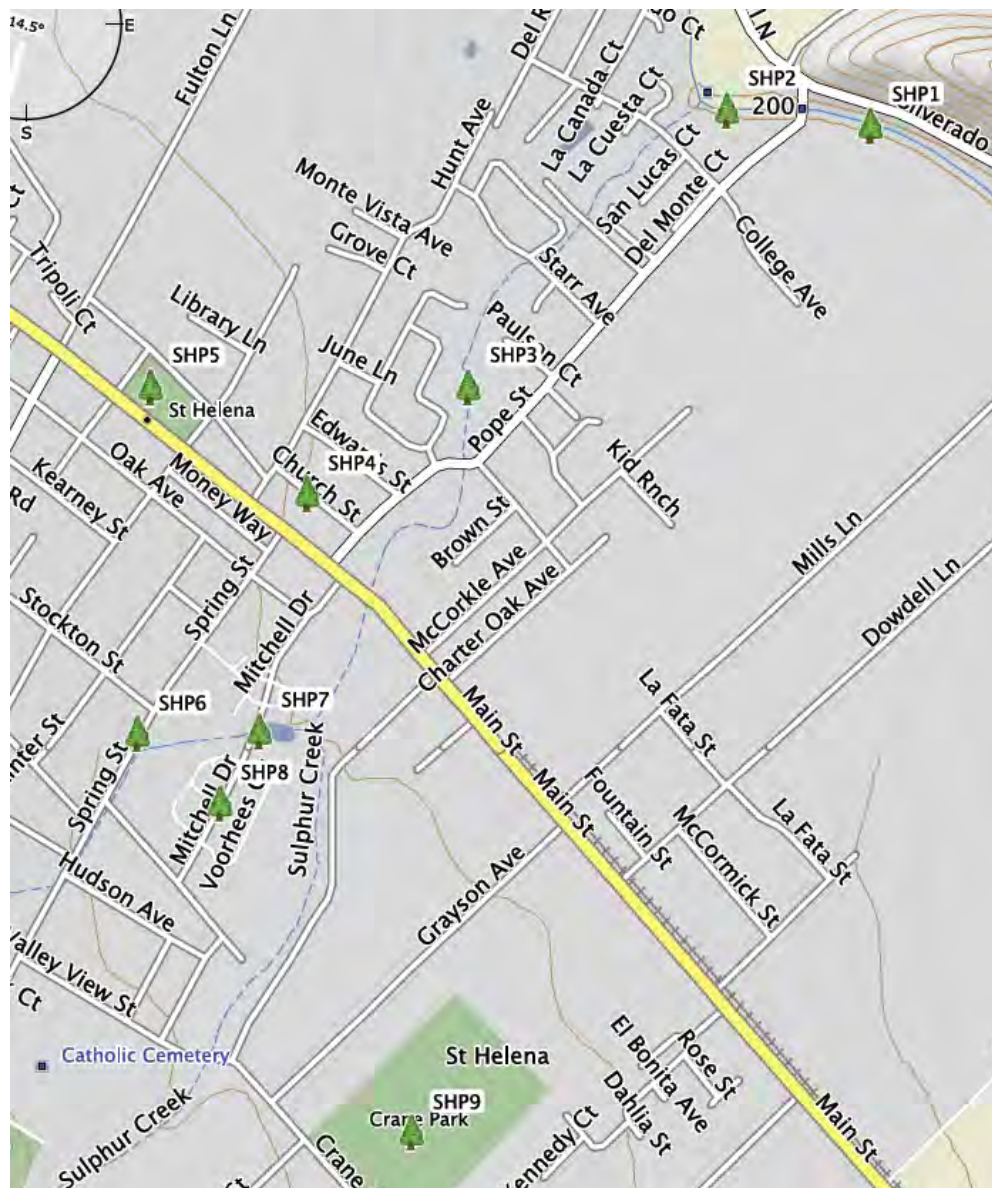
Notable waypoints:

- United Methodist Church
- Grace Episcopal Church and Labyrinth Walk
- Native Sons Hall
- Presbyterian Church-St. Helena
- Starr Baldwin Park
- St. Helena Catholic Cemetery
- St. Helena Public Cemetery

- Spottswode Winery
- Carnegie Building

### Additional walk ideas

Further walks could be added over time. One idea is to connect many of our city parks in dedicated walks. Today these routes would be on city streets, but it's no surprise that many of these parks rest adjacent to or near the Sulphur Creek corridor, identified in the General and Pedestrian Plans as a location for pathways and access.



St. Helena Parks

Index: SHP#

1. Wappo (including dog park)
2. Stonebridge
3. Jacob Meily
4. Lewis Station
5. Lyman
6. Starr Baldwin
7. Mary Fryer
8. Mennen
9. Crane (including bocce, skateboard and tennis)

## Activities

The activities needed to bring these published routes to fruition are:

### Planning

- Approval of initial routes and names (could include a naming contest)
- Specific waypoints to include on the map
- Sign messaging, design and determination of number of signs and locations
- Determination of any other physical improvements required to make the routes safe and easy to use, such as walkway repairs, bench installations, trash bins, dog-waste stations, or potentially motion detector web-cams in remote locations, monitored by public safety
- Determination of whether donations should be solicited for any physical improvements, such as benches, with plaque placement rights
- Develop route rules and regulations, just as the city has for its parks (e.g. sunrise to sunset, dogs on leash--except for existing portion of Napa River Walk which is non-leash and waste pick-up, and respect for private property)

### Development

- Sign building and placement
- Other physical improvements
- Paper map development and creation
- Web map development and publishing
- Submission to trail apps and websites

### Open

- 'Opening day' activities, including celebratory events and press
- Propose Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, for opening

### On-going

- Assessment and maintenance of walkways and physical infrastructure including engagement of volunteers to assist through the subcommittee or other groups of residents
- Pickup of trash bins and dog-waste stations, if included

Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)

- Internal: Current head, Parks and Rec Department
- External: Amy Carabba-Salazar, Chamber of Commerce

These activities could be done within year 1, in the fiscal year ending June 2023 with opening of the walks in time for the spring 2023 tourist season.

The overall timeline and budget are included in Section 5 and the specific activities timeline is included here:

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
Planning				
Approval and names	Q1			
Waypoints and signs	Q1			
Other improvements	Q1			
Rules and regs	Q1			
Development				
Sign creation	Q2 Q3			
Other improvements	Q2 Q3			
Paper maps	Q2 Q3			
App and web	Q2 Q3			
Open				
Opening day	Q4			

## **Section 2: Existing opportunities for walking paths and trails**

The city can move forward on a set of no- to low-cost improvements to existing pedestrian paths (see the adopted Pedestrian Plan and General Plan, page 5-24). Additionally, we suggest opening up already-built trails on city-owned properties and formalizing walking opportunities on city-owned easements that allow the city to grant further access for pedestrian walking activities. These steps will enhance the walking experience for residents and visitors. These improvements will be the first tangible elements of the St. Helena Trails and Open Space initiative.

St. Helena is fortunate in that we had far-sighted city planning administrators who insisted on connectivity within our neighborhoods and between and across Sulphur Creek, the creekshed which bisects the heart of our town from White Sulphur Springs Canyon through to where it joins the Napa River near the Pope Street Bridge.

There are also many existing ‘secret’ walkways which allow intrepid and local neighbors access through easements and city-owned rights of way. Many of these surround Jacob Meily Park on the East side of town. Others connect dead-end streets to through-ways, providing simple connectivity and access. Finally, others are historic through-ways that may have fallen into disrepair. Each of these provide special walking connections within our town, and those that have lain fallow can be restored to their intended use, at least in terms of walking access. The St. Helena Police Department and Department of Public Works will be consulted before any path and trail openings.

In addition, the city has several spectacular properties that lend themselves to walking paths on existing dual track roads amidst open space, in our natural environment, and next to adjacent vineyards. Several of these paths are shown on the General and Pedestrian Plans. The city also owns several easements that can be converted into walking opportunities. The subcommittee believes these several locations can help St. Helena become a truly exceptional rural walking town.

To summarize, existing opportunities for walking paths and trails include:

- Already-identified and existing pedestrian paths in the General and Pedestrian Plans
- City-owned walking opportunity properties
- City-owned easements that could be converted to walking opportunities

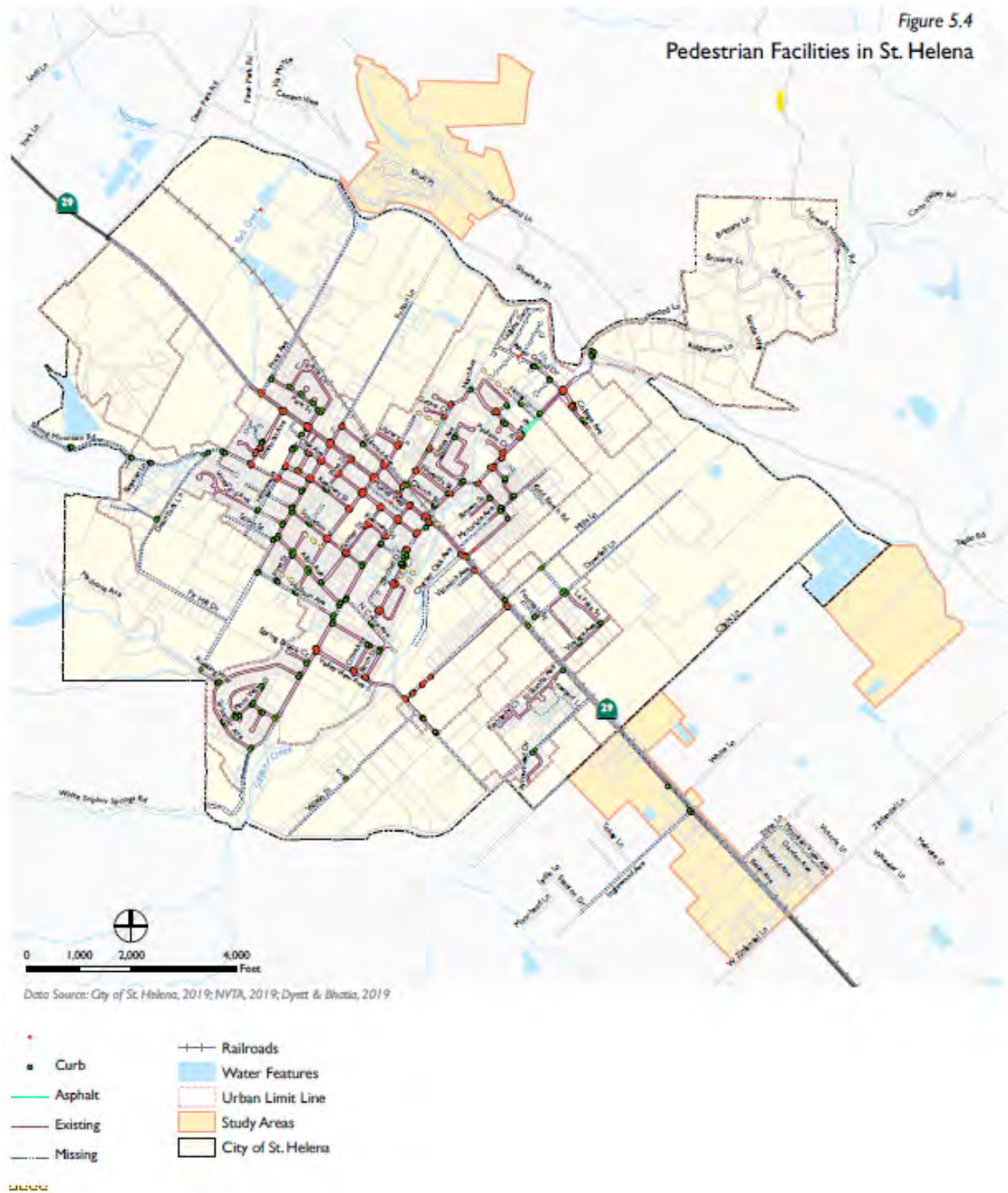
### **1. Current General Plan and Pedestrian Plan existing pedestrian paths**

Both the General Plan (at Figure 5.4) and the Pedestrian Plan include a map showing abundant existing crosswalks, curb cuts, and existing and potential pathways. This report highlights the most important ones identified by these city guidance documents to ensure they have the proper attention and focus—they are a significant amenity that already exists within St. Helena. This report also includes suggestions to improve the map in the next General Plan amendment update. These are included as Appendix A.



## 5 circulation

Figure 5.4  
Pedestrian Facilities in St. Helena



### GENERAL PLAN UPDATE City of St. Helena

5-24 | ST. HELENA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE 2040

Pedestrian Facilities in St. Helena (map from General Plan and Pedestrian Plan)

#### A. Napa River Walk Loop

***Note: The loop aspect of this trail is a study opportunity and needs further analysis with the city before proceeding.***

This remarkable trail, also discussed in Section 1, is utilized 365 days a year by walkers, cyclists, runners, and dog walkers. It provides welcome nearby open-space access to denizens of the eastside of town and for all residents and allows visitors to take in views of our majestic hills and vineyards alike.

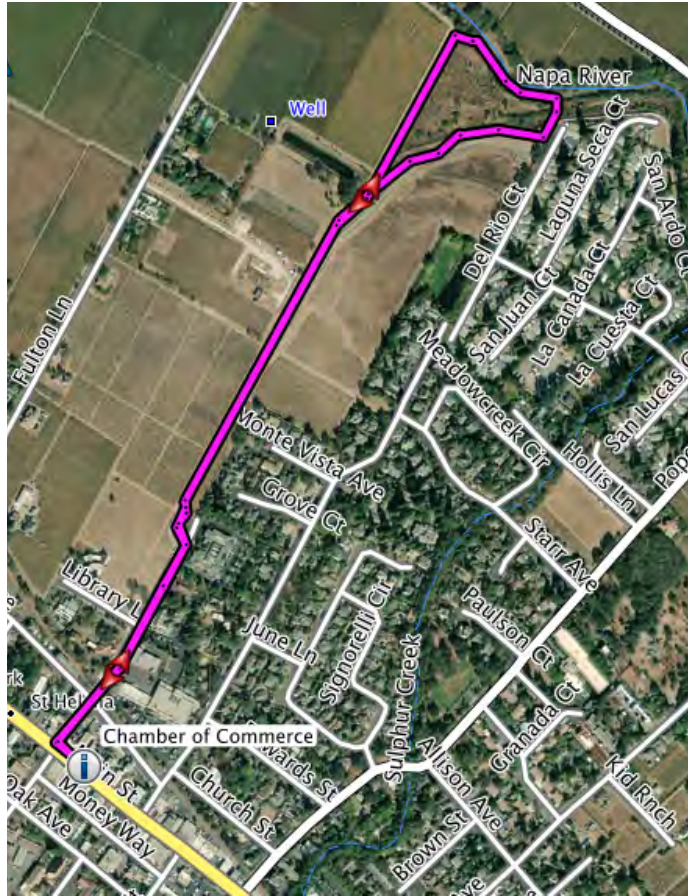
However, the path lacks signage and it dribbles out at the end where there is an ad hoc, heavily eroded path which tumbles down into the Napa River channel. The trail itself could easily be extended south along the high bank to the west of the Napa River, following the route proposed in the General Plan. This route marks the high boundary between the river channel and the flood control project's overflow restoration basin.

The basin itself will be excluded from any trail as it will be covered in the soon-to-be-finalized conservation easement agreement between the city and the state. The city also needs to confirm that a trail along the banks above the Napa River in this area, as contemplated by St. Helena General Plans going back almost 30 years, does not interfere with the conservation easement.

The proposed looped route will be along the top of the river bank, above the high-water mark, and to the east of the basin—it is many feet wide and currently contains a narrow single-track trail. Unfortunately, this existing walking trail is punctuated by broken plastic irrigation infrastructure that was originally built in conjunction with new plantings and restoration activity in the overflow basin. The basin is filled with more broken plastic piping and is strewn with metal fencing initially placed to protect the young plants approximately a decade ago.

To cross the overflow basin's opening to the Napa River, the current trail dips steeply down and then back up to reach the flood project's constructed levy, upon which a walker could return back towards the beginning of the trail. However, the down-and-up is too steep and narrow for a public trail. We recommend a series of natural stone steps and signage to the effect that the trail could be under water occasionally and therefore closed. Longer-term, we suggest a pedestrian (and possible bike) bridge, to provide a necessary link for a Napa River Trail along the entire north-south length of St. Helena as envisioned in the General Plan, as the clear solution.

Because of the narrowness of the route on the top of the river bank and because of the stone steps, it is anticipated that this section of the loop will be signed only for pedestrian use until a bridge across the opening is created and a potential wider multi-modal trail along the Napa River is created.



Napa River Trail with levee return





Total length:

- Loop including levee return: 2.2 miles, expanded from out-and-back only of 2 miles

Time to complete:

- Loop including levee return: 1 hours total

Recommendations:

- Create signage at the end of Adams St. and at key points along the trail so visitors know where to walk
- At the end of the initial outbound straight trail, place benches or a picnic table above the Napa River, create an overlook by clearing brush, and then block the eroded bank down to the river itself, which is a hazard, by either building a short wood fence or planting low bushes and marking off the area
- Confirmation by the city regarding the boundaries of the expected easement
- Where the loop turns south along the high bank between the river itself and the catchment basin, clear up the broken irrigation and metal fencing haphazardly littered there (and also the broken irrigation detritus within the restoration basin as shown in Appendix B)—it's dangerous, a blight and an eyesore, particularly given its purpose as a conservation area
- Build a series of engineered stone steps to go down and across the restoration basin's access to the Napa River—and create signage to indicate the trail is closed when water blocks the route.
- In the long-term, build a bridge to cross the opening between the basin and the levy to connect to walking points south along the Napa River

## **B. Adams – Pine Pathway**

This city-owned path between Adams and Pine, parallel to and situated between Kearney and Stockton, rests atop the city's underground water infrastructure. It is one of several 'secret paths' around town which provide delight for children and adults alike and is included (though erroneously placed) in the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan. Directly across from Carpy Field, it gives access from the elementary school onto a quiet residential street.

This is the only public path blocked by a fence gate. The gate was installed by Public Works in 2000 to eliminate a nuisance caused by neighborhood children. While these children are now all grown and gone, neighbors have expressed some concern. Both neighbors and the police department would be closely consulted prior to any reopening.



Adams - Pine Pathway



Recommendations:

- Once priority items within the plan have been executed, consult with neighbors and police department to consider removal of the gate currently blocking public access
- If the path is re-opened, engage in a one-time clean-up so no debris blocks the path

Please see Appendix A for further thoughts on these and other neighborhood connected pathways.

## 2. City-owned Walking Opportunities

Our rural town has several significant opportunities to open walking trails on property that the city owns—these are ‘low-hanging fruit’ which the city can use to give residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy our natural environment and be significant and tangible elements of St. Helena Trails and Open Space.

#### **A. Lower Reservoir Trail**

This reservoir, within city limits and just off Spring Mountain Road, is not used for potable water but instead feeds both Spring Mountain Vineyard and an accessible irrigation valve on Elmhurst Avenue on the grounds of RLS Middle School (the valve is currently closed due to the water emergency). The location is in a mixed forest typical of the northern inland reaches of the Bay Area, some of it untouched during the recent fires, is adjacent to neighboring vineyards, and has valley views to the south. The site already contains an existing flat dual track surface which is in very good shape and is perfect for a short, easy stroll.

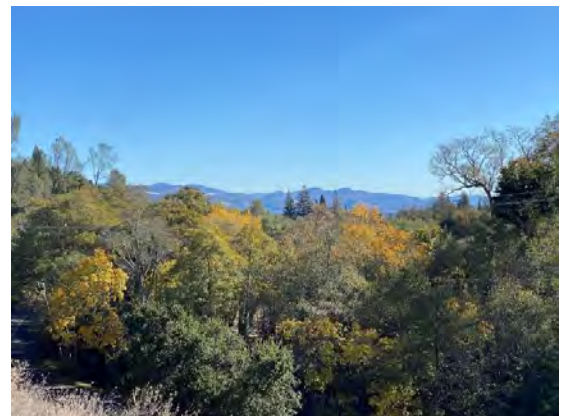
The pathway goes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  around the reservoir. The reservoir is protected from the path by a chain-linked fence with a barbed-wire top, which unfortunately is in degraded condition and has fallen down in certain sections. This fence will need to be repaired before the path is opened to the public or removed entirely and replaced with a smaller fence for safety to protect only specific dam mechanical assets. The area also has an improved parking area that can accommodate 4 or 5 vehicles, which was built to handle work trucks for the removal of the York Creek Dam as well as a pull-off area across the street on Spring Mountain Road.

The walk is about 1 mile there and back and will take about 30 minutes to walk.



Lower Reservoir Trail





#### Recommendations:

- Replace the fence around the reservoir (currently a capital expense item in the water system budget) or simply put the fence around key dam assets
- Engage in a one-time cleanup so no debris blocks the dual track path
- Add signage on the trail and parking lot
- Add a picnic table at the path turn-around and benches along the trail
- Add a gate between the parking area and the dual track road with an opening for pedestrian access

#### B. Wappo Loop

This pleasant  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile stroll follows existing trails and sidewalks. It starts and finishes in the Napa Valley College parking lot, providing an easy walk along the Napa River and through the College Avenue neighborhood.

Beginning in Wappo Park, the trail runs through the park above the Napa River. It curves behind the Dog Park, follows a double track through the city's Stonebridge Wells property, and ends up following a gravel road up a city-granted easement which extends to College Avenue between the Montessori school and Stonebridge Apartments. The path will then return on College back to Pope Street before turning down to the beginning of the trail. A spur could also lead to the Pope Street Bridge overlook as described in Item C below.



Wappo Loop



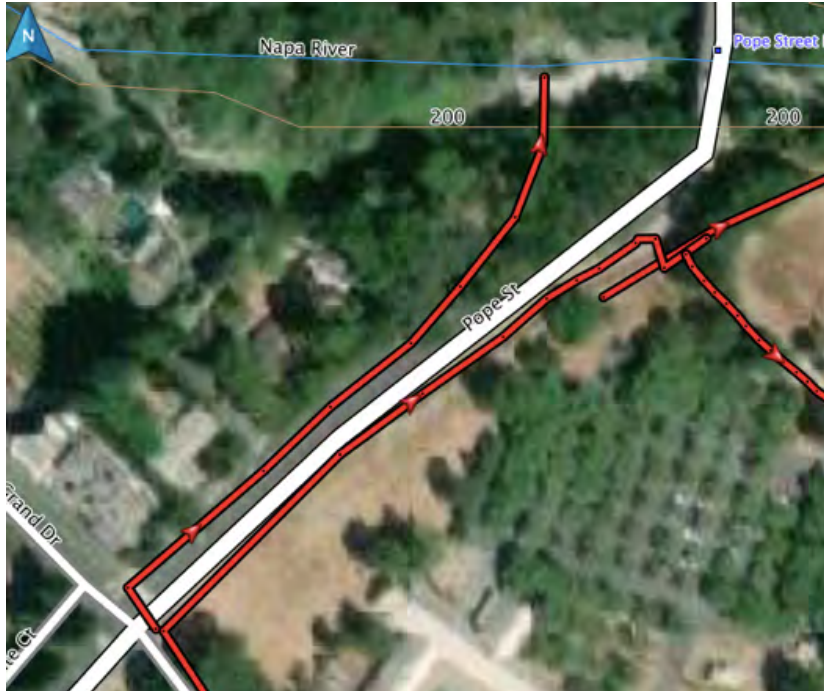


#### Recommendations:

- Add signage on the trail and parking lot
- Engage in a one-time clean-up so no debris blocks the dual track path around the Stonebridge Wells site
- Add a bench or two at the edge of the Stonebridge Wells site

### C. Bridge View Spur

This pocket park, owned by the city, is unimproved except for a well-maintained fence keeping the meadow separate from the Napa River banks. However, it has spectacular views of the century-old Pope Street bridge—with some judicious trimming of the undergrowth, it clearly could become a defining view of St. Helena. In addition, this will be an add-on or spur to the Wappo Loop adding an extra ¼ mile walk.



Bridge View Spur



Recommendations:

- Build a small, hundred-foot trail from the end of the existing sidewalk to the fence
- Add signage along the trail
- Cut back brush to open up the view corridor
- Install a bench to allow people to rest as they watch the view



#### D. York Creek Trail

This captivating location, formerly the site of a dam serving St. Helena's water needs, has recently been remediated at great expense to the city. There is a short 0.1 mile access road down to the river which could be used by walkers, and a further trail along the river banks on city-owned property will be feasible. There is paved parking for 3 or possibly 4 cars parallel to Spring Mountain Road.



York Creek Trail





Recommendations:

- Open the access road formally to walkers
- Add signage
- Build a short trail along York Creek to the northern and southern edge of the city's York Creek property
- Install a bench at each end point and at the end of the access road

## **E. Valley Floor Walk**

Taking inspiration from the routing of the bike path in Calistoga alongside its sewage treatment plant, our treatment ponds and spray fields offer tremendous views from the valley floor of our remarkable setting and all are adjacent to the Napa River, helping to further the fulfillment of our General Plan and Pedestrian Plan's intention to allow access to our creek and river corridors.

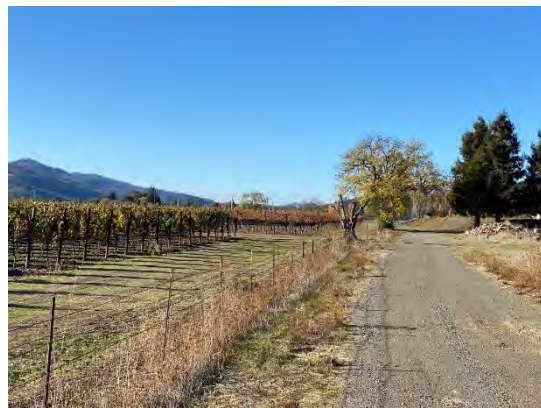
Located between Chaix Lane and Zinfandel Lanes, there are already dualtrack roads through and around the entire property, although better fencing will be required to shield the treatment ponds from the spray fields. These paths also touch on the city's new redwood forest at the south end of the city's property. (In fact, the St. Helena Redwood Grove project approved by council also anticipates walking paths eventually to be connected into the citywide system of trails as intended by the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan.) A circular route through and around the entire property will be 2.1 miles in length and take just over an hour to walk.

Depending on the treatment plant's schedule, walking could be limited to non-spray field times, or only on weekends. In addition, the new treatment plant should reduce the reliance upon the spray fields themselves, lessening the hours they are used.

Access could be through a dirt road up from Zinfandel Lane, with parking adjacent to the redwood forest. Longer term, access will be part of a longer Napa River trail in town and could have access from the north, whether Mills Lane, or all the way to Pope Street.



Valley Floor Walk



Recommendations:

- Open the dualtrack roads formally to walkers
- Create signage
- Designate and develop a parking area by the redwood forest up from Zinfandel Lane
- Install benches at the redwood forest and throughout the walking trails

**F. Bell Canyon Upper and Lower Trails**

The city owned Bell Canyon Reservoir, which sits within St. Helena city limits, contains wooded watershed lands which allow runoff and groundwater to run down to the reservoir, enabling the reservoir to properly collect water and serve its function for our rural town and surrounding areas. Just like the open space trails at Lake Hennessey have shown, trails within the watershed and separated from the lakeshore can provide beautiful passive recreation opportunities with no danger to the drinking water supply itself.

The site contains both an upper trail and a lower trail, north and west of the reservoir itself. Those trails could be specifically designated as part of St. Helena Trails and Open Space, and opened with little need for improvements. There is already frequent trespassing on both trails, so the town has an opportunity here to create a safer, more accessible site by doing minor repairs and officially opening it to visitors.

The upper trail has beautiful views over Napa Valley to the west and over the Vaca Range and then south all the way to Mt. Diablo in the far distance—a truly stunning vista. It has a sustained rise of approximately 750 feet over its 1 mile length. The lower trail meanders about two thirds of a mile through forested lands with beautiful reservoir vistas and is a fairly flat trail, primarily 20 feet above the reservoir’s full-capacity height and at a distance of approximately 50 feet similar to the lakeside trail at Lake Hennessey.

These trails are also entirely separate from the water facilities on the south side of the reservoir and the gun range the police maintain on the east side with no easy cross access available. Public access itself will be along Crystal Springs Road where there is existing informal parking along the roadway, or further parking could include just inside the gates to the dual track trails.

In addition, a trail could be built in the future, joining the two trails at their endpoints to create a 2.5 mile loop or in the future an additional loop around the entire reservoir.





Bell Canyon Upper and Lower Trails



Bell Canyon Upper and Lower Trails with Loop Connection





#### Recommendations:

- Open these two dual track trails formally to walkers
- Designate a parking area just inside the gate which accesses these trails or direct people to informal existing parking along Crystal Springs Road
- Add signage along the trails and for parking, just as Lake Hennessey does
- Install benches at intermediate points along both trails
- Eventually, build a Loop Connection joining the two trails at their endpoints

### 3. City-owned Easement Walking Opportunities

St. Helena also has several easements which today are unused and cross two sections of Sulphur Creek. Both the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan envision pathways along the creek. Before that vision can be realized, further interaction with Sulphur Creek is possible today in these two long-held legal easements.

#### A. Sulphur Creek Dry Crossing

This route goes between the Sulphur Springs Avenue dead end by the White Barn and Spring Street at the mouth of the White Sulphur Springs canyon. It was open for decades as a dry creek crossing during the summer and fall months for all vehicles. Today there are still remnants of asphalt and other paving materials down to the edge of the high-water creek height.

Unlike the other trails listed, this trail will require some work to bring it up to minimum standards before it could be opened to general pedestrian use—the asphalt is broken-up and the trail that exists today is overgrown and winds up and down along the embankment.

The trail will be about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mile long and will take about 10 minutes to cross.



Sulphur Creek Dry Crossing





Recommendations:

- Re-establish the dry creek trail across Sulphur Creek
- Designate a parking area that already exists along Spring Street and at the end of Sulphur Springs Avenue
- Add signage along the trails and for parking
- Install benches at the start and finish of the trail

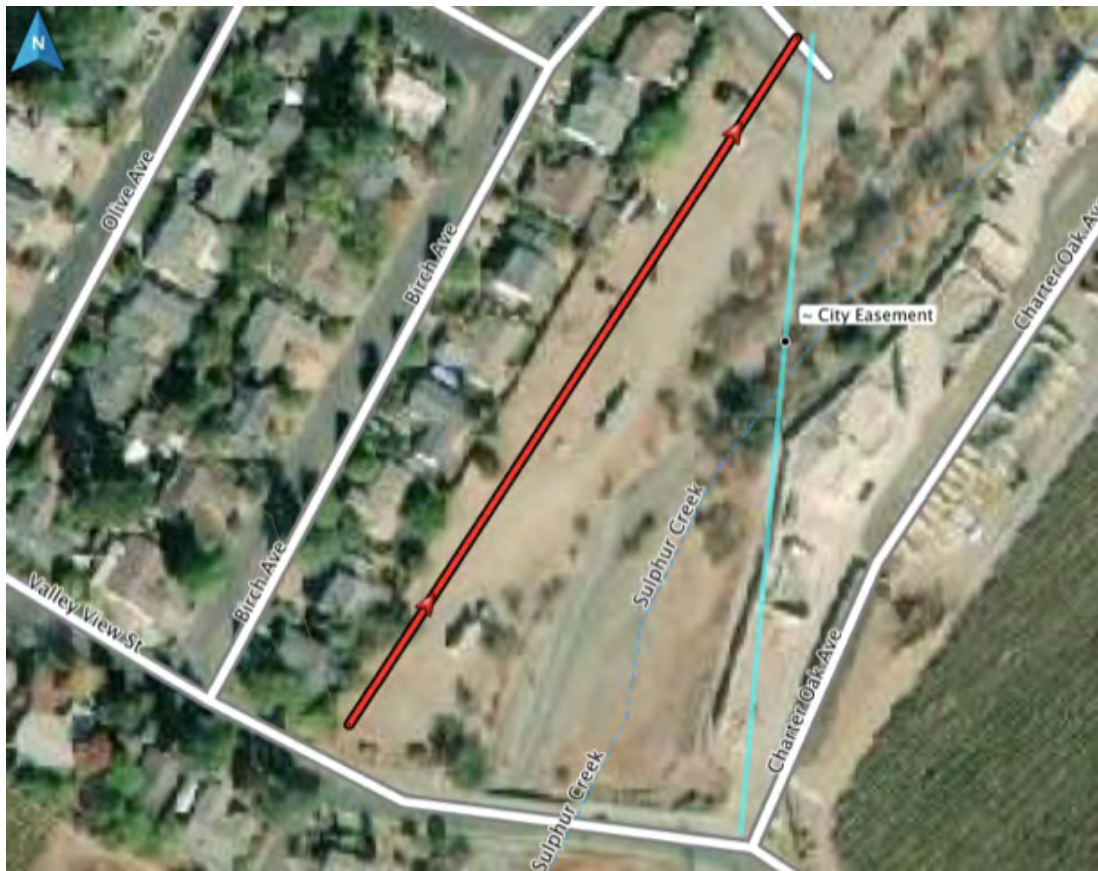
**B. North Crane Sulphur Creek Path**

***Note: This walk opportunity is a study opportunity and needs further analysis with the city before proceeding.***

An existing easement appears to connect North Crane Avenue to South Crane Avenue through the Harold Smith property and was originally planned to be the Sulphur Creek north-south crossing west of Main Street. However, with the creation of the Valley View subdivision in the 1960s, Valley View was instead chosen as the location for the bridge crossing of the creek connecting to South Crane.

There is some lack of clarity around the easement itself, although it is on city property maps, and does provide a potential opportunity finally to start the work on the Sulphur Creek trail corridor as envisioned by earlier General Plans and both the current General Plan and Pedestrian Plan even though the segment is not long. The city should work with the property owners to modify the location of the easement, relocating it to allow for public access along the banks on the north side of Sulphur Creek only. This will allow a creek-side walking path, the first on the westside of town as compared to the ample walking paths along Sulphur Creek around Jacob Meily Park and beyond within subdivisions on the eastside. The path also will provide a safe cutoff for primary and high school students walking to and from school.

Currently the space is empty, but a specific trail should be developed and remediation work conducted to bring plantings appropriate to the land within the extended creek zone back to life. The trail itself will be approximately a tenth of a mile and takes less than 5 minutes to walk.



North Crane Sulphur Creek Path





#### Recommendations:

- Initiate, finally, the first trail along Sulphur Creek on the westside of town
- Direct parking to occur at Crane Park for walkers of the trail, a short walk away
- Add signage along the trail
- Install benches at the start and finish of the trail

### Activities

The activities needed to open or expand these walking paths:

#### Planning

- Approval of overall timeline and trail priorities including low hanging fruit
- Study and analyze requirements for trails as a whole and each individual trail including the two walks that require further studying by the city
- Develop rules and regulations for the routes as a whole, just as the city has for its parks (e.g. sunrise to sunset, dogs on leash and waste pick-up, and respect for private property)—and should be the same as the routes in Section 1.
- For individual routes
  - Sign messaging, design and determination of number of signs and locations
  - Determination of any other physical improvements required to make the routes safe and easy to use, such as walkway repairs, bench installations, trash bins, dog-waste stations, or potentially motion detector web-cams in remote locations, monitored by public safety

#### Development



- Sign building and placement
- Other physical improvements

#### Open

- ‘Opening day’ activities, including celebratory events and press
- Propose Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 for first and then each subsequent opening over the next 3 years with a final celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

#### On-going

- Assessment and maintenance of walkways and physical infrastructure including engagement of volunteers to assist through the subcommittee or other groups of residents
- Pickup of trash bins and dog-waste stations, if included

#### Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)

- Internal: Mark Rincón-Ibarra, Public Works Director and Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building
- External: 2 subcommittee members or other residents, rotating

It is expected that all of the activities to create these open space trails will be completed within 3 years, with some completed within year 1, and sequenced through the remaining time, and with opening of the next walks done each year

The overall timeline and budget are included in Section 6 and the specific activities timeline is included here:

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
Planning				
Development				
Open/Launch				
Overall				
Organization	Q1 Q2 Q3			
Rules and regs	Q1 Q2 Q3			
Safety/maintenance	Q1 Q2 Q3			
Napa River Loop				
Study	Q4-Q4			
Extension route		Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4		
Trail cleanup		Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4		
Stone steps		Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4		
Signage		Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4		
Benches/picnic table		Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4		
Adams-Pine Pathway				

Improvements	Q1-Q1			
Lower Reservoir Trail				
Parking	Q3 Q4	Q1 Q4		
Fencing and gates	Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q4		
Signage	Q3	Q1 Q2 Q4		
Benches/picnic table	Q3	Q2 Q3 Q4		
Wappo Loop				
Signage	Q2 Q3 Q4			
Benches	Q2 Q3 Q4			
Bridge View Spur				
Trail development			Q3 Q4	Q1 Q4
Signage			Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q4
Benches			Q3	Q1 Q2 Q4
York Creek Trail				
Trail development			Q3 Q4	Q1 Q4
Signage			Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q4
Benches/picnic table			Q3	Q1 Q2 Q4
Valley Floor Walk				
Parking		Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	
Fencing and gates		Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q4	
Signage		Q3	Q1 Q2 Q4	
Benches/picnic table		Q3	Q2 Q3 Q4	
Bell Canyon Trails				
Parking	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4			
Fencing and gates	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4			
Signage	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4			
Benches/picnic table	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4			
Build loop connector			Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	
Sulphur Creek Crossing				
Trail development			Q3 Q4	Q1 Q4
Signage			Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q4
Benches/picnic table			Q3	Q1 Q2 Q4
North Crane Path				
Study		Q1-Q1		
Owner engagement		Q3 Q4	Q1 Q4	
Legal		Q3 Q4	Q1 Q2 Q4	
Trail development		Q3	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	

Vegetation		Q3	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	
Benches			Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4	



### Section 3: Voluntary open space easements or access

Our lovely rural town is surrounded by agricultural and open space lands, many crisscrossed with existing dual track paths intended for vehicular access and set amidst vineyards and along the Napa River and the embankments of the creeks that feed it. In the past, many vineyards and owners of unimproved lands have allowed walkers to traverse their properties unimpeded and some still do. However, owners have become increasingly concerned with liability issues associated with this practice (for example if a walker were to fall and injure themselves) and sometimes new ownership may not be as amenable to this tradition as the original owners were. What does this mean? Many areas that were available to walking for our residents are now off-limits and more will likely be off-limits in the future.

The City of St. Helena, through its St. Helena Trails and Open Space initiative, can help allow these lands to remain open for those property owners who volunteer to allow access—creating a win-win for property owners and walkers as well. How? By extending the city's general liability policy which covers our parks, streets, and public spaces also to cover walking activities in exchange for allowing access. The city can remove an important impediment for those owners who would like to provide easements or pedestrian access to walkers.

In fact, the city did a similar easement almost 30 years ago, when it reached agreement with the developers of the office building at 899 Adams Street, allowing a pedestrian and bike access between Hunt Avenue and Adams Street. While not across open lands, it provided a critical piece of access for pedestrians and others and has been extremely well-utilized. The agreement is included in the appendix.

Sub-committee members have reached out to several owners who have appropriate properties and have discussed this exchange of pedestrian access for liability coverage together with certain no-nonsense rules. There has been a positive response and interest from at least one major landholder. This landholder understood the example of the Napa Valley Vine Trail which has undertaken similar agreements in certain locations along their multimodal trail and the public benefits that will accrue with minimal inconvenience and disruption to other uses on the property.

Some of the suggested rules include:

- sunrise-to-sunset access only
- any dogs are required to be on leash and waste picked up
- temporary closures during harvest or other key events
- walking-only, which has reduced impacts compared to bicycles as well as presumably limiting any liability insurance costs to the city
- access strictly limited to specific dual track trails
- no smoking
- emergency service provided by the city, if issues arise

The city also has examples of easement and access agreements from other towns that have embraced walking trails both as an economic development strategy and to allow residents and visitors a chance to enjoy lands that otherwise will remain closed to them. Easements are specific legal agreements which give rights to cross or use someone's land for a specified purpose, for example to use a particular trail. A

license for access is a less restrictive agreement which simply allows certain usage over the life of the agreement, which could be extended.

These agreements may help the city implement the vision contained with the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan, creating open space and walking paths along the Napa River and Sulphur Creek as well as allowing passive recreation beyond the use of our existing park and city facilities.

Our city attorney has provided a sample easement in Appendix C. In addition, the nearly 30 year old easement agreement between 899 Adams Street and the city is included in Appendix D. Easement and access agreements from other municipalities and local governments are included in Appendix E, which also shows maps, signs, and guides in planning, developing, managing, and overseeing open space and walking opportunities. The subcommittee proposes a demonstration program, to show the city can work well with a first property owner over a first year, and then extend that to 5- or 10-year time frames. In fact, that could be a model for the entire program—provide access agreements over a 1-year trial period which could then be extended over 5- or 10-year time frames with renewal features or in perpetuity.

To summarize key points:

- The model
  - Voluntary program
  - Pedestrian access on paths located on private lands in exchange for liability assumption by the city
- Type and locations could include
  - Agriculture and woodlands
  - River and creek corridors
  - Quasi-public spaces such as schools
- Program
  - Start with a demonstration property
  - Extend and expand to new properties as other volunteers come forward

## **Activities**

The activities needed to bring voluntary pedestrian access or easements include

### **Planning**

- Finalize access or easement agreement
- Determine rules and regulations
  - Sunrise to sunset access
  - Dogs on leash
  - Temporary closures (e.g. harvest)

- Work with property owner regarding any physical improvements required to make the route safe and easy to use
- Public safety and rules enforcement
- Maintenance assistance
- Determine signage and signs to make sure walkers stay on the path

#### Development

- Physical improvements
- Sign building and placement

#### Open

- ‘Opening day’ activities, including celebratory events and press
- Again, propose Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, for opening

#### On-going

- Assessment and maintenance of walkways and physical infrastructure including engagement of volunteers to assist through the subcommittee or other groups of residents
- Pickup of trash bins and dog-waste stations, if included

#### Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)

- Internal: Ethan Walsh, City Attorney and John Wanger or Mark Rincón-Ibarra, Public Works Director, or Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building
- External: subcommittee members or other residents

It is expected that all of these activities could be done within year 1, July 2022 – June 2023 with opening of the demonstration property route in time for spring 2023.

The overall timeline and budget are included in Section 6 and the specific activities timeline for the demonstration property is included here. Other potential properties later will follow a similar pattern.

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
<b>Planning</b>				
Agreement in principle	Q1			
Legal	Q1			
Improvements	Q1			
Rules and regs	Q1			
<b>Development</b>				
Improvements	Q2 Q3			
Signage	Q2 Q3			



Open				
Opening day		Q4		

## Section 4: Development agreements

One of the goals of development agreements is to have applicants for new projects contribute to enriching St. Helena's community assets. A network of walking trails provides high value to the quality of life for residents and as development agreements are negotiated the City can advocate to have the network of pedestrian amenities expanded and constructed by developers. These agreements between the city and developer can prioritize and mandate walking access for pedestrians through dedicated pedestrian easements in conjunction with housing, commercial or industrial uses. It is expected that most times these will follow existing walking routes that have been used by residents for years when the land either lay fallow or was used for agricultural uses.

One of the benefits of development agreements is that there is not a requirement that the City demonstrate a specific "nexus" between the proposed development and the impact that development has on public services and amenities. That allows the City the flexibility to require developers to contribute to amenities like the trails network at a scale that goes beyond the impacts of their specific development, in exchange for greater certainty through "vested rights" to develop their project. The city should negotiate with developers for walking access and trail establishment across or through projects. A development agreement would allow the city some flexibility in this process. While it is easier to ask for pathways from a larger project and more challenging for a smaller infill project, there are still options for a smaller project. It could either provide a shorter trail segment, or it could instead allocate funds towards path creation or connectivity adjacent to or nearby the project, whether for sidewalks, a planned path, or improving existing trails.

These agreements to include walking trails have a long history in this town and should be codified as part of the city's toolkit in working with potential developers. For example, the subdivisions created on the east side of town, around Jacob Meily Park and Sulphur Creek between Hunt and Pope Streets include creek access and connect dead-end cul de sacs, allowing families the opportunity to enjoy their natural environment close to their homes even while they more efficiently travel throughout town.

Rather than flag any specific properties or existing informal walking routes throughout town, the subcommittee instead believes that the city should work with developers to ensure that pedestrian easements are included in all projects that have potential connectivity. In some instances this could be done through dedications to ensure consistency with the General Plan (based on the City's pedestrian networks), and in others the City could negotiate for easements as part of a development agreement. Many of the connectivity sections are included in the General and Pedestrian Plans, including access along the Napa River, Sulphur Creek, York Creek, and other seasonal waterways.

The pathways are often along the edge of a particular property, so providing for them need not create a burden to the developer. Other times a development will need to upgrade water, wastewater, purple pipe, or storm drain access across the site. When this is done, those too could be natural public walkways on top of the city's infrastructure (with confirmation by the Director of Public Works). These

can provide a legacy to the town and the future residents of our rural town. It is also consistent with the General Plan which already supports quality-of-life initiatives within the development process, just as it prioritizes pedestrian activities.

The city should ask for trail building segments (or support of those segments) even if the entire trail is not yet built (the Napa Valley Vine Trail is a good example of this). This prevents a "putting off until later" mentality; and also, completion of small segments helps the community envision a completed pedestrian trail network.

The city should further develop a trails and pathways master plan that would provide additional detail to and expand upon the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan already in existence. A master plan that has a more detailed map with current and proposed trails needs in addition to the existing Pedestrian Plan, and also adopted as part of a General Plan update, will be a useful reference for the zoning code, and will show the community and prospective development applicants where trails or proposed trails are located.

To review, there are several types of pathway contributions from new development that the city could formalize this requirement, including:

- Public path easements or dedication within new developments as part of any development agreement. Public path opportunities on top of water, wastewater, stormwater, or purple pipe that may travel across private property
- Walkways deeded to the city from or through residential developments, such as those around Jacob Meily Park
- Additional walkway opportunities funded by park impact mitigation fees on smaller or infill projects with no appropriate on-property pathway opportunities

## **Activities**

The activities needed to bring this development agreement to fruition are:

- Include public walkway availability and connectivity in the city's development review of discretionary applications and other city planning processes
- Add these steps into the development check-list and the permitting process
- Ensure the city follows the General Plan prioritizing completion of the circulation and pedestrian networks as part of the Capital Improvement Plan
- Reference the Quimby Act as it relates to residential subdivisions specifically
- Future goal: complete a trails master plan

Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)

- Internal: Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building and Ethan Walsh, City Attorney
- External: 2 members of subcommittee or other residents

The overall timeline and budget are included in Section 6 and the specific activities timeline is included here:

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025-26
Planning				
Zoning code update		Q4		
Development process		Q4		
Trails master plan				Q1



## Section 5: Implementation Framework

Implementation of the elements of this report will occur over 4 years, creating new walking opportunities, ensuring that walking access is assured in new developments, and providing an opportunity for private landowners who may wish to allow walking on their property to enter into agreements with the city to provide that access in exchange for liability protection. This initiative can provide benefits for residents and visitors alike and help make our lovely rural town into a center for walking and passive recreation in the upper Napa Valley.

Of necessity, several elements are open-ended—for example, beyond the one demonstration access walk, there could be other private landowners who will participate. Also, some capital costs associated with the walks could be donated to the city. For example, new benches or signs could be dedicated in memoriam or businesses or individuals could sponsor particular items. Part of the planning process for St. Helena Trails and Open Space will include those elements.

Most importantly from a cost-efficiency perspective, most of the physical trails identified in Section 2 already exist as dual track pathways. Aside from some initial clean-up or maintenance, most are ready to be used as is. This is one of the key benefits of this plan—compared to many communities, St. Helena can create an open space and walking initiative at a relatively modest expense.

Finally, there are many community members, starting with the sub-committee members themselves, who would like to join in to help staff in planning and overseeing the process, in maintenance of the trails with clean-up or pick-up days, or in building or widening trails as contemplated in the report.

### Results and costs by year

The following are ballpark estimated costs by type of activity and a summation of the elements of this report. These costs are based on proposed capital improvements and other expense elements included below. Primary costs for published walks are design and marketing activities. Most trail improvements themselves are benches and signs. A few walks could require fencing and trail-building, necessarily more expensive items. Commercial, individual, or other public or private sponsorship would be sought, along with volunteer assistance, during the planning of these activities, to reduce these costs and generate a broader base of support.

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024-25	2025 – 26
Published walks	4			
Lengths	.6 - 2.75 miles			
Marketing budget	\$20,000			
Capital budget	\$14,750			

Pathways opened	2	1	2	2
Total length	2.5 miles	1 mile	3 miles	½ mile
Capital budget	\$29,500	\$23,750	\$66,250	\$37,750
Study paths opened		1	1	
Total length		2.2 miles	.15 miles	
Capital budget		\$22,750	\$12,150	
Access walk	1			
Total length	⅔ mi			
Capital budget	\$500			
Development work				
Trails master plan				Not estimated

### Elements of capital improvements and expenses

The cost elements are made of the following capital and other outside expense activity and ties into the activity information included at the end of each section.

#### *Section 1: Published walking loops and trails*

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024-25	2025 – 26
Waypoints and signs	15 signs			
Other improvements	6 benches			
Maps	Paper maps			
Web	Electronic maps			

*Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)*

- *Internal: Current head, Parks and Rec Department*
- *External: Amy Carabba-Salazar, Chamber of Commerce*

#### *Section 2: Existing opportunities for walking paths and trails*

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
Adams-Pine Pathway	No investment			
Lower Reservoir Trail				

Fencing and gates		New gate		
Signage		3 signs		
Benches/picnic table		1 bench and table		
Wappo Loop				
Signage	5 signs			
Benches	2 benches			
Bridge View Spur				
Trail development				.05 miles
Signage				1 sign
Benches				2 benches
York Creek Trail				
Trail development				.05 miles
Signage				3 signs
Benches/picnic table				1 bench + table
Valley Floor Walk				
Parking			2,500 sq. ft	
Fencing and gates			New gate	
Signage			5 signs	
Benches/picnic table			5 benches	
Bell Canyon Trails				
Parking	No investment			
Fencing and gates	New gate			
Signage	5 signs			
Benches/picnic table	5 benches			
Build loop connector			½ mile trail	
Sulphur Creek Crossing				
Trail refurbishment				⅓ mile
Signage				4 signs
Benches/picnic table				2 benches

***Paths where additional study by the city is required***

North Crane Path				
Trail development			.15 miles	
Vegetation			Plant	
Signage			2 signs	

Benches			1 bench	
Napa River Loop				
Trail widening		.4 miles		
Stone steps		1 up and 1 down		
Signage		3 signs		
Benches/picnic table		2 benches		

*Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)*

- Internal: Mark Rincón-Ibarra, Public Works Director and Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building
- External: 2 subcommittee members or other residents, rotating

### *Section 3: Voluntary open space easements or access*

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
Access demo walk				
Signage	2 signs			

*Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)*

- Internal: Ethan Walsh, City Attorney and John Wanger or Mark Rincón-Ibarra, Public Works Director, or Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building
- External: 2 subcommittee members or other residents, rotating

### *Section 4: Development agreements*

	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26
Zoning code update				
Development process				
Trails master plan				Possible

*Proposed sponsors (those who will help coordinate and drive the activities)*

- Internal: Maya DeRosa, Planning and Building
- External: 2 members of subcommittee or other residents, rotating



## Budget assumptions

The following are rough assumptions regarding the costs of each capital improvement and other expense item on the above activity lists.

### Marketing

- Web-site and map design: \$10,000

- Initial print maps: \$10,000

### Capital costs:

- Benches: \$1,000 per bench

- Picnic tables: \$2,000 per table

- Sign design (one-time): \$5,000

- Signs: \$250 per sign

- Fencing and new gates: \$20,000

- Stone steps design/build: \$20,000

- Walking trail building: \$70,000 per mile

- Vegetation: \$1,000 per mile

- Gravel parking: \$2 per square foot

### Maintenance costs:

- Reliance on volunteers and existing public works staff who maintain the city parks and existing walkways

### Liability insurance additional cost

- De minimis as part of the city's general liability coverage

### Public safety costs

- Expect 2 extra calls per month with full build-out (no cost estimate created)

In the course of its work, members of the subcommittee found inconsistencies in the map used in the General Plan and Pedestrian Plan, and has several additional observations and suggestions. The next time the General Plan is amended, the subcommittee suggests that these corrections to the record are made. (The red circular numbers on the map refer to numbers referenced in comments below.)



1. The map's Legend --- is missing descriptions. The subcommittee suggests Public Pathways and Alleys (or Walking Paths & Alleys). In addition, the difference between dashed streets and solid line streets is unexplained—dashed streets lack sidewalks, solid streets have sidewalks. Finally, red dots indicate marked crosswalks.
2. The northern path shown from Mitchell to the creek is private property, so should be removed from the map.



3. The southern path from Mitchell to the creek exists as shown and runs through Mary Fryer Park. It connects to a wood plank bridge which connects to the Marietta Townhomes Project development on Voorhees Circle. The map should show the path's turn to the right at its end.





4. A pathway runs through Starr Baldwin Park connecting Spring St to Voorhees Circle. Although part of a public park, the path should be marked on the map as a pedestrian path for two reasons—it connects two public streets and for consistency as other parks with paths are shown on the Pedestrian Facilities Map.



5. There is a pathway between the north end (which is a dead end cul de sac) of Pinot Way and lower Sylvaner Ave which is missing from the map. There are metal gates at each end that have been closed in the past. They are currently open.





6. The map shows a path from the end of Hollis Ln to the open space at Hunt Ave, however there is no trail or path at this location so this path should be eliminated.



7. There is a walkable path that runs along the north side of Sulphur Creek behind the houses on Chiles Avenue, running between two bridges that connect to Meily Park. This is public property and the public uses it as a path, so should be on the map—it could be part of an eventual trail along the creek.

Also, this area has an agreed upon 28' setback from the Creek, intended to be a natural area, agreed to by the city and developer. A couple of homeowners are running irrigation lines from their homes to private plantings in this natural setback/path zone—agreed upon setbacks are not being adhered to and/or enforced. This should be reviewed and corrected.



8. There are paved paths that connect both Paulson Ct and Chiles Ave to the backside of Meily Park. (On parcel maps this natural area located between City of Saint Helena land and Woodbridge Apartments is shown as owned by “St Helena Westminster Estates LLC”). These are public pathways and extensions of their respective streets and should be mapped. They also link to other paths.





(First picture is the paved path off Paulson Ct looking from the cul de sac, the second is looking from Chiles Ave, the second is the path off Chiles Ave looking towards the Chiles cul de sac)



(First picture is at the end of Chiles Ave paved path looking towards Woodbridge Apts, the second is looking the other direction towards Meily Park.)



9. The path along Sulphur Creek at Meadowcreek Circle is on public property and is not mapped. There are benches along the path and it is well used. It is one block long and should be on the map. In addition, the public property extends all the way to Hollis Lane—perhaps this path was intended to connect these streets. If possible, it should be extended.



*For purposes of numbers 10, 11, and 12. Pine Street has three distinct, separated sections, all labeled Pine Street. From east to west, this report labels them as:*

- *Pine #1- between Main Street and Kearney*
- *Pine #2 -starting at Stockton, one block long, it dead ends at a cul de sac*
- *Pine #3 -beginning at Hudson, two block longs, it dead ends at a cul de sac*

10. The pathway between Adams and the beginning of Pine #3 is shown stopping at Pine. It continues another block (paved as an alley) to Madrona.





11. The pathway between Adams and the end of Pine #3 does not exist and therefore should be removed. (It was probably mistakenly put on this section instead of #12, below.)
12. An existing pathway between Adams and Pine #2 is missing from the Map. It is currently gated at Adams St. while the Pine St. end is open. There is a parcel edge marker on Pine St showing where the fence existed before current construction of a home began. As stated in Section 2 above, the subcommittee members believe this pathway should be maintained/cleared to not lose the history, and reopened.



(Picture shows the pathway from Adams St to Pine #2, from Adams with a locked gate in the distance.)

13. The DG pathway shown between Hunt Ave and Adams St does exist and is well used. It will be better shown connecting to the very end of Adams, because it does, but this is minor.
14. Designates the Pine St side of item 12 above which also shows the poor shape the pathway is currently in.



(Picture shows from Pine #2 to Adams St, second also from Pine, showing the property corner marker with yellow tag on lower left.)



## **Appendix B: Plastic and metal detritus within the catchment basin**

The catchment basin, part of the flood control project by the Napa River, had an irrigation system and metal fencing to allow new plantings to thrive about a decade ago. While the irrigation system did its job and the basin will soon be protected by a conservation easement, the irrigation system and fencing was never cleaned up by the city and it remains an eyesore. This is a representative picture. The subcommittee hopes to see the city partner with volunteer support for cleanup efforts.



## Appendix C: Sample Trail Easement and Access Legal Agreements

There are numerous sample agreements that could be used by St. Helena to craft an agreement with the landowner. Some of the items to determine include allowed time of access

### 1. Sample Easement

#### RECORDING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

City of St. Helena  
Attention: City Clerk

No Recording Fee--Exempt

---

#### GRANT OF PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS GRANT OF PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT ("Easement Agreement") is executed as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_, a [\*\*\*[INSERT TYPE OF ENTITY] (together with its successors and assigns, "**Grantor**"), and the City of St. Helena, a California municipal corporation (together with its successors and assigns, "**Grantee**") and is made with reference to the following facts:

#### RECITALS

A. Grantor is the owner in fee of that certain real property in the City of St. Helena, County of Napa, State of California within Assessor Parcel Numbers \_\_\_\_\_ as more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof ("**Property**");

B. The Property is improved with an improved private road that is currently used by Grantor for [**describe current use**] as more particularly described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and made a part hereof ("**Easement Area**"), and [**reason, such as to provide for public walking access**];

C. Pursuant to this Easement Agreement, Grantor shall grant to the Grantee a perpetual non-exclusive easement for any member of the public to access, use and have the right of ingress and egress under, over, and across the Easement Area pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Easement Agreement.



NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Grantor hereby creates the Easement Agreement rights described below:

1. Effect of Recitals. The Recitals are incorporated and made a part of this Easement Agreement as if fully stated herein.
2. Grant of Easement for Public Access. The Grantor further grants and conveys to Grantee a perpetual non-exclusive easement for any member of the public to access, use and have the right of ingress and egress under, over, and across the Easement Area as a right of way for walking, hiking, jogging, bird watching, nature study, and emergency vehicles in the case of emergency within the Easement Area (the "Public Access Easement").
3. Grantor Responsible for Maintenance. Grantor shall be solely and exclusively responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the Easement Area and any improvements thereon, as well as all costs and expenses related thereto. Grantor will not impair or interfere with the right of the public to access and use the Easement Area in accordance with this Easement Agreement.
4. Prohibited Uses. Any activity on or use of the Trail Easement inconsistent with the purposes of the Trail Easement is prohibited.
5. Trail Signage. If Grantor wishes to mark the Property with signs indicating "Private Property", then signs shall also be posted by the City of St. Helena identifying and showing the direction of the Trail. Grantor shall notify the City in writing of its desire to install such signage indicating "Private Property" prior to installing such signage.
6. Successors and Assigns. The Public Access Easement granted hereby shall run with the land and all of the rights and obligations of Grantor and Grantee under this Easement Agreement shall inure to the benefit of their respective successors, transferees and assigns.
5. Grantee's Remedies. If Grantee determines that Grantor is in violation of the terms of this Easement Agreement or that a violation is threatened, Grantee shall give written notice to Grantor of such violation and demand corrective action sufficient to cure the violation and, where the violation involves restriction of access to the Easement Area resulting from any use or activity inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement Agreement, to restore the portion of the Easement Area so injured. If Grantor fails to cure the violation within 30 days after receipt of notice thereof from Grantee, or under circumstances where the violation cannot reasonably be cured within a 30-day period, fails to begin curing such violation within the 30-day period, or fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally cured, Grantee may bring an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Easement Agreement, to enjoin the violation by temporary or permanent injunction, to recover any damages to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Easement Agreement or injury to any protected values, including damages for any loss thereof, and to require the restoration of the Easement Area to the condition

that existed prior to any such injury. Grantee's rights under this paragraph apply equally in the event of either actual or threatened violations of the terms of this Easement Agreement, and Grantor agrees that Grantee's remedies at law for any violation of the terms of this Easement Agreement are inadequate and that Grantee shall be entitled to the injunctive relief described in this paragraph, both prohibitive and mandatory, in addition to such other relief to which Grantee may be entitled, including specific performance of the terms of this Easement Agreement, without the necessity of proving either actual damages or the inadequacy of otherwise available legal remedies. Grantee's remedies described in this paragraph shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter existing at law or in equity.

8. Costs of Enforcement. Any costs incurred by Grantee in enforcing the terms of this Easement Agreement against Grantor, including, without limitation, costs of suit and attorneys' fees, and any costs or restoration necessitated by Grantor's violation of the terms of this Easement Agreement shall be borne by Grantor. If Grantor prevails in any action to enforce the terms of this Easement Agreement, Grantor's costs of suit, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees, shall be borne by Grantee.

9. Grantee's Discretion. Enforcement of the terms of this Easement Agreement shall be at the discretion of Grantee, and any forbearance by Grantee to exercise its rights under this Easement Agreement in the event of any breach of any term of this Easement Agreement by Grantor shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver by Grantee of such term or of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term of this Easement Agreement or of any of Grantee's rights under this Easement Agreement. No delay or omission by Grantee in the exercise of any right or remedy on any breach by Grantor shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver.

10. Hold Harmless. The Grantor shall hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the Grantee and its officers, officials, employees, agents, and contractors and the heirs, successors, and assigns of each of them (collectively "Indemnified Parties") from and against all liabilities, penalties, costs, losses, damages, expenses, causes of action, claims, demands, or judgments, including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees arising from or in any way connected with (a) use of the Trail Easement before acceptance by Grantee and/or before use as a public Trail; and (b) any injury to or the death of any person, or physical damage to any property, resulting from any act, omission, condition, or other matter related to or occurring on or about the Easement Area caused by the Grantor at any time.

11. Force Majeure Events. Notwithstanding the attached description of the Easement Area, both Grantor and Grantee acknowledge that the Easement Area consists of dirt trails and vegetation that are subject to movement, degradation, erosion and destruction from various influences including, without limitation, earthquakes, floods, wind, rain or other acts of God or events beyond the control of Grantor or Grantee (collectively, and as applicable, "Force Majeure Events"). Accordingly, Grantor and Grantee agree that the Easement Area described herein is subject to movement and relocation

as a result of any such Force Majeure Events. Upon the occurrence of any Force Majeure Event that results in the movement of the Easement Area or otherwise results in the total or partial destruction of the Trail Easement granted hereby, Grantor and Grantee agree to reasonably cooperate with each other in good faith in relocating the Easement Area or otherwise establishing a new Easement Area for the Trail Easement. In furtherance of the foregoing, Grantor and Grantee agree to execute and record an amendment to this Easement Agreement identifying and establishing the revised Easement Area.

12. General Provisions.

A. Controlling Law. The interpretation and performance of this Easement Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California.

B. Severability. If any provision of this Easement Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Easement Agreement, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is found to be invalid, as the case may be, shall not be affected thereby.

C Entire Agreement. This instrument sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the Easement Agreement and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, understandings, or agreements relating to the Easement Agreement, all of which are merged herein.

**END OF EASEMENT**

**SIGNATURE PROVISIONS FOLLOW**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor and Grantee have executed this Trail Easement on \_\_\_\_\_.

**“GRANTOR”**

[Name, Entity]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Title

\*Signature must be notarized.

**“GRANTEE”**

City of St. Helena, a municipal corporation

---

Mayor or Vice Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

---

City Attorney

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**EXHIBIT “A” – Legal Description of Property**  
**TRACT \_\_\_\_ SUBDIVISION MAP**

**EXHIBIT “B” – Legal Description of Trail Easement**  
**TRAIL EASEMENT LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Acknowledgements



Appendix D: Easement agreement between the City of St. Helena and 899 Adams Street

RECORDING REQUESTED BY AND  
WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

City Clerk  
City of St. Helena  
1480 Main Street  
St. Helena, CA 94574

EXEMPT FROM RECORDING FEES -  
SECTION 6103 GOVERNMENT CODE



1993 030531

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF  
NAPA COUNTY  
H. KATHLEEN BONDS

AT REQUEST OF CITY OF ST HELENA  
09/27/1993 11:11 am  
Fee: \$ .00 Pgs: 8  
TT : \$ .00

AGREEMENT GRANTING TEMPORARY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July,  
1993, by and between ST. HELENA OFFICE PARK PARTNERS, a  
California General Partnership ("SHOP"), and THE CITY OF ST.  
HELENA, a municipal corporation operating under the laws of the  
State of California ("CITY").

R E C I T A L S

A. SHOP is the owner of certain real property located on  
Adams Street, City of St. Helena, described as APN 09-061-038  
(the Property).

B. CITY desires to establish and maintain a temporary  
bicycle and pedestrian pathway across a portion of the Property  
which would be used by the general public.

C. SHOP hereby grants an easement to CITY to establish,  
construct, maintain and use a public bicycle and pedestrian  
pathway across a portion of the Property, pursuant to the terms  
and conditions provided for in this agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

### A G R E E M E N T

1. Grant of Easement. SHOP hereby grants to CITY an easement in gross to construct, maintain and make available for public use, a bicycle and pedestrian pathway across a portion of the Property.

2. Location. The easement granted herein is located as described in Exhibit "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (the Easement Property).

3. Nonexclusiveness of Easement. The easement granted herein is not exclusive, and SHOP shall retain the right to use the Easement Property in a manner that will not restrict or interfere with the public's use of the Easement Property. CITY may not assign its rights hereunder without the prior written consent of SHOP, which may be withheld in SHOP's sole discretion.

4. Construction. CITY may construct, at its sole expense, a bicycle and pedestrian pathway within the Easement Property as indicated on Exhibit "B"; provided, however, that CITY shall cooperate with SHOP in scheduling and conducting such activities and shall use all reasonable efforts to minimize any interference with SHOP's use and enjoyment of its property, including but not limited to, the construction by SHOP of an office building on its property.

5. Maintenance. The granting of this easement is made on a condition subsequent that the easement improvements be fully and adequately maintained by the City at no expense or liability to SHOP.

6. Indemnity and Hold Harmless. The parties agree that this Agreement imposes no obligation on SHOP to perform any act or perform any duty with respect to the Easement Property. CITY shall indemnify and hold SHOP harmless from all damages or claims of any type arising from the conveyance of this easement, construction of improvements thereon, or the use of those improvements or easement by any persons, except that CITY shall not be obligated to indemnify and hold SHOP harmless from damages or claims to the extent such damages or claims arise from the negligent acts of SHOP. CITY's indemnification obligations as provided under this Section 6 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

7. Term. This easement shall continue in effect until the Easement Property (a) ceases to be used as a bicycle and pedestrian pathway for a period of more than five (5) years as determined by mutual agreement or court judgment or order, or (b) is determined by a court in a judgment or order to be utilized on a continuing basis in a manner which poses the threat of liability to SHOP or poses the risk of damage to person or property, or (c) mutual agreement of the parties, or (d) such date as the Adams Street extension is completed and the "Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Easement," identified on the Parcel Map of the Lands of St. Helena Office Park Partners, recorded the 19th day of March, 1993, in Book 19, pages 79 and 80 of Parcel Maps in the Records of the County Recorder of Napa County,

joins with Adams Street as extended. Upon the termination of this Agreement, SHOP, at its sole expense, may remove any bicycle and pedestrian pathway constructed by the CITY within the Easement Property and restore and landscape the Easement Property.

8. Attorneys' Fees. In the event of any controversy, claim, or dispute relating to this instrument or the breach thereof, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the losing party reasonable expenses, attorneys' fees, and costs.

9. Binding Effect. This instrument shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of SHOP and CITY.

10. Counterparts. This instrument may be executed in counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall be an original.

EXECUTED the day and year first above written.

ST. HELENA OFFICE PARK PARTNERS,  
a California general partnership

By Victor Motto  
Victor Motto, General Partner

By Michael Fisher  
Michael Fisher, General Partner

This easement is hereby accepted.



CITY OF ST. HELENA, a municipal corporation

By Gene Armstead  
Gene Armstead  
Its City Administrator

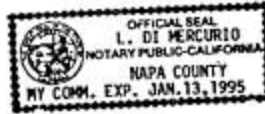
-4-



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Diane M. Pice  
Diane M. Pice  
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF NAPA )



On 9/17, 1993, before me, L. Di Mercurio, a Notary Public for the State of California, personally appeared Victor Motto, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity as general partner, and that by his signature on the instrument the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

L. Di Mercurio  
Notary Public

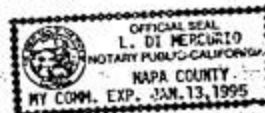
STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF NAPA )

On 9/17, 1993, before me, L. Di Mercurio, a Notary Public for the State of California, personally appeared Michael Fisher, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity as general partner, and that by his signature on the instrument the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

L. Di Mercurio  
Notary Public

-5-



STATE OF CALIFORNIA)  
                                  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF NAPA          )

On September 22, 1993, before me, the undersigned, Deputy City Clerk of the City of St. Helena, personally appeared Gene Armstead, personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

  
Delia Guijosa, Deputy City Clerk



**EXHIBIT "A"**

**LAND DESCRIPTION  
PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE EASEMENT**

For a pedestrian and bicycle path easement over a portion of the Lands of Gregory A. Galleron as shown on that certain Record of Survey recorded in Book 27 Record of Surveys at Page 75, in the office of the Napa County Recorder, located in the City of St. Helena, County of Napa, State of California, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the northern corner of said Lands of Galleron; thence along the northwestern line of said parcel S 28 degrees 56' 30" W 20.00 feet to the True Point of Beginning; thence continuing along said western line S 28 degrees 56' 30" W 43.19 feet to the beginning of a non-tangent curve concave to the east having a radius of 220.00 feet and to which beginning a radial line bears N 78 degrees 23' 59" W; thence southerly 22.01 feet along said curve through a central angle of 05 degrees 43' 57" to the beginning of a reverse curve concave to the west having a radius of 280.00 feet; thence southerly 10.66 feet along said curve through a central angle of 02 degrees 10' 50"; thence S 88 degrees 53' 58" E 10.07 feet to the beginning of a non-tangent curve concave to the west having a radius of 290.00 feet and to which beginning a radial line bears S 82 degrees 11' 32" E; thence northerly 9.82 feet along said curve through a central angle of 01 degrees 56' 24" to the beginning of a reverse curve concave to the east having a radius of 210.00 feet; thence northerly 19.50 feet along said curve through a central angle of 05 degrees 19' 16"; thence N 28 degrees 56' 30" E 41.76 feet; thence N 61 degrees 42' 35" W 10.00 feet to the True Point of Beginning.

**END OF DESCRIPTION**





## Appendix E: Resources

San Francisco's Crosstown Trail:

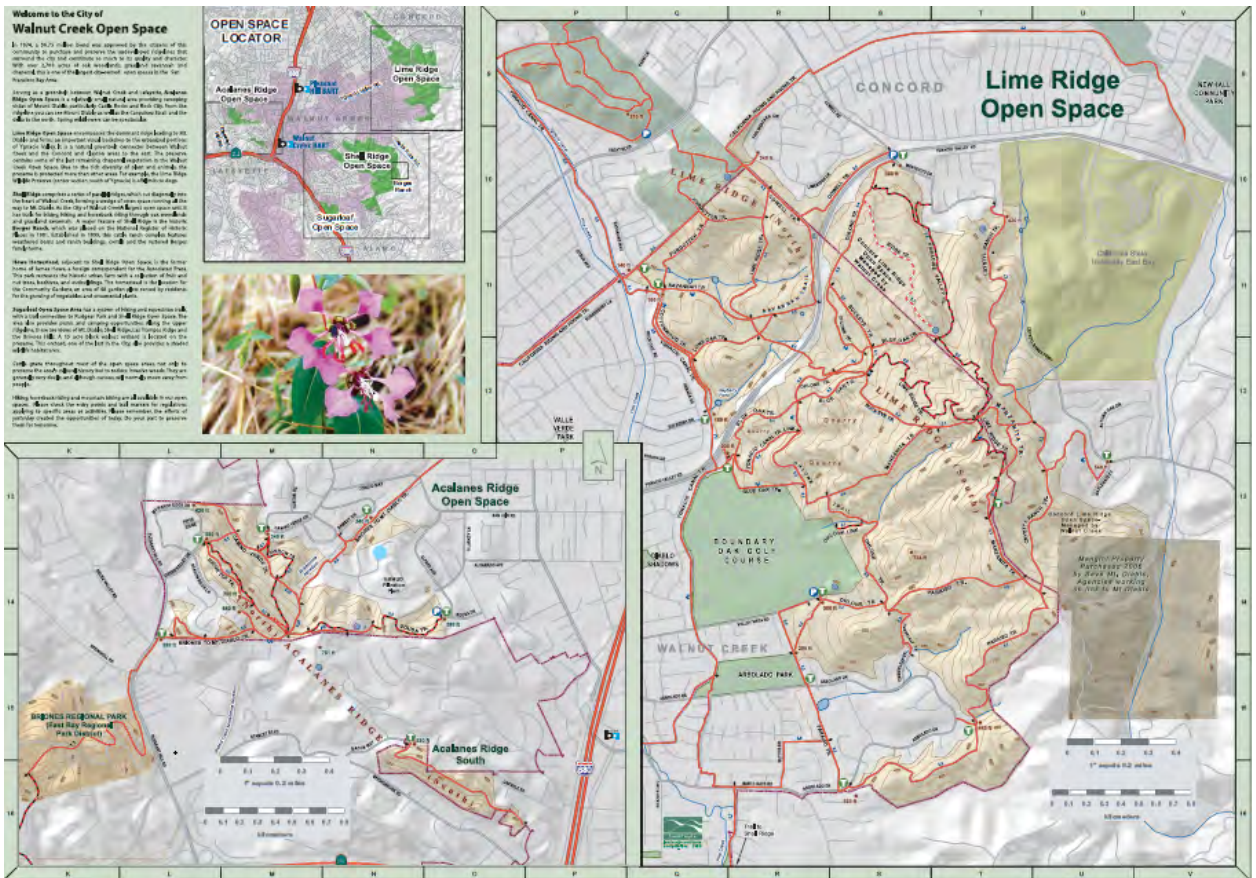
"In 2012, we imagined a trail that will cut across San Francisco, connecting the city's neighborhoods, open spaces, and local trails."

<https://crosstowntrail.org/about-the-trail/>

Walnut Creek signs and maps:

The City of Walnut Creek has very well developed walks within town and along its creek and former railroad right-of-way.







Lake Hennessey regulation signs, other signs, and maps:

The Hennessey Unit of the Moore Creek Park includes pathways along Lake Hennessey, the water supply for the City of Napa. Clear signs are provided regarding prohibited activities, which seem to be adhered to, and there are motion detector cameras deployed as well.











Stanford Dish regulation sign and map:

The Stanford Dish is a popular 1500 acre open space area in rolling hills above Stanford University with just over 5 miles of trails in a broad loop for hiking and jogging (but no biking) and is open to the public from approximately sunrise to sunset throughout the year. Regulations are strictly enforced by the university.







Legal issues associated with trails:

“Although risks and responsibilities vary widely depending on the location and type of use, this topic has been addressed in all 50 states and is well-studied. Knowledge of basic legal principles can guide project planning and highlight areas that merit particular attention.”

<https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/trails-library-legal-overview.pdf>

“The Courts and the Legislature have expressed a clear policy to permit the use of available recreational property, both public and private, in its natural condition, without placing the burden and expense of altering the property and defending claims for injuries on the landowner.”

<https://www.americantrails.org/resources/protection-from-liability-promoting-the-use-and-development-of-recreational-trails>

San Jose, California trails:

The City of San Jose has extensive resources on trail development, including their Trail Strategic Plan, which includes hiking-only trails, their design toolkit, and signage guidelines. There is no need to reinvent the wheel on any of these.

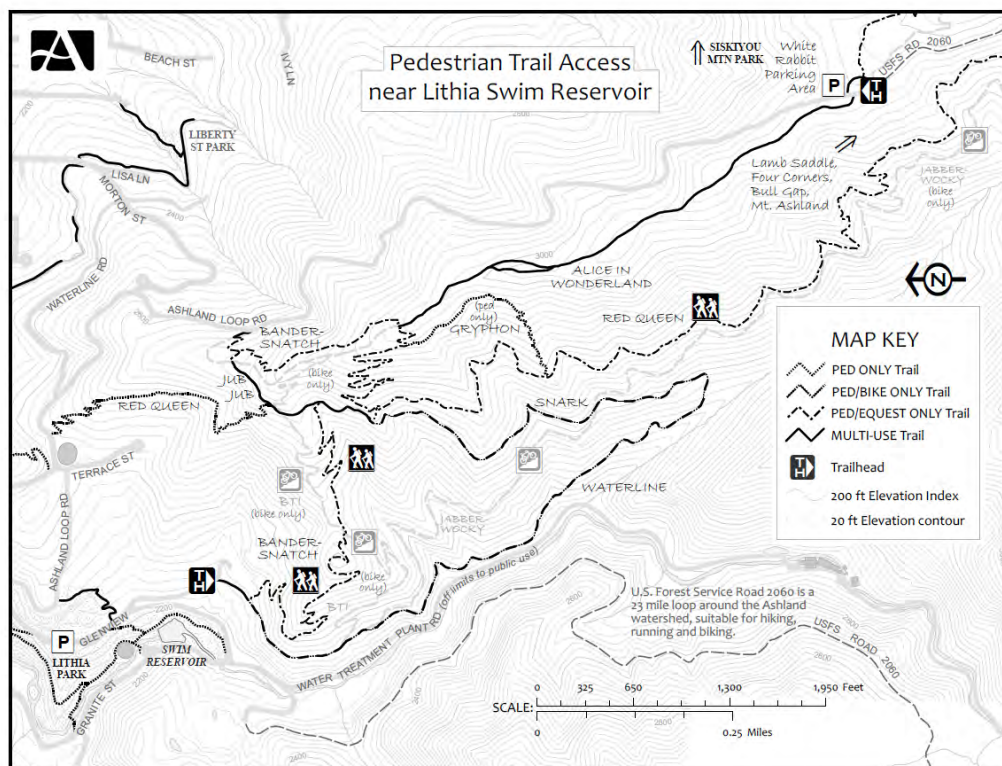
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=9827>

<https://www.americantrails.org/images/documents/San-Jose-trail-network-planning-and-design-toolkit.pdf>

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=9855>

Ashland, Oregon pedestrian trail map:

The City of Ashland abuts U.S. Forest Service lands and has pedestrian-only, bike-only and multi-use trails.





#### Working with landowners:

A guide for how to reach out to landowners regarding potential access or easements and a discussion about issues regarding access and liability issues.

[https://www.americantrails.org/images/documents/Handout\\_Landowner-Outreach-and-Trail-Planning.pdf](https://www.americantrails.org/images/documents/Handout_Landowner-Outreach-and-Trail-Planning.pdf)

[https://www.river-management.org/assets/WaterTrails/landowner%20guidance\\_final\\_final\\_revised\\_1-21-2016.pdf](https://www.river-management.org/assets/WaterTrails/landowner%20guidance_final_final_revised_1-21-2016.pdf)

#### Bear Yuba Land Trust:

FAQ regarding trail easements from an innovative land trust.

<https://www.bylt.org/build-trails/whats-a-trail-easement/>

#### California Recreational Use Trail Immunity Laws:

“California’s recreational use and governmental immunity laws help keep our recreational lands open to the public.”

<https://www.portersimon.com/californias-recreational-use-trail-immunity-laws/>

#### Placer Land Trust Trails:

Many public, private and nonprofit entities are focused on creating walking paths and other trails through open space.

“Imagine a public wilderness trail amid a protected landscape of ranch lands, open woodlands, forests, creeks and ponds.”

<https://placerlandtrust.org/harvego-bear-river-preserve/>

#### Summit County, Colorado Trail Example Easement and Access Agreement:

<https://summitcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/2933/Mooney-Trail-Easement-Access-Agmt>

Lexington, Kentucky Town Branch Trail Master Plan:

“The trail will connect into a recently completed 1.8 mile section of the Town Branch Trail near Alexandria Road and lead to Masterson Station Park.”

[https://www.townbranch.org/doc/TBT\\_CentralSection\\_MasterPlan.pdf](https://www.townbranch.org/doc/TBT_CentralSection_MasterPlan.pdf)

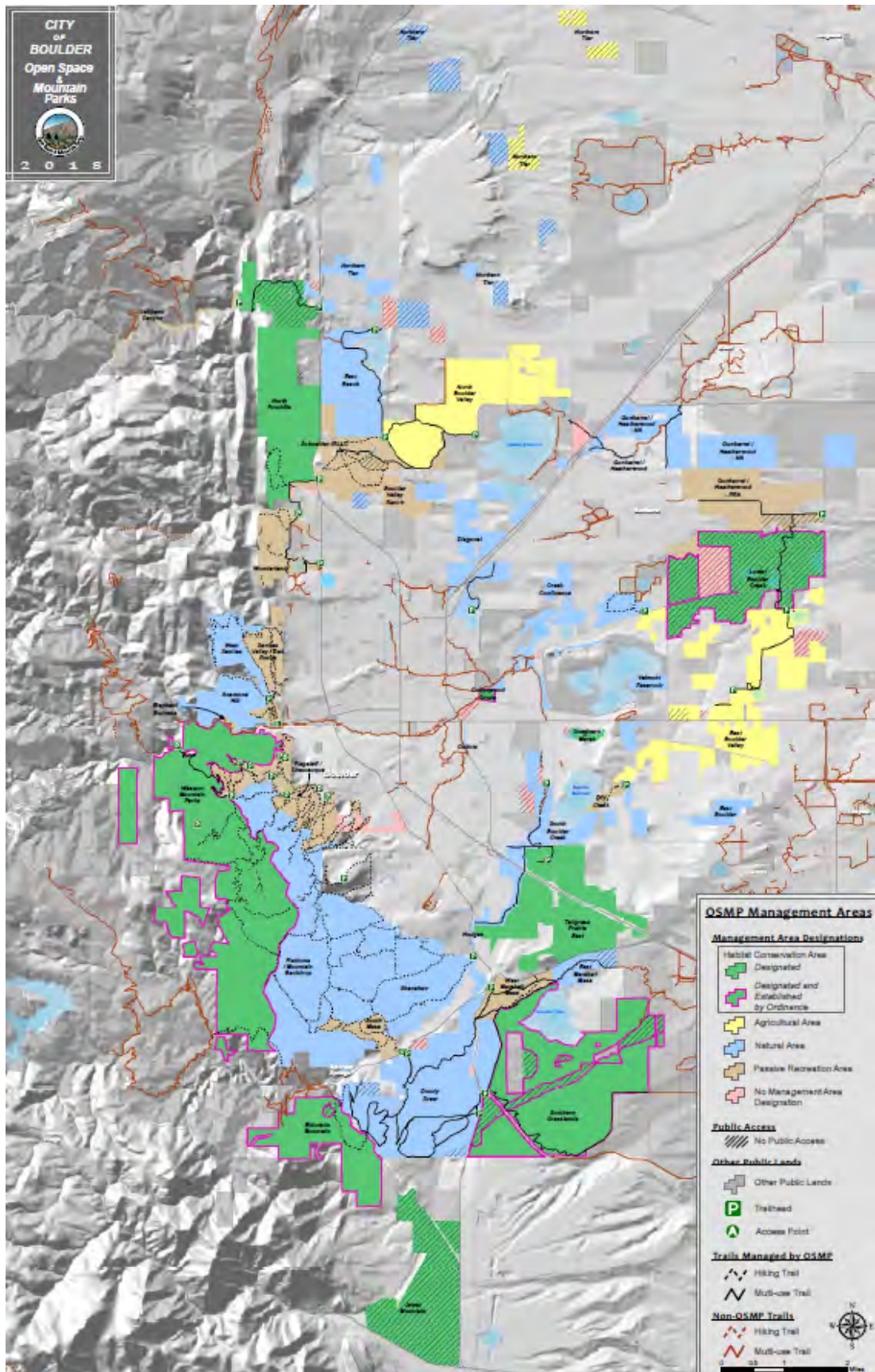
Pitkin County Open Space Management Plan:

“The mission of the Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board of Trustees is to acquire, preserve, maintain and manage open space properties for multiple purposes including, but not limited to, recreational, wildlife, agricultural, scenic and access purposes; and to acquire, preserve, develop, maintain and manage trails for similar purposes.”

[https://pitkincounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/20751/Moore-OS-Management-Plan\\_Draft](https://pitkincounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/20751/Moore-OS-Management-Plan_Draft)

Boulder, Colorado trails:

The City of Boulder has separate hiking (walking)-only and multi-modal trails within its mountain and valley open space areas.





Hudson River Greenway trails and open space:

A guide for landowners.

<https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2018/06/landownersguide.pdf>

“[Insurance] coverage will only be extended as part of trail access agreements.”

[https://hudsonrivergreenwaywatertrail.org/images/ckeditor/files/private\\_insurance.pdf](https://hudsonrivergreenwaywatertrail.org/images/ckeditor/files/private_insurance.pdf)

Galiano Trails:

A Canadian non-profit dedicated to developing trails on a BC island, including a sample access agreement.

<https://www.galianotrails.com/>

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/cms/wpattachments/wpID364atID1694.pdf>

City of Morgan Hill Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

“An expanded bicycle and pedestrian network and diversified recreational and cultural experiences throughout the City will strengthen Morgan Hill’s community fabric and strong sense of place as the City grows and evolves.”

[https://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21711/CityMorganHill\\_Plan-COMBINED-CHAPTERS\\_07062017](https://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21711/CityMorganHill_Plan-COMBINED-CHAPTERS_07062017)

Solano Land Trust Trail Crew Day:

Recruiting volunteers to help build trails.

<https://www.meetup.com/Solano-Land-Trust-Outdoor-Adventures-Meetup/events/279132221/>

Saturday, July 24, 2021

## Trail Crew Day at Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park



Hosted by  
Solano Land T.



Solano Land Trust Outdoor  
Adventures Meetup  
Public group



Saturday, July 24, 2021  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM PDT



Needs a location

### Details

We are in need of volunteers who will be able to have fun and do earth work in preparation for the new trails that will be laid out on this property.

Registration is Required

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ei6p48vs45e6b7fd&oseq=&c=&ch=>

\*\*\* MEETING LOCATION IS AT THE BIG RED ICE HOUSE ON THE CORNER OF  
SUISUN VALLEY RD AND ROCKVILLE RD., POINT OF CONTACT IS JORDAN  
KNIPPENBERG \*\*\*

Garland Ranch Regional Park:

Many trails are hiking only and some trails are by easement agreement on private property.



