

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
to the
CITYWIDE LANDSCAPE
MAINTENANCE DISTRICT
CLAYTON, CA
JUNE 2009

*Deanna
Lambert*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Clayton is a small town, and small towns are about community. Community is about what we hold in common, those values, traits, and interests that weave us together. The Trails and Landscape Committee is a group of Clayton residents that volunteer to provide advice to the City Council about the use of Measure B funds, to make suggestions about how to keep Clayton's roadside landscaping beautiful, and to steward its awesome network of trails and open space.

Because in Clayton we prize what's small—particularly when it comes to government—we rely on volunteers to provide the “extras” that make life in this community special. And when people give of themselves, thanks are in order. I want to thank my colleagues who serve with me on the Trails and Landscape Committee. This year we launched Clayton's Adopt-a-Trail program, and I want to extend special thanks to the sponsors and volunteers that have stepped up to help keep Clayton's trails beautiful. Names of both groups can be found within this report.

I ask all that read this report to join with us. There are many ways to serve, to give back, and to connect. Please volunteer to maintain a section of trail—or to sponsor those that are willing to do so. As I write this, we live and work in an extraordinary and difficult time. With the city budget shrinking, the need for volunteers to extend and enhance our community is greater than ever. We have many opportunities; I hope I get the chance to thank you for taking one.

Virginia Siegel
Chair



Photo used for cover art

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT CELEBRATES ITS SECOND YEAR

The Citywide Landscape Maintenance District (“District”) ended its second year of operation on June 30, 2009. It operates and maintains the public roadway landscaping and its irrigation system, the trail system, and the “Clayton fountain”. It also provides weed abatement and fire breaks in the open spaces. The District does not include any of the city parks, the City Hall and Library yards, the athletic fields, or the downtown Grove Park which are funded by other taxes.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

In 2003 the City Council created a Blue Ribbon Committee (“BRC”) made up of citizen volunteers to evaluate the condition of the existing District which had been established in 1997 and which was set to expire on June 30, 2007. The BRC concluded that the original District had been under funded since its inception and as a result the landscaping, trails and irrigation systems had deteriorated substantially.

The BRC recommended Measure M which would have funded a number of capital improvement projects and provided a greater level of routine maintenance at an annual assessment of \$365 per parcel. Measure M was voted down by the citizens in November 2005.

Afterward, the BRC scaled down their recommendation by deleting all capital improvements and reducing the level of maintenance at an initial annual assessment of \$196.77 per parcel. The resulting Measure B was approved by 83% of the voters in a special election held in June 2007.

The current District began on July 1, 2007 and will be in effect for a period of 10 years. It will expire on June 30, 2017.

Measure B also established a Citizens’ Oversight Committee that is familiarly known as the Trails and Landscaping Committee (“TLC”) which advises the City Council and staff on matters concerning the District budget, priorities, and responsibilities. The TLC consists of up to eleven (11) non paid, volunteer citizens of Clayton and the Vice Mayor who serves as the City Council’s non-voting representative in an ex-officio liaison capacity. The TLC currently meets quarterly to oversee the operation of the District.



Photo and Artistic Rendering of Cardinet Trail by Julie Van Wyk

2008-2009 TLC MEMBERS

Citizens who served on the TLC from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 are:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Candace Bass (former Chairperson)	30 June 2009
David Disend	30 June 2009
David Johnson	30 June 2009
Virginia Siegel (Chairperson)	30 June 2009
Bill Vineyard	30 June 2009
JoAnn Caspar	30 June 2010 (Second term)
Victor Geisler (former Vice-Chairman)	30 June 2010 (Second term)
Jerry Kosel (Vice-Chairman)	30 June 2010 (Second term)
Kelly Marshall	30 June 2010 (Second term)
Julie Pierce (former Ex-Officio)	
Hank Stratford (Ex-Officio)	



Photo of Mt. Diablo Creek Trial by Linda Pinder. Artistic Rendering by Suzanne Lawson

ADOPT-A-TRAIL BEGINS

In October 2008, the City Council approved the Adopt-A-Trail program which was proposed and development by members of the TLC. The program aims to:

- * Augment financing provided by Measure B.
- * Provide a venue for volunteers to help Clayton maintain and enhance its trail network
- * Make the trails cleaner
- * Celebrate the trails' sponsors and volunteers.
- * Foster civic pride through volunteerism, philanthropy, and cleanliness

The TLC has identified 11 trail segments to adopt. Each segment can have two adopters: a financial adopter and clean-up adopter. Adopters as of June 30, 2009 are:

<u>Trail Segment</u>	<u>Financial Adopter</u>	<u>Clean-up Adopter</u>
Cardinet (Library to Lydia Lane)	Black Diamond Electric	The Pauline Family
Bruce Lee	None	Jeff Waldron
Blue Oak	CD Federal Credit Union	Employees of CD Federal Credit Union
Lower Easley	None	Kinder Care
Donner Creek	None	BSA Troop 262 & 284

Markers are installed at the time a financial donor adopts a trail segment.



A packet of Adopt-A-Trail information and the budget is attached.

STREET PAVING PROJECT ALLOWS HIGHLY USED TRAILS TO BE UPGRADED ECONOMICALLY

The popular Mt. Diablo Creek and Upper Easley (Bruce Lee) Trails are highly used by our citizens and, as a result, have experienced significant degradation over time. Both of these trails have a tread with an asphalt base and chip seal surface. In March 2008 the District staff produced the “Trails Inventory and Evaluation” report which stated that the Mt. Diablo Trail was in the worst shape of any of the city’s asphalt trails. It had major cracking on most of its surface and was in need of repair. Simply adding a new chip seal would not be sufficient. The asphalt base needed to be replaced. The Upper Easley Trail was also reported to have many cracks and in need of repair but it was determined that a new chip seal surface would probably provide years of future service. The cost of repaving either or both trails as a stand alone project would be prohibitive.

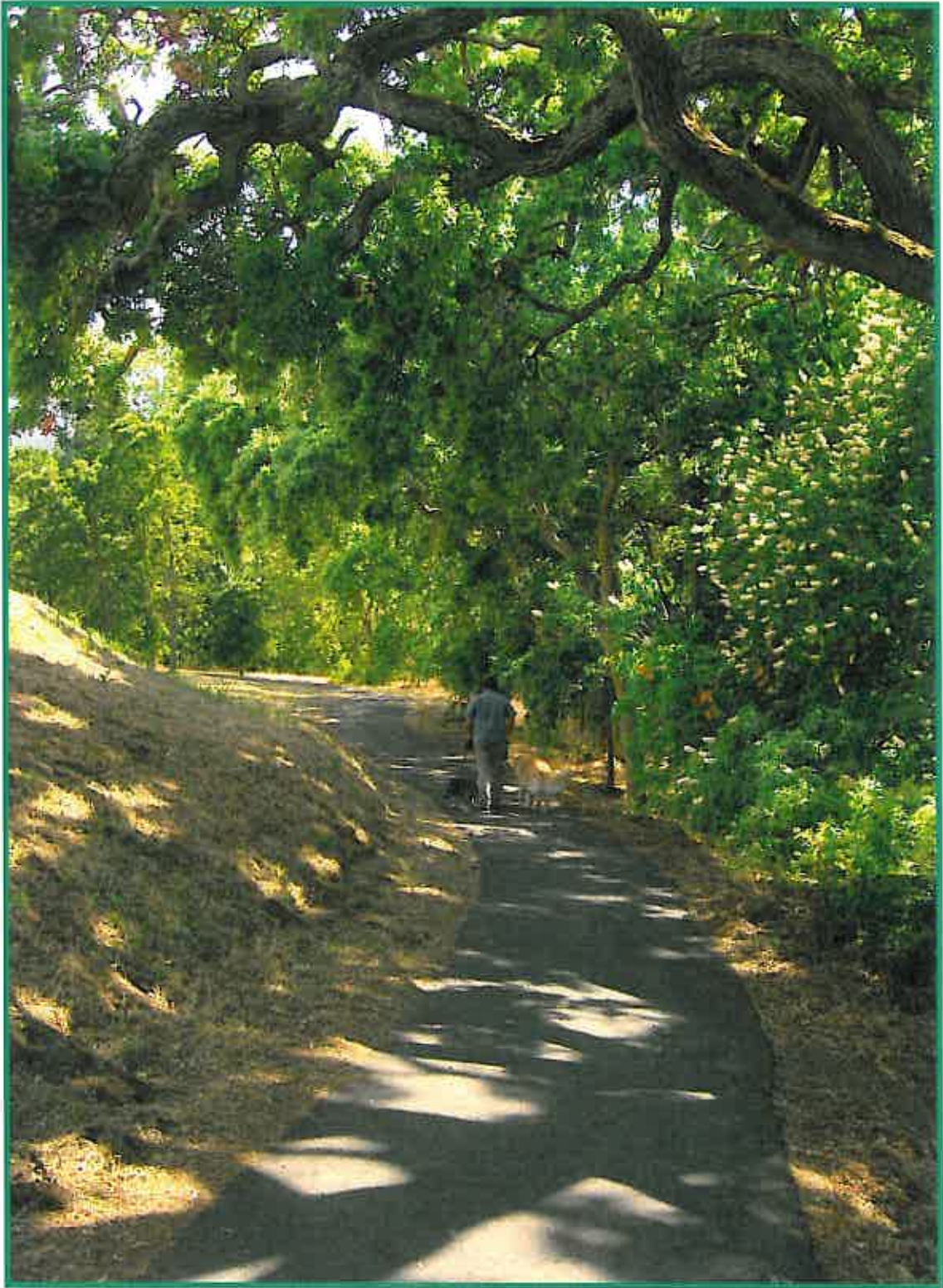
Fortunately, the City maintenance department had budgeted for a planned street repair in the summer of 2008. By combining the trail repair with the street paving project, the District was able to take advantage of “economies of scale” and repave both trails with asphalt at half the standard price.



(Upper Easley Trail – before repaving)



(Upper Easley Trail – after repaving)



(Mt. Diablo Creek Trail – after repaving)

45 % WATER REDUCTION BEGAN IN MAY

Contra Costa Water District ordered the District to reduce water usage by 45% (vs. 15% for homeowners) beginning May 1, 2009. Prior to that date, the District had begun to look for alternative water sources to help offset the reduction. As of June 30, 2009, the District had tapped an existing well to irrigate several medians and lawns near the Library. It had also gained approval by the City Council to renovate an existing well behind the Post Office to irrigate the Downtown raised planting boxes and the Grove Park. These well sources only partially make up for the loss of water supply, so the District has begun a triage program in which the main objective in order of priority is to save all of the trees, shrubs and selected ground cover. Irrigation of lawns and bare areas has been shut off. As a result, the lawns and some plants have begun to die. The District has also temporarily reduced trimming and fertilizing of the planting areas in order to retard new growth. The standard maintenance and irrigation schedule will resume once water rationing has ended. At that time, the TLC will begin to determine what should be done in areas that have deteriorated due to lack of irrigation. A more detailed discussion can be found in the attached "Water Rationing Plan".

TLC RECOMMENDS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 TO CITY COUNCIL

In May of 2009, the TLC submitted a proposed budget to the City Council which was based on the existing FY2008-2009 assessment subject to adjustment by the not yet announced Consumer Price Index (CPI) but capped to a 3% maximum increase per Measure B. Subsequently, the CPI was published at an increase of 0.8% and in July 2009, the City Council adopted an annual assessment of \$894,396 or \$204.06 per residential parcel or non residential parcel acre. A copy of the adopted budget and further explanation of Fund 210 is attached.



Photo and Artistic Rendering of Lamp Post and Bridge - Cardinet Trail
By Julie Van Wyk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO THE DISTRICT

The TLC wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their time, effort, and financial support for the District:

- * Clayton Valley Garden Club for continuing to provide plant material and maintenance for the raised planter boxes downtown on Main and Center Streets.
- * Local artists Suzanne Lawson and Julie Van Wyk for providing the beautiful artwork and photos of the trails included in this years' report.
- * Linda Pinder for photos and report layout.
- * The Clayton Pioneer newspaper for publishing articles about the District authored by Candace Bass, Committee member.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONTINUES

Both the TLC and the District continue to reach out to the public to keep citizens informed of their activities in a variety of ways which include:

- * Inviting the public to attend quarterly TLC meetings.
- * Requesting comments and questions via email to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us
- * Posting meeting minutes at the City website at www.ci.clayton.ca.us
- * Presenting summaries of TLC meetings at City Council and CBCA meetings.
- * Publishing "Round the Yard" quarterly reports of maintenance staff activities.
- * Submitting articles about the District to the Clayton Pioneer newspaper.
- * Maintaining a display about the District in the entrance to the library.

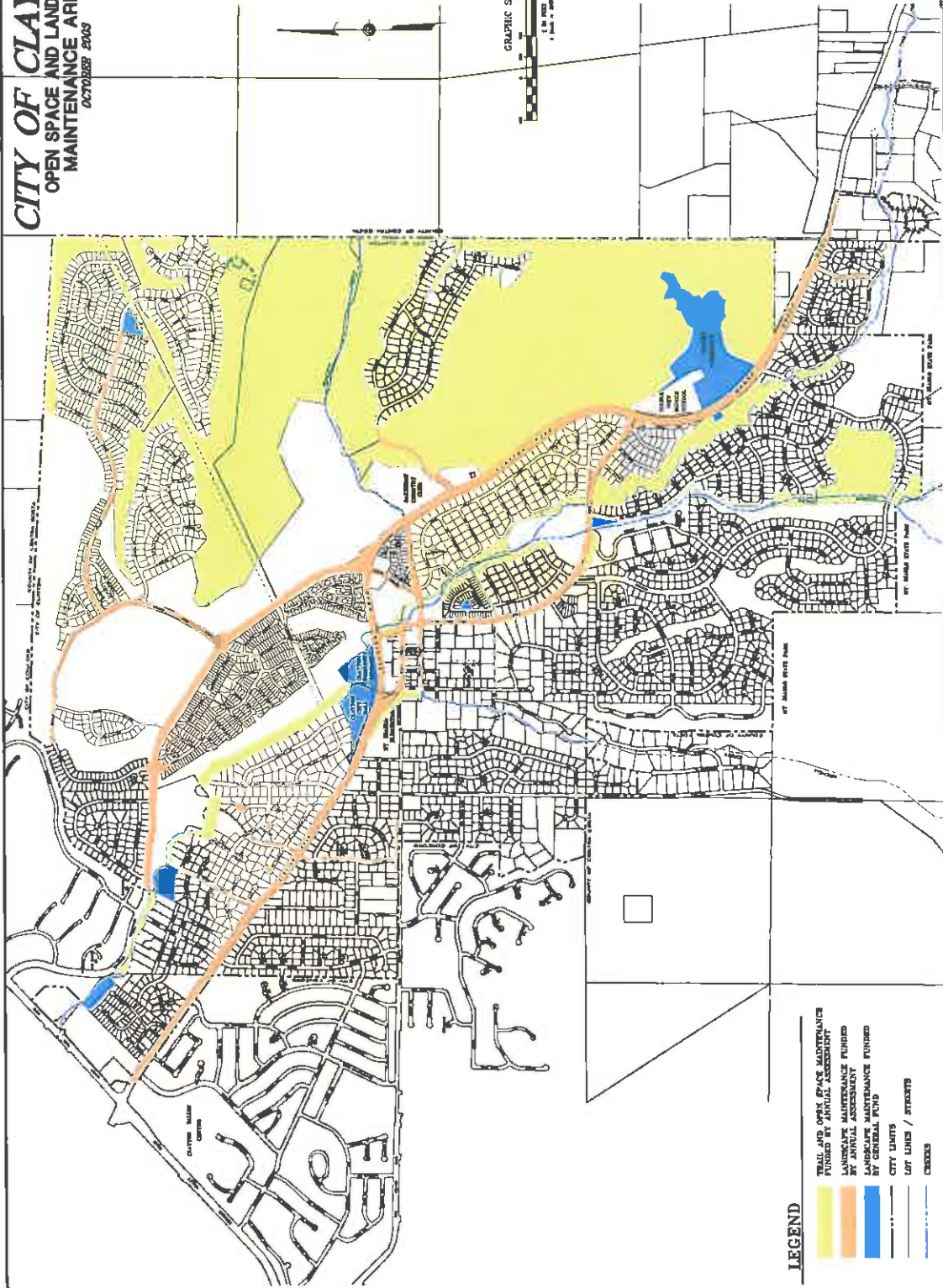
VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

The members of the TLC invite you to join!

Attachments

- * Landscape Maintenance District Boundary Map
- * Adopt-A-Trail Program Information Packet and Budget
- * 2009-2010 Adopted Budget and Fund 210 (Landscape Maintenance District) Discussion
- * Articles about the District in the Clayton Pioneer (July 2008 to June 2009)
- * Water Rationing Plan
- * Quarterly Maintenance Reports (June 2008 to August 2009)
- * 2009 Future Trail Improvement Report

CITY OF CLAYTON
OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE
MAINTENANCE AREAS
 OCTOBER 2003



- LEGEND**
- TRAIL AND OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE FUNDED BY ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
 - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FUNDED BY ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
 - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FUNDED BY GENERAL FUND
 - CITY LIMITS
 - LOT LINES / STREETS
 - CREEKS

CITY OF CLAYTON

ADOPT

A

TRAIL



This is the inaugural year of the Clayton Adopt-a-Trail program. The program aims to:

- Augment financing provided by Measure B
- Provide a venue for volunteers to help Clayton maintain and enhance its trail network
- Make the trails cleaner
- Celebrate the sponsors and volunteers that help Clayton keep the trail network one of the distinguishing characteristics of our community
- Foster civic pride through volunteerism, philanthropy, and cleanliness

The Trails and Landscape Committee has initially identified 11 trail segments to adopt. Each segment can have two adopters: a financial adopter and a clean-up adopter. Besides paying the annual fee (\$1,000 for financial adopters and \$200 for clean-up adopters), clean-up groups must identify a leader/contact person and complete the attached form. Markers are installed at the time a financial sponsor is found for that trail segment.

Segments are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Adopters wanting recognition on the trail markers must also provide information that conforms to the city design specs for the markers.

Up to 10 T-shirts will be provided to each clean-up group.

If you are interested in participating in this program or would like additional information please leave your contact information on the **Adopt - A - Trail Hot Line at [673- 7369](tel:673-7369)**, and a Committee member will return your call.



Adopt-a-Trail Projects could include but are not limited to the following items, please mark all that apply to your project. This must be approved by the Department of Public Works and Engineering before work can begin.

Suggested Project Items

- Pick up litter and debris (required)
- Remove weeds (required)
- Raking and sweeping (required)
- Minor repairs of surfaces/furnishings
- Other _____
- Monitor/report maintenance needs (req)
- Plant trees*
- Plant and maintain flowerbeds*

* The planting of all flowers, trees and other plants must be pre-approved by the city. Support for special projects by adopting organizations will be arranged through the Trails and Landscaping Committee.

WORK SCHEDULE

Each group is required to have at least one work day every 4 months (total of 3 per year). Please list tentative dates for each work day. You will be expected to inform the Department of any date changes at least 2 weeks in advance.

Work Day #1 _____	Additional Work Days _____
Work Day #2 _____	_____
Work Day #3 _____	_____

(signature/date)

Group Coordinator

(signature/date)

(for the Trails and Landscaping Committee)

POLICIES

- The city will provide necessary trash bags, debris pickup, and hauling to ensure the success of ongoing tasks.
- Adopting organizations may keep and haul away for resale off site all recyclable trash they pickup.
- No one under the age of 14 may participate without adult supervision.
- While performing services at special project sites adopters will conform, at a minimum to the State of California Standard Specifications for hours of work, noise abatement, traffic control, erosion control, fire protection and management of materials.

(signature/date)

Group Coordinator

(signature/date)

[for the Trails and Landscaping Committee]

Please return application to _____

For questions, please contact _____

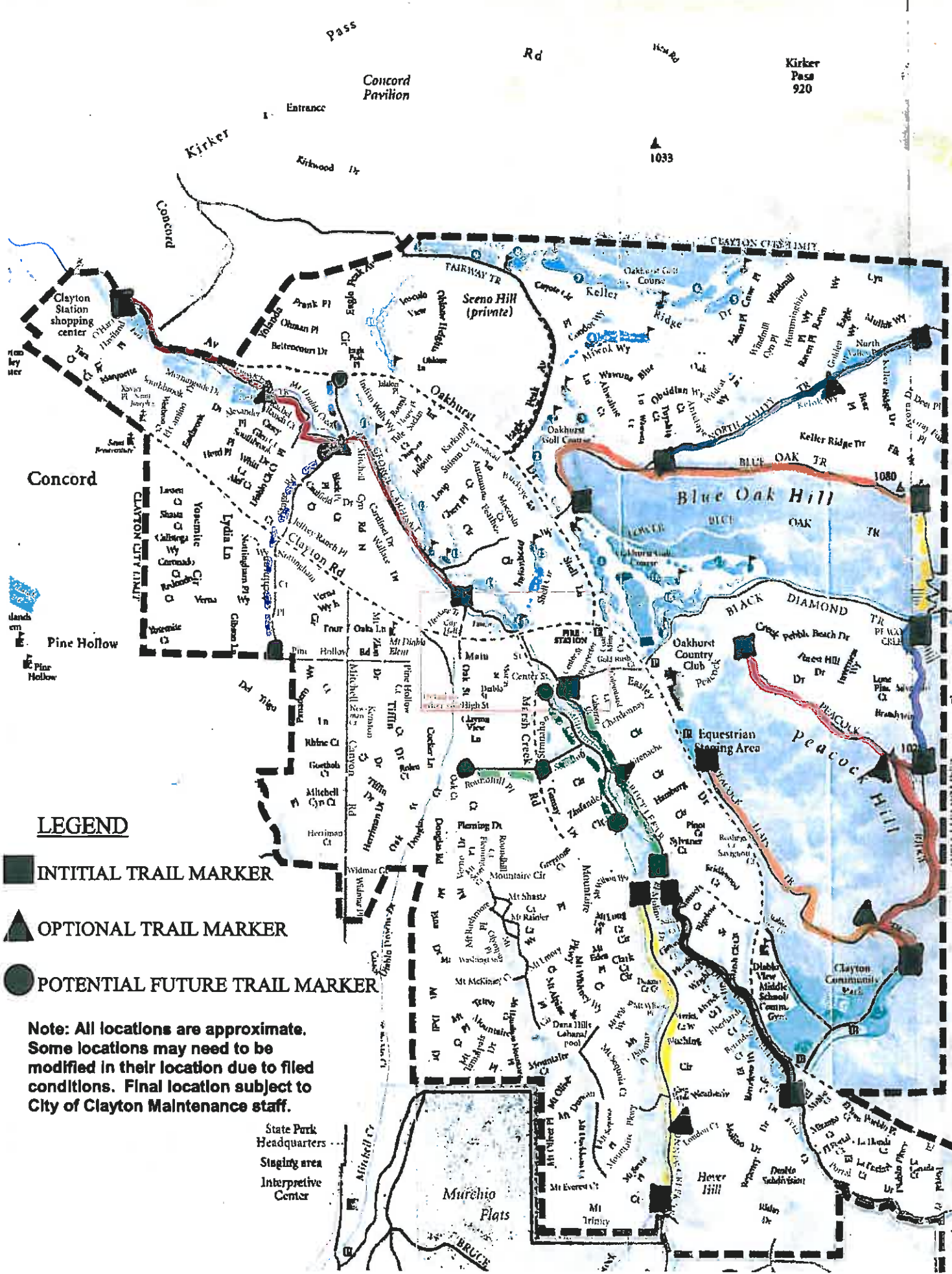
Phone

email

Payment received: _____
Date

By: _____





Pass
Rd
Kirker
Concord Pavilion
Entrance
Kirker
Kirwood Dr
1033
Kirker Pass 920

Concord

LEGEND

- INITIAL TRAIL MARKER
- OPTIONAL TRAIL MARKER
- POTENTIAL FUTURE TRAIL MARKER

Note: All locations are approximate. Some locations may need to be modified in their location due to filed conditions. Final location subject to City of Clayton Maintenance staff.

State Park Headquarters
Staging area
Interpretive Center

Mureño Flats

Hever hill

Clayton Commons Park
Dante Subdivision
Water Dr

CITY OF CLAYTON

Peacock
Creek
Trail



1.27 Miles

Trail Grade
75% Steep
25% Level

Surface
Crushed Granite

This Trail Segment Adopted By:

COMCAST
Cable

Clayton Valley
Little League

↑ 12" overall
sign
height

6" total sign width →



8"x 8" wood mitered routed post w/metal sign
(brown background/white lettering) mounted inset onto post

Adopt a Trail FY 08-09**Adopters/Revenues**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sponsor Type</u>	<u>Trail Section</u>	<u>Amount Recvd</u>	<u>Date Recvd</u>
Pauline Family	Volunteer Labor	Cardinet Trail (Library - Lydia Ln Pk)	\$200	2/3/2009
Black Diamond Electric	Financial	Cardinet Trail (Library - Lydia Ln Pk)	\$1000	2/3/2009
Jeff Waldron <u>Available</u>	Volunteer Labor Financial Sponsor	Bruce Lee Trail Bruce Lee Trail	\$200	2/3/2009
Employees of CD Federal Credit Union	Volunteer Labor	Blue Oak Trail	\$200	2/9/2009
CD Federal Credit Union	Financial Sponsor	Blue Oak Trail	\$1000	2/9/2009
Kinder Care (Knowledge Learning Center) <u>Available</u>	Volunteer Labor Financial Sponsor	Lower Easley Trail Lower Easley Trail	\$200	4/14/2009
BSA Troops 262 & 284 <u>Available</u>	Volunteer Labor Financial Sponsor	Donner Creek Trail Donner Creek Trail	\$200	6/30/2009
GSA Troops 30429 & 31895	Volunteer Labor	Cardinet Trail (Lydia Ln Pk - Westwood Pk)	not yet received in process	
CBCA	Financial Sponsor	Cardinet Trail (Lydia Ln Pk - Westwood Pk)	not yet received in process	
Total Revenues			\$3000	

Adopt a Trail Expenses

<u>Date</u>	<u>purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/8/2009	19.5 hrs maintenance temp labor make/ install signs	\$219.00
4/17/2009	materials for sign posts	\$1527.34
6/23/2009	signs printing (bay area barricade)	\$98.87
6/30/2009	t-shirts	\$289.51
Total Expenses		\$2134.72

6/30/09 Account Balance: \$3000.00 - \$2134.72 = \$865.28

City of Clayton
 Landscape Mtn District CFD 2007-1 Fund 210
 Estimated Budget 2009-10

Account Number	Account Name	2007-08 Actual 6/30/2008	2008-09 Adopted Budget	2008-09 Actual 5/31/2009	2008-09 Projected 6/30/2009	2009-10 Proposed Budget
7111	Salaries/Regular	141,523	202,258	110,419	153,634	154,000
7112	Temporary Help	78,850	75,115	67,085	92,830	93,000
7113	Overtime					
7218	LTD Insurance	1,585	1,821	1,191	1,602	1,602
7220	PERS Retirement	31,553	46,378	25,069	34,978	35,000
7221	City Attorney PERS					
7231	Workers Comp Insurance	6,625	5,305	5,736	5,736	5,800
7232	Unemployment Insurance	1,610	840	1,223	1,843	1,900
7233	FICA and Medicare	8,085	8,679	5,858	8,459	8,500
7246	Benefit Insurance	29,658	58,652	21,124	28,324	28,500
7311	General Supplies	47,606	38,718	23,823	38,718	38,718
7316	Landscape Replacement	3,455	20,000	6,635	6,598	20,000
7335	Gas & Electric Serv.	24,537	28,240	21,453	28,240	28,500
7338	Water Service	189,148	185,000	108,563	185,000	120,259
7342	Machinery/ Equip Maint.	7,594	8,758	11,443	11,443	8,758
7343	Vehicle Maintenance	1,218	8,334	719	3,000	8,334
7344	Vehicle Gas, Oil, and Supplies	8,514	8,494	4,371	6,000	8,494
7381	Property Tax Admin Cost	3,701	3,152	3,182	3,349	3,985
7389	Misc. Expenses (Special Election)	38,485	-	-	-	-
7419	Other Prof. Services	124,768	133,852	56,587	132,465	133,761
7485	Capital Equipment	36,714	-	-	-	-
7486	CERF Charges/Depreciation	12,938	12,936	-	12,936	12,936
7615	Property Taxes	3,048	3,048	2,274	3,048	3,048
8101	Transfer to General Fund	26,970	26,970	20,228	28,970	28,970
	Total Expenses	807,157	874,650	497,225	761,271	738,065

4604	Clayton LMD Assessment	860,852	850,000	488,014	887,298	894,396
5601	Interest	10,462	31,650	3,814	4,500	3,000
5806	Unrealized Inv Gain/Loss	(1,380)	-	-	-	-
	Total Revenue	869,934	881,650	491,828	891,798	897,396
	Annual Balance (Shortfall)	62,777	7,000	(5,397)	130,527	159,331
	Beginning Fund Balance	100,455	163,233	163,233	163,233	293,760
	Ending Fund Balance	163,233	170,233	157,836	293,760	453,091

7419	Wildland Resource Mgmt		61,450	33,800	61,450	61,450
	Gate welding		-	390	390	390
	Warner Brothers -Tree trimming		15,000	4,650	15,000	15,000
	Paco Pumps					
	Warner Bros Svc 1 x per yr+2 x trails		31,800	-	29,500	30,385
	NBS Admin Fees		3,900	3,943	3,900	3,900
	Martial Water Systems					
	Rodent Control		5,500	3,305	5,500	5,500
	Advertising for TEMP labor			734	734	734
	New Signs			2,160	2,160	-
	Water Feature Extra + repair contingency	4,960	8,602	1,071	6,031	8,602
	Water Feature \$650x12		7,900	6,780	7,800	7,800
	Total	4,960	133,852	56,632	132,465	133,761

7311	Herbicides		13,720			13,720
	Fertilizer		5,000			5,000
	Irrigation		15,000			15,000
	Misc Supplies		4,280			4,998
			38,000			38,718

Extra to run pump for fountain
 10 events (31 days @ \$160=\$4960.)
 Art n Wine, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Halloween Parade/Ghost Walk, Veterans Day, Xmas Tree Lighting,
 Presidents Day, Thanksgiving, Garden Tours, Oktoberfest

B. Citywide Landscape Maintenance District – Fund No. 210

In June 2007, Clayton voters approved a replacement real property tax to continue funding the operation and maintenance of our citywide public landscaped areas. This annual tax is specifically for costs associated with roadway medians and parkways, our trails system, open space weed abatement and irrigation, and also funds the "Clayton Fountain". Maintenance of City Parks *is not* included as an authorized expense under the District's act; park maintenance obligation falls to the City's General Fund. *Citywide public landscaping services have always been funded by a special revenue tax levied on private properties throughout the City.* The District is completing its second year of a 10-year approved operation (Measure B) and its citizens' oversight committee (Trails and Landscaping Committee) meets quarterly to ensure the promised maintenance standards and efficiencies are achieved with these special-purpose tax revenues.

Pursuant to the terms of voter-approved Measure B, the special tax rate may be modified annually by the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI; San Francisco – Bay Area) from April to April. In no event shall the tax rate be increased by more than 3% each year. The CPI change (from April 2008 to April 2009) arrived at 0.8%. The District's revenue projection was increased by that factor accordingly and is set at \$894,396.

The Landscape Maintenance District opens the fiscal year with a projected positive equity of \$293,760, up significantly from last year due to under-expending in FY 08-09 by \$130,527. There are several underlying causes for this return of District monies to the District's reserve:

- 1) Measure B's approved Budget allowed for the funding of one (1) more permanent Maintenance Worker to the organization to manage irrigation system controls and leaks. The District has not filled the position during the first two years of operation, relying instead on seasonal and temporary workers to manage this need. By doing so, the District "saved" approximately \$80,000 each year in salary and compensation benefits; and
- 2) Certain Landscape District plants routinely die (e.g. Emerald Carpet ground cover in the arterial medians) and area sprinkler heads have been shut off accordingly so as not to water the dirt. In addition, the District's elevated level of responding to and repairing irrigation system leaks and correcting overspray has reduced water use. Consequently, metered water purchases were lowered by \$20,000 in FY 08-09 along with other forced water conservation measures.

An enormous impact on the Landscape District's operation this fiscal year will be the declared drought conditions and the severe water conservation reductions imposed on outdoor watering by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). While homeowners have been placed under a 15% reduction plan, cities and large water outdoor water consumers have been saddled with a **45%** mandatory water reduction order. With irrigation cutbacks of that magnitude, the City Council found it necessary to sacrifice certain water-intensive landscape (e.g. turf) in the District in order to sustain the more valuable plants and mature signature trees of the District. Therefore, the District budget plans on using [purchasing] less metered water this coming fiscal year and the Water Service account has been reduced by approximately \$45,000.

Other significant expenses of the District include the annual weed abatement Citywide (\$30,385 for the fire season), and the huge expense of \$61,450 to abate noxious and exotic weeds in the Oakhurst Hills (a condition of project approval for the Oakhurst residential development). The annual \$20,000 in Measure B monies is set again in Account No. 7316 for District landscape improvements, which the Trails and Landscaping Committee has targeted initially for Trail System recovery and upgrades.

The District's ending fund balance on 30 June 2010 is projected to be \$453,091, which now equates to a reserve of 61% to its annual operation budget. This reserve growth is confirmation the City does not siphon surplus monies of the District into its General Fund. Its monetary existence will be crucial once the water drought is over and the District examines priorities to replace landscape lost during the extreme water conservation measures.

List of Articles in the Clayton Pioneer (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Title/Subject</u>
Bass	July 11, 2008	Report Broken Sprinkler Heads Fast
Bass	Aug 22, 2008	Annual Report Details TLC's Commitment to Community
Bass	Sept 12, 2008	City Works to Improve Mt. Diablo Trail
Steiner	Sept 12, 2008	EBRPD Measure WW Could Bring Needed Funds to Clayton Trails
Steiner	Oct 24, 2008	EMRPD Measure WW could mean funds for Clayton Trails
Steiner	Nov 7, 2008	City Approves Adopt-A-Trail Program
Bass	Nov 21, 2008	TLC Salutes Manning/Walcutt for Landscape Efforts
Bass	Dec 19, 2008	TLC Calls for Residents to help with Recycling
Bass	Jan 23, 2009	TLC Reaches Out to Art Community
Bass	Feb 20, 2009	Most Popular Trail – Cardinet
Bass	April 24, 2009	Residents Can Pitch In to Keep Trails Clean
Steiner	May 22, 2009	City Needs to Cut Landscape Water 45%
Bass	May 22, 2009	Rattlesnakes on Trails

Report broken sprinkler heads fast

CANDACE BASS

Special to the Pioneer

Clayton's Landscape District represents about 8 percent of Clayton's overall city budget. About 20 percent of the Landscape District budget is spent on water. During the hot summer months, the city experiences more irrigation problems.

Most of the irrigation problems are due to broken sprinkler heads throughout the district. According to Mark Janney, the maintenance supervisor who oversees the city's public irrigation system, people break the sprinkler heads about 60 percent of the time. The vast majority of these incidents are inadvertent. Damage can occur from evening joggers or people in golf carts. However, bored kids are frequently responsible for unscrewing the sprinkler heads.

Janney estimates that the

remaining 40 percent are broken over time, the result of aging parts or overgrown roots from maturing shrubs and trees.

Unfortunately, the consequence of a broken sprinkler head is a wasteful loss of water and expense to the district. If a resident notices a sprinkler running during the day for more than one hour, Janney asks them to call the city at 673-7300 so that maintenance can respond promptly. Residents are also encouraged to report any type of sprinkler malfunction at the city's Website, www.cityofclayton.org. Using the pull down menu under "Feedback," click on "Contact Us." Under "Comments," describe the problem and exact location, using names of streets and specify landmarks if applicable.

One of the Trails and Landscaping Committee's outreach priorities is to articulate to the Clayton community how

the new funding and Maintenance Department's efforts have benefited the Landscape District. To that end, the citizen's committee has decided to communicate with the Clayton community on a monthly basis.

Predicated upon the maintenance staff's monthly progress, residents may obtain information from three sources. Readers will find a summary entitled "maintenance update" in the Clayton Pioneer. Some maintenance tasks are actual improvements realized because of Measure B funding. Residents will find a copy of the report, "Round the Yard," posted in the Clayton Community Library lobby. A copy of the report may also be reviewed within each TLC agenda online at www.ci.clayton.ca.us. Click on Trails and Landscaping Committee Meeting.

JUNE MAINTENANCE UPDATE

- All the lawns were mowed twice in the district.
- Public landscaping was trimmed in the following areas:
- Old Marsh Creek Road from Center Street to Marsh Creek Road.
- Clayton Road eastbound, from the fire station to Peacock Creek Drive.

DIABLO PARKWAY.

- Annual weed abatement and district's firebreaks were completed.
- Assessment and repairs were made to the irrigation system.

MEASURE B IMPROVEMENTS

- Aerated all lawns in the public landscape district.

Candace Bass is chair of the TLC. The committee is adjourned until Sept. 15. Residents can submit questions to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us.

Annual report details TLC's commitment to the community

CANDACE BASS

Special to the Pioneer

One of the Trails and Landscaping Committee's key tasks this year was to produce its first annual report.

A seven-page report containing colorful photographs of the city's landscaping was submitted to the City Council for approval at the July 1 meeting. Following committee member Bill Vineyard's presentation, it received unanimous approval from the council.

The report summarizes the committee and district accomplishments for the 2007-'08 fiscal year. It pays tribute to members of the community who gave time and/or resources to the Landscape District during the past year.

The annual report itself is evidence of what can be accomplished when members reach outside their organization to others in the community. In this case, TLC members Candace Bass, David Disend and Vineyard collaborated with former TLC member Linda Pinder.

Pinder's allegiance to the TLC and its projects stems from a combination of factors:

"a strong civic duty," attachment to Clayton's public landscape and daily walks along the trails and sidewalks. This devotion is apparent in the photographs that she takes and shares with the committee for special projects. Pinder took most of the photographs which appear in the annual report.

Residents can obtain a copy of the report and/or copies of attachments by going to www.ci.clayton.ca.us. Under City Council, click on Agendas, July 1. Go to 7, Trails and Landscaping Committee Annual Report.

Attachments that follow the seven-page report may be downloaded. These include the 2008-2009 budget, a TLC monthly Pioneer article, the TLC brochure, a copy of the Adopt a Trail Business Survey and the proposed Adopt a Trail program. A copy of the public landscape district map delineates open spaces, the public roadway landscape and Clayton's beautiful trails system. All items but the budget and map were generated by TLC volunteers.

The TLC is open to ideas from individuals and groups who are interested in donating

their time or resources toward projects which might benefit the public landscape district.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE UPDATE

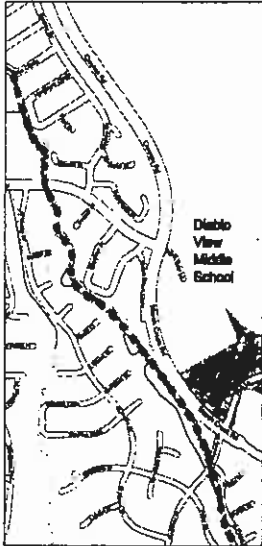
During the hot summer months, the city experiences more irrigation problems than at other times during the year. Residents can help mitigate water waste associated with broken sprinkler heads by responding promptly.

If a resident sees a sprinkler running during the day for more than one hour, they are asked to call the city at 673-7300. Residents are also encouraged to report any type of sprinkler malfunction at www.ci.clayton.ca.us. Click Feedback and drop down to the Comment box and describe the sprinkler location, using street names and landmarks if appropriate.

Free reminder cards with instructions are available at the TLC display table in the Clayton Library lobby.

Candace Bass is chair of the TLC. The committee is adjourned until Sept. 15. Residents may submit questions via email to city@info.ci.clayton.ca.us.

City works to improve Mt. Diablo Creek Trail



THE MT. DIABLO CREEK TRAIL was repaved between Old Marsh Creek Rd and Regency Dr.

CANDACE BASS
Special to the Pioneer

One of the greatest assets to Clayton's landscape district this past year was the significant contribution made by the maintenance staff in the form of a 39-page report entitled "Trails Inventory and Evaluation."

It provides a guideline to build an effective trail management program. The report has been a valuable tool for those who need to make decisions on behalf of the landscape district.

Thus far, the Trails and Landscaping Committee's (TLC) Trails Subcommittee has used it to help develop an Adopt-A-Trail Program and the city maintenance staff used it during their effort to upgrade the Mt. Diablo Creek Trail this

summer (see map at left).

The Mt. Diablo Creek Trail runs from Old Marsh Creek Road to Regency Drive, along the Mt. Diablo Creek. According to the trails inventory and evaluation report, it was in the worst shape of all the asphalt trails within Clayton's trails system. In all, 75 percent of the lower section of the trail was greatly deteriorated.

Because of the extent of the damage, the trail could not be crack sealed or slurry sealed, which is a very thin surface seal. Instead, the existing surface was ground down and compacted and a new 2-inch layer of asphalt was laid. The repaving extended to a portion of the upper Easley Trail.

According to city engineer Rick Angrisani, the cost for the repaving of the trail was cut in

half because it was included with the street paving project this summer.

Mark Janney, the maintenance supervisor, says the new, smoother surface allows for almost any sort of usage. Previously, the trail surface was maintained with an oil and gravel top called "chip seal," which Janney describes as "bumpier."

Since the Aug. 1 completion, joggers and walkers have called and emailed City Hall with many compliments about the trail's new surface.

Mike Townsend, whose family uses the trail three to five times per week, described the repaved trail as "super." He would like to see the repaving extend further along the Easley Trail and perhaps along other trails in the system.

However, he is sensitive to the financial limitations of the district. Townsend envisions a community effort to raise money to help improve the trails and would be willing to volunteer for such a project.

"The trail system is fantastic," he reports. "Trails are what make Clayton what it is."

Residents may obtain a copy of the trails inventory and evaluation report at the city Website, www.ci.clayton.ca.us. Click on Local Government. Then go to Trails and Landscaping Committee and click on the March agenda.

The TLC invites the public to bring questions and comments to the meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, in the Clayton Community Library Meeting Room. Residents may also email questions to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us.

Candace Bass is chair of the Trails and Landscape Committee.

EBRPD's Measure WW could bring needed funds to Clayton's trail system

TAMARA STEINER

Clayton Pioneer

The city will pocket almost \$500,000 in grants for improvements and additions to the city's trail system if voters approve the extension of the Regional Open Space, Wildlife, Shoreline and Parks Bond which is on the ballot this November as Measure WW. If the measure passes, it will provide \$500 million to the East Bay Regional Park District for land acquisition and capital projects as well as grants to cities, counties and special districts.

The city's share of Measure

WW funds would be \$492,833 and could be used for erosion control, shoulder repairs and repaving. Clayton's landscape budget allots only \$20,000 for capital improvements to the trail system.

When the original bond measure passed in 1998, Clayton received \$235,491 which was spent on the Keller House and trail improvements.

At the Sept. 2 city council meeting, the EBRPD asked the city of Clayton to adopt a resolution in support of the measure.

Councilmen Dave Shuey and Mayor Gregg Manning both voted in favor of the resolution.

Council members Julie Pierce and Hank Stratford voted against adoption. Bill Walcutt was absent.

Pierce and Stratford doubt whether EBRPD has set aside sufficient money for the operation and maintenance of the additional lands they would acquire if Measure WW passes.

"I have concerns about the vast tracts that are already protected by the Urban Limit Line and are in private hands and are being maintained with private money," said Pierce. "If the park buys these lands, they'll no longer be private and we could end up with a maintenance tax."

Stratford agrees, "The \$492,000 is nice, but the price is high."

Shuey shared some of their concerns, however he voted in favor of supporting the measure. "The \$492,000 is available now...I'm afraid if it doesn't pass, we may not get another chance."

The resolution will come up for approval again at the Oct. 21 meeting. With all five members present, it's expected that the majority will vote to support the measure.

For more information on Measure WW go to www.ebparke.org.

EBRPD Measure WW could mean funds for Clayton trails

If voters pass the East Bay Regional Park District Open Space, Wildlife, Shoreline and Parks Bond extension (Measure WW) on Nov. 4, Clayton will pocket almost \$500,000 for needed trail improvements.

The measure extends the \$225 bond passed in 1988 without raising property tax rates above the present rate of \$10 per year per \$100K.

Of the \$500 million raised by Measure WW, \$375 million (75 percent) will fund regional park acquisitions and capital projects, with \$26.2 million (7 percent) held in reserve for unanticipated future needs and opportunities.

Proceeds from the bond will go for the acquisition of addition-

al parklands including the development of a new Regional Park at the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

In addition, \$125 million (25 percent) of the proceeds will go to cities, special park and recreation districts, and county service areas for their park and recreation services. Clayton's grant will be \$492,833.

The funds can be used for trail improvements including pavement repair and overlay and for needed erosion control.

The City Council was expected to pass a resolution supporting the bond measure at the Oct. 21 meeting.

For more information on EBRPD go to www.ebprpd.org.

City approves TLC Adopt-A-Trail program

TAMARA STEINER
Clayton Pioneer

Adopt-A-Trail is coming to Clayton. Businesses and community groups will soon have an opportunity to sponsor a segment of one of Clayton's many trails.

Beginning early in 2009, groups can sponsor a trail in two ways—with a \$1000 donation, or with a \$200 donation and a com-

mitment to provide maintenance labor.

When the Landscape Maintenance District was approved in 2007, it provided for a barebones trail maintenance budget. The Adopt-A-Trail program is a way to offset the cost of maintaining and improving the trail system while providing another volunteer opportunity for Claytonians. Annual revenues from the program could poten-

tially top \$12,000.

"I hope we get to the point where we are auctioning off sponsorships," said an enthusiastic Julie Pierce, Clayton's vice-mayor.

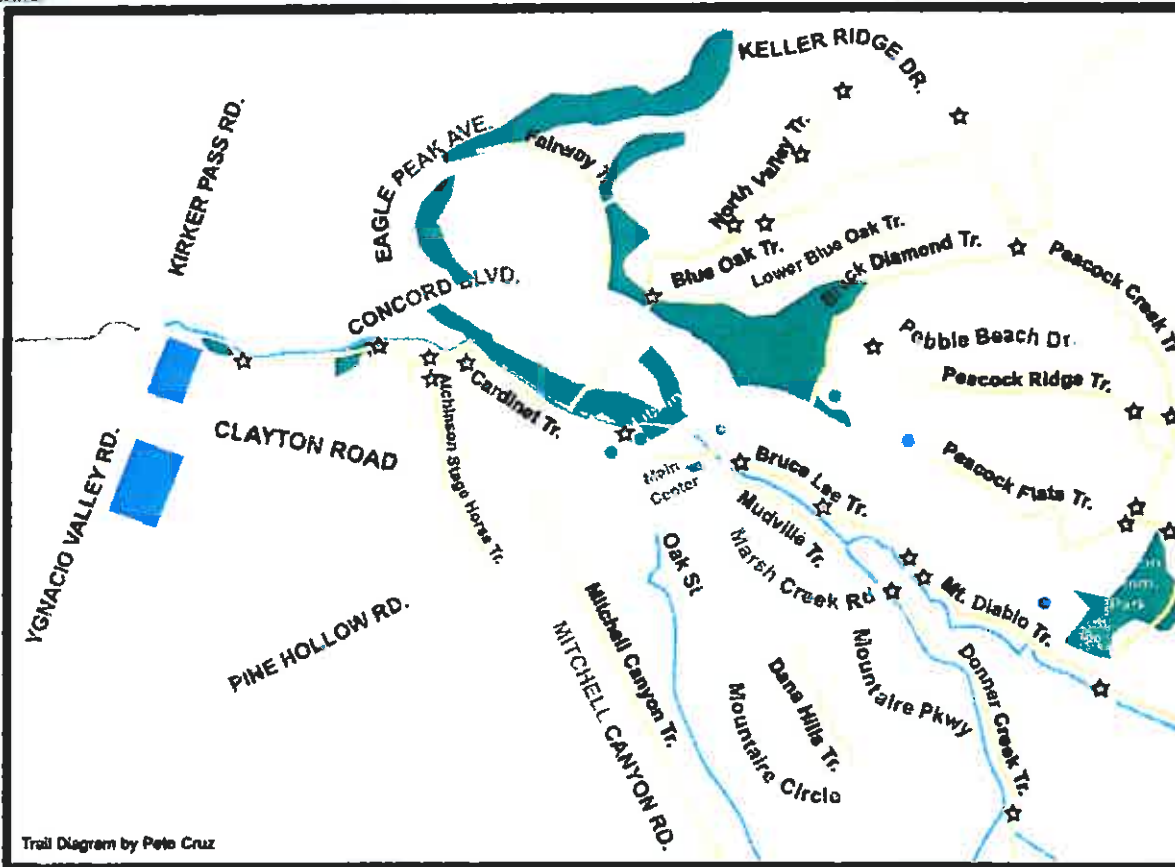
The Trails and Landscape Committee, which oversees the Landscape District budget, is recommending 26 markers at strategic locations along the trails. A marker would include pertinent trail information and the name

and logo of the trail sponsors. Each segment could have two sponsors, one \$1000 contributor and the other providing \$200 and the labor. Both sponsors would be listed on the sign.

First year costs of the program are estimated at \$10,000 and would include the initial investment in the 26 trail markers and t-shirts for sponsoring groups members.



See Trails, page 15



Trails, from page 1

For more information or to express your interest in becoming an Adopt-A-Trail sponsor, email TLC member, David Disend, dsdisend@gmail.com.

Clayton has long been recognized as one of the most walkable towns in the Bay Area. Within its 4.2 square miles, there are 27 miles of trails. Some are flat and some are hilly. Some are paved and some are dirt. There are trails for walkers, hikers, bikers and horses.

A complete map of all Clayton trails is available at City Hall, 6000 Heritage Trail for \$2.

TLC salutes Manning/Walcutt for landscape efforts

CANDACE BASS
Special to the Pioneer

In December, when our community ushers in two new City Council members, Joe Medrano and Howard Geller, we will simultaneously lose two dedicated council mem-

bers - Mayor Gregg Manning and Councilman Bill Walcutt.

Manning and Walcutt have served a combined total of eight mayoral terms. Manning has been a Clayton resident since 1979 and a council member since 1986. He served as Clayton's mayor in 1992, 1997, 2002 and

2005. Walcutt, a 25-year resident, has served on the council for eight years. He began serving in 1990 and was elected mayor in 1993. However, a job transfer interrupted his first

See Landscape, page 19

Landscape, from page 1

mayoral term. He was elected again in 2000. He served as mayor then and again in 2007.

While serving as council members, Manning and Walcutt played integral roles during the crucial primary years of the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) and the Trails and Landscaping Committee (TLC).

In the fall of 2003, the City Council created the Blue Ribbon Ad-Hoc Citizen's Advisory Committee to devise a strategic plan to guide the Landscape Maintenance District (LMD). It was decided that the vice mayor should be assigned to the committee.

In January 2004, the BRC met for the first time. Manning served as the BRC's council liaison. Since then, the vice mayor has served as council liaison to the citizen's committee that oversees the landscape district. One of BRC's missions was to draw up a strategic plan to guide the LMD, which was set

to expire in 2007. Eventually, the group proposed Measure M - which would have created a new LMD with adequate funding for both routine maintenance and capital improvements. However, in November 2005, Measure M was rejected by the voters.

"They over-reached, initially," Manning recalls of the BRC. "The members were great; they were dedicated. The people wanted more, but they didn't like the price."

The BRC disbanded. In its place, the City Council formed a permanent citizen's advisory committee, the Trails and Landscaping Committee. Walcutt, vice mayor at the time, became the TLC's first liaison.

He says the BRC was different from the TLC in a few ways. "Measure M was too confusing and tried to do too much," he notes. "The citizen group was too small and did not have broad-based commu-

nity representation.

"TLC had the benefit of a failed measure," he adds. "It helped (the committee) write the next measure."

Walcutt points out "the concern and dedication" of the TLC members. After Measure M was voted down, many volunteers came back to work on the second committee to come up with the second measure. "I was so impressed by that," he says.

In 2007, Manning served as the second council liaison to the TLC. Ultimately, a compromise Measure B was passed by the voters in 2007, creating a new LMD for 10 years. Financing of the LMD was limited to maintenance only, with no funds for capital improvement projects. A permanent citizen's oversight committee was also established as part of the measure.

Manning sees the BRC as the "trailblazers who devised the method," while the TLC is "the watchdog."

"Motivating members, once you get the goal, is tough," he

adds.

Walcutt believes one of the best things about the TLC was the give and take from the community. "I strongly believe that the more community input, more opinions and more debate that you have and the more differences of opinion, you will come together with a better solution in the long term," he says. "The key at the end of the day is you go out as friends. Don't take it personally."

Manning says that the members of the TLC work together toward a common goal, such as the current trail project.

"It's persistence," he says. "Stay with the process. It's a beginning. The committee and the community need to realize that. The first attack on a project doesn't always work."

The TLC invites the public to its next meeting, 7 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Library Meeting Room, 6125 Clayton Road. Residents may also submit questions by email to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us.

TLC calls for residents to help city with recycling

CANDACE BASS

Special to the Pioneer

A 32-ounce beer can stuffed inside the branches of a shrub growing along Oakhurst Drive. A half-filled plastic bottle thrown along the curb of Clayton Road. A plastic bag caught on the branches of one of the trees near the library. These are just a few of the numerous and diverse examples of Clayton litter collected by the Trails and Landscape Committee chair one day.

These items, many of which were comprised of recyclable containers, quickly filled two bags after two walks. They made their way to a presentation at a TLC meeting and how public littering impacts our landscape district became a topic of discussion.

"It was depressing," TLC vice chair Victor Geisler recalls of the litter display. "Cleanliness and presentation are aspects of Clayton which set us apart from other surrounding communities. Having garbage collect in visible areas detracts from these ideals."

According to the Keep California Beautiful Website, an aluminum can will take 200-500 years to decompose, while a plastic bag may take 10-20 years to deteriorate. Such materials could be recycled instead of left to rot in our public landscaping or landfill.

At this time of the year, when gift paper and other paper goods are used in abundance, even more garbage accumulates in our homes and cities. Some of it may ultimately wind up in our public landscape.

As a way to prevent ensuing environmental consequences, many communities are encouraging residents to reduce waste over the holidays by limiting the number of wrapped presents. People can accomplish this by giving time or talent gifts, or by giving entertainment gifts — such as tickets to movie theaters or gift certificates. Other ideas include substituting reusable gift bags for wrapping paper or sending seasonal greeting cards made with recyclable paper.

Still others are giving to the greater good by making a contribution to a favorite organization or cause. Some concerned Clayton residents have taken that step by making a donation toward a recycling receptacle to be located at the entrance to the Clayton Community Library.

Joyce Atkinson, president of the Library Foundation, is a self-proclaimed "big recycler." She believes having a recycling receptacle near the library "would be a good idea."

Encouraging residents to develop the habit of depositing bottles and cans into a designated receptacle has several benefits for the community. This will improve the library grounds and

surrounding roadway landscape, where the litter often collects. Additionally, recycling practices saves the city money. Our city is subject to fines if residents do not meet recycling standards imposed by the state.

The receptacle for the library will be similar to four recently ordered by the city with state grant money and destined for the Grove Park (which is not part of the Landscape District).

Each recyclable garbage receptacle is constructed of recyclable plastic and costs \$1,621, with shipping. Thus far, the city has received \$500 in donations. Those who make a sizable donation may arrange to have a plaque on the receptacle.

Linda Pinder is an example of a resident who has donated in this manner in the past, when she donated a receptacle for the grassy knoll behind Diamond Terrace.

Donations are tax deductible and checks may be made out to the City of Clayton. Memo "Recycling Can." Residents may either drop off checks or mail them to City Hall, 6000 Heritage Trail, Clayton, CA 94517.

The next TLC meeting Mar. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. Residents may submit questions or comments to info@ci.clayton.ca.us.

Candace Bass is chair of the Clayton Trails and Landscape Committee.

TLC reaches out to arts community

Members of Clayton's Trails and Landscaping Committee (TLC) have always had a strong appreciation for the natural beauty which permeates much of the landscape district. The district includes the roadway landscape, the open space and the Clayton trails system. In essence, the district is Clayton's canvas.

Embedded in that canvas are many beautiful assets which we can enjoy throughout most of the year: a sunset behind a silhouette of an historic oak tree, a wisp of fog encircling an entrance to the Cardinet Trail, fallen autumn leaves floating along Mt. Diablo Creek or a patch of colorful wildflowers that has sprung up in one of the open spaces.

This is Clayton's wallpaper. These images beckon us and set us apart from our other urban neighbors.

There are many Websites



**CANDACE BASS
TRAILS AND
LANDSCAPE**

that showcase scenic photos of nature. However, Clayton residents are fortunate to experience beautiful scenery by turning to our backyards, neighborhood trails or open space. We can enjoy the beauty which many of us work to preserve beauty which is unique to Clayton.

One of the TLC's latest projects is to impart an appreciation for these resources and to raise local awareness of the

landscape district by enlisting the help of the art community. The committee hopes the partnership will be initiated with a TLC display in the library.

JoAnn Caspar, outreach subcommittee member, believes that adding artwork to the display would give newcomers and visitors a visual impression of what Clayton has to offer.

"It would advertise how beautiful the city is," she says. "It could possibly attract people to town. It might even encourage them to eventually shop here one day."

Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen, director of the Creekside Artists Guild, is supportive of local artists and photographers who might consider contributing their talents to a TLC project. "Visual arts allows for more creative expression," she notes. "Nature inspires us to do many things. The nature along our trails can be the cre-

ative inspiration behind many expressions, including traditional art and photography as well as the written word and the exploration of science."

She believes the success of the venture will be created by those who "actively share their passions to nurture its growth."

Residents 18 and older who have photographs, renderings or other artwork of the public roadway landscape, open space or the Clayton trails system are invited to submit samples of their work. Initially, artwork will be used to enhance the information displayed in the library lobby. For more information, contact Candace Bass at c_e_bass@yahoo.com.

The next TLC meeting will be 7 p.m. March 16 at the library, 6125 Clayton Road.

Candace Bass is the chairperson of the City's Trails and Landscape Committee. Please send comments to c_e_bass@yahoo.com.

Clayton's most popular trail named after open space advocate, George Cardinet, Jr.

The designation of the Cardinet Trail in 1996 was Clayton's way of honoring a beloved local resident and long-time advocate of public open space and trails throughout the East Bay region, George Cardinet, Jr.

The Cardinet Trail is one of the most heavily used trails within the Clayton trail system. The trail runs along the creek between the library and Safeway and is where the city's long-awaited Adopt a Trail program will be launched.

Born in 1909, Cardinet grew up in San Francisco but moved to Concord in 1940. He developed countless trails throughout the East Bay and in Mt Diablo State Park. He founded many organizations – the American Trails, the East Bay Trails Council, the Tahoe Rim Trail Fund and American Trails Network.

Cardinet mapped out 200 miles of trails in California.

According to the Partnership for the National Trails System, he became known as “the father of California trails and the patriarch of America's national trail system.”

Bob Hoyer, who served as Clayton's mayor 1964-'66 and 1970-'71, recalls that the city hired David Wittet, a “land planner,” in the early '60s and '70s. Wittet advised the city that if Clayton wanted to establish a trails system, it would be in their best interest to begin right then. Wittet also insisted that the housing developer at that time install trails. According to Hoyer, Cardinet supported that effort.

Cardinet was also an accomplished equestrian. He advocated the use of horses in the backcountry of Yosemite National Park.

“I remember he came to many of the parades in town on horseback,” Hoyer fondly recalls.

Cardinet lived to the age of 97. Clayton residents can reap

the benefits of his hard work and love of the outdoors by beginning the trail at the southeast corner of the Clayton Community Library. There, proceed north along Mt. Diablo Creek behind the library and continue toward the Keller ranch house property. Crossing over footbridges and passing many historic oak and elm trees, the trail continues through Diablo open space, Lydia Lane Park and West Wood – where it ends behind the Safeway. Some folks refer to this as “the trail to Safeway.”

Many joggers, walkers and hikers use the Cardinet Trail regularly. “Gloria and I use the Cardinet Trail about four to five times a week,” says Jerry Kosel, vice chair of the Trails and Landscaping Committee (TLC). “It gives us a pleasant walking experience and easy access to downtown. Sometimes, we like to go downtown and not have to take our car. There are big old



**CANDACE BASS
TRAILS AND
LANDSCAPE**

trees along the way, and it's natural and beautiful.”

A copy of the Clayton trail system map is available for \$2 at City Hall. Residents may view the city's Trails Inventory and Evaluation report at www.ci.clayton.ca.us at Trails and Landscaping Committee March Agenda Packets.

The next TLC meeting is 7 p.m. Mon., Mar. 16. Residents can submit questions to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us.

Residents can pitch in to keep trails maintained



**CANDACE BASS
TRAILS AND
LANDSCAPE**

Californians have a long tradition of developing and benefiting from various trails. During the 1800s, the Pony Express, a mail route, was established between St. Joseph, Mo., and San Francisco. This was possible because of an established trails system.

Clayton's trails system, which consists of 27 miles of trails, has its basic maintenance funded by the Landscape Maintenance District (LMD) - known as Measure B. This large trail network is comprised of three differ-

ent types: asphalt (mostly 3-4 feet wide along the flat portions of the creeks), crushed gravel (usually 2-3 feet wide) and dirt trails, also known as "natural trails" (generally 1-2 feet across). Some dirt trails are wider and serve as fire breaks in large open space areas.

Measure B provided the trails (and roadway landscaping) with some funding for basic maintenance needs for 10 years. For the trails, this means mostly weed abatement for fire control purposes, two times annually as funding permits along the major paved trail.

Additional aesthetic desires that are not safety related, such as litter pickup, minor trail repairs and minor trimming, are beyond what Measure B provides but can also improve the Clayton trails system.

In addition to trail maintenance duties, the five-member city maintenance staff faces vast other duties such as attending roadway landscaping to park

maintenance, minor street and street light maintenance and city building and grounds maintenance. According to maintenance supervisor Mark Janney, "identifying and responding to non-safety items along the trails is beyond the funds available with Measure B."

The Trails and Landscaping Committee (TLC) developed a program to help fill the void. "There are a variety of tasks, ranging from minor trimming, weeding, litter control, to minor repairing in the trails' surfaces, that the public could help volunteer to assist with," notes committee member David Disend.

He helped develop the Adopt-A-Trail program which encourages individuals, businesses and organizations to sponsor trail segments. Since the program's launch a couple of months ago, scouts, businesses and families have stepped forward to adopt four of the 11 trail segments.

Other residents have respond-

ed, as well. Barbara and Ron Jacobs are regular Cardinet Trail walkers. They carry plastic bags and collect litter along the trail two or three times per week.

"The Adopt-A-Trail program is a great idea," Barbara says. "If some group or person can take responsibility for a trail by picking up litter for instance, children will learn how to take better care of their environment.

"When people do something good," she adds, "it makes them feel good about themselves and the community they live in."

For more information on the Adopt-A-Trail program, call 673-7369. Clayton trail maps can be purchased at City Hall for \$2. The next TLC meeting is 7 p.m. Monday, May 18, at Hoyer Hall.

Submit questions or comments to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us.

Candace Bass is a member of the City's Trails and Landscape Committee. Please send comments to c_e_bass@yahoo.com.

City needs to cut landscape water 45 percent

TAMARA STEINER
Clayton Pioneer

Starting May 1, the city must cut its landscape water use by 45 percent to comply with Contra Costa Water District's mandatory rationing. In a report to the City Council on May 5, maintenance supervisor Mark Janney outlined how the city plans to make the cuts.

"We're looking at policy and strategy," he explained. "We plan to pool all of the city's water and allocate to the highest priority areas." The newer landscaping along Marsh Creek Road and Oakhurst Boulevard will take priority over lawns that can be more easily replaced.

Trimming and pruning, which encourages growth, will be cut back to meet safety standards. Most of the trees and shrubs that are well-established "may not look too good," Janney said, "but they'll survive."

Meeting the stiff requirements will mean letting much of the city's median plantings and ground covers die back in order to save the turf in The Grove and on the playing fields, says City Manager Gary Napper.

The loss of the median shrubs is not terrible. These manzanita-like plants have reached the end of a lifespan that began in poor soil, Napper explains.

See Landscape, page 18

Landscape, from page 1

Plants will be pulled out as they die, "so it doesn't look like a desert out there," Janney said.

Last year, the Landscape Maintenance District spent \$169,000 for water. If use is cut by the required 45 percent for the next 12 months, it could save the district as much as \$76,000, less the cost of replacing dead or damaged plants.

WELL WATER AN OPTION

While the lawns in the city parks that use metered water will die, Westwood and Lydia Lane parks and the library grounds are irrigated by well water and should be unaffected by the cutbacks.

Dan Richardson, who led the successful effort to renew the city's Landscape Maintenance District in 2007, wants the city to look at more wells as water source.

"I'm disappointed we find ourselves in this situation and I appreciate the city's leadership. But, I hope that, as a community, we can look at wells as an alternative to metered water in the future, he said.

Well water irrigation may be a solution to future water shortages, but not in the short term, says Napper. The cost of drilling and hooking into the existing mains makes it prohibitive for a city with a budget the size of Clayton's.

There is an unused well behind the post office, but the cost of bringing it online is "well into the six figures," says Napper. "And the gallon-per-minute yield just doesn't warrant the cost."

In addition to the irrigation cuts, the city must reduce building and facilities usage by 15 percent. Since the city has already been using water saving devices such as low-flow toilets and auto shut off faucets, cutting another 15 percent will largely depend on cooperation from the public.

After posting signs in public buildings asking for conservation, if the goals aren't being met, the city may be forced to shut off faucets. Or "as a final drastic measure," Janney said, "close the public restrooms."

GATEWAY RENOVATIONS

In other business, the council moved ahead with Redevelopment Agency plans for the renovation of the city's gateway at Marsh Creek and Clayton Roads, awarding a contract for \$199,167 to Maxicrete Inc. for the hardscape. Project plans include a stone-faced monument sign on the hill and directional signage at the corner.

A vintage tractor at the gateway and another in the Corral at Black Diamond Plaza will honor Clayton's agricultural heritage. The Clayton Business and Community Association has pledged \$60,000 for landscaping and \$12,000 for the tractors. Any plantings will have to wait until after rationing is lifted.

The total budget for the project is estimated at \$320,000.

Beware of rattlesnakes on the trails

CANDACE BASS

Special to the Pioneer

Hundreds of years ago, our country was an immense open space. Over time, urbanization required us to redefine our spaces.

Today, public open space has become more than a mere term it's an important asset to our communities. Clayton's Landscape District contains 515 acres of open space.

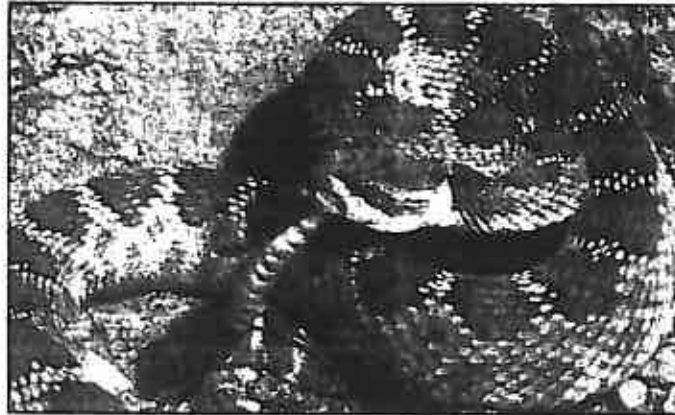
While we continually demarcate living spaces, many of our creatures have survived the impositions which urbanization has placed upon them. During Colonial times, early settlers complained to Capt. John Smith and others that they had seen serpents with rattles inside their tails. Descendants of the rattlesnakes that perplexed the early colonists challenge communities like Clayton to this day.

Spring is widely known as rattlesnake season. Female snakes retain their eggs inside their bodies. Once they are laid, eggs hatch, launching young, independent snakes. Subsequently, their mothers desert them.

Rattlesnakes are poisonous and have flat, triangular heads, elliptical eyes and rattle buttons at the end of their tails. Gopher snakes, frequently confused with rattlers, have rounded heads, rounded eyes and are not poisonous.

The infamous rattle sound indicates the snake is agitated and may strike. The rattle is a series of hollow beads consisting of modified scales. Beads run along the tail's tip. The first bead is called a burton. If the rattle absorbs enough moisture, the snake is able to strike without a rattle.

According to the University of California Rattlesnake



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE, California's only venomous snake, can be seen throughout Northern California and in the Coastal range of Orange County.

Management Guidelines, "Most bites occur when inexperienced people try to pick up or move a snake."

About 8,000 Americans, including 4,000 children, are bitten by poisonous snakes each year. Of all snakes, rattlers are the most deadly. Baby rattlers are the most venomous.

If you or someone you know is bitten, call 911. Victims should remain calm, minimize movement and keep the bitten area lower than the heart, if possible.

If a resident discovers a rattlesnake on their property, contact the Clayton Police. According to Chief Dan Lawrence, "An officer will respond if a rattlesnake is involved." The Clayton Police Department can evaluate the situation and determine whether to refer it to Animal Control.

Here are some safety tips for trails and open spaces:

Be in tune to your surroundings and note that snakes blend into theirs. Be aware of tall grasses, shady hangouts like ledges and underneath rocks and logs.

Wear socks, closed-toe

shoes/hiking boots and long pants.

Look carefully before reaching or sitting down.

Keep your distance from snakes. Allow them room to retreat.

Don't poke snakes dens or burrows with sticks.

Keep pets leashed at all times

within Clayton city limits. Leashing pets may prevent them from provoking a snake.

Safety is also important around your home:

Survey moist, cool shelters in hot weather such as fishponds, spas and shady porches.

Keep the rodent population under control to discourage snakes

Seal cracks and openings greater than a quarter inch to prevent snakes from entering.

Avoid dead rattlers which can inject venom for one hour or longer by reflex action.

Remember, we share our open space and trails with many creatures. By being aware of our surroundings and using common sense, we can share them safely.

For more information about rattlesnakes, go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PEST-NOTES and click on rattlesnakes. Submit questions or comments to cityinfo@ci.clayton.ca.us.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT WATER RATIONING PLAN

To achieve the Contra Costa Water District's 45% mandatory reduction in water usage the following objectives will be implemented to meet this goal.

Objectives

- "Pool" all water meters within the Landscape District
- Read all Landscape District meters every two weeks
- Stop watering all lawn areas
- Turn off sprinklers in bare areas
- Manually adjust controllers for watering cycles
- Concentrate watering on newer and healthier planted areas
- Suspend trimming of the landscape during rationing
- Suspend planting of annuals at base of Clayton Fountain and along Main Street
- Option to drain the pond at the Clayton Fountain
- All District monies saved from using less water stay within the District's Fund and will be set aside for future water system improvements or restoration of turf areas or plants lost to the drought

Purposes

- I. The Landscape District will "pool" all 43 water meters within the District so we can better achieve the overall 45% reduction in water usage. This allows us to divert water from metered locations where the water is not needed to areas that will need the water so we will be able to save the desired landscaping (see criteria below VI). Implementing meter "pooling" will allow the Maintenance Department more flexibly in attaining our goal of 45% water reduction mandated by the Water District.
- II. Maintenance staff will read the water meters every two weeks to ensure that we are meeting our goals of a 45% reduction in water usage over all. With the meters pooled together we will be better able to see if we were keeping within our total allotment and if not make adjustments quickly before heavy penalties apply. There will be addition man hours to perform this job but will be offset from man hour saving from suspending trimming and from buying/using less water

- III. Maintenance staff will stop watering all turf area funded by the Landscape District. These areas are: Water Feature, Coal Mine Court, Peacock Creek Drive, Eagle Peak Ave and Indian Wells Way at both ends, Eagle Peak Ave at Miwok Way, Indian Head Way, Downtown at the off ramp, Tear Drop (where roses are), Christmas tree and above Black Diamond Plaza

Lawns are by far the largest user of water in a landscape. By not watering them we will be able to divert water to save shrubs and tree which are more costly to replace than lawn. An added benefit of not watering these lawns is when the drought is over we will be able to make upgrades to the sprinkler systems and get new thatch free turf. This will make watering much more efficient and make for healthier lawns in the future.

- IV. Maintenance staff will be going through the landscape and shut off individual sprinkler heads that are only watering dirt areas. This has already been done in most areas where we have experienced major plant loss over the years. There will be a small add cost in man hours since we will be checking for this throughout the year instead of just at the beginning of the watering season as in previous years.

- V. The irrigation controllers will be manually programmed throughout the water season to meet our goals of a 45% overall water reduction. Instead of a standard program that runs throughout the watering season we will be making adjustment to the controllers on an as-needed basis. This could mean daily or weekly or monthly. There will be additional man hours needed since we will be doing a lot more adjustments than in normal watering years. These additional man hours will be absorbed from savings from suspending the landscape trimming and buying/using less water.

- VI. Maintenance staff will be making an evaluation of all the landscaping plantings to determine what plants would be most cost and water effective for saving. The priority will be to save the newer and healthier landscape areas such as: Center Street trail area; old Marsh Creek Road; east bound side of Oakhurst Drive. Then, priority in order will be to save trees, shrubs, then lastly any ground cover (listed in order of cost priority and aesthetic impact).

- VII. Maintenance will suspend trimming the landscape during the summer and fall months. Under the standards of the Landscape District we trim the landscaping twice a year. By suspending trimming for the summer and fall we will be only trimming the shrubs an average of once a year during the declared drought period. By taking this action we will save water by not promoting the plant to re-grow after they are trimmed especially during the

hot summer months. Trimming will be done on a case by case basis for the following reasons; sight obstructions at intersections, overgrowth impeding walkways, and any other hazard found to endanger the public. Trimming will not be performed for aesthetic reasons during this time so as to save and conserve the plants during drought conditions.

- VIII. Maintenance will suspend the planting of annual flowers at the Clayton Fountain and at the tear drop on Main Street. We will also inform the Garden Club that there will not be sufficient water to be able to water the raised planter boxes along Main Street and Center Street that they maintain with annual color. This is being done because annuals use almost as much water as lawn areas.

- IX. As an option to save more water the Landscape District may have to drain the Clayton Fountain and put the pumps into storage. Maintenance staff will monitor this during the summer months and if we are not meeting the imposed 45% goal for water savings, then we will have to take this option. This water feature is like a swimming pool where water is being added all the time from evaporation and recirculation of the filter pump. The water feature is not metered separately from the nearby landscape so there is no accurate way to measure what it uses daily. If the water feature were to be shut down the pumps would need to be serviced to put them into storage while the feature is drained. This would allow the pumps to stay in operational condition until the time when the District turns the Fountain back on. There will be some cost to put the water feature into storage and restart. Overall there would be savings from the monthly maintenance contract which would be suspended and water usage.

- X. All monies saved from purchasing less water after added labor costs to implement the above plan remain within the District's restricted-use Fund and are proposed to be set aside for future uses; irrigation efficiency improvements, plant replacement from the drought, and hardscape installation for less watering in the future within the District. After the drought restrictions are lifted, Maintenance Staff will compile a list of projects to implement with the funding available for the Trails and Landscaping Committee to review and recommend to the City Council. It is unknown at this time what the amount of monies would be saved from less water usage but it could be substantial if the drought lasts multiple years.

Summary

During the rationing the Maintenance staff will be responding and repairing all leaks as they are detected so as to conserve as much water as possible. Also WAP (work alterative personnel) will be employed in areas where hand watering may be more efficient to save trees or shrubs then using the existing irrigation systems. Adjustments to this plan may be made throughout the year to achieve the goal of 45% reduction on water usage and at the same time save as much of the plant life as possible.

QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING
6/16/08 to 9/10/08

- Completed second trim of Landscaping for FY 07/08
- Started first trim of the Landscaping for FY08/09
 - Completed Oakhurst Drive from City Limits to Clayton Road
 - Completed Eagle Peak Avenue
 - Completed Keller Ridge Drive
 - Completed Peacock Drive
 - Started Old Marsh Creek Road
 - Started Clayton Road
- Repaired numerous irrigation systems throughout the district
 - Replacement and/or repair of control valves from age
 - Replacement of sprinklers from vandalism and accidents
 - Repair of mainlines from tree roots, aged pipes, and broken fittings
- Contracted and completed safety tree trimming in the Landscape District
 - In front of Stranhan Subdivision along Marsh Creek Road
 - Removal of split tree along Mitchell Canyon Road
 - Trimmed trees away from signals on Clayton Road
 - Lifted tree along Clayton Road by Lydia Lane Drive
- Repaired trails in the Landscape District
 - Contractor install new Asphalt on Mount Diablo Creek Trail
 - Contractor install new Asphalt on half of Bruce Lee Trail (Upper Easley)
 - Crews repaired Peacock Creek ¼ by dust trail with new boards, water bars, and ¼ by dust

Maintenance
QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING
9/11/08 to 12/11/08

- Sprayed pre-emergent in Landscape District Citywide
- Spot spray herbicides in Landscape District Citywide
- Trimmed all Crape Myrtle trees and Oleander trees in Landscape District Citywide
- All irrigation has been shut off Citywide within the Landscape District for the winter
- Continued to repair Irrigation systems within the Landscape District
- Continued to trim landscaping along Clayton Road eastbound from City Limits towards Marsh Creek Road.

**QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING DISTRICT
Maintenance Activities
12/12/08 to 3/11/09**

- Trimmed Landscaping
 - Old Marsh Creek Road
 - Marsh Creek Road from Middle School to City Limits
 - Diablo Parkway
 - Eagle Peak Drive
 - Center Street Trail
 - Clayton Road from Middle School to City Hall
 - Keller Ridge east bound

- Spot sprayed herbicides in Landscape District Citywide

- Aerated all lawns

- All irrigation has been shut off Citywide within the Landscape District for the winter

- Continued to repair Irrigation systems within the Landscape District

- Sprayed herbicides along all major trails in the district

- Started installation of Adopt-A- Trail signs (Cardinet Trail).

- Working on irrigation evaluation and water rationing plan

QUARTERLY REPORT UPDATE TRAILS & LANDSCAPING 3/12/09 to 5/12/09

- Trim Landscaping
 - Clayton Road from City Hall to City Limits
 - Keller Ridge west bound
 - Oakhurst Drive from City Limits to Clayton Road
 - Oakhurst Drive from Clayton Road to Eagle Peak Ave
 - Suspended trimming under water rationing

- Spot spray herbicides in Landscape District Citywide

- All irrigation has been shut off Citywide within the Landscape District do to rationing and will be started manually per rationing plan.

- Continued to repair Irrigation systems within the Landscape District

- Started weed abatement for fire breaks in the Landscape District

- Continued to Work on irrigation evaluation and water rationing plan (see rationing plan)

QUARTERLY REPORT
UPDATE
TRAILS & LANDSCAPING
5/13/09 to 8/12/09

- Trim Landscaping and removed dead plants
 - Eagle Peak Drive
 - Oakhurst Drive from City Limits to Clayton Road
 - Old Marsh Creek Road from El Molino to downtown
 - Atchinson Stage Road and Pine Hollow Road
 - West bound Peacock Drive

- Spot spray herbicides in Landscape District Citywide

- All irrigation being watered by manually programming controllers per rationing plan. Also hand watering some trees by WAP (work alternative personal)

- Continued to repair Irrigation systems within the Landscape District

- Completed weed abatement for fire breaks in the Landscape District

- Connected and upgraded the Library Well to Clayton Road Landscaping now watering from Mitchell Canyon Road to Oakhurst Drive and the off ramp to Main Street

- Connected the planter boxes on Main Street and Center Street to the High Street well (this also waters Endeavor Hall landscaping and the Grove Park)



2009 Future Trail Improvements

Overview:

The cities trail system has a wide variety of trails for a wide variety of users. Trails that travel through town are used by joggers, hikers, bikers, and even strollers. The trails following along the hillsides are used by hikers, nature seekers, and people enjoying the open space with their pets. We even have more extreme trails traversing up steep hills and narrow canyons. By understanding its users we can better understand the types of trails that will appeal to its users, and make upgrades to those trails to allow for a better trail experience. The following list contains the only major trail reconstruction improvements that we feel would best suite the monies that may be available through the Bond Measure WW of the East Bay Regional Park District. For this reason we have chosen projects concentrate on trails that run through the middle of the city. By reconstruction of the trails to a smooth surface will result will result in allowing a wider variety of users. The following list is in the order of Maintenance staff recommendation of priority. [highest to least]

①

Upper Easley Trail (Bruce Lee Trail)

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This trail had approximately 1,200 linear ft of grind and pave completed in the summer of 2008. Completing the rest of this trail into the downtown area would be a huge improvement.

Estimated Cost: \$73,584

②

George Cardinet Trail

Overview: Current condition is decomposed crushed gravel. Reconstruct with a smooth asphalt surface to the Cardinet Trail, combined with the completion of the Bruce Lee Trail, gives the city a multi-use trail connecting both ends of town.

Za

Library Section

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This is a small section of trail that would need a 10' wide smooth asphalt finish to allow for maintenance access along the backside of the library. The section running through the Keller Ranch area would be left as is, and finally a small section along the creek would need a 6' wide path.

Estimated Cost: \$8,580 10' library section: \$1,000 for creek side trail

2b

Diablo/Keller Section

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This is the least accessible section of Cardinet Trail, and makes it a little more costly to do any maintenance or improvements. It will be a challenge getting over the bridges.

Estimated Cost: \$96,000

2c

Westwood/Lydia Section

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This section already has a asphalt chip seal finish. We would have to remove / grind down the current path in order to reconstruct with a smooth asphalt finish.

Estimated Cost: \$91,089

2d

Silvercreek Path

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This small access path has a portion of the asphalt lifted by a pepper tree, and some lifted concrete areas that we would reconstruct and replace with a smooth asphalt finish. This project could be done with other asphalt reconstruction projects overlays, or in house with existing funds.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000

3

Diablo View

The Flats Trail

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This trail would probably need to have a wood border replaced in sections where the slope is steep to the roadway.

Estimated Cost: \$50,166 for surface; \$2,500 for border

4

Donner Creek Trail

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: There is approximately 1,800 ft of chip seal path to the Bloching Circle entrance, and then continues as crushed granite to the state park entrance. We would have to remove / grind and pave on the first portion of the path, but we would recommend leaving the portion leading to the state park as crushed granite. This leaves a much more pleasing appearance as you are headed towards Mt. Diablo. We would need to pave a 10' path just past the Bloching Circle entrance to provide for maintenance access of the sewer system.

Estimated Cost: \$112,308 grind and pave; \$5,250 10' maintenance road

5

Mt. Diablo Creek Trail

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: Although this trail has been resurfaced with smooth asphalt, there are areas that could be widened to provide for better maintenance access of the sewer system.

Estimated Cost: \$15,750 maintenance roads

6

Lower Easley Trail

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This is a low priority small section of trail with a chip seal finish. It would need a grind and reconstruct with surface with smooth asphalt.

Estimated Cost: \$63,000

7

Stranahan Path

Proposed Future Improvements

- Reconstruct with smooth asphalt

Evaluation: This is a small access trail connecting Marsh Creek Rd. with Lower Easley. This is low priority, a 4' path, but would make for a nice improvement. This project could be done with other asphalt reconstruction projects overlays, or in house with existing funds.

Estimated Cost: \$7,800

Trail Marker Program

Overview: This would program consists of the installation of trail markers throughout the cities trail system to provide for better identification, and hopefully educate users on the many wonderful trails that surround our city.

Proposed Future Improvements

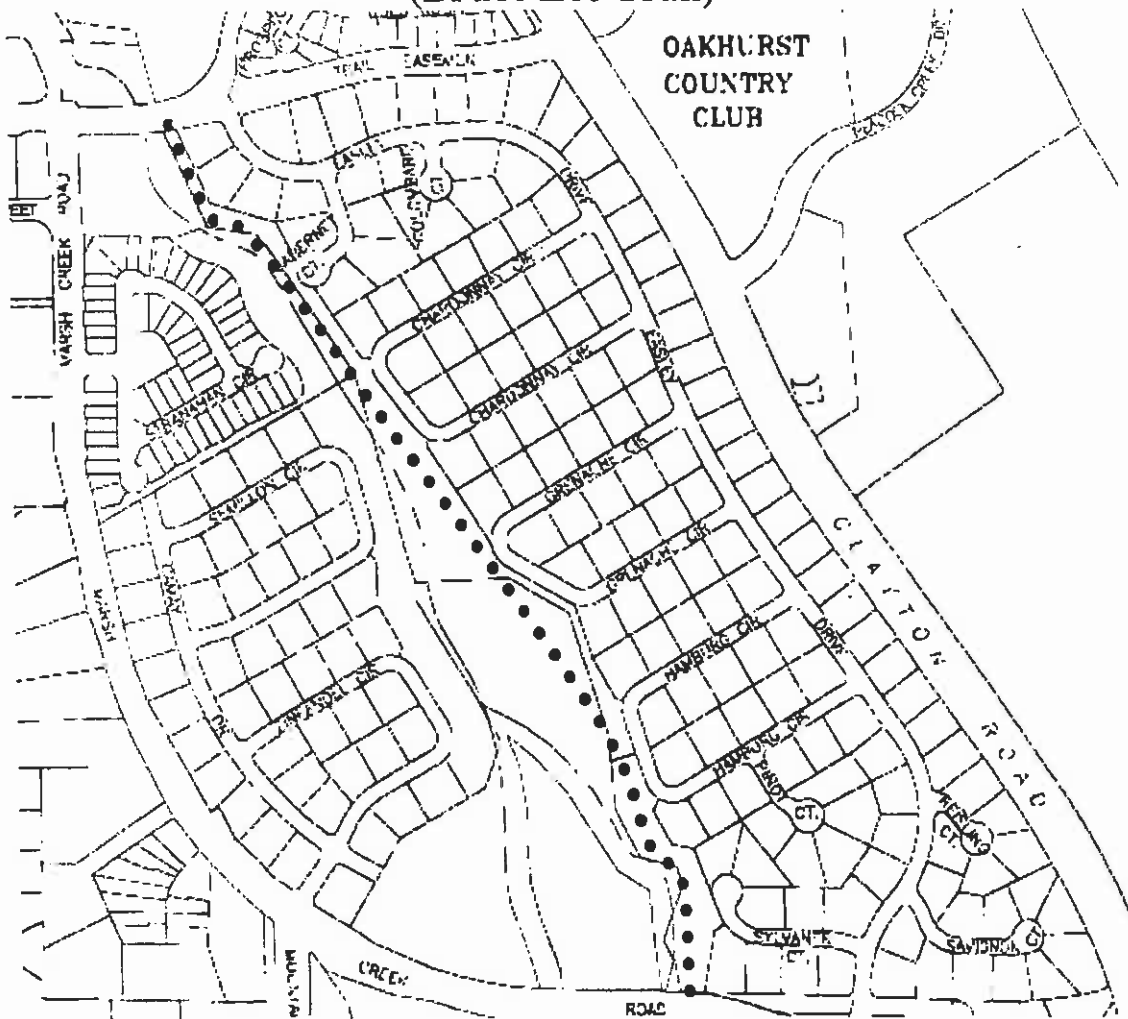
- Install trail markers throughout the trail system.

Evaluation: Trail markers would be installed at the beginning and end of all trails throughout the city. Additionally we would set trail markers at all trail intersects with other major trails. Could also include addition of trail signs along the roadways where they are only currently single faces signs.

Estimated Costs: \$16,100 approx. 46 markers

***Upper Easley Trail*
(Bruce Lee Trail)**

#1



Overview: The Upper Easley Trail begins approx. 100' west of Easley Dr. and Center St. near the downtown area. It travels southeast between Easley estates and Mt. Diablo creek where it intersects Marsh Creek Rd.

- **Access pathways:** There are many short access paths from neighboring streets
- **Connecting trails:** Lower Easley Trail – Mt. Diablo Creek Trail – Center St. Trail – Plaza Trail

Total traveled distance: .56 miles

Trail tread: Asphalt base with a chip seal surface – 7' wide x 2,952' long - Level grade – Level cross grade. Borders steep drop off into creek.

Structures:

- 38' round 3 rail wood railing

Signs:

- 3 - 6x6 wood mile markers
- 2 - metal signs 48" x 24"

NOTE: There are 5 small access paths that lead to the neighborhood streets. Their widths range from 6' wide to 21' wide. Approx. 1000 sq ft of asphalt with chip seal surface.

Annual Maintenance

- Check asphalt for excessive cracking and seal as needed

- Check mile markers
- Replace or repair signs as needed
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Report erosion of creek banks
- Check wood railing

Deferred Maintenance

- Crack seal entire length of path
- Repair wood railing
- Replace 4 sections approx. 328 linear feet of pathway

Future Maintenance and Improvements

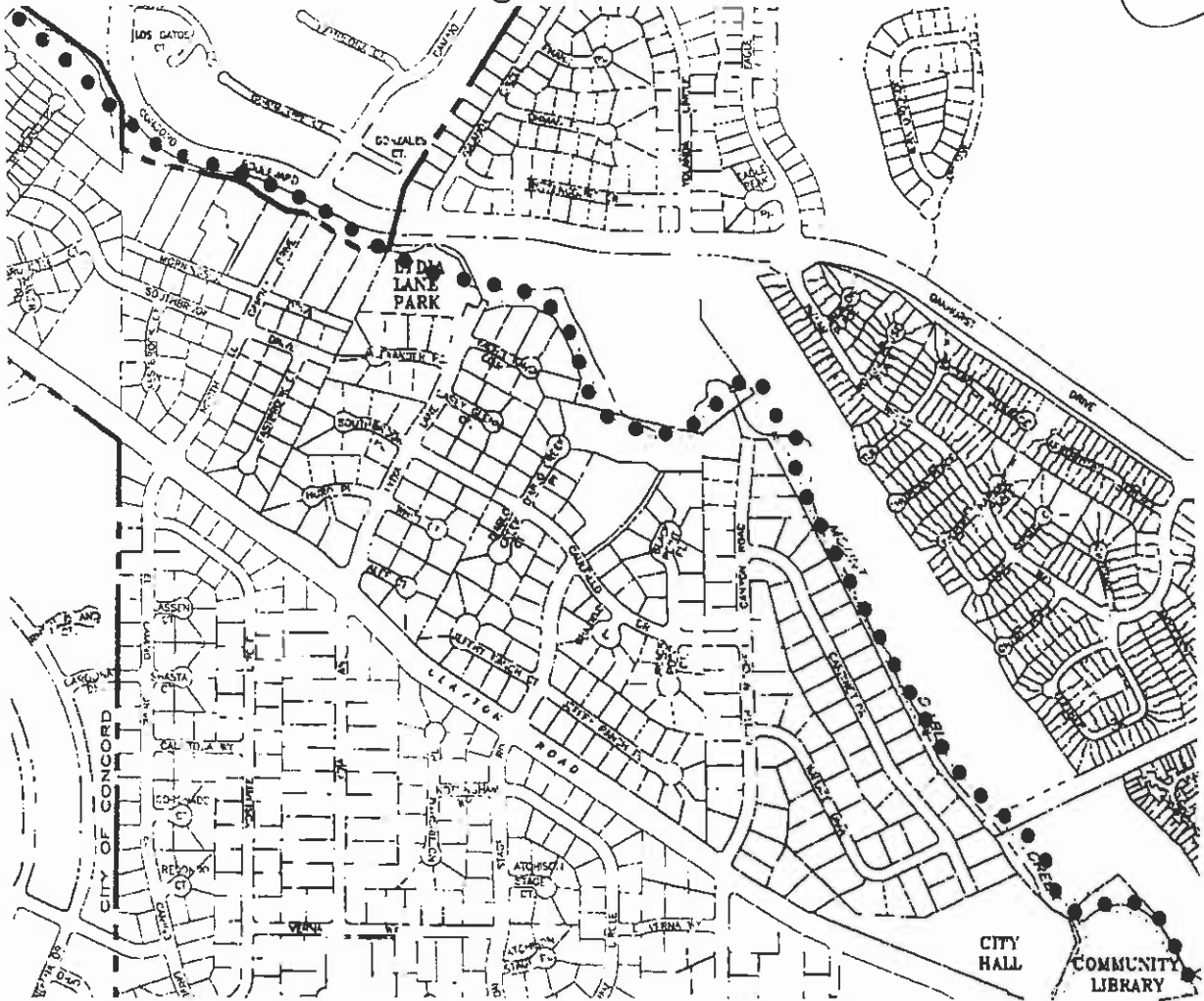
- New chip seal coat
- Resurface with smooth asphalt

NOTE: This stretch of trail would be greatly enhanced with a smooth finish. It would open up the trail to many different types of activities, including, roller blading, skateboarding, and commuting, adding to the quality of life in Clayton.

Evaluation: This trail is in fairly good shape. There are some minor sections of increased cracking, but block cracking covers most of the trail. Crack sealing the entire path added to a new chip seal surface would keep this trail looking good for years to come.

George Cardinet Trail

#2



Overview: The Cardinet Trail Begins at the southeast corner of the library at the intersection of Clayton Rd. and Marsh Creek Rd. It travels north along Mt. Diablo Creek, behind the library, over a small foot bridge, and through the Keller Ranch House property. It continues down Mt. Diablo Creek, crossing over several foot bridges shaded by several large oaks and elms. The trail runs through Diablo Open Space, Lydia Lane Park, and Westwood Park where it ends at the bollards adjacent to the PG&E power box behind the Safeway property. This trail has 3 sections. The **Library Section** starts at the trail head and continues through the Keller Ranch property, the **Diablo/Keller Section** starts at the Keller Ranch property and continues to the Lydia Lane Park parking lot, and the **Westwood/Lydia Section** connects Lydia Lane Park and Westwood Park.

- **Access pathways:** 2 additional pathways connect city streets to the Cardinet Trail. The **Silvercreek Path** travels from Oakhurst drive to the junction between Mitchell Bridge and Diablo Bridge. The **Caulfield Path** travels from Caulfield Dr. to Diablo open space. *The property between Cardinet Bridge and Mitchell Bridge is owned by the golf course where the city has a trail easement.*
- **Connecting trails:** Diablo View Trail

Total traveled distance: 1.46 miles

Trail tread: 60% crushed granite, 33% asphalt, and 7% other - No wood border - Level grade - Level cross grade.

Structures:

- 6 Bridges
- 8 benches

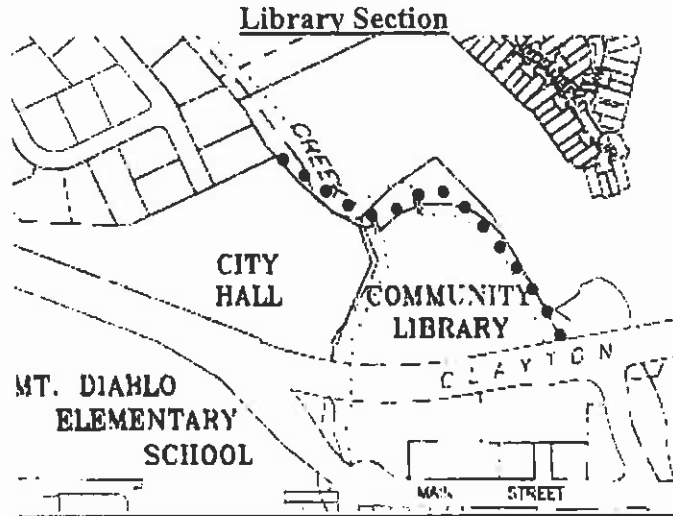
- 180' wood split rail fencing
- 90' retaining wall
- 18 5' railroad ties
- 38' round 3 rail wood railing
- 2 exercise courses.

Signs:

- 6-6x6 wood mile markers
- 3 metal signs

NOTE: All bridges are bare iron frame, concrete footings, and a 2x12 wood plank floor made by Continental Bridge, Alexandria MN 1-800-328-2047. They are all marked with a serial number.

2a



Trail tread - ¼ x crushed granite - 6x72' crushed gold rock 2x6 wood border on one side - 8 x 440' - ¼ x crushed granite - Level grade - Level cross grade.

Structures

- Keller Foot Bridge #94227 6'x76'
- 180' wood split rail fencing
- 90' Retaining wall
- 3 standard spec city redwood benches
- 1 Victorian iron/wood bench
- 3 tree up lights. (Lights are maintained with library funding.)

Signs

- (1) 12x18 metal George Cardinet sign (Mounted on split rail fence at the start of trail.)

Annual Maintenance

- Check for signs of erosion caused by library sprinklers
- Check for vehicle ruts in trail
- Inspect split rail fence for damage
- Replace or repair signs as needed
- Inspect wood retaining wall
- Inspect 2x6 wood border
- Inspect bridge floor planks and concrete footings for erosion
- Inspect entry and exit to bridge
- Repair 3 redwood benches as needed
- Inspect Victorian bench
- Cut low lying branches
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Refill ¼ x dust as needed.

Deferred Maintenance

- Add 2 yards crushed gold rock and
- Add 5 yards crushed granite.
- Replace 4 sections of split rail.
(This area has been hit numerous times, and we may want to leave this as is until we see further reason to reinstall.)
- Tree up lights need to be repaired, but we will do so with library funding.

Future Maintenance and Improvements

- This area has benefited from many different user groups. With the exception of a chain or gate to keep vehicles from driving to the back of the library, there are no proposed improvements at this time.

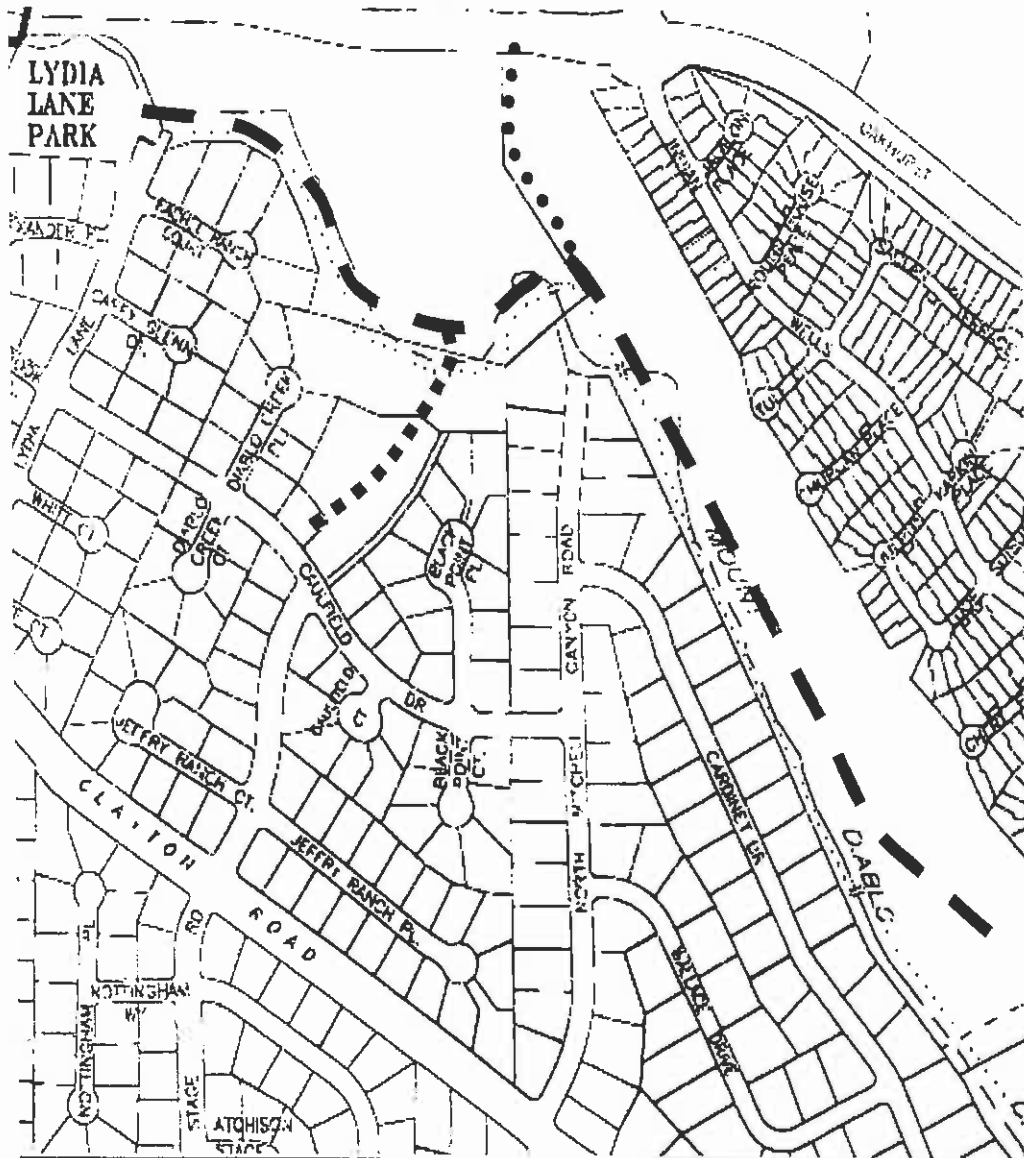
NOTES:

(Tree up lights are maintained with library funding.)

Evaluation: This trail is heavily used by the residents. The Library section represents a fraction of the trail, but is very high profile. This trail is mowed while doing open space, and often maintained by library volunteers. This trail is in good shape.

Diablo/Keller Section

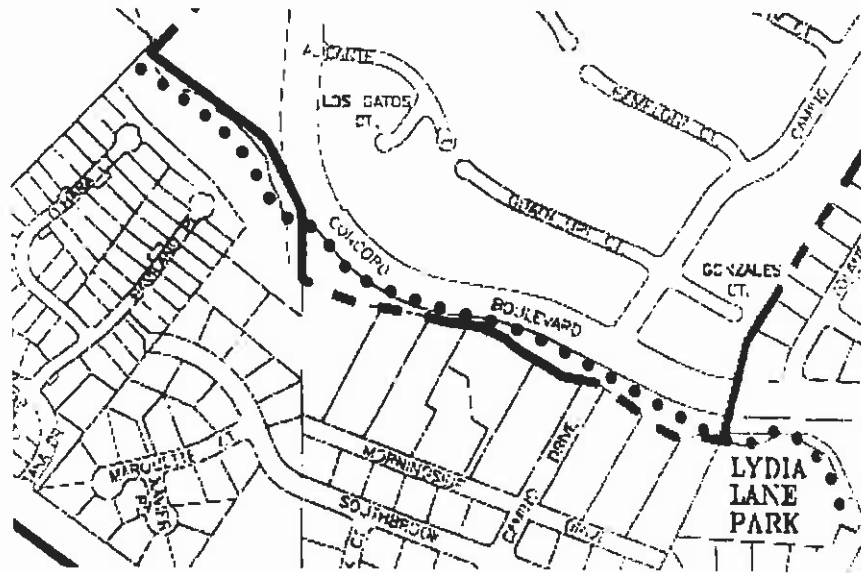
2b



Evaluation: This trail is heavily used by the residents. The Diablo/Keller section has minimal access and can be labor intense. Bike jumps, tree forts, and bee hives are always a problem. Weeds are cut down while mowing open space. Creek bank needs to be monitored for erosion.

2c

Westwood/Lydia Section



Trail tread - Asphalt base (2 bridge crossings) – 10' x 515', 6'x 62' smooth surface / 6'x 2,169' chip seal surface – Level grade – Level cross grade.

Structures

- 1 redwood bench
- 15' section of round 3 rail wood railing
- 12' section of round 3 rail wood railing
- 9' section of round 3 rail wood railing
- Lydia Bridge #91233 6'x 60'
- Westwood Bridge #91232 6'x 51'
- 2 exercise courses

Signs

- (2) 6x6 wood mile markers
- 18"x36" metal sign with metal posts
- 12"x18" metal sign on 6x6 wood post.

Annual Maintenance

- Check asphalt for excessive cracking and seal as needed
- Cut low lying branches
- Cut weeds twice a year
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Check footings of bridges for erosion
- Check bridge 2x12 wood planks
- Inspect entry and exit to bridges
- Inspect wood mile markers
- Replace or repair signs as needed
- Check wood railings
- Inspect exercise courses.

NOTE: Weeds will be cut down with open space mowing

Deferred Maintenance

- Crack seal entire trail
- Chip seal where applicable
- Repair wood railing at Westwood Bridge
- Replace (4) 2x12 wood planks at Westwood Bridge.

Future Maintenance and Improvements

- Resurface chip seal with fresh asphalt.

NOTES:

(Applying a smooth surface to trail would allow for a larger variety of users.)

(There is 1 exercise course located in each park.)

Evaluation: This trail is heavily used by the residents. The Lydia/Westwood section is the most maintenance friendly part of the trail. This trail is in great shape.

Access Paths

Silvercreek Path

Total traveled distance: 741 feet

Tread – Asphalt base – 8' x 741 – Level grade with 40' Steep grade to Cardinet Trail – Level cross grade.

Structures

- 37' retaining wall

Signs

- 6x6 wood trail marker with 4"x6" aluminum sign

Annual Maintenance

- Crack seal pathway
- Inspect wood trail markers
- Replace or repair signs as needed
- Spot spray weeds
- Check erosion by retaining wall and path slope
- Inspect retaining wall

Deferred Maintenance

- Repair 8'x16' section of asphalt lifted by pepper tree
- Repair lifted concrete

Future Maintenance and Improvements

- Add blocks to retaining wall
- Replace 6'x20' section of lifted concrete with asphalt

NOTES:

(Building retaining wall to 3 block heights will help prevent slope from sliding on the trail.)

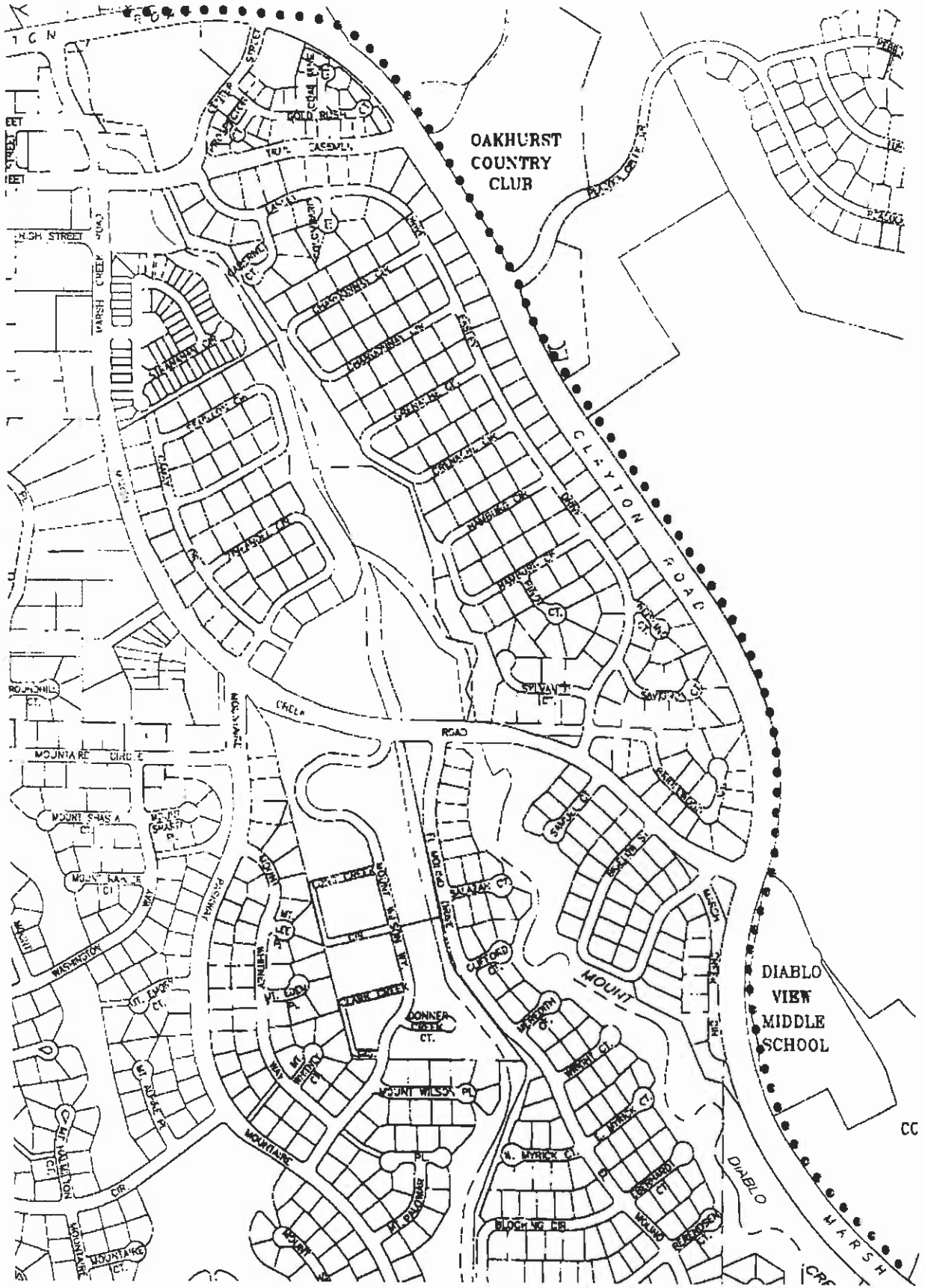
(Removing concrete and replacing with asphalt will be consistent with the rest of the path, and avoid any future lifting.)

Evaluation: The lifted section of concrete is the old golf cart path. This needs to be removed and replaced with asphalt. The retaining wall needs to be raised in to prevent runoff onto the Cardinet Trail. The area of asphalt damaged by the pepper tree needs to be replaced to avoid injury.

2d

Diablo View Trail

#3



- Refill crushed gold rock as needed.
- Refill crushed granite as needed
- Report and repair any holes caused by ground squirrels

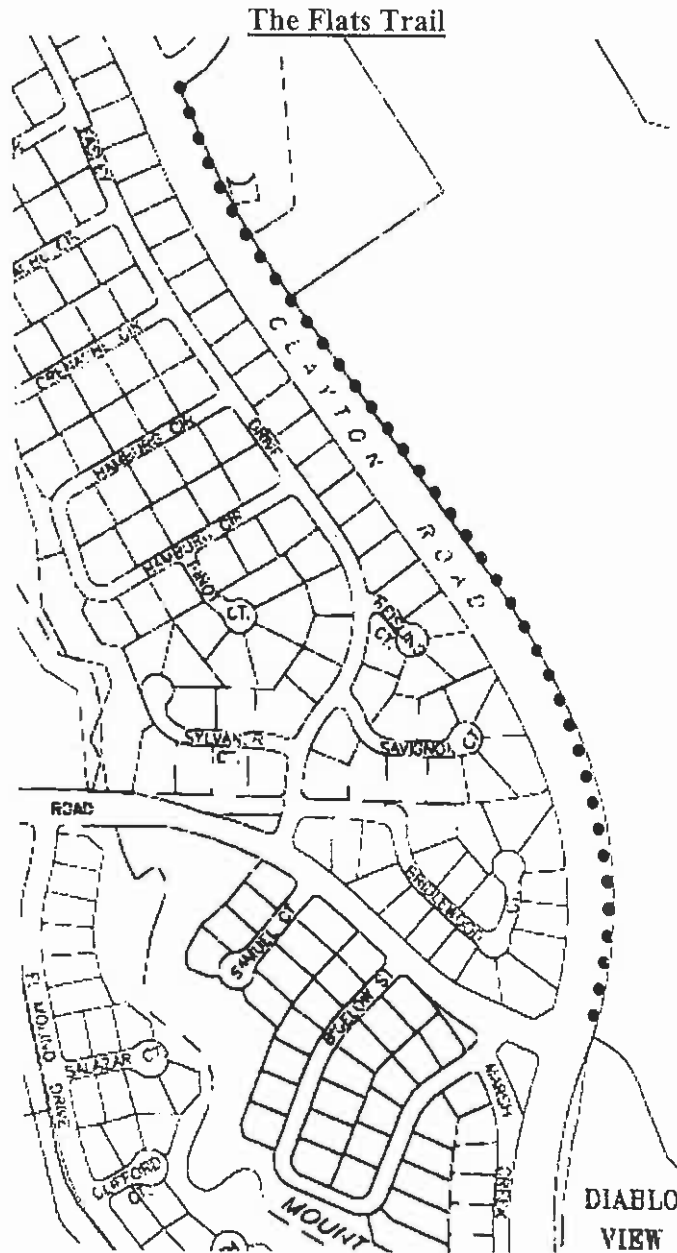
Deferred Maintenance

- Add 5 yds crushed granite
- Add 5 yds crushed gold rock
- Replace approx. 200' of border along trail

Future Maintenance and Improvements

- None to report

Evaluation: This trail could use some fresh gold rock and wood border repair. We have to keep an eye on low lying branches and broken sprinklers. Keeping the weeds down by spot spraying gives it a more pleasant appearance. This trail is in fairly good shape.



Trail tread – ¼ x crushed granite – Double sided 2x6 wood border – 4' wide x 2,787' long – Level grade – Sloped cross grade.

Structures

- None

Signs

- None

Annual Maintenance

- Check grade and cross grade for signs of erosion caused by rain
- Check wood borders
- Replace or repair 2x6 wood borders as needed
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Refill ¼ x crushed granite as needed.
- Report and repair any holes caused by ground squirrels

Deferred Maintenance

- Add 20 yds crushed granite
- Replace approx. 1000' of border along trail

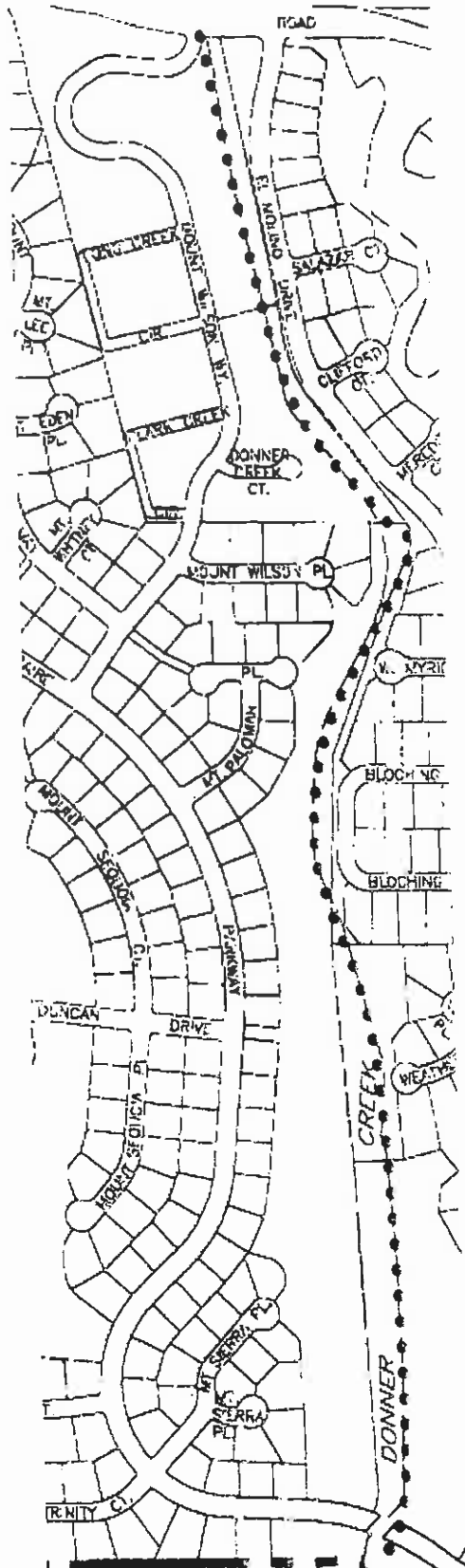
Future Maintenance and Improvements

- Eliminate wood border on some portions of trail.

Evaluation: Areas where the trail has a steeper cross grade would need to maintain the border, but areas where the trail is wide can be eliminated. This would also aide in the annual mowing which often times destroys the border sections that have been lifted. Adding ¼ x crushed granite will give this trail a fresh new look.

#4

Donner Creek Trail



Overview: The Donner Creek Trail begins at El Molino Park at the corner of Old Marsh Creek Rd. and El Molino Dr. It follows Donner Creek and El Molino Dr. for approx. 1500' and then continues along Donner Creek behind the neighborhood homes. It has a 75% asphalt base and a 25% crushed granite base. The end of the trail leads you to the Donner Creek entrance of Mt. Diablo State Park

- **Access paths:** There are 2 access roads leading to this trail. They are open space access roads, and are maintained when servicing open space.
- **Connecting trails:** None

Total traveled distance: .68 miles

Trail tread: Asphalt base with a chip seal surface – 7'wide x 1,454' long – Level grade – Level cross grade. Asphalt base with a chip seal surface – 6'wide x 1,220' long – Level grade – Level cross grade. ¼ x crushed granite – 6' x 934' – Level grade – Level cross grade

Structures:

- 4 – wood benches
- 1 – chained entrance with 2 8x8 posts and 3 steel poles

Signs:

- 2 – 6 x 6 wood mile markers
- 1 - metal signs 48" x 24"

Annual Maintenance

- Check asphalt for excessive cracking and seal as needed
- Check mile markers
- Lube locks on chained gate
- Check reflectors on chain
- Replace or repair signs as needed
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Report erosion of creek banks
- Repair or replace benches as needed
- Cut down low lying limbs
- Refill ¼ x crushed granite as needed

Deferred Maintenance

- Crack seal entire length of path
- Repair 1 section approx. 15 sq ft asphalt along El Molino Dr.
- Repair approx. 100 sq ft of path before gate
- Remove and repair crushed asphalt after gate.
- Add 10 yards crushed granite

Future Maintenance and Improvements

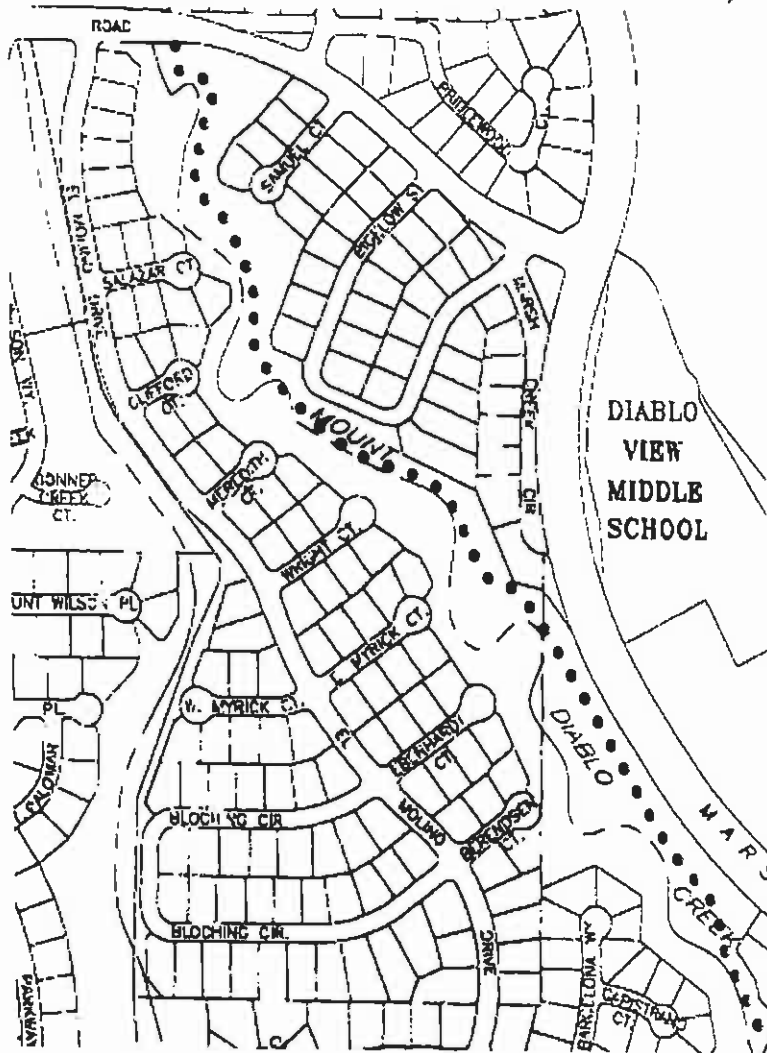
- New chip seal coat
- Remove crushed asphalt after gate and replace with crushed granite.
- Resurface Chip seal with smooth asphalt

NOTE: All chip sealed surface trails could be enhanced with a smooth surface.

Evaluation: This trail is in fairly good shape. There are some areas that need to be replaced, repaired, or removed, but otherwise this trail looks good.

"Mt. Diablo Creek Trail"

#5



Overview: The Mt. Diablo Creek Trail Begins at the end of Upper Easley Trail on Old Marsh Creek Rd. ending at Regency Dr. It travels northeast along Mt. Diablo Creek through open space areas adjacent to the neighborhood. There are 4 small access paths by the city dog park.

- **Access paths:** There are many short access paths from neighboring streets.
- **Connecting trails:** Upper Easley Trail

Total traveled distance: .67 miles

Trail tread: Asphalt base with a chip seal surface – 6' wide x 3,543' long - Level grade – Level cross grade. Some areas are bordered by steep cliffs down to the creek. There is approx. 350' of steep hill in the middle section of the trail.

Structures:

- 20' round 3 rail wood railing – 5 posts

Signs:

- 3 – 6 x 6 wood mile markers

NOTE: There are 4 small access paths that lead to the neighborhood streets. Their widths are approx. 6' wide totaling approx. 1700 sq ft of asphalt with chip seal surface.

Annual Maintenance

- Check asphalt for excessive cracking and seal as needed
- Check mile markers
- Check for graffiti
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Cut low lying limbs
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Report erosion of creek banks
- Check wood railing

Deferred Maintenance

- Crack seal entire length of path
- Repair wood railing
- Replace 1 sections approx.300 linear feet of pathway (by man hole)
- Replace 1 section 10 x 15 sq ft (top of hill by catch basin)

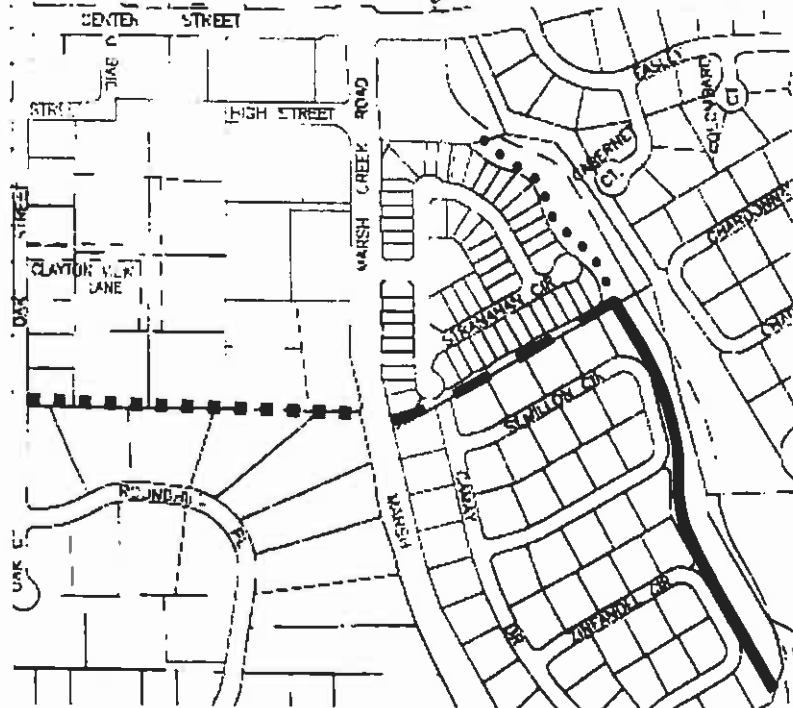
Future Maintenance and Improvements

- New chip seal coat (upper section of trail)
- Resurface (lower section of trail)





NOTE: The City of Concord accesses this area to service our sewer system. This should be taken into account with any improvements to this area.

Evaluation: This trail is in the worst shape of all the cities asphalt trails. The lower section of this trail is experiencing approx. 75% cracking along all areas. There is approx. 1500' that needs to be replaced. Crack sealing would not even provide much of a band aide. The 350' hill portion of this trail has multiple spider cracks and needs to be replaced in the near future. The upper portion of this trail has a small 150 sq ft section that needs to be replaced, but otherwise can be crack sealed to prevent further block cracking.

Lower Easley Trail



#6

- Lower Easley Trail 
- Stranahan Path 
- Oak St. Path 
- Mudville Path 

Overview: The **Lower Easley Trail** is a small neighborhood trail that leads to many surrounding areas including **Upper Easley Trail**, **Mudville Path** to the downtown area, and **Stranahan Path** to Marsh Creek Rd. It stretches north and south leading from the Easley Estate to Stranahan subdivision following along Mt. Diablo Creek. A (Connector path) allows you to cross a bridge and continue up to Upper Easley Trail. The south end of the trail is where Donner Creek flows into Mt, Diablo Creek, and the north end of the trail divides into 2 separate trails that lead to Marsh Creek Rd. and the downtown area.

- **Access pathways:** The **Stranahan Path** splits off to the left from Lower Easley Trail heading north to Marsh Creek Rd. The **Oak St. Path** runs north to south between Oak St. and Marsh Creek Rd. across from the Stranahan Path. The **Mudville Path** splits off to the right heading north to the parking lot behind Mudville Grill.
- **Connecting trails:** Upper Easley Trail – Mudville Trail – Stranahan Trail

Total traveled distance: .23 miles

Trail tread: Asphalt base with a chip seal surface – 6' wide x 1,200' long - Level grade – Level cross grade.(Connector path) Asphalt base with chip seal surface 6' wide x 300' long – Sloped grade – Sloped cross grade.

Structures:

- 6' x 50' iron bridge with 2x12 wood planks.

NOTE: There are no identification markings on the bridge.

Signs:

- None

NOTE: There are 2 small access paths that lead to the neighborhood streets. Their widths are approx. 7' wide. Approx. 250 sq ft of asphalt with chip seal surface.

Annual Maintenance

- Check asphalt for excessive cracking and seal as needed
- Cut low lying branches
- Herbicide control twice a year
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Report erosion of creek banks
- Inspect bridge planks
- Inspect bridge footings

Deferred Maintenance

- Crack seal entire length of path

Future Maintenance and Improvements

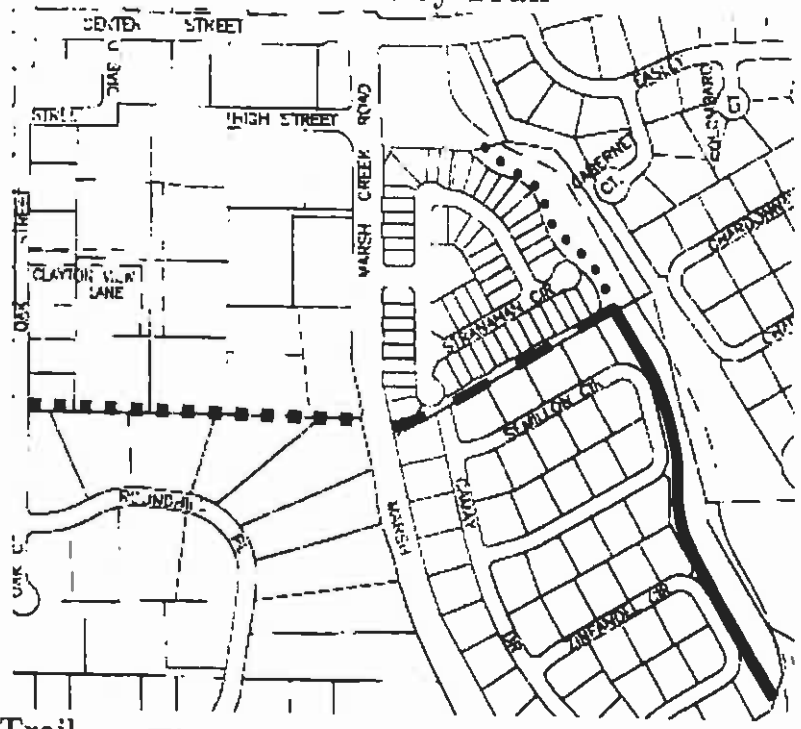
- New chip seal coat
- Resurface with smooth asphalt

NOTE: It is always an improvement to have a smooth surface on this type of trail.

Evaluation: This trail is in fairly good shape. There are some block cracking covering most of the trail. Crack sealing the entire path added to a new chip seal surface would keep this trail looking good for years to come. Many oaks have been planted in the last 5 -10 years in this section of trail. These oaks will need to be trimmed away from the trail in the near future.

Lower Easley Trail

#7



Lower Easley Trail
Stranahan Path
Oak St. Path
Mudville Path



Access Paths **Stranahan Path**

Total traveled distance: 650 feet

Trail tread – ¼ x crushed granite 5'x 650' – Level grade – Level cross grade. 25' x 15' crushed granite seating area

Structures

- 2 - 6' backed wood benches with metal frames

25

Signs

- None

Annual Maintenance

- Inspect benches
- Spot spray weeds
- Refill ¼ x crushed granite as needed.
- Cut down weeds twice a year
- Herbicide control twice a year

Deferred Maintenance

- Repair lip around catch basin

Future Maintenance and Improvements

- None

Evaluation: This is a small access trail that gets little use, so maintenance should be minimal.