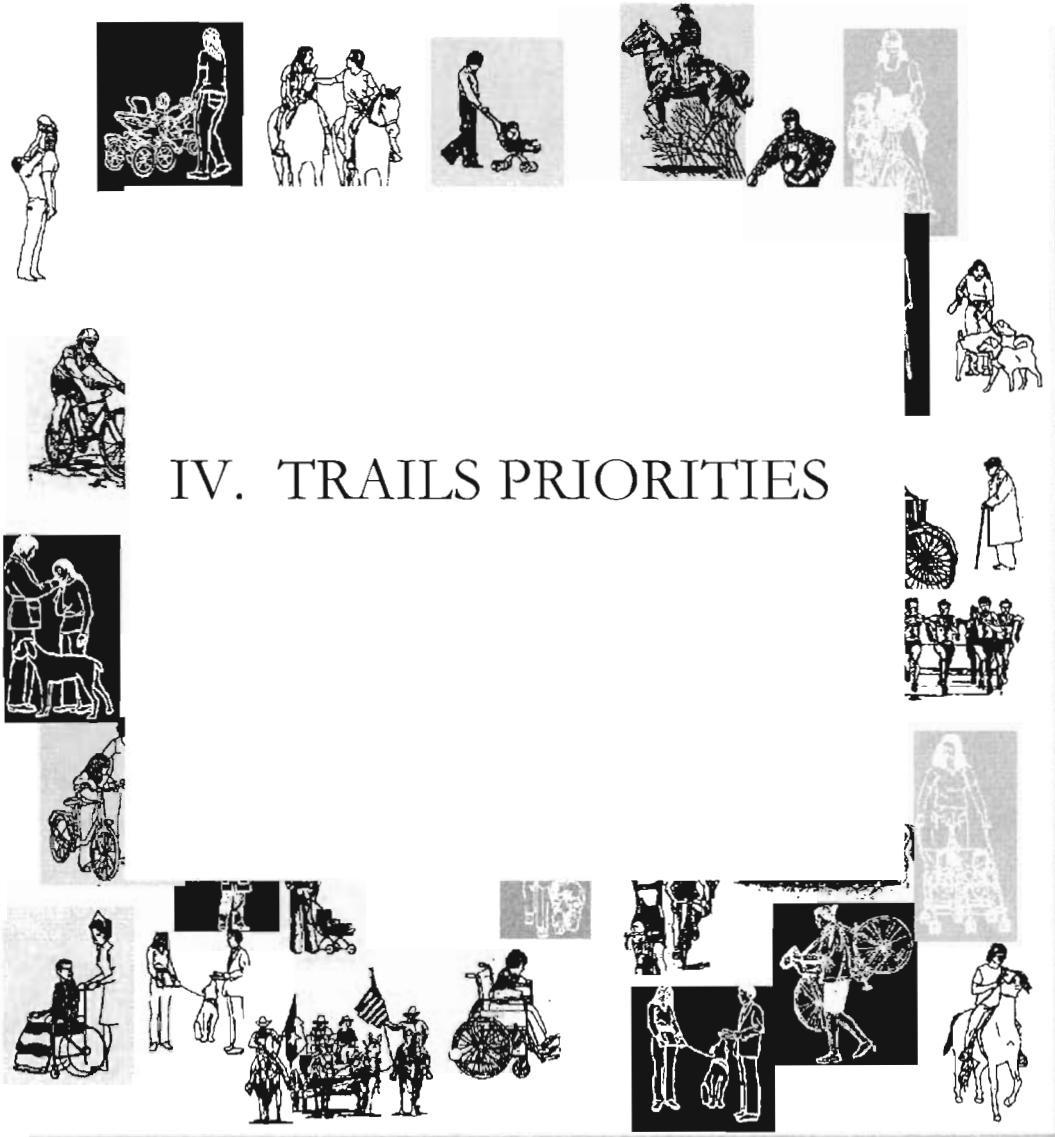




Santa Clara County  
COUNTYWIDE TRAILS MASTER PLAN  
Update



Final Report  
Santa Clara County Trails Plan Advisory Committee

Adopted November 14, 1995  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

## IV. TRAIL PRIORITIES

### PURPOSE

This Countywide Trail System Master Plan is a long-range, visionary guide. It characterizes a pattern of trail routes and trail experiences that are needed today and that will be needed in the future. However, though all trail routes shown on the Countywide Trail System Master Plan Map serve the public's interest and have been evaluated and justified from a great many viewpoints, a particular interest of the Trails Plan Advisory Committee was to make the implementation of the trail system a strategic one. Not all of the trail routes shown on the Countywide Trail System Master Plan Map and described in Section II will be acquired, developed and open for public use in the next fifteen years.

The purpose of identifying trail priorities is to focus attention on those trail routes that present significant opportunities for the general public right now and to help direct the public funds available to the County for trails in a logical fashion. This desire to focus attention on a few trails, through the prioritization process, does not imply that should an opportunity arise (for example, through an interested property owner, through the urbanization process, or through the interest of other public agencies) that implementation of any trail shown in the countywide system, regardless of its priority rating, would not represent a positive step forward.

### PRIORITY CRITERIA

The initial activity of the Trails Plan Advisory Committee, prior to establishing policies and preparing the trails map, was to determine its own criteria for prioritizing trails that reflected the values of the people and communities in Santa Clara County. The resulting criteria generally have an urban orientation, emphasizing trails in and near urban areas, that are convenient to access and that appeal to a large number of people.

Criteria were drafted by the Committee, reviewed with the general public at workshops, and then finalized. Figure 6 illustrates the results of that process.

Nine priority evaluation criteria were identified and divided into three weighted groups.

#### GROUP 1

- **Need:** as expressed through public workshops and other community forums; as evaluated based on quantifiable data about existing trail supply, trail use, and projections of future populations; and as considered in terms of identifiable

“benefits” to the residents of Santa Clara County, including recreation, transportation, education, and health and safety.

- **Compatibility of Trails with Adjoining Private Property:** based on the existing uses now on property adjacent to trail routes and on the land use designations shown on the County General Plan Map.
- **Trail Usefulness:** where a trail connects two County parks, links County parks with other public lands, connects two existing trails, completes or extends an existing trail segment, or disperses use away from overused areas.

### GROUP 2

- **Complexity of Land Acquisition:** including the number of property owners; availability of public lands; presence of existing easements; and the potential for pending land use changes which could provide opportunities for trail implementation.
- **Opportunities for a Large Number of Users:** if a trail is accessible to residents throughout the County; is located parallel to a transportation corridor; and/or provides access to such features as schools, libraries, parks, or employment, commercial or retail centers.
- **Safety Concerns:** including visibility along the trail; separation from motorized traffic; ability to maintain and patrol; liability protection for adjacent private property; and availability of emergency services.

### GROUP 3

- **Financial Considerations:** including costs for acquisition, development, operations, management, and monitoring. Also included are opportunities that may arise for funding partnerships; and revenue-generating potential.
- **Need for Trail Settings:** to provide for a variety of trail experiences by offering trails in urban, suburban, rural, and remote areas.
- **Opportunities for a Sense of Remoteness:** to have trails in areas where the sights and sounds of people seem remote, whether or not they are.

## PRIORITY EVALUATIONS

• **Unincorporated County Areas:** For trail segments that fall within the County's jurisdiction (i.e. outside Urban Service Areas in the County) a three-step process was used in applying the Committee's criteria. These steps were:

**Step 1:** for individual trail segments, each of the nine priority criteria was assigned a relative rating between 1 and 3 (with low = 1, medium = 2, and high = 3).

**Step 2:** a cumulative score for each trail segment was determined by weighting the nine individual ratings assigned in Step 1 according to the three Criteria Groups (as shown in Figure 6) using multipliers as follows:

- 3x - Need, Compatibility, and Usefulness
- 2x - Acquisition Complexity, Opportunity for Large Number of Users, and Safety
- 1x - Financial Considerations, Setting, and Sense of Remoteness

**Step 3:** a maximum of 54 and minimum of 18 points could be assigned to any one trail segment. Individual segments with a cumulative rating above 45 were assigned a "High Priority"; any trail segment with a cumulative rating between 40 and 45 was assigned a "Priority" rating.

Appendix D identifies individual priority ratings for each trail route within unincorporated Santa Clara County, by segment. Table 1 summarizes the trail segments receiving the highest priority rating in the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County.

• **Incorporated Urban Areas:** Table 2 summarizes the countywide trails that were identified in staff workshops as particularly important to individual Cities. Generally, but not always, these trails were located within the incorporated areas of the County. Individual Cities in Santa Clara County have not formally prioritized trail routes within their General Plans or individual trail master plans. For comparison, a rating is provided that is derived from the Trails Plan Advisory Committee's priority criteria and the system (described above) used to evaluate trail routes in unincorporated County jurisdiction.

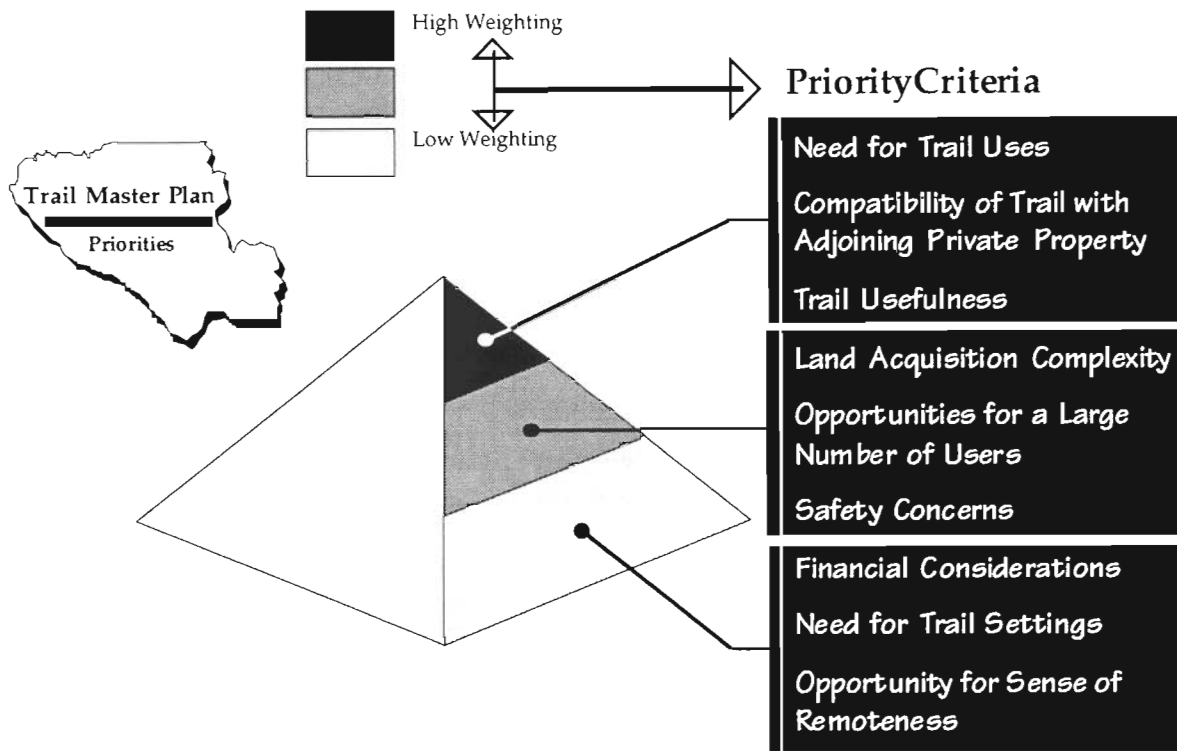


FIGURE 6: TRAIL PRIORITY CRITERIA

**TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF HIGH PRIORITY TRAILS - UNINCORPORATED COUNTY AREAS**

Santa Clara County	HIGH PRIORITY TRAIL PROJECTS*			
	MAP KEY	TRAIL ROUTE	LOCATION	RATING**
	R1-A S5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail</li> <li>Coyote Creek /Llagas Creek Trail</li> </ul>	From: Coyote Creek Co. Park To: Llagas Creek	48
	R3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benito-Clara Trail</li> </ul>	From: Santa Teresa Blvd. To: San Martin Ave.	48
	S8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>San Martin Cross-Valley Trail</li> </ul>	From: Santa Teresa Blvd. To: New Ave.	48
	C19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calero / Santa Teresa Trail</li> </ul>	From: McKean Rd. To: Santa Teresa Co. Park	47
	R5-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Area Ridge Trail</li> </ul>	From: Almaden-Quicksilver County Park To: Alamos Creek Trail via Mockingbird Ln.	47
	R5-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Area Ridge Trail</li> </ul>	From: Santa Teresa County Park To: Coyote Creek County Park	46
	R5-D S5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Area Ridge Trail</li> <li>Coyote Creek /Llagas Creek Trail</li> </ul>	From: Burnett Ave. To: Cochrane Rd.	46

\* See also Appendix D for a complete listing of priority ratings by trail segment.

\*\* Individual trail segments within unincorporated County jurisdiction were rated based on 9 ranked criteria using a weighted multiplier. A maximum of 54 and minimum of 18 points could be assigned to any one trail segment. Individual segments with a cumulative rating above 45 were considered a "High Priority" by the Trails Plan Advisory Committee; any trail segment with a cumulative rating between 40 and 45 was assigned a "Priority" rating by the Trails Plan Advisory Committee. For more detailed description, see preceding text.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF PRIORITY TRAILS - CITIES

CITY	CITY PRIORITIES FOR COUNTYWIDE TRAILS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION*			
	KEY	TRAIL ROUTE	LOCATION	RATING**
Campbell	S4	• Los Gatos Creek Trail	Note: trail complete within Campbell; however, extension of trail in either direction desirable	
Cupertino	R1-A S3	• Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail • Stevens Creek Trail	From: Rancho San Antonio County Park To: Stevens Creek County Park	38
Gilroy	S6	• West Valley Trail (Along Uvas Creek)	From: Hecker Pass Rd. (Hwy 152) To: Christmas Hill Park South	43
	R5-E	• Bay Area Ridge Trail	From: Sprig Lake / Mt. Madonna Co. Park To: Gavilan Jr. College	37
Los Altos	S2	• Stevens Creek Trail (trails to be considered on existing street / bicycle paths)	From: Los Altos To: Sunnyvale or Cupertino Trail linking off Fremont Ave. or Homestead Road	38
Los Altos Hills		• Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	From: Duveneck Windmill Pasture To: Arastradero Preserve	38
Los Gatos	S4	• Los Gatos Creek Trail	From: Main Street To: Lexington Dam Note: trail complete within Los Gatos; however, modifications and extensions to Lexington Dam desirable	47
	C13 C14	• Sanborn Trail • El Sereno Trail	From: Villa Montalvo To: El Sereno Open Space Preserve	41
Milpitas	R4 S5	• San Francisco Bay Trail • Coyote Creek /Llagas Creek Trail	From: Alameda County Line To: Montague Expressway (City Limits)	49
	C6	• Calera Creek Trail	From: Higuera Adobe Park To: Ed Levin Co. Park	45
Monte Sereno	S4	• Los Gatos Creek Trail	Note: trail not within City; however, modifications and extensions to Lexington Dam desirable	
	C13 C14	• Sanborn Trail • El Sereno Trail	From: Villa Montalvo To: El Sereno Open Space Preserve	41
Morgan Hill	C25	• Main Street Trail	From: Santa Teresa Blvd. To: Hill Rd.	47
	S7	• Morgan Hill Cross-Valley Trail	From: Santa Teresa Blvd. To: Intersection with Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	47

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF PRIORITY TRAILS - CITIES (continued)

CITY	CITY PRIORITIES FOR COUNTYWIDE TRAILS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION*			
	MAP KEY	GENERAL ROUTE	LOCATION	RATING**
Mountain View	R4	• San Francisco Bay Trail	From: Palo Alto City Limit To: Sunnyvale City Limit	50.5***
	S2	• Stevens Creek Trail	From: Bay Trail To: Sunnyvale City Limit	46.5***
Palo Alto	C1	• San Francisquito / Los Trancos Creeks	From: Waverly Street To: West Arastrodero	37
San Jose	R4	• San Francisco Bay Trail	From: Sunnyvale City Limit To: Alameda County Line	48***
San Jose	S3	• Guadalupe /Santa Teresa Trail	From: San Francisco Bay Trail To: Almaden Lakes	40
	S4	• Los Gatos Creek Trail	From: Guadalupe / Santa Teresa Trail To: Campbell City Limit	42
Santa Clara	C5	• San Tomas Aquino / Saratoga Creeks	From: Bay Trail To: San Jose City Limit	44
	C4	• Hetch-Hetchy Trail	From: Sunnyvale City Limit To: Guadalupe River	43
Saratoga	C11	• Stevens Canyon / Lookout Trail	From: Prospect / Stelling To: Parker/Garrod Ranch	36
	R1-A	• Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	From: Lower Stevens Creek Co. Park To: Pierce Rd. / Congress Springs Rd.	37***
Sunnyvale	R4	• San Francisco Bay Trail	From: Mountain View City Limit To: San Jose City Limit	49***
	C4	• Hetch-Hetchy Trail	From: Fair Oaks Avenue To: Santa Clara City Limit	43

\* As provided by individual Cities

\*\* Priority ratings use criteria and weighting developed by the Trails Plan Advisory Committee and are provided for comparison with County priority trail segments.

\*\*\* Average of more than one trail segment as shown in Appendix D.