



## **ETRAC Annual Report 2021-22**

With this article, the Equestrian Trail Riders' Action Committee resumes our annual reporting on projects we are involved in, many of which were ongoing during the pandemic. We are grateful that even during covid, we could still enjoy riding and caring for our horses. And although much trail work was put on hold for those two years, ETRAC members and supporters continued to liaise with the land managers and policy makers for our parks and open spaces and make sure that equestrian needs and concerns were heard.

Please work with us! To volunteer for assuring continued equestrian trail access on the Mid-Peninsula trails, please contact Jerry Wittenauer [wittenauer.jerry@gmail.com](mailto:wittenauer.jerry@gmail.com).

The following are some of ETRAC's projects and interests:

- **Bay Area Barns & Trails:** This organization has donated funds for the rehabilitation of Bercut Arena in Golden Gate Park, which is now in use. Parking available during the week, but very limited on weekends. Please note that BABT offers monetary assistance to worthy equestrian needs, so contact them at [mail@bayareabarnsandtrails.com](mailto:mail@bayareabarnsandtrails.com)
- **Bay-to-Sea Trail:** is being considered and ETRAC is working to make sure that equestrian access is guaranteed.
- **GGNRA:** Phleger's Miramontes Trail is still closed, but ETRAC continues to work with GGNRA on the erosion situation and hopes to relocate the trail to an area less prone to annual erosion.
- **HMB Beach Trails:** Due to continued public objection of horse manure & subsequent trail loss to equestrians, there is strong recommendation for manure control especially on the beach.
- **MROSD:**
  1. A pilot for E-bikes has been implemented for paved & unpaved trails where bikes are already allowed. ETRAC is working to formulate criteria for equestrian consideration in this pilot.
  2. ETRAC has worked with Directors to pursue equestrian access along the Hwy 17 wildlife/general purpose trail crossings being proposed.
  3. ETRAC is actively working to make sure that equestrian access is continued in the Hawthorne Preserve in Portola Valley.
  4. New water trough is in place for equestrians at Mindego Hill in Russian Hill OSP.
  5. Sears Ranch Road and Driscoll Ranch have trailer parking access to Driscoll & lower La Honda Creek OSP. Trailer parking is available at the Event Center parking lot by permit only.
  6. Southern Skyline Blvd. Ridge Trail Extension: A 6 mi trail is being proposed to extend south of Hwy 92 to the edge of Phleger Estate with access to equestrians, hikers & bikes; 7 days/week & parking lot at the proposed Hwy 92 trailhead.
- **SMC Parks:**
  1. Due to previous and impending fires, Sam McDonald Parks is working hard to clear under-brush & will continue to do so with possible temporary trail closures. Dog access continues to be explored and implemented in some parks. Pescadero Creek Park still has trail closures, but Jack Brook Horse Camp is now open and ready for sign-ups.
  2. The ETRAC affiliate, San Mateo Country Horseman's Association performs twice-yearly trail maintenance on the Clarkia Trail in Edgewood Park. To volunteer for trail work, contact Beverley Kane, [sensei@horsensei.com](mailto:sensei@horsensei.com)
- **Portola Valley Trails:** The Portola Valley Trails and Paths Committee continues to work with Stanford, Portola Valley Planning and the Westridge Architectural

Supervising Committee on the development of the trail system on the proposed Stanford Wedge development on the Alpine Scenic Corridor with potential trail connection between Arastradero Trails and Shady Trail along the historic **Alpine Canyon Trail**. The DEIR (draft environmental impact report) is being reviewed by the town of Portola Valley Planning Department. **El Mirador** access is suspended due to unknowns in permission and ownership.

- **Portola Valley** is very fortunate to have a very responsive Town Engineer, Howard Young. Please, contact Howard at [hyoung@portolavalley.net](mailto:hyoung@portolavalley.net) or download the app PVConnect to directly register any concerns, questions or complaints of maintenance needs or code violations including parking on trails, slippery driveways or long grasses and thistles.
- **Westridge Architectural Supervising committee** – maintains a system of trails in Portola Valley on easements which are managed by WASC. There is a possibility of a trail from Rossotti's Alpine Inn behind the Stanford development which would come out on Cervantes along the upper part of the historic Alpine Canyon Trail. Although that the access onto Cervantes is currently blocked by ADU construction fencing.
- **Woodside Town Trails:** A new trail, the **Woodside West Trail**, is being pursued by the Woodside Trail Committee. It will be a complete connector that will allow both pedestrians and equestrians to walk and ride from **Whiskey Hill Rd** to **Sandhill-Portola Rd** to **Woodside Rd**, back to the Town. Woodside is also very fortunate to have a very responsive Town engineer, Sean Rose, who is very responsive to the needs of equestrians. If you know of a Town trail that needs attention or a driveway that needs scoring, please contact Sean Rose [srose@woodsidetown.org](mailto:srose@woodsidetown.org)

Happy Trails!

### **The ETRAC Steering Committee**

Mary Hufty, co-chair

Beverley Kane, co-chair

Jerry Wittenaur, secretary

Faye Brophy, treasurer

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