

EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDERS' ACTION COMMITTEE

Dear Equestrians,

Due to the COVID pandemic, please check (with the appropriate land manager) for current updates on trail closures/openings before riding.

ETRAC (Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee) volunteer members have been meeting since 2000 to discuss equestrian trail issues associated the numerous land managers on the Peninsula. Please note that ETRAC can always use more members on our committee; please contact ETRAC's President Carole Bridgeman (carole.bridgeman@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping create and maintain our equestrian trails. Below is a summary of the current issues that may affect you.

GGNRA (Golden Gate National Recreational Area): In Phleger Estates, the Miramontes Trail, which starts from Richards Rd. in Huddart, has been closed for several years because of a portion of this trail falling into the West Union Creek. GGNRA is willing to a temporary fix while a more permanent fix occurs. ETRAC is working to secure this temporary fix which should only take a day & less than \$1000 to fund. This will occur when authorized by GGNRA.

SMC PARKS:

1. **Dogs in the Parks:** Dec 7th 2019 SMC Parks Commission has approved on-leash (in some parks, only specific trails) @ Coyote Park, Mirada Surf, Devil's Slide Trail, Coastal Trail @ Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Pillar Point Bluff, Quarry Park and the Loma Mar Addition to the Memorial Park. The Board of Supervisors must still approve this and date is yet to be set. Additionally off-leash areas are also being considered by the Commission @ Quarry Park & Pillar Point Bluff. If you see a dog walker on a trail/Park where dogs NOT allowed, please contact office @ 650-363-4020 to report violation.
2. **Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail:** This historic trail includes several already existing trails in SMC. For equestrians it includes the Sweeney Ridge T, CA Coastal Trail, Crystal Springs Regional T & Woodside Town Trail along Canada Rd. There has been a strong push for bikers to be allowed on the 'Sand Trail' portion of the Crystal Springs T, along Hwy 280 from basically Edgewood to Runnymede Rd.
3. **Towne Bridge:** this bridge, in Pescadero Creek Park, has been replaced so that you can ride the entire West Brook Trail (formerly known as the Brook Loop).
4. **COVID 19** virus has recently caused closure of many parks, including All SMC Parks, State beach parking lots and some National Parks (Pt. Reyes). SMC Parks updates available @ parks.smcgov.

COASTAL STABLES: Both Palo-Mar and Mar Vista Stables offer rides/boarding on Thornton State Beach, just south of Fort Funston. A Go-Fund page has been set up by Thornton Beach Bluff Preserve to help prevent closure of these stables due to developers. It appears that Seahorse Ranch in Half Moon Bay, has had their contract renewed. It remains unclear as to what entity (the Ranch or the Town of HMB) is responsible for the manure cleanup on the Poplar beach. It also should be noted that Chaparral Ranch has obtained the permit & has opened up rental riding in Golden Gate Park.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE:

1. The Center Trail Bridge replacement @ the north end of the Center Trail, has been approved and replacement is scheduled to begin this summer, but subject to change with COVID restrictions.
2. The Town of Woodside Trail that connects Manzanita to Whiskey Hill has been closed due to erosion.
3. The WTC trail that goes from Fox Hollow towards King Mtn. Rd has been closed due to creek erosion.
4. The Town of Woodside trail that crosses the creek near Fox Hollow Rd. then after this crossing becomes a Woodside Club Trail as it goes towards Woodside Rd (near Kings Mtn. Rd) has been closed for several years. The Town's Woodside Trail Committee is investigating information towards re-establishing a crossing in this area.
5. Revisions are in the works for a new Town trail alignment along Kings. Mtn. Rd, from Manuela to Woodside Rd.

MROSD (Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District). This land manager offers 21 preserves open to equestrians with 232 miles of trails.

1. La Honda Creek OSP (which includes Driscoll Ranch) is open to equestrians with permit use. Permits can easily be obtained by contacting the MROSD Office. See info @ <https://www.openspace.org/visit-a-preserve/permits>

A COALITION OF EQUESTRIAN ORGANIZATIONS :

COAST SIDE HORSE COUNCIL - DISABLED EQUESTRIANS - JBH CAMP AD HOC COMMITTEE - LOS ALTOS HOUNDS - LOS ALTOS HORSEMEN'S ASSOC. - LOS VIAJEROS RIDING CLUB - MOUNTED PATROL OF SMC - PORTOLA VALLEY TRAILS ASSOC. - SAN FRANCISCO HORSEMEN'S ASSOC. - SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSOC. - THE SHACK RIDERS - WOODSIDE HORSE OWNERS ASSOC. - WOODSIDE TRAILS CLUB

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2. Nov. 2019, MROSD's Board of Directors, have elected to study e-bike's (electronically assisted bikes) impact on their allowances into its open spaces. (It should be noted that Curt Riffle, one of the directors, currently boards his horse in Woodside). Regular mtn. bikes are allowed in 16 open-space preserves (157 miles of access).
3. The SMC managed trail that goes up Page Mill Rd from the end of Alpine Rd & connects thru Coal Creek OSP to Skyline/Monte Bello OSP is now under MROSD control. This trail has been washed out, however its repair is being worked on.
4. The use of the Red Barn as a central equestrian parking area to La Honda Creek OSP is currently NOT under consideration due to poor lines of sight for safety to access/exit any parking lot off Hwy 84 and also the neighbors' concern of loss of the historically picturesque site if a parking lot were to be built. They are looking @ equestrian parking on Sears Ranch Rd. again.

WATERSHED: The Crystal Springs Watershed (23,000 acres) is open to equestrians. Equestrians can ride the 11 mile Sawyer Camp Trail anytime, but the only trailer parking is on Canada Rd. Also you can ride the 10 mile Cahill-Fifel T which is great in the rainy weather, but only with permitted use. To obtain a permit, apply online @ <https://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=147>

BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS: Deadline for this organization offer for grants from \$2500-5000 for projects meeting BAPT's mission is May 1st. Email for more information to babt@sonic.net. They are also looking for new members for their board. It requires attendance to 3-4 meetings/year. Contact <https://bayareabarnsandtrails.com/contact.html>

PT. REYES HORSE CAMP: Five Brooks Stable has taken over the equestrian campgrounds formerly known as Stewart Ranch Horse Camp. 415-663-1570 <https://fivebrooks.com>

SANTA CLARA VALLEY EQUESTRIAN ISSUES:

1. MROSD is continuing to work to maintain Bear Creek Stables.
2. Saratoga Gap Trail is completed and under MROSD control. As part of the Bay Area Ridge T, this nearly 2 mil trail parallels Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35) and connects trails leading to Sanborn-Skyline & Stevens Creek County Parks, Castle Rock and Big Basin State parks and Long Ridge-Skyline Ridge-Monte Bello OSPs.
3. Bear Creek OSP is open (not during the COVID period) for hiker and equestrians

PORTOLA VALLEY:

1. Stanford's faculty housing project is threatening a historic connector trail and a beautiful animal sanctuary, from Cervantes to Alpine Rd. near Rossotti's Inn. For more detailed information & your support, go to Portola Valley Neighbors United website @ PVNU.org for more information. If you are interested in helping preserve this beautiful trail, please contact Mary Hufty @ Hufty@mac.com Attached is a map of this area:



Mapstanfordwedgela
rger.pdf

If you have any equestrian concerns, please don't hesitate to join or contact us.

Happy Trails to all!

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