



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

Helping Preserve Equestrian Land & Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Your support enables BABTT and its partners to support the work of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies.

Membership forms are available on our website, in the newsletter, or you may [click here to JOIN ONLINE](#) through 'Groundspring'

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new membership gift

FEBRUARY 2008: REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS'

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Concord Naval Air Station ReUse Planning

Please contact the ReUse Committee: tell them what you'd like to see on the site of the Air Station: www.concordreuseproject.org/library/eir/eir-scopingsummary.pdf

'The re-use of the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) presents Concord and the surrounding region with a momentous opportunity to create a world-class project that represents the vision and values of the community. The planning and design process can address the needs of Concord residents and fulfill priorities for open space, affordable housing, quality jobs, vibrant neighborhoods, and environmentally sustainable development. Given the broad impacts, it is critical for the benefits of the base re-use to be shared by the public throughout the city and region. The Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord * (CCSC) forwards the following comprehensive vision to preserve open space and the environment; cluster sustainable, affordable development around the BART station and other transit centers; and promote inclusiveness and a high quality of life for all:

- Open Space and Natural Resource Protections Preserve 80% of the CNWS land as open space and park, including the entire area east of Mount Diablo creek.
- Create a new public regional park for hiking, biking and equestrians and preserve endangered species habitat.
- Protect wildlife corridors, and designate a 300-foot creek buffer for restoration. Prevent any new roads east of Mount Diablo creek. Promote environmental education to complement the protection of sensitive resources. Develop a linear park along the western boundary to buffer existing neighborhoods, bring together older and newer neighborhoods, and benefit all of the region's residents with sites for active recreation, sports fields, museums, and other amenities.
- Have trails and wildlife corridors connect to pocket parks, playgrounds, the regional park, and regional trails and bikeways -- ensuring that all of Concord benefits and that the area doesn't become "New" Concord at the expense of downtown and other existing parts of the city.

www.ebho.org/artman2/publish/concord/CCSC.shtml

Proposed State Park Closures

The Governor's proposed budget includes closure of a number of State Parks. Equestrians are telling their legislators know how important these parks are to all of us.

If you haven't already done so...Email, call or write your State legislators urging them not to close these 48 State Parks! :

http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html

To view the proposed park closure map:

<http://www.calparks.org/act-now/proposed-park-closures-map.html>

Thank you, CSHA Trails Chair, Diane Offutt, for this information: dianeocr@sbcglobal.net
925-525-1123

Monterey Horse Park - An Opportunity to Keep Fort Ord Open for Equestrians

Hello Fellow horsemen

Monterey Bay Equestrians is again coordinating a docent walk through the planned Monterey Horse Park for local horseman's club representatives. As we all know – many of our parks are in danger of being closed completely, or being closed to equestrian access. If we unite together, we can protect our parks and our access rights. This walk is an opportunity for local horsemen to band together to support MHP and ensure that the Fort Ord lands and trails we all enjoy today remain accessible to equestrians in the future. The Docent Walk is an initial step in banding together leaders from a number of clubs around the bay area and central coast to garner support and raise awareness for this wonderful facility. The date is March 12th, with a rain date of the 26th .

Dr. Tim Eastman of Steinbeck Equine and a board member of MHP will be leading us through the area designated for the horse park, describing the facilities it will offer for all equestrians. The Monterey Horse Park offers a unique opportunity for horsemen of every discipline and skill level to enjoy our beautiful area while learning and expanding their equestrian abilities. The current vision is for MHP to construct and operate a multi-discipline equestrian park, located on approximately 390 acres of land (including habitat reserve) in Parker Flats, on the decommissioned military base, Ft. Ord, in Monterey County, California.

The facility will promote the training of amateur equestrians and host breed shows and competition in all eight Federation Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) disciplines including dressage, eventing, jumping, vaulting and reining as well as cutting and working cow horse events. For the more leisurely inclined, the park offers trail access and camping facilities to support Endurance and NATRC events as well as warm weekend respites with our equine friends.

We MUST help make this facility a success to protect our equestrian trails and parks. As a beginning, we'd like to invite two members of your club to join us on this day to tour the planned facility area and to discuss plans and opportunities for how we can support MHP. An agenda and overview is attached.

Please RSVP to Bel Brown at bel@belbrown.com if you'd like to attend. We'll be walking in one group starting at 10:00 am with lunch following our walk.

Questions or comments, please contact Bel at the above email or by phone, 831.421.0297
We look forward to meeting you.

Maribeth Hogoboom
President, Monterey Bay Equestrians
mhogoboom@sbcglobal.net

New River Trail May Link American Canyon, Napa

(issues of special interest to equestrians in bold italics)

By KERANA TODOROV, Register Staff Writer

Monday, January 21, 2008

"The Napa River is walking distance from American Canyon's newest subdivisions, but residents of the area and other members of the public have no access to the river as it heads south on the stretch run toward Mare Island and the bay. That may soon change.

While American Canyon and Napa County officials have been at odds over several issues, the city and the ***new Napa County Parks and Open Space District*** have collaborated on plans for an 8.5-mile river trail between American Canyon and Napa. The trail is among a ***dozen projects the Napa County Parks and Open Space District has undertaken during its first year in business***. The district, which operates on a \$350,000 budget, was formed after voters approved Measure I in November 2006 with the goal of opening more than 100,000 acres of public land to hikers and other users. American Canyon contributed about \$9,400 to expand the study of the 8.5-mile long path, which will travel along former salt ponds that the California Department of Fish and Game wants to restore into wetlands. The trail will form a segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a network of trails that ring the region from San Francisco's Ocean Beach to the oak-studded East Bay hills. The first section of the trail between Napa and American Canyon may be constructed this summer, if the parks district receives a \$1.3 million state grant, said John Woodbury, the district's general manager. The city will use an \$800,000 transportation grant to contribute to the project. "John Woodbury is doing a great job," said Randy Davis, community services director for the city of American Canyon. "We've got a lot of work (done) with very little money." Construction of the entire 8.5 mile-long trail, estimated to cost \$11 million, could take place in 2010, though that may depend on negotiations between the district and a half-dozen agencies that own property the trail is expected to cross.

As the Open Space District hits its first annual milestone, it has other projects in the works.

Five miles from Napa, the district wants to reopen rugged areas around Milliken Reservoir to the public. An old network of trails near the reservoir was used by students and others until state cutbacks hit after Proposition 13, according to the district. The old network would have to be rebuilt and new trails created, Woodbury said. He's also exploring the possibility of having RV travelers willing to donate 15 to 20 hours a week to serve as caretakers in exchange for being able to use the area.

Upvalley, near Calistoga, the district plans to do erosion repairs and put direction signs at Oat Hill Mine Trail, a historic road popular with hikers and bikers.

Near Lake Berryessa, Napa County recently used about \$120,000 in Prop. 12 funds to buy a 224-acre former scouting camp from the Land Trust of Napa County. The district hopes to have an educational camp in operation in 18 months.

Other future Napa County Parks and Open Space District grant-funded projects include:

- Opening public trails at Lake Hennessey
- ***Creating a new loop trail on 320 acres now owned by the Bureau of Land Management near Lake Berryessa***
- Restoring a meadow on land Fish and Game owns along the Napa River
- Opening public access to wetlands south of Napa

The district also hopes to complete the ever-elusive acquisition of Skyline Wilderness Park* in Napa. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last year vetoed a bill that would have given the county preference in acquiring the 850-acre east Napa property from the state and preserving it as a park.

Ranch Conservation Planning

Conservation Partnership Workshop Presentation

Ranch Conservation Planning Short Course

Wednesdays: March 12, 19, & 26, and April 2, 2008

6:00 pm-9:00pm

\$40.00 - Covers all four workshops and light meal

How Conservation Planning Can Help You...

- Identify long-range goals, management needs, and opportunities
- Document good management practices you may already be doing, and learn new practices for better productivity and sustainability
- Identify valuable wildlife habitat on your ranch, and how to conserve, enhance, and market it
- Develop detailed maps of your ranch's infrastructure and natural resources
- Improve your competitiveness for funding programs, such as EQIP

Save the date! Space is limited. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

For more information and reservations contact

Peggy Kiefer (925) 371-0154, ext. 22

peggy.kiefer@acr.cd.org

Workshop sponsored by the NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, and a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation

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To help keep BABTT informed of acquisition, facility and trail maintenance

opportunities and challenges in your area, please submit articles and photos to Bay Area Barns and Trails: babtt@earthlink.net
visit us online @ www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

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