



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-14-53  
March 18, 2014

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Consideration of Memorial Trail Request for Bo Gimbal

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Recommend to the full Board approval to name a trail in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve the "Bo Gimbal Trail" as a memorial to Bo Gimbal for his contributions to the District and the region.

#### SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) recommend to the full Board approval to name a short trail in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve the "Bo Gimbal Trail." The District has received requests from the South Skyline Association and Bo Gimbal's family seeking consideration of a memorial in his honor. Mr. Gimbal was a long time volunteer with the District who worked on many trail projects for the District and throughout the area.

#### BACKGROUND

Bo Gimbal passed away on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. On June 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 the District received the attached letter from the South Skyline Association, requesting that the District find some way to recognize Bo's contributions to the District and the region. We also received a letter from Sandy Sommer, Mr. Gimbal's daughter, requesting that we name a short trail segment in Russian Ridge Preserve after Mr. Gimbal in recognition of his contributions to the District.

Bo Gimbal contributed 4,366 hours volunteering with the District over a greater than 10 year span, more time than any other volunteer in the District's history. His contributions were particularly linked to trail construction and maintenance.

The Site Naming, Special Recognition, and Gift Naming Policy (Site Naming Policy) provides for trail naming requests. The sections pertaining to this request are provided below.

*I. Site Naming...**...B. Preserve Areas, Trails, Site Improvements, Historic Sites and Unnamed Natural Features...*

*...1. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements including benches and bridges, historic sites and previously unnamed natural features shall ordinarily be named after...*

*...b) Historical persons, uses, or events associated with the site, or persons and organizations listed in Section III: "Special Recognition"...*

*...III SPECIAL RECOGNITION*

*The Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) shall be the committee designated to discuss all requests that meet the criteria of the policy for special recognition, made by members of the Board of Directors or by members of the public, including bench memorials and the naming of bridges, and after deliberation shall decide which requests will be referred to the full Board for a vote...*

*...D. Deceased Founders, Significant Supporters, and Volunteers*

*"Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" are eligible for special recognition, including memorials...*

*..."Volunteers" shall be defined as individuals or groups of individuals who donated their time to the District by working for the District's docent or volunteer program...*

**DISCUSSION**

The requests from the South Skyline Association and Sandy Sommer are consistent with the Site Naming and Recognition policy. As the most productive volunteer in District history, he exceeds the requirements for recognizing a significant volunteer. Due to the work that Mr. Gimbal performed on District trails, the General Manager recommends that it is appropriate in this case to name a short trail segment in his honor as opposed to another form of recognition. Mr. Gimbal helped construct and maintain many trails on District lands, as well as for the town of Portola Valley, the Sempervirens Fund and State Parks. His relationship with the District was especially productive. He worked on trails in each of the Skyline area preserves, constructed bridges in Long Ridge and El Corte de Madera Preserves, installed gates at several preserves and was instrumental in the construction of the Achistaca Trail and Ancient Oak Trails as well as many other trail projects where he worked in conjunction with the District's maintenance crews. Mr. Gimbal also participated in the El Corte de Madera Task Force, where he was instrumental in working together with the group to develop a sustainable enjoyable trail system in the preserve.

Ms. Sommer and the South Skyline Association recommended naming this particular trail segment because of the meaning it held for Mr. Gimbal, who worked on its construction. The segment is also very convenient to name. It is currently unnamed so it will not create confusion by changing trail names. The trail is not referenced on any trail signs except for the two ends of the trail, so signing will not need to be changed except for those two signs. The trail is 0.3 miles long and having it named will assist visitors in navigating between the Ridge Trail and the Ancient Oaks Trail. The proposed trail name is the "Bo Gimbal Trail."

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of implementing the request would be relatively small (~\$100 and staff time) as it would only require replacing two trail signs. Trailhead maps would be replaced in conjunction with other map updates and paper maps would be updated at the next printing.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

This action is categorically exempt under section 15301, Existing Facilities.

**NEXT STEPS**

If LFPAC agrees to forward this memorial trail request to the Board, the item would be agendaized for the next available Board meeting and Ms. Sommer and the South Skyline Association representatives would be invited to attend. The Board has final authorization to approve the memorial proposal. If approved, Operations staff would move forward with the assistance of both Planning and Public Affairs staff to implement the memorial request.

## Attachments:

1. Letter/Memorial request –South Skyline Association; 6/24/13
2. Letter/Memorial request – Sandy Sommer; 1/13/14
3. Russian Ridge Preserve Map –Memorial Trail Location
4. Site Naming Policy

Prepared and reviewed by:

Brian Malone, Acting Operations Manager



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2013 JUN 24 PM 2:08  
PENINSULA REGIONAL  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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## SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

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Steven Abbors  
General Manager, MROSD  
330 Distal Circle  
Los Altos CA

Dear Mr. Abbors,

Mr. Bo Gimbal passed away on May 4, 2013. South Skyline Association (SSA) hopes that MROSD will find a way of recognizing his many years of volunteering building trails for MROSD.

Starting in Portola Valley years ago, as a member of the Town of Portola Valley Trails Committee Bo designed and built many of the trails in Windy Hill OSP. He then continued to work side-by-side with Gene Sheehan, the District's trail contractor, as well as District staff building the Ancient Oaks Trail (his favorite), Achistaca Trail and many other trails on MROSD park lands.

Bo Gimbal was also instrumental in the trail planning for El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve as a member of both multi-year Citizen's Trail Planning Committees.

Bo held dear these volunteer experiences and greatly enjoyed his interactions with District staff. Maintenance and Construction Supervisor Craig Beckman tells that, with Bo's help, MROSD became widely recognized as one of the best trail builders in the region. Other agencies now seek to learn from MROSD.

Bo Gimbal was always quite humble about his contribution, however it is clear from the legacy he left behind that he made a big difference for visitors to District's Skyline preserves.

For all Bo Gimbal's years of service, SSA asks MROSD to find way to say thank you and commemorate his contribution.

Sincerely,



Larry Watson, President  
On behalf of the South Skyline Association

CC: Pete Siemens , Yoriko Kishimoto, Jed Cyr, Curt Riffle, Nonette Hanko, Larry Hassett, Cecily Harris, Sandy Sommer

RECEIVED

January 13, 2014

2013 JAN 13 AM 10:55

Ms. Ana Ruiz  
Assistant General Manager  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Re: Proposal for Trail Naming in Honor of Bo Gimbal

Dear Ana,


As you know, my father, Bo Gimbal passed away in May 2013. In a June 2013 letter, the Board of the South Skyline Association (SSA) summarized my father's substantial support of and volunteer contributions to the District, as well as to the Skyline and Portola Valley communities, and requested that the District honor and recognize these contributions in an appropriate fashion.

After consultation with the District's Skyline Area Superintendent and reviewing the District's Site Naming and Recognition Policy, the SSA and I would like to propose that an unnamed 0.3-mile trail segment that links the Ancient Oaks Trail to the Ridge Trail at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve be named the "Bo Gimbal Trail" (see attached map). Only minor signage and brochure changes would be needed effectuate this proposal.

My father's favorite trails were the Ancient Oaks Trail and adjoining trails at Russian Ridge, which he helped build as a volunteer equipment operator working with the District's Skyline Crew. In his last days, he told me that a treasured memory was discovering a portable acorn grinding rock buried along this very trail segment during construction – the grinding rock that is now on display at the Skyline Field Office. The proposed naming appears to be consistent with District policy, and would be an apt memorial to my father's lifelong devotion to public trails.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra Sommer

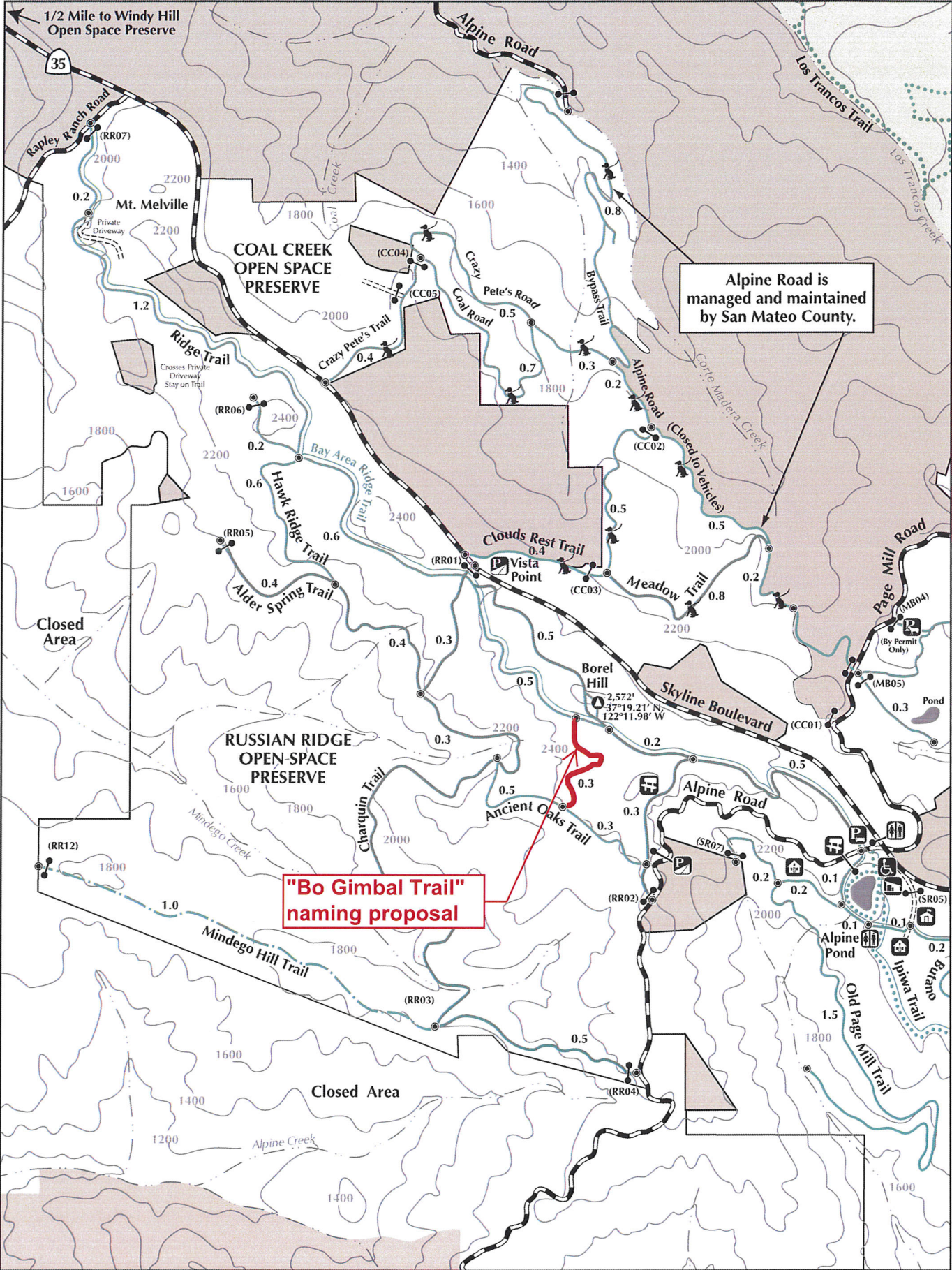
cc: Larry Watson, President, South Skyline Association

Attachments: Map, photos



Sandra G. Sommer  
217 Pettis Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94041-1119  
(650) 210-9552 (510) 541-8514 mobile sandysommer@dslextreme.com

# COAL CREEK and RUSSIAN RIDGE Open Space Preserves



## PHOTOGRAPHS Proposed Bo Gimbal Trail

(Photos: Larry Watson, September 2013)

From the pull-off on Alpine Road, take the Ancient Oaks Trail – after 1/3 mile through the open area, you come to the oaks where the subject trail leaves the Ancient Oaks trail:–



After 0.3 miles it joins the Ridge Trail:



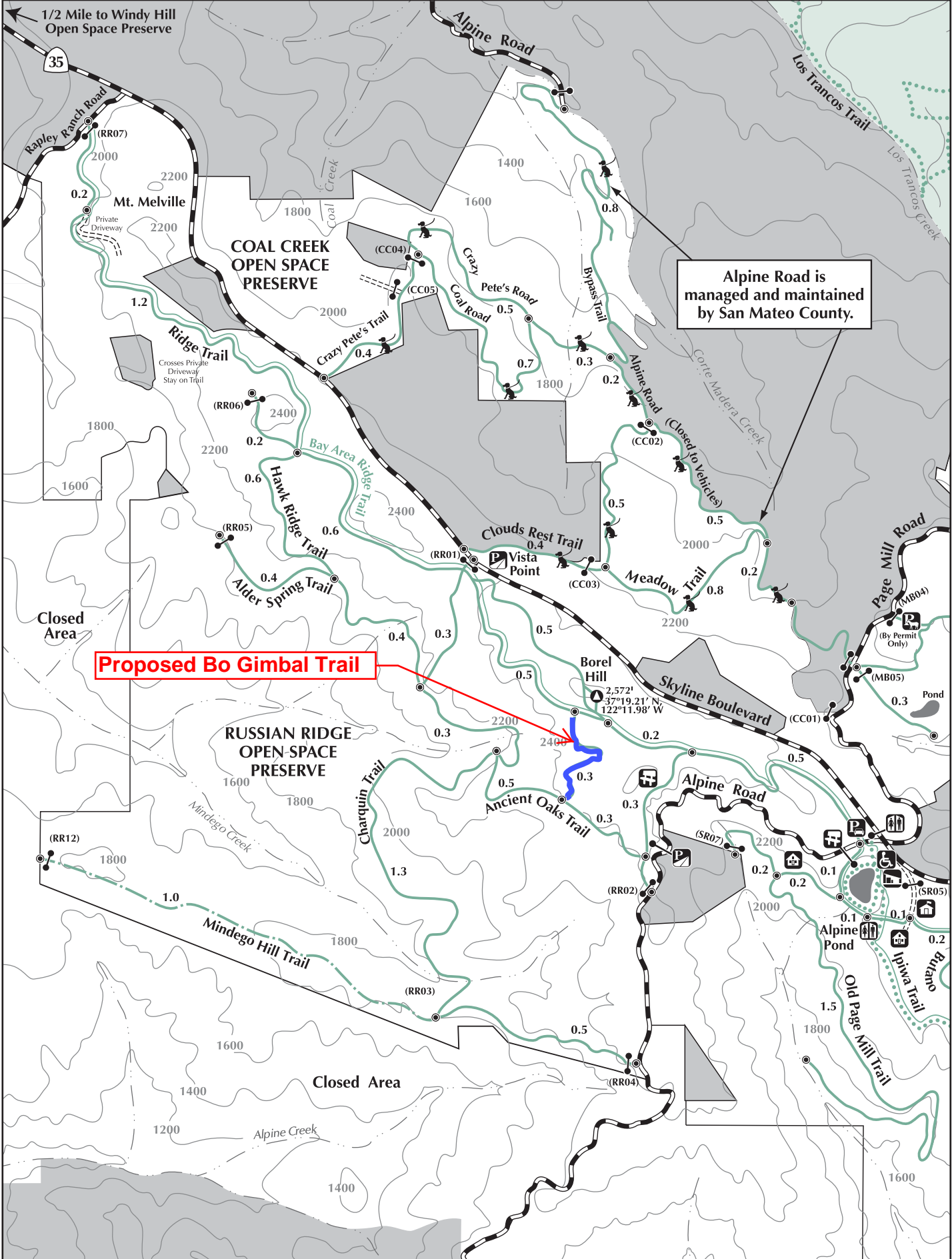
At the south end, the sign has graffiti on it and the trail is visible behind:



View of the trail from above in the center:



# COAL CREEK and RUSSIAN RIDGE Open Space Preserves





POLICY FOR SITE NAMING, GIFT AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Adopted by the Board of Directors

August 25, 1993  
Amended September 14, 1994  
Amended June 24, 1998  
Amended September 12, 2001  
Amended October 8, 2008  
Amended January 13, 2010  
Amended October 27, 2010

I. SITE NAMING

All District site names and signs should be kept as simple and functional as possible. When a property is acquired, either as an addition to an existing preserve or for the establishment of a new preserve, a name will be recommended in the Preliminary Use and Management Plan. In most cases, "open space preserve" is appropriate as part of the name; however, there may be circumstances when another designation may be used. In some cases, a temporary name may be retained until the next Comprehensive Use and Management Plan review.

A. Open Space Preserves

The name given to each open space preserve should be general enough to remain suitable if the site is enlarged, but specific enough to give its location some significance. Properties added to an open space preserve may not always be contiguous with that preserve.

1. Preserves shall be named after:
  - a) Geographical features of broad, general significance to the preserve;
  - b) Historical persons, cultural names, uses, or events broadly associated with the locale.
2. Preserves shall not be named after any individuals other than historical persons as noted above.

B. Preserve Areas, Trails, Site Improvements, Historic Sites and Unnamed Natural Features

This designation refers to specific locations, land formations, trails, natural and physical features, staging areas and other site improvements, and areas of significance within open space preserves. Recognition of significant land gifts,

including "bargain" purchases, will be negotiated at the time of the gift or bargain purchase.

1. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements including benches and bridges, historic sites and previously unnamed natural features shall ordinarily be named after:
  - a) Geographical, botanical or zoological identification;
  - b) Historical persons, uses, or events associated with the site, or persons and organizations listed in Section III: "Special Recognition".
2. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements, historic sites and unnamed natural features may in rare instances be named after a living individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the District, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

## II GIFT RECOGNITION

The purpose of the gift recognition policy is to provide an opportunity for the District to recognize and commend individuals or groups that have made significant contributions of cash, equipment, materials, goods or professional services toward the enhancement of the District, its programs, and its facilities.

### A. Unsolicited Cash Gifts:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Up to \$25         | Postcard of thanks   |
| \$26 to \$499      | Letter signed by General Manager   |
| \$500 to \$1,999   | Letter signed by President of the Board  |
| \$2,000 to \$4,999 | Letter signed by President of the Board and District gift item (note cards, etc.)  |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | Letter signed by President of the Board and framed photograph of favorite District preserve  |
| \$10,000 or more   | Letter signed by President of the Board and Resolution and framed photograph of District preserve and mention in a District publication* |
|                    | *These items will be provided only if desired by the donor.  |

## III SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) shall be the committee designated to discuss all requests that meet the criteria of the policy for special recognition, made by members of the Board of Directors or by members of the public, including bench memorials and the naming of bridges, and after deliberation shall decide which requests will be referred to the full Board for a vote.

The District places benches in its preserves for three distinct purposes:

A. District Rest Benches

These benches provide constituents with a place to rest. District staff places these benches without involving a District committee or the full Board. Regular benches must be either a backed or a backless standard bench as described in Section V below.

B. Constituent Memorial Benches

These are benches which have been requested by constituents in order to honor a member of the public and are funded by the requestors who must pay \$5,000 for the lifetime cost of the bench. LFPAC discusses requests for these benches and decides which requests will be referred to the full Board for a vote. Requests must be in reference to a deceased significant supporter or a volunteer, as defined in the following sections.

- a) Constituent memorial benches shall only be placed in locations that have been pre-determined by the District and approved by the Use and Management committee and by the full Board of Directors.
- b) If a request for special recognition is approved by the Board of Directors, the requestor(s) shall pay for the cost of constructing, installing and maintaining a memorial bench by contributing \$5,000 to a Memorial Bench Fund to cover the lifetime cost of the bench. The District will put this fund into an interest-bearing account which will be used solely for memorial bench construction, installation, repair, and maintenance.
- c) Bench plaques will be 2 x 6 inches in size.
- d) Benches must be one of the two District standard bench designs.

C. District Memorial Benches

These are benches which are installed by the District in response to requests by members of the Board of Directors to honor deceased "Founders," "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers".

- a) LFPAC can initiate a bench request and refer a decision to the full Board or individual Board members can initiate a bench request which will be referred to LFPAC for discussion before it is referred to the full Board for a final decision. Honorees must be deceased "Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" (per policy Section III D below).

- b) For these benches there are no design specification limits or limits on their location. The District will pay for the lifetime cost of the bench.

D. Deceased Founders, Significant Supporters, and Volunteers

"Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" are eligible for special recognition, including memorials.

"Founders" shall be defined as an individual or group of individuals who participated in the formation of the District, or were significant supporters of the formation of the District.

"Significant Supporters" shall be defined as individuals or group of individuals who have shown conspicuous or noteworthy support for the District through extraordinary contributions of time and effort to the advancement of the goals, philosophy and mission of the District.

"Volunteers" shall be defined as individuals or groups of individuals who donated their time to the District by working for the District's docent or volunteer program.

IV RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC SITES

- A. A recognition monument, normally in plaque form, may be considered by the Board if it is in relation to a specific existing building or other remaining structure of significant historic value. In such cases, the plaque will be affixed or in close proximity to the structure itself. If there is no structure, then recognition may be considered for inclusion on District informational materials or trail signage. Such a site, in the absence of a building or structure, will ordinarily not be physically marked except as determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis as part of the Use and Management planning process for the corresponding open space preserve.

Any Board-approved memorial names shall be included in site brochures, maps, or other informational materials.

V STANDARD BENCH DESIGN SPECIFICATION

- A. District Rest Benches and Constituent Memorial benches, described in III(A) and (B) above, are limited to either of the two following standard bench designs:

Backed bench:

Dumor - Bench 88, recycled plastic slates (color: CEDAR), steel leg supports (color: BLACK, IMBEDDED)  
6' or 8' lengths

Backless bench:

Dumor - Bench 103, recycled plastic slates (color: CEDAR), steel leg supports  
(color: BLACK, IMBEDDED)

103-60PL 6' long, 3 supports

103-80PL 8' long, 3 supports

- B** LFPAC can at any point bring designs to the Board that differ from the District's standard bench designs.