



FACT SHEET

Ravenswood Bay Trail Project

Location and Background

The Ravenswood Bay Trail easement is a 0.6 mile critical missing gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail on the San Francisco Peninsula, between the existing Bay Trail along University Avenue and the existing unpaved multi-purpose trail in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD) Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (Preserve) and the City of East Palo Alto's Cooley Landing. Completing this trail gap will open up 80 miles of continuous Bay Trail connecting to Menlo Park to the north, Mt. View/Sunnyvale/Santa Clara to the south and across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay. The San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile walking and cycling path around the entire San Francisco Bay through all nine Bay Area counties and 47 cities (see regional map).

The Ravenswood Bay Trail will provide easily accessible recreational opportunities for the East Palo Alto and Menlo Park communities, including outdoor enthusiasts, hikers, joggers and bicyclists. It offers a setting for wildlife viewing and environmental education, and increases public respect and appreciation for the Bay. It also has important transportation benefits, providing a commute alternative for cyclists, including a bicycle crossing at University Avenue and the Dumbarton Bridge.

The project site spans the city limits of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park and the surrounding areas contain a diverse array of existing land uses and infrastructure, including the residential neighborhood of University Village located to the south, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Ravenswood Valve Lot and the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge to the north, existing wetlands to the northeast, and the currently inactive Dumbarton rail line (Samtrans) to the north. Much of the area is owned by public agencies.

Project History

- In 2005, a Ravenswood Bay Trail feasibility study was prepared by the City of Menlo Park to evaluate trail alignment alternatives for the gap between University Avenue and the Preserve.
- In 2008, the SFPUC contacted MROSD requesting a pipeline tunnel easement for the Hetch Hetchy waterline underneath the Preserve.
- In 2010, MROSD granted SFPUC a pipeline tunnel easement in exchange for an open space easement on the southern portion of the SFPUC property where the preferred Bay Trail route was identified in the 2005 Bay Trail feasibility study.
- MROSD has consulted with the following public agencies and stakeholders on this project: Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, the Counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara, the San Francisco Bay Trail Committee and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- In 2015, the SFPUC Ravenswood Valve Lot pipeline project was completed.
- In the summer of 2015, the SFPUC Project Review Committee agreed to the preferred alignment for the Ravenswood Bay Trail.
- MROSD has received a \$1 million dollar grant from the County of San Mateo's Measure A funds, \$400,000 from Santa Clara County, and \$40,000 from the Bay Trail Project through the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Proposed Ravenswood Bay Trail Easement

The proposed Ravenswood Bay Trail traverses the 0.6-mile long, narrow corridor between the Dumbarton rail line and the University Village neighborhood connecting to the newly-built section of the Bay Trail along University Avenue to the west and MROSD's Ravenswood Open Space Preserve to the east. The trail will run along the north side of the SFPUC service road to provide a privacy buffer to the adjacent University Village neighborhood, with a bridge over a wetland area and a raised boardwalk trail at the easterly connection to the Preserve (see project map). The multi-use trail would be striped on the paved service road. The use and basic terms of the public trail easement are as follows:

- Uses of the trail will include hiking, jogging, bicycling, nature observation, and will be accessible for persons with mobility impairments.
- MROSD responsible for patrol, enforcement, trail construction, maintenance and repair.
- MROSD and SFPUC are considering extended trail hours to provide through access from the Bay Trail at University Avenue to the north to the Palo Alto Baylands to the south.
- Trail easement shall be 20 feet in width with actual trail width of approximately 10 feet in width.
- MROSD will notify SFPUC of scheduled or emergency repairs to trail and report emergency medical responses and enforcement incidents to the SFPUC.

Easement Exchange between MROSD and SFPUC

In 2010, MROSD and the SFPUC entered into an easement exchange agreement where MROSD granted the SFPUC a pipeline tunnel easement for the Hetch Hetchy waterline and the SFPUC granted MROSD an open space easement. Now that the Ravenswood Bay Trail alignment is agreed upon, the SFPUC will grant MROSD a public trail easement and in turn MROSD will quitclaim its interest in the open space easement to the SFPUC.

Funding

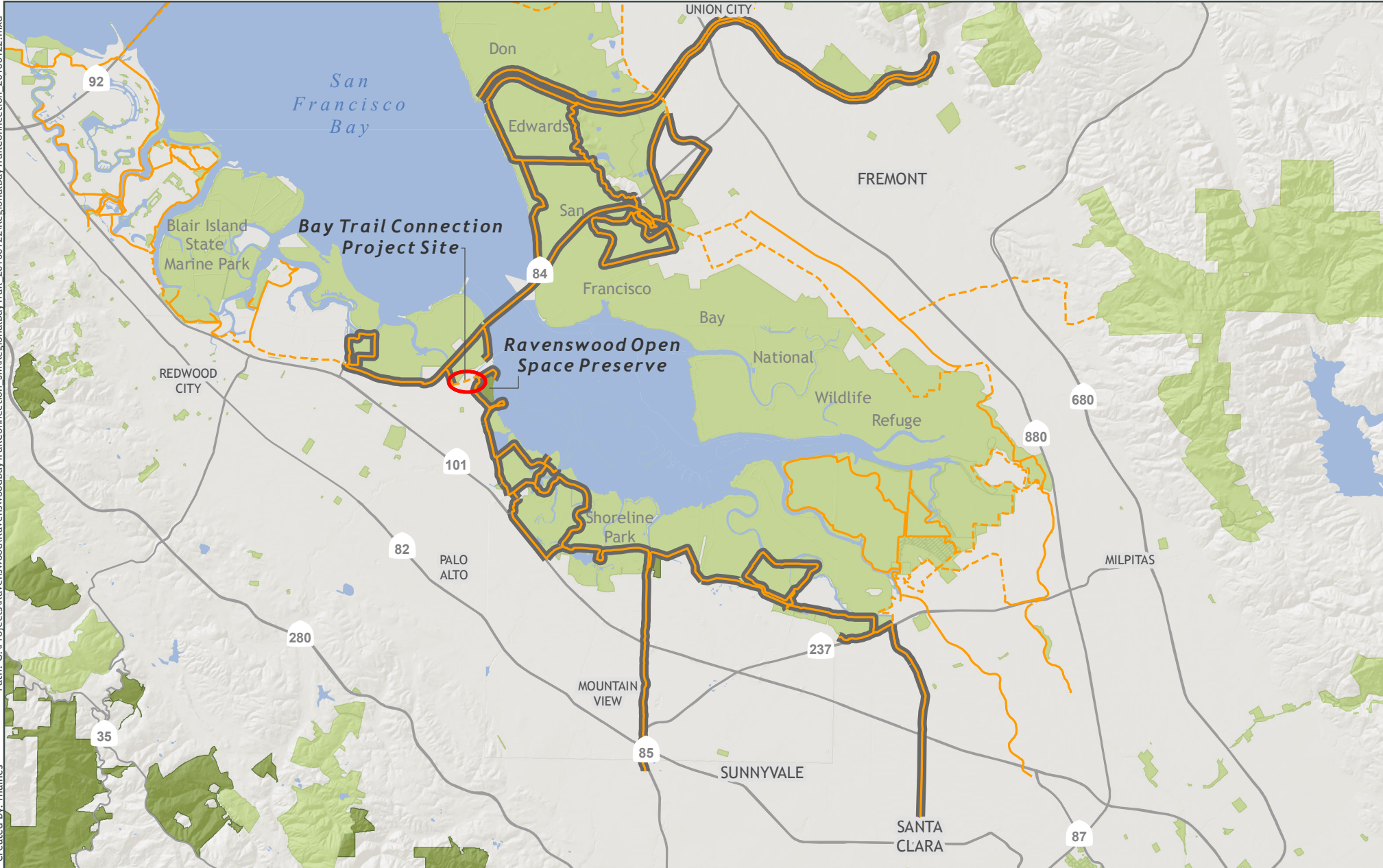
The trail easement is in exchange for the pipeline easement granted to the SFPUC, and no funds will change hands between the parties. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.4 million. Trail design and permitting will utilize San Mateo County (\$1 million) and Santa Clara County (\$400,000) grant funds. Trail construction will use grant funds and voter-approved MROSD Measure AA funds.

Next Steps

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review is underway and will be publicly circulated in the coming months. The District's Board of Directors will consider completing the proposed property exchange at a public meeting in 2016. Included for consideration at that time will be the acceptance of the Bay Trail gap easement and the quitclaim deed of the open space easement to the SFPUC. Upon approval by MROSD's Board of Directors, the City and County of San Francisco will consider approval of the trail easement and quitclaim deed.

Public Participation: Interested parties are encouraged to contact Lupe Hernandez, Real Property Administrative Assistant, at the District office (650) 691-1200 to request that their names be added to the public notification list for this proposed Ravenswood Bay Trail Easement project.

Path: G:\Projects\Ravenswood\BayTrail\Connection_JM\RegionalBayTrail_20160122.mxd
Created By: rhaines



Regional Map for Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project

- | | |
|--|---|
|  MROSD Preserves |  Existing Bay Trail |
|  Other Protected Open Space or Park Lands |  Proposed Bay Trail |
|  Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project Site |  80 Miles Continuous Bay Trail |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(MROSD)



Miles
0 2.5 5

February, 2016

While the District strives to use the best available digital data, this data does not represent a legal survey and is merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.



Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  MROSD Preserves |  Non MROSD Easement Over Water |  Existing Bay Trail |
|  Other Protected Open Space or Park Lands |  Private Property |  Proposed Bay Trail |
|  Other Public Agency | | |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(MROSD)



Feet 0 1,500 3,000

February, 2016

While the District strives to use the best available digital data, this data does not represent a legal survey and is merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.