Included as a priority in the District’s Vision Plan

Measure AA #19: Dog Trails and Connections

Involves opening trails at El Sereno Open Space Preserve to dog use
Proposed Expansion of Dog Access at El Sereno
General Manager’s Recommendations

- Approve the proposed project description for the El Sereno Dog Access Project, as set out in the board report, to proceed with the required environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

- Approve the above project description for a future Use and Management Plan Amendment for El Sereno Open Space Preserve, excluding trail segment over San Jose Water Company Property, pending formalized access rights.
Discussion Topics

- Preserve Overview
- Current Dog Access Opportunities
- District Dog Ordinances
- Dog Access Evaluation Criteria
- Proposed Dog Access Expansion
- Neighborhood & PNR Committee Meeting Feedback
El Sereno Overview

- **History of trail uses**
  - Hiking, equestrian, bicycling

- **Overlook Trail and dogs**
  - Formalized public access in 2008

- **Limited amenities and parking**
  - No water, restrooms or trash
Current Dog Access Opportunities on District Preserves

**Full Access**
- Coal Creek
- Foothills
- Fremont Older
- Pulgas Ridge
- Thornewood
- St. Joseph’s Hill
- El Sereno (proposed)

**Limited Access**
- Long Ridge
- El Sereno
- Windy Hill
- Sierra Azul
Regional Opportunities for Dog Access

El Sereno: Dogs permitted on leash only on Overlook Trail.

Sierra Azul OSP: Dogs not permitted east of this trail junction.
Existing Ordinances Regarding Dog Use

- Three dogs per person
- Leashes required
- Dogs must stay out of water areas
- Dogs must not disturb or chase wildlife
- Dog excrement must be removed
## Evaluation of Dog Access at El Sereno

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Supports Dog Access</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat sensitivity</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Chaparral; Low sensitivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserve use levels</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Low use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail-width/visibility</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Wide fire roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Very limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflicting special use</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>No special use zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of dog use</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Not previously sanctioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent to Urban Area</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles of trails</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7.1 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbed habitat</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Historical agricultural use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs allowed on connecting trails</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No regional trail connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loop trails</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>No loop trails</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed Dog Access Expansion

- Expand dog access to all trails except for San Jose Water Company property
- Standard District dog regulations apply
- Maintain general public access through Montevina Road and Overlook Drive
Proposed Dog Access

El Sereno Open Space Preserve

San Jose Water Co.

Overlook Dr. (Private) Vehicular access for visitors by permit only.

Overlook (Private)

Sheldon Rd. (Private)

Sanborn County Park

St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve
Feedback from Neighborhood and PNR Meetings

- Support for dog access
- Current parking issues on private roads
- Need for improved signage
- Additional District ranger patrol and enforcement of regulations to ensure compliance
- Feasibility of additional parking area(s) within the Preserve
Planning Process and Schedule

Aug 2016
Neighborhood Meeting

Oct 2016
Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Nov 2016
Board Meeting
- Project description
- Environmental Review (CEQA)

Early 2017
Board Meeting
- Use and Management plan amendment

2017
Pending Board approval
Preserve open to dogs except SJWC

Opportunity for public input

Ongoing discussions with San Jose Water Company (SJWC)
General Manager’s Recommendations

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Approve the above project description for a future Use and Management Plan Amendment for El Sereno Open Space Preserve, excluding trail segment over San Jose Water Company Property, pending formalized access rights.
Questions