




DATE: March 14, 2018

MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, Acting General Manager 

FROM: Cydney Bieber, Acting Public Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve – Opening Timeline

SUMMARY

Opening western Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to public access is a priority in the FY2017-18 Action Plan and work will continue into FY2018-19. This Public Access and Education Program element is funded through Measure AA Portfolio 21.

A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held at this new public access site on May 1, 2018. Invited guests will include Midpen Board Members and staff, partners, elected officials, and local media. The event will provide an opportunity to highlight the completed natural resources work and preview the improvements that will be in place when the preserve opens. Originally, the grand opening was envisioned for late 2018. Although work continues on numerous fronts (parking lot, road crossing, roads and trails, invasive weed management, pond improvements), given recent District experience with the openings of both the Mount Umumhum Summit and Lower La Honda, we anticipate needing a few additional months past December to complete the finish work and solidify the grand opening logistics. More specifically, the District faced challenges working in the same area as the contractor to complete the site improvements, which resulted in compressed timelines for District crew to complete the finish work once the contractor had left the site. Finishing work includes constructing final segments of new trail to connect to new contractor-constructed facilities, final signage/gates/fencing, and final cleanup work.

Given past lessons learned, the Grand Opening Celebration is now tentatively scheduled for March/April 2019. Construction work is expected to be complete by end of January, but given unpredictable winter rains, the actual public event would be scheduled a few months out to allow for better weather conditions.

BACKGROUND

On January 11, 2017, the Board approved the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan. The plan calls for a multi-phased implementation of actions over a 20-year period, opening new areas to low-intensity recreation at the Preserve, constructing additional trails and parking areas for public use, enhancing native habitats and protecting sensitive biotic resources, interpreting and protecting cultural resources, and maintaining and operating Preserve facilities over the long

term. Staff are finalizing a working timeline for completing *Phase I Key Actions* and opening the preserve to the public by early spring of 2019. Key actions underway to open the preserve to the public include:

- Constructing a new parking area at Alma College
- Designating a trail crossing at Bear Creek Road
- Improving existing roads in the western zone for trail use
- Replacing Webb Creek Bridge for improved public safety and emergency vehicle use
- Replacing and improving fencing around the Alma College buildings
- Protecting cultural resources during construction
- Removing invasive vegetation
- Protecting native species populations

The recent openings of Mount Umunhum and La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve have provided the District with several opportunities to gather “lessons learned” about the process of opening a new area to public access. These lessons include:

- Developing a project timeline that allows contractors adequate time to complete all tasks.
- Scheduling sufficient time at the end of a project for crew to complete finish work.
- Including a buffer in the schedule to accommodate unforeseen delays that arise due to permitting, inspections, weather or other complications.
- Identifying a tentative opening date after developing a full timeline.
- Publically announcing the opening date only after reaching significant construction milestones.
- Confirming site capacity and identifying parking/transportation options prior to developing an event plan.

TENTATIVE PROJECT SCHEDULE AND SCOPE

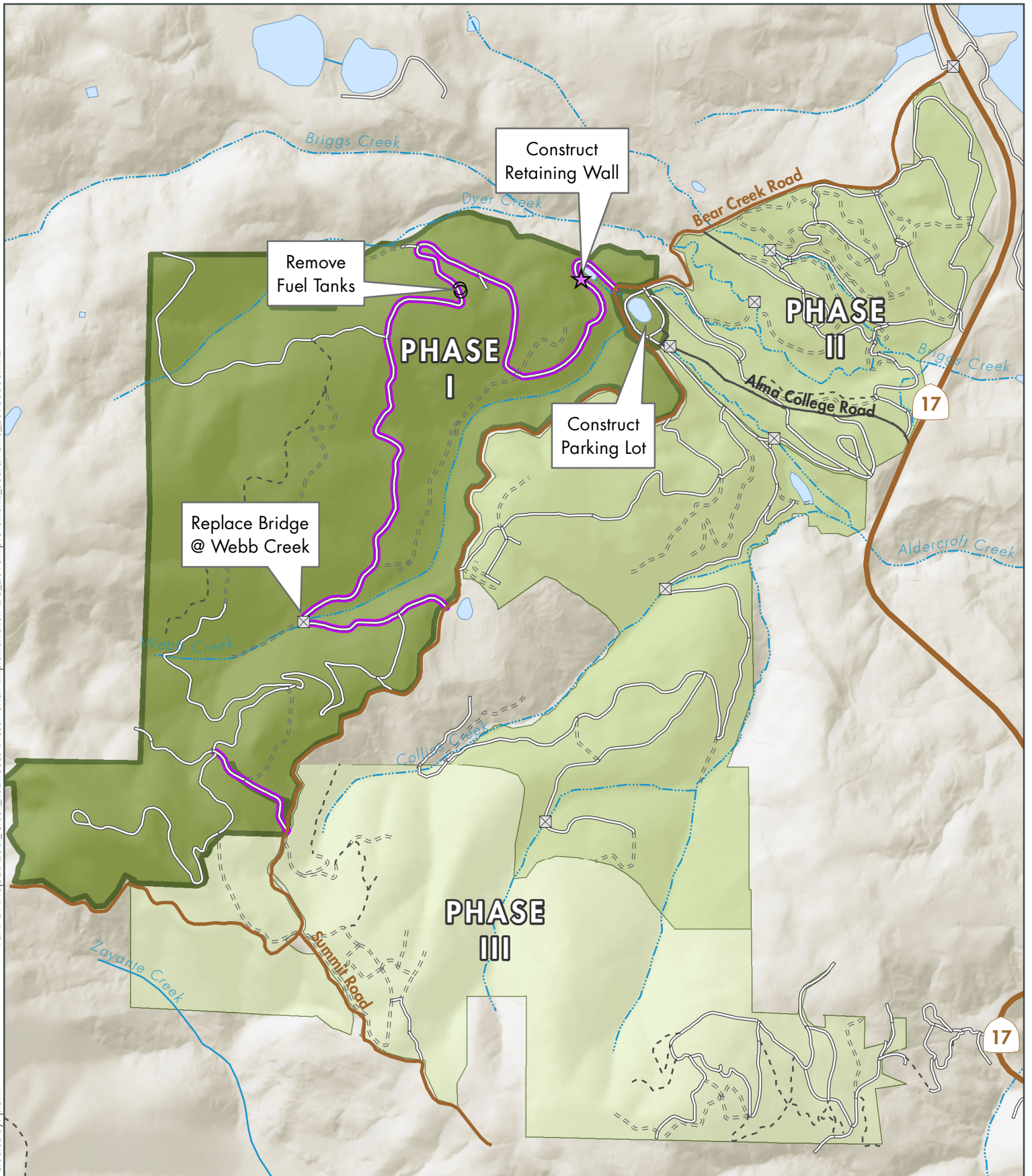
Using these guidelines, the Bear Creek Redwoods Project Team developed a tentative schedule of required tasks prior to opening the preserve to the public. This schedule opens the preserve without negatively impacting other projects throughout the District. It is important to note that certain *Phase I Key Actions* will likely continue after the preserve is open to the public, some of which may trigger short-term trail closures at specific locations. One improvement that may require a temporary closure is the replacement of Webb Creek Bridge, which will depend on when final permits are approved by the various regulatory agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The high-level project schedule is included below.

DATE	TASK
March 2018	Request for Bids released for Construction Services
April 2018	Award of Contract for Construction Services
May 1, 2018	Groundbreaking Ceremony
May 2018	Contractor begins work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of a 50-space parking lot at the Alma College • removal and replacement of the Webb Creek Bridge • construction of a new road retaining wall • improvements to roadway surface and drainage features • upgrade and replacement of the Alma College fencing
July 2018	Trail names presented to LFPAC

August 2018	Board approval of trail names
September 2018	Preserve signage designed/ordered
October/November 2018	Contractor completes work
November 2018	Land & Facilities begins work in the former contractor-controlled areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roadway surface and drainage improvements • installation of fences and gates • installation of preserve signage • landscaping • any additional required site finish
January 2019	Land & Facilities completes work
Spring 2019	Grand Opening Ceremony

Attachment:
- Bear Creek Redwoods Phase I Public Access Map



2018 Improvements at Bear Creek Redwoods

- Existing Paved Road
- Existing Unpaved Road
- Existing Trail
- Existing Unmaintained Road
- Improve Existing Road / Trail for Increased Use
- Existing Bridge/Puncheon
- Abandoned Fuel Tank

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(MROSD)
March 2018



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