

Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

San José Parks and Recreation Commission
c/o Commission Coordinator Mike Jones
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street; San Jose CA 95113

SUBJECT: Support for the Guadalupe River Trail Master Plan.

December 30, 2016

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation whose mission is *"To promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all."* On behalf of **Save Our Trails**, I am writing to express our support for the development of a Master Plan for the continuation of the Guadalupe River Trail.

The trail currently starts at W. Virginia Street, just south of I-280, and goes north for nine miles, passing through the heart of downtown San Jose, past the San Jose Market Center, through Guadalupe River Park, past the Airport, then close by the industrial areas of north San José along the First Street Corridor, and ending in Alviso near the Marina County Park. The Guadalupe River Trail is arguably the most significant trail in the city. In this year's Trail Count, the Trail had the highest number of users of all trails where measurements were made.

It is a major corridor for bicycling commuters on weekdays, and is also a heavily used recreational facility for cyclists, joggers, skateboarders, and families going for a stroll on the weekend.

The Master Plan envisions extending the Trail over four miles to the south, from Virginia Street to Chynoweth Avenue, thereby making the existing Trail connections easily accessible to the population centers along the Highway 87 and Almaden Expressway corridors. The new segment shows every promise for becoming a heavily used extension of this most significant trail.

Several Board Members of **Save Our Trails** attended the public meetings where public input was solicited for the development of the Master Plan for this extension, and we can attest to the careful attention given by the staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation to hearing the issues raised by the public, and responding to all concerns.

In summary, we believe that the Master Plan deserves the enthusiastic support of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and we urge the Commission to report it out favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Rankin".

Bill Rankin
President, **Save Our Trails**; Web: www.saveourtrails-scc.org