

Marsh Creek Trail Feasibility Study

August 14, 2019
Meeting Notes

Patrick Miller presented information regarding the project background, status and preliminary route options for the trail. Options include a route using existing roads and new facilities near Marsh Creek Road, an interior trail using existing ranch roads through John Marsh State Historic Park, and a new trail on State Park lands further west of existing ranch roads.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting, and most were notified by direct contact, with a few from the newspaper or EBRPD website.

Questions and answers from meeting attendees:

1. Will the undercrossing of Marsh Creek Road be wildlife friendly?
 - a. Yes, it will be large enough for wildlife to cross, and will be accessible to serve as a crossing.
2. Who will build the trail from Miwok/Vineyards intersection north?
 - a. That section will be built as part of the developer's project, and plans have been approved.
3. Will the trail stand up to bike use if it is made from crushed granite? Will it be paved for road bikes?
 - a. The trail within the State Parks would not likely be paved due to cultural resources issues. Other portions of the trail along Marsh Creek Road would be paved, with a wide shoulder if possible to allow equestrian use.
4. If the trail is gravel is it possible to have a place to cut in or entry from Marsh Creek Road?
 - a. Yes, the trail entry would be in the vicinity of the John Marsh House entrance road.
5. Would like to have a bike route that used Vineyards Parkway and Marsh Creek Road to avoid using a gravel road.
 - a. Noted.
6. From Miwok, the trail will connect to Round Valley. At Round Valley, the trails are not paved, and must coexist with mountain bikes.
 - a. Noted.
7. Is the intent to extend Marsh Creek Trail (current asphalt paved) to Round Valley or beyond? There is not sufficient shoulder in all areas from Concord Ave north to Big Break to accommodate horses.
 - a. This project will complete the Marsh Creek Trail to Round Valley Regional Preserve. There is a separate study being conducted by Contra Costa County Community Development (contact Jamar Stamps) to identify a trail route that will continue west to Clayton.
8. The goal for equestrians is to connect Round Valley to John Marsh State Park.
 - a. Noted.

- b. The Marsh Creek Trail is identified on EBRPD's Master Plan as a Class I Regional Trail from Big Break to Round Valley. As a Regional Trail, these are usually paved regional trails, and where possible, a wide shoulder is provided to accommodate horses. Underpasses would be designed to serve bicycles, pedestrians and horses as much as possible.
- 9. Bicycles ride long distances, and Marsh Creek Road is dangerous; I try to avoid Marsh Creek Road.
 - a. Noted.
- 10. For the inland trails and creek crossings, since the water is seasonal, could equestrians just cross through the creek?
 - a. It would depend on resource avoidance and permitting. A trail through the creek would not serve pedestrians or bicyclists.
- 11. Will a switchback be needed on the east side of the dam to get up the hill and meet ADA?
 - a. Some switchback will likely be needed to meet accessibility requirements (approximately 8%).
- 12. State Parks has not approved the concept. How will it get built? Is anyone from State Parks here?
 - a. This project will implement a portion of the John Marsh State Park Master Plan. Further discussions with EBRPD, agreement on use and management, and approval by State Parks would be part of the implementation process. There are State Parks representatives here, and they have been included in the planning
- 13. I think Trail 1B would meet everyone's needs, but am concerned about the time frame for the State Park to be opened.
 - a. Noted.
- 14. Can both options be accommodated?
 - a. Yes, there could be a paved bicycle/pedestrian path and an unpaved equestrian route.
- 15. When will the County replace the Marsh Creek Bridge? Within the next 5 years?
 - a. Yes, it is currently in design stage.
- 16. What is the project timeline?
 - a. The draft study will be completed this fall, with the environmental document completed during winter 2019/20, so the final study should be approved by EBRPD Board next spring.
- 17. Information about this study is difficult to find on the EBRPD website.
 - a. On the website, type in "Planning" to help find project information.
- 18. Old Marsh Creek Road is an historic route, and there should be interpretation and recognition of this.
 - a. Noted, could be an interpretive panel.
- 19. I favor an undercrossing, a bridge would block views of Mount Diablo.
 - a. Noted.
- 20. I am interested in driving horses, and would like a place on the trail to drive a buggy.
 - a. Noted.

Comment Cards

Twenty three comment cards were submitted. Responses to the questions:

What zip code do you live in:

94513 - 19
94561 - 1
94521 - 1
94565 - 1
94509 - 1

How would you mostly use this segment of the Marsh Creek Regional Trail? Please check those that apply to you.

16 For hiking / walking
13 For general bicycling
6 For mountain biking
9 To ride a horse
7 With a dog (in addition to any of the above)
0 Other

What do you think your main purpose to use this segment of the trail would be?

12 As an extension of a trail trip experience starting from from Brentwood or Oakley
4 To specifically get to the John Marsh State Historic Park without having to drive
15 To specifically get to Round Valley Regional Preserve and Los Vaqueros Reservoir watershed trail system without having to drive
0 Other:

The segment of Marsh Creek Regional Trail being evaluated will connect a paved multi-use trail in Brentwood with the unpaved trails of Round Valley Regional Preserve. It will pass through the John Marsh State Historic Park. All of the alternatives could accommodate multiple uses. However, should this segment of the trail be paved with the transition to a natural surface at Round Valley or unpaved with the transition to a more natural surface occurring at the historic house area? Please check one.

10 Yes, paved to Round Valley
13 No, transition to a more natural surface at the historic house area.

Comments:

1. Does 1A preclude 3A? How will you get over the dam?
2. Much nicer to have the trail away from the road so I would prefer the ridge trail option. 1B looks nicer than 1A for entrance to the trail.
3. Safe trail for horses and links to other trails.
4. The inland trail option would be the first choice. It satisfies several issues, utilizes existing ranch roads, minimal impact on environment and lower financial costs. Most important concern is the connection between Round Valley and State Parks property.

5. Equestrian. Resident of Marsh Creek Road. Safety no. 1 (traffic separation and cyclists sight). Use internal trails, equestrian preference. Longer ride more natural.
6. Equestrians! Thank you!
7. What deterrence plans may be implemented to address auto burglaries, unlawful parking, wildfire protection?
8. Interpretive panels. Trail connection to house allows offsite parking for school buses, for school children to access programs at interpretive center Archeology-Miwok, Windmiller site.
9. Creek restoration at old dam site possible salmon spawning habitat on creek section below old dam site.
10. Access to historic features: John Marsh House, archaeological features, Old Marsh Creek Road alignment is historic route of Bidwell/Bartleson overland party to John Marsh House.
11. From a visual point of view would like to have an underground crossing at Marsh Creek Road into Round Valley Park. Because an alternative bridge would inhibit the westward views of Mount Diablo and the Round Valley hills.
12. I like 1B through JM House. Not paved past JM House is my preference.
13. With the understanding that part of the new trail extension will be gravel - - it would be good to find a way to connect the old trail and the new at some point that is paved all the way.
14. Please make a paved trail or bicycle lane to keep cars and bikes separated on Marsh Creek Road.
15. Will Concord Avenue be crossed with a bridge/undercrossing or traffic light? Appreciate benches for breaks – especially for senior citizens – they should be at appropriate distances from each other. Will EBRPD police patrol the area?
16. Design the trail so that no matter how wide Marsh Creek Road is built, it won't impinge on the as-built trail. Want REAL trail – no sidewalk! Want PAVED trail 10 feet wide. No gravel. Want trees along bike path. Farther from Marsh Creek Road would be better trail experience for trail users. Shade structures are good, how will you keep the homeless in check? NO SEASONAL CLOSURES. It is very hard to find information about this project on the EBRPD website. What about someone running a horse-drawn buggy on this trail?
17. 1B yes. 3B inland yes! John Bidwell party signage. Overflow of water storage, when is the bridge going to be changed?