

# Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves Master Plan

## Public Workshop #1 - April 4, 2005

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### Comments Recorded on Flip Charts during Public Knowledge Exchange

- Bear Creek needs many trails to keep conflicts to a minimum
- Bikes through Bear Creek – but not where children are riding their ponies
- Please keep the trails at Bear Creek available for riders; it is a safe and beautiful resource for families and horses
- Downhill mountain bike trails
- Keep stables at Bear Creek
- Summit Road entrance and parking at Bear Creek (Xmas tree farm) with access to multiple trails, loop trail if possible
- Provide trailer staging at Alma College pond and at Bear Creek Stables
- Museum (mountain history) at Alma college – educational center
- Access for dogs on leash at Bear Creek
- Horse trailer parking at Gate BC-04
- Limit traffic between Bear Creek and Highway 17 on Summit Road
- Bear Creek Road and Highway 17 parking
- Loop trail through Sisters of Presentation lands
- Bicycles at Bear Creek Redwoods
- Bear Creek needs many trails to keep conflicts to a minimum
- Open horse trail at Bear Creek overpass that follows Bear Creek Road up mountain to connect with stables
- Safe equestrian staging at Bear Creek/Summit Area
- Re-establish Moody and Soda Spring Trails
- Mt. Umunhum Road to Loma Ridge Road bypass through Herbert Creek drainage (around private property)
- Key priority: use of Mt. Umunhum
- Highland and Summit Road entrances to Sierra Azul
- Rattlesnake Trail connects to Soquel Demonstration Forest and was a very popular trail in the past. While the trail is currently an erosional menace, it is in the proper location and can be re-engineered and hardened
- Limit traffic problems specifically Mt. Bache / Loma Prieta Avenue – too narrow/twisty/dangerous for influx of tourists
- Bear Creek needs many trails to keep conflicts to a minimum
- Narrow trails keep cyclists speed down especially when there are lots of turns and switchbacks
- Cyclist are a FREE labor source (example: volunteer effort that is ongoing in the El Corte de Madera OSP)
- Cyclists and horses need good visibility, so narrow blind turn trails should not all be multi-use, but rather bikes and foot traffic or horses and foot traffic
- Demographics overall at trailheads?
- New Trails?
  - Trail density goal
  - How many miles of trails can we have?
  - Urban proximity – trails get heavier use – more trails if less use i.e. Mt. Umunhum
- Hang gliding launch sites / & landing zones / & access for vehicles
- How much is District paying for land?
- Define sphere of influence – what are the implications?
- Need for dog park (off leash) – closer to downtown Los Gatos / at Bear Creek
- Need narrow trails in these preserves (multiuse) / Yes, and many keep conflicts to a minimum
- User conflicts are exaggerated.

- Agree! Disagree!
- Connect Ridge Trail to the Pacific Ocean via Mt. Umunhum connector to Rattlesnake Trail to Soquel Demo to Aptos Creek Trail through Nicene Marks to New Brighton to ocean
- Trails currently in Sierra Azul are just roads, and overgraded; too steep for many users to enjoy. Please provide new trails that will be multi-use connecting landmarks and strategic trail head connector roads – Narrow and shaded trails needed – remove roads
- Use volunteers of the community in aligning new trails and constructing them
- Make more loop trails so you don't just go up & go down same trail
- Please consider progressive trail standards and modern trail design
- International Mountain Biking Association does volunteer trail work
- The trails can clog up on weekends – please add many miles of jeep/fire roads and single track for cyclists
- What is the funding balance between land acquisitions and access improvements to existing lands? Focus has been on acquisition
- \$1.5 million would build a lot of trails
- Ensure regional trail connections to other agency lands and designate them as multi-use
- More parking and staging areas
- Mountain residents should not be required to get permits – a permanent pass should be given if a permit is needed at all
- The Bear Creek preserve should be open now to residents who can just walk in – we've done it for years before it was a preserve
- Notify all property owners impacted by new development and mitigate quality of life issues and access problems
- Please add significant trail (jeep/fire roads/single track) for bicycles
- Conflicts with residences and recreational users in closed area of Bear Creek Redwoods
- Preservation of human involvement / history
- Dogs on-leash okay with equestrians – off leash fine if they are under person's control