

City of Scotts Valley CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 18, 2018
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Kristin Ard, Recreation Division Manager
APPROVED: Jenny D. Haruyama, City Manager
SUBJECT: GLENWOOD OPEN SPACE ACCESS PLAN

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

The Glenwood Open Space Access Plan focuses on the development of a comprehensive trail system in Glenwood Preserve approximately 9 miles or 170 acres. The three miles of trail on the west side is designed to allow for hiking, bicycling and dogs on leash. It is anticipated that the west preserve trail construction could begin as early as Spring 2018. The six miles of trails on the east side of the preserve, which contains areas of endangered plant and insect species, will accommodate hiking and fishing. Depending on available funding, construction of the east side trail system could start as early as Fall 2018.

At the December 6, 2017 City Council meeting, Council gave staff the following direction:

1. Approve the Glenwood Open Space Preserve Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP)
2. Direct staff to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (Land Trust)
3. Direct staff to proceed with planning for public access on the Glenwood Preserve and return to Council with a proposed Final Trail Access Plan

With the above direction from Council, an MOU between the City and the Land Trust was approved at the March 21, 2018 Council meeting. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) held several public meetings to provide Council with a recommendation on a final access plan for the Glenwood Preserve. The west preserve and a conceptual trail plan for the east side of the preserve was presented by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County at the January 2018 PRC meeting. At the February 2018 PRC meeting, the Commission took action to approve the west side of the Preserve with the following considerations: conduct educational outreach regarding the endangered species; develop a web presence and other electronic informational materials about the Glenwood Preserve; explore and identify solutions; engage the Scotts Valley School

District regarding parking on K street; and organize a tour of the east preserve (which was held on March 10, 2018). At the March 22, 2018 meeting, the PRC took action to approve the Glenwood Open Space Final Access Plan for the east side with the following considerations: removal of all neighborhood access points on the final trail map; remove public parking sign at Canham Road on trail map; and to consider the dirt lot at Shugart Park be opened for overflow parking. At all meetings, a summary of public comments and staff responses were taken.

The attached “Public Access Overview and Trail Map” (Attachment A), was developed based on stakeholder feedback about allowable activities, and trail placement to ensure compliance with the Long-Term Management Plan. By example, the trail alignment was adjusted for the privacy of neighbors on Tabor Drive based on feedback received from prior meetings. While this comprehensive document represents the proposed final plan, it can be modified to reflect further improvements. Field survey, staking, and mapping has been completed for the entire preserve.

Approximately 250 parking spaces are available for public access within a five minute walk to the preserve in the following locations: Siltanen Park, Al Shugart unimproved parking, lower highschool lot, and K-Street.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Besides the public meetings that were held, a variety of other methods have been used to ensure the public has had an opportunity to submit comments on this project. In addition to the local paper, social media tools were used to engage residents and interested stakeholders. These efforts include the City’s website and Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor accounts, private social media sites (e.g. My Scotts Valley), and other interested groups such as Scotts Valley School District and Scotts Valley High School Cross Country team.

The City is working jointly with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County on preserve trail development and implementation. The City will enforce park rules and regulations for the preserve and continue to proactively identify adequate parking prior to the opening of the preserve. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County will be the lead in grazing and sensitive zone vegetation management through the use of volunteer patrols and enforcement as necessary. Scotts Valley Fire District is responsible for vegetation management.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff time will be required to complete the public access planning and management of the trail building process, as well as the purchase and installation of appropriate park signage and maintenance. Additionally, once the preserve is officially open to the public, the Scotts Valley Police Department may experience an increase in calls for service. While the initial costs would be absorbed by the City, any ongoing impacts will need to be addressed through future budget development discussions.

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County has a fundraising campaign underway dedicated solely to trails. It is expected that volunteer groups will step forward to assist in the maintenance of the trail system. In addition, the City has applied for two grants; one that could immediately help to construct the west side trails and another that could assist with parking and trail construction on the Glenwood Preserve.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

This project is consistent with the Glenwood Preserve Long-Term Management Plan and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Categorical Exemptions 15307 and 15308.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council consider approval of the Glenwood Open Space Public Access Plan and Trail Map.

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Glenwood Preserve: Public Access Overview

Final, 4-18-2018

Primary Considerations

Attachment A

<p>Land Ownership: City of Scotts Valley</p> <p>Land Management: Land Trust of Santa Cruz County</p> <p>Fire Protection: Lead – Scotts Valley Fire District Support – CalFIRE and Land Trust of Santa Cruz County Activities – Vegetation management, training</p> <p>Law Enforcement: Lead – Scotts Valley Police Department Support – Land Trust (staff and volunteers) Approach – Many eyes and ears. Enforcement as necessary.</p> <p>Natural Resources: Lead – Land Trust Support – Expert Advisers, Police Department, Volunteers Approach – Management zones. Grazing and vegetation management. Buffers around sensitive areas. No use of baserock or pavement for trail surfacing. Patrols. Enforcement as necessary.</p>
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Management Zones

West Preserve

Trails

- About 3 miles
- 2-4 foot wide trails
- Gentle gradients
- Loop trails

Allowed Activities

- Hiking
- Biking
- Dogs (on leash)

Additional considerations

- Future possible links to High School and Salvation Army Camp Redwood Glen
- No 'bike park' features

East Preserve

Trails

- About 6 miles
- 2-4 foot wide trails
- Gentle gradients
- Several bridges

Allowed Activities

- Hiking
- Fishing
- No biking, no dogs

Additional considerations

- Access points from neighborhoods
- Pond
- Cattle
- Water District road

Beetle Pasture

Trails

- Short trail from school
- Cattle path as trail
- Fencing between path and habitat

Allowed Activities

- School field trips
- University research
- Closed to other access

Additional considerations

- Open in autumn only
- Strict limitations on access to protect rare species

Prohibited in All Management Zones

- Motor vehicles
- Camping
- Smoking

Your comments are welcome at: Access@LandTrustSantaCruz.org

The Long Term Management Plan is available at:

http://www.landtrustsantacruz.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Glenwood-LTMP_20171107.pdf



Glenwood Preserve Access, Final 4-18-18

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Proposed Trails | ● Trailhead, Proposed | ■ Gray's Clover |
| East Glenwood Trails | ○ Access Point, Proposed | ■ Mt. Diablo Cottonweed |
| — East Glenwood Trails | ◆ Bridge | ■ Santa Cruz Clover |
| — Existing Trail | — Stream | ■ Cream Cups |
| — Paved Road as Trail | ■ Santos Pond | ■ Opler's Longhorned Moth |
| West Glenwood Trails | Ownership | ■ Ohlone Tiger Beetle (OTB) |
| — Connector Trail | ■ Wetland | ■ OTB Burrows |
| — Existing Trail | ■ Scotts Valley Spineflower | ■ OTB Historic Area |
| — North Loop | ■ Choris Popcornflower | —✕— OTB Habitat Fence |
| — South Loop | ■ Pacific Grove Clover | ▭ Property Boundary |
| — Summit Loop | | |
| ■ Parking | | |

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