

The Dream of an All Weather Trail in Huddart Park Is about to come true

For many years, it has been a dream of local equestrians to be able to ride the single-track trails of Huddart Park in the winter. This has been impossible because trail treads can be damaged unless they are hardened by applying base rock. The people in the Parks Department are great to work with and support our goal. However they have little money to help. During these difficult economic times, the Parks Department is being forced to cut spending even more. Many of you supported the efforts to increase the parcel and sales taxes to provide dedicated funding for the County Parks, but unfortunately they were both narrowly defeated. If we want to keep our trails open and improve them, it is up to us. When the bridges on the Crystal Springs Trail were closed to horses because of dry rot damage, the equestrian community came to the rescue with donations to repair them. The bridges should be completed early this fall and the trail reopened.

Interested equestrians approached the County Park management to see how we could create all-weather trails in Huddart and a partnership was established between equestrians and county park staff. We have located a professional trails contractor that has the specialized equipment to transport, install, grade and compact the base rock. We have developed a two phase plan to upgrade many of the single-track trails with an all-weather surface over the next two years. There is a map on the next page.

Phase 1 of this plan is to be completed in late October / early November of this year and includes rocking the following trails:

- Upper Dean Trail from the Archery Road to the intersection with Crystal Springs Trail.
- Upper Crystal Springs Trail up from the intersection with Upper Dean to Richards Road, nearly to Skyline. This will provide an upper loop for those wishing to go to Skyline.

- Middle Crystal Springs Trail, down from the intersection with Dean to the Campground trail at Toyon, and out to Richards Road. This will provide a lower loop for those who want a shorter ride

Because the base rock will be compacted, it will be sufficiently settled to be ridden after completion. Only in the case of a heavy rain will the rocked single-track trails be closed this winter. Next year it will be fully settled and open all year around. Phase 1 is 2.74 miles in length and will require the installation of 537 yards of base rock, nearly 1.5 million pounds of material! Because no earth moving can be done after Oct 15, the trail clean up and grading had to start quickly. It began on Monday, Sept 29 and will continue for a week. The installation of the base rock will occur in late October / early November, regardless of the weather. The total cost for Phase 1 is \$43,000. The County will provide \$13,000 of in-kind services and purchase of the base rock. The equestrian community must provide the remaining \$30,000. We have received commitments for nearly half of that from major donors, and are reaching out to the equestrian community to provide the rest.

Phase 2 is scheduled for next year, October 2009, and will expand the upper loop to include rocking the Chinquapin Trail. The lower loop will be expanded to include Lower Crystal Springs Trail down to the bridges near Richards Road. This phase is approximately 2.4 miles and will cost about the same.

What better way to escape momentarily from our difficult economic times than riding under a crisp winter sky, hearing the creeks bubble, and breathing the fresh mountain air? We believe the equestrian community will support this project and will provide funding for it. We need to have the remainder of the funds for Phase 1 by Oct 20, so please help us to achieve this goal to assure year round single track riding in Huddart Park. Fundraising for Phase 2 will begin next year, once we have successfully completed and paid for Phase 1. Funds received in excess of what is required for Phase 1 will be used for Phase 2.

The Mounted Patrol Foundation is leading the fundraising effort. It is a 501c3 and tax deductible checks can be sent to:

Mounted Patrol Foundation
 ATTN: Huddart Park Trail Fund (BE SURE to write this somewhere on the face of your check!)
 521 Kings Mountain Road
 Woodside, CA 94062

Thank you for your support. Call Don Pugh at 650-851-8343 or email don@sandon.com with questions.

