

A photograph of a dirt trail winding through a grassy field. The trail starts in the foreground and leads towards a line of trees in the background. The sky is clear and blue. The text "McLaren Park Trails Improvements - Project Plans for Four Priority Areas" is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

McLaren Park Trails Improvements - Project Plans for Four Priority Areas

MAY 20, 2020

AGENDA

- **Project Team Introductions**
- **Past work and approvals summarized**
- **Four Priority Areas – Capital Improvement Scope Detailed**
- **Next Steps**
- **Wrap Up and Questions**

“...unspoiled alpine joy in the city.”

- John McLaren, 1927

TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Lauren Chavez – *Project Manger* – SF Rec & Park

Lisa Wayne – *Natural Resources Manager* – SF Rec & Park

Anthony Copioli – *Urban Trails Supervisor* – SF Rec & Park

Koa Pickering – *Landscape Architect* – SF Public Works

LaMonté Bishop – *Outreach Coordinator* – SF Rec & Park

Peter Moore – *Outreach Coordinator* – SF Rec & Park

“...unspoiled alpine joy in the city.”

- John McLaren, 1927

PROJECT FUNDING

2012 Clean & Safe Neighborhood Park Bond:

- \$2,000,000 for Trails
- \$1,500,000 for Natural Features

Outdoor Environmental Education Grant: \$250,000

Habitat Conservation Fund Grant: \$207,000

McLaren Park received an additional \$8,500,000 from 2012 Bond

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- John McLaren, 1927

McLAREN PARK NATURAL AREAS



Source: Management areas and trails data collected by San Francisco Department of Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program (NAP), 2005; trails data digitized by San Francisco State University Institute for GIS (SFSSU GIS), 2005; streets data excerpted from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Inc.'s StreetMap 2000 data copyright ESRI 1998-2001; aerial photography San Francisco Department of Public Works, 2002, Orthophoto - San Francisco - 1 Foot Resolution - 2001; City of San Francisco Department of Public Works, San Francisco; all data are in California State Plane Zone III projection, NAD 1983; map produced using ArcGIS 9.0 software by ESRI.

Map created May 29, 2005 by Debra Dwyer, San Francisco State University, Institute for Geographic Information Science, revised August 25, 2005.



FIGURE 6.19 - 11
MANAGEMENT AREAS
AND TRAIL PLAN

McLaren Park

Significant Natural Resource Areas
Management Plan

San Francisco, California

EASY**MODERATE****CHALLENGING**

WATER TOWER
(270° VIEW OF CITY)

GAMBIER PLAZA

YOSEMITE MARSH

JERRY GARCIA
AMPHITHEATER

LOUIS SUTTER
ROUNDHOUSE

REDWOOD GROVE

UPPER RESERVOIR

EXCELSIOR

"GREEN TUNNEL"

PHILOSOPHER'S HILL
& LABYRINTH

HIGHEST POINT
(515 FT)

CLUB HOUSE

GLENEAGLES
GOLF COURSE

"LOVER'S ROCK"

VISITACION VALLEY

CROCKER AMAZON

University Mound
Reservoir
(covered)

PORTOLA

MCNAB LAKE

"HIDDEN BRIDGES"

WILDE OVERLOOK
TOWER

HERZ PLAYGROUND
& COFFMAN POOL

- STREETS
- FIRM & STABLE PAVED SURFACES
- PAVED & SOIL SURFACES & INCLINES
- CHALLENGING INCLINES & SURFACES
- ≡ STAIRS

The Vision Plan process included extensive community engagement, plus additional meetings around trail projects:

- A Treasure Hunt kickoff with over 250 participants
- Three community workshops
- Two trails workshops
- One trail walk, plus an informal site walk with a dozen neighbors
- A half-dozen trail-specific meetings with core stakeholders
- Regular attendance and updates at the McLaren Collaborative
- Staff attendance at a variety of community association meetings and community events to promote the project and solicit feedback



MCLAREN PARK VISION PLAN REPORT



TRAILS & PATHS GOALS

Ensure safe recreation and access

Maintain and build on natural character

Protect natural resources

Clarify circulation routes

McLaren Park Trails Framework and Tools

McLAREN PARK TRAILS + PATHS



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Slope, Drainage, Erosion Control & Surfacing



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Decommissioning, Hazard Tree Work & Habitat Restoration



Trail width standards:

3' minimum for pedestrian trails

5' minimum for multi-use trails



PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

From the 2017 McLaren Park Vision Plan

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESS BEGAN IN 2019

- November 16th trail walk of Visitacion Avenue
- March 7th trail walk through three priority areas
- Survey follow up from March 7th conceptual design

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FROM TRAIL WALKS

- **Keep it wild!**
- Minimize built features
- Provide a variety of trail experiences (difficulty, views, etc.)
- Align trails to follow desire lines in order to minimize shortcutting and creation of additional social trails
- Design trails to accommodate a variety of users
- Protect and restore habitat for plants and animals, and enhance experiences of nature for people
- Continue to communicate and involve the community in the design process



PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

From the 2017 McLaren Park Vision Plan

LEGEND



Decommission trail



Trail decommissioning, erosion mitigation, restoration planting



Approximate new trail alignment



Approximate trail alignment
(pending funding)



Existing trail to remain



Possible split rail fencing



VISITACION AVE CORRIDOR

- SIDEWALK (NEW) FROM PARK ENTRY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL, ALONG EASTERN SIDE OF THE ROAD
- MULTI-USE TRAIL (NEW) FROM PARK ENTRY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL: STABILIZED TRAIL SURFACE (SANDY AREA)
- ADD A CROSSWALK FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TO FIRE ROAD TRAIL ENTRY
- HABITAT RESTORATION PLANTING

PRIORITY AREA: VISITACION AVENUE TRAIL

LEGEND



KEY

Yellow ribbon shows approximate alignment of new stabilized natural trail from Hahn Ave to Visitacion Valley Middle School

(A) Trailhead at Hahn is slightly off the corner, to allow for rolling access between trail and sidewalk

(B) Project will be coordinated with the installation of a new native plant garden, primarily funded by Community Challenge Grant

(C) The existing dirt pathway along the east side of the upper segment of trail will not be removed as part of the capital project

(D) Trailhead location at the Middle School is still TBD; the project team is engaging the Mid Vis community as well as MTA

(E) New crosswalk from north of Mid Vis driveway to fire road enhances connectivity between Visitacion Valley and the rest of the McLaren Park trail network



A

NEW TRAIL SEGMENT LOOKING TOWARDS HAHN



B

BUCKEYE TREES AT FUTURE NATIVE PLANT GARDEN



B-C

PINCH POINT AT PUC RAIN GARDEN, NEAR COMMUNITY GARDEN



B-C EXISTING FOOTPATH NEAR RAYMOND, LOOKING SOUTH



C-D SLOPED HILLSIDE WITH SOME NATIVE GRASSES AND TREES



C

EXISTING DIRT PATHWAY IN GOOD CONDITION TO REMAIN

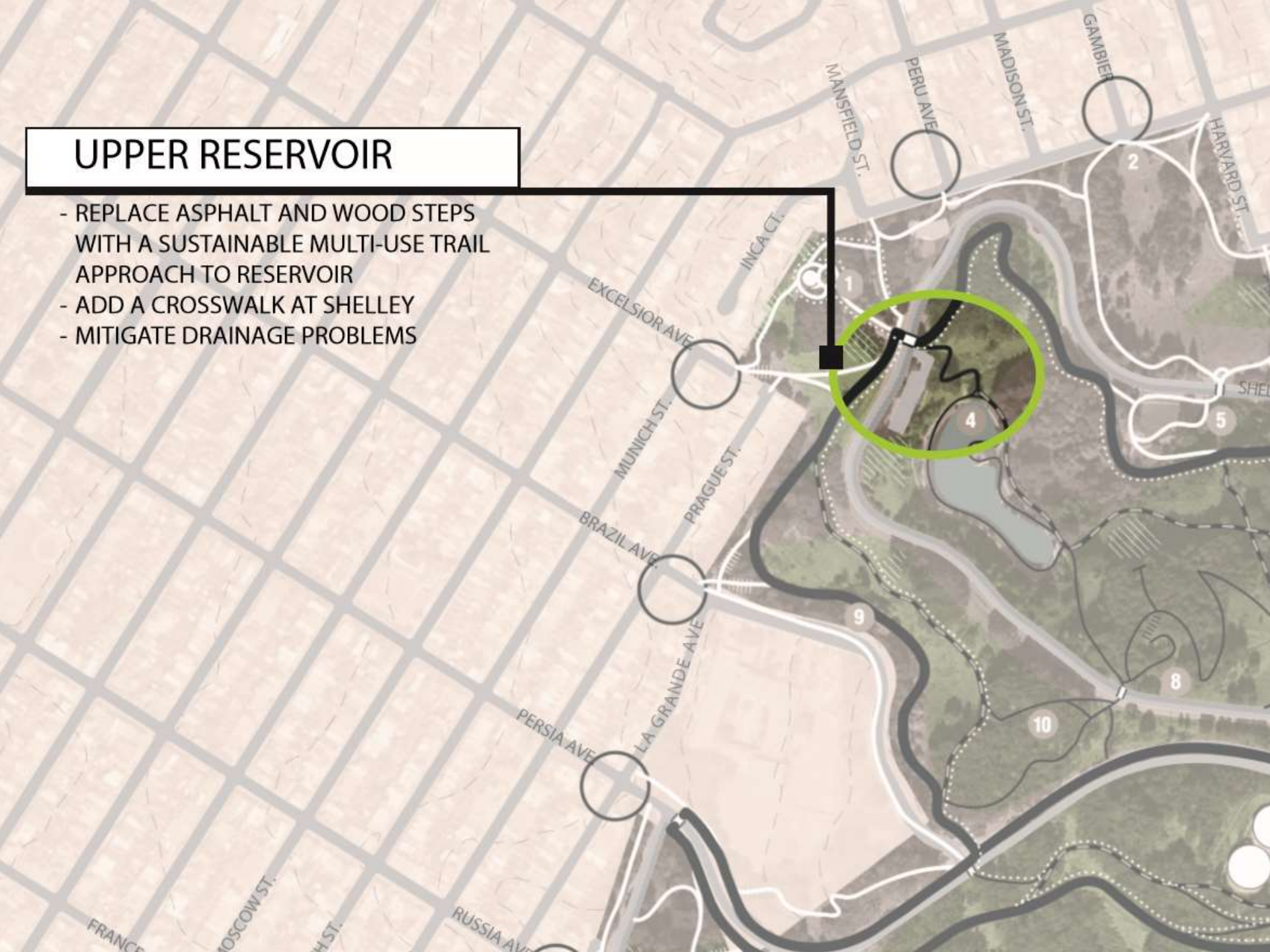


D

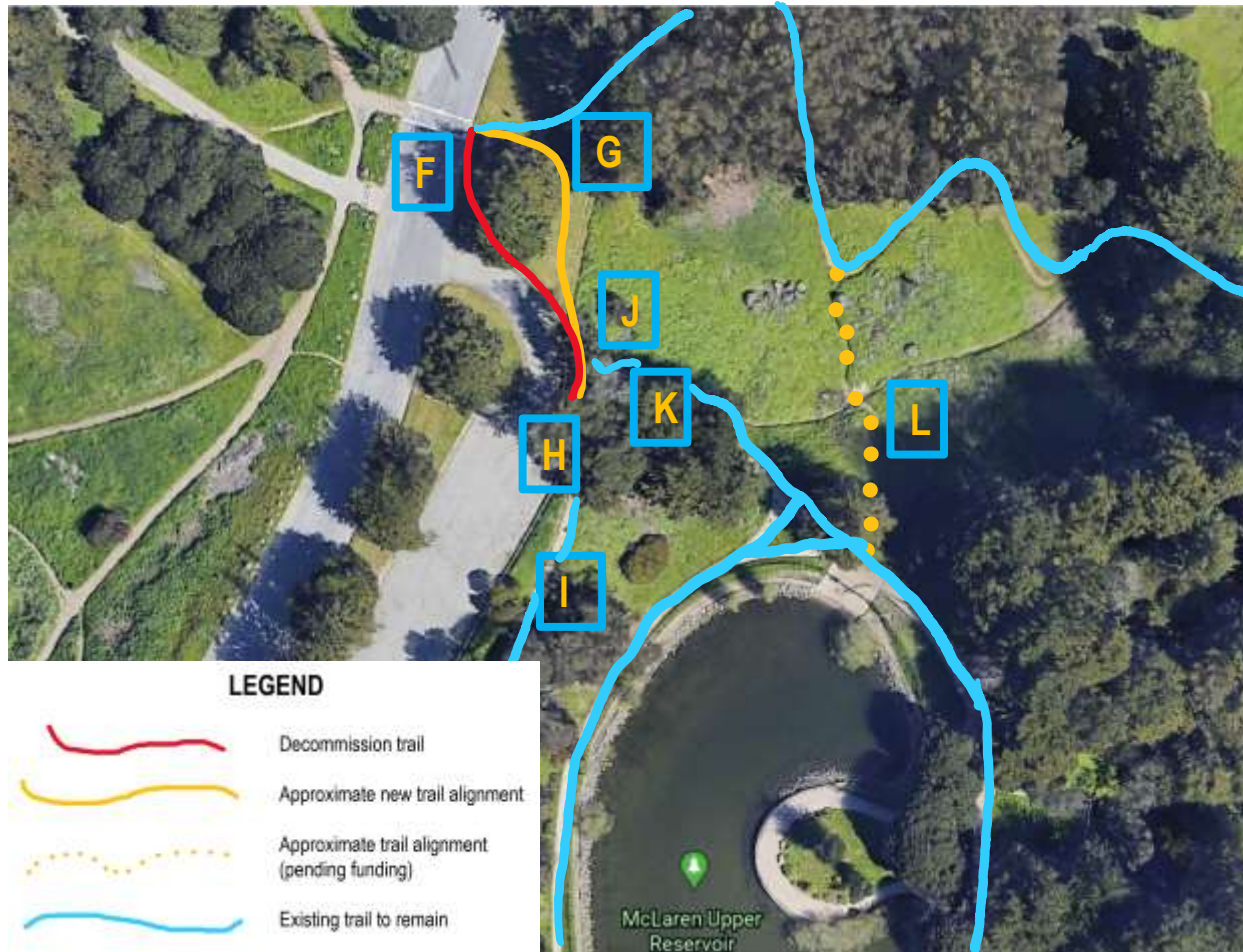
TRAILHEAD AT VISITACION VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL TBD

UPPER RESERVOIR

- REPLACE ASPHALT AND WOOD STEPS WITH A SUSTAINABLE MULTI-USE TRAIL APPROACH TO RESERVOIR
- ADD A CROSSWALK AT SHELLEY
- MITIGATE DRAINAGE PROBLEMS



PRIORITY AREA: UPPER RESERVOIR



KEY

(F) Formalize crosswalk

(G) Decommission existing asphalt path and add stabilized natural surface trail to parking lot along more accessible alignment

(H) ADA striping for van accessible parking spot and add curb ramp

(I) Repair (E) asphalt path west of reservoir for improved accessibility

(J) Remove asphalt drain ditch, add drainage swales and plantings

(K) Replace box steps and asphalt path and replace in-kind with stabilized natural surface trail

(L) New habitat enhancement area/seasonal wetland and construct trail improvements to maintain (E) trail



F

ADD CROSSWALK STRIPING AND CURB CUT AT SHELLEY



G

NEW STABILIZED NATURAL SURFACING TRAIL FROM CROSSWALK TO LOT



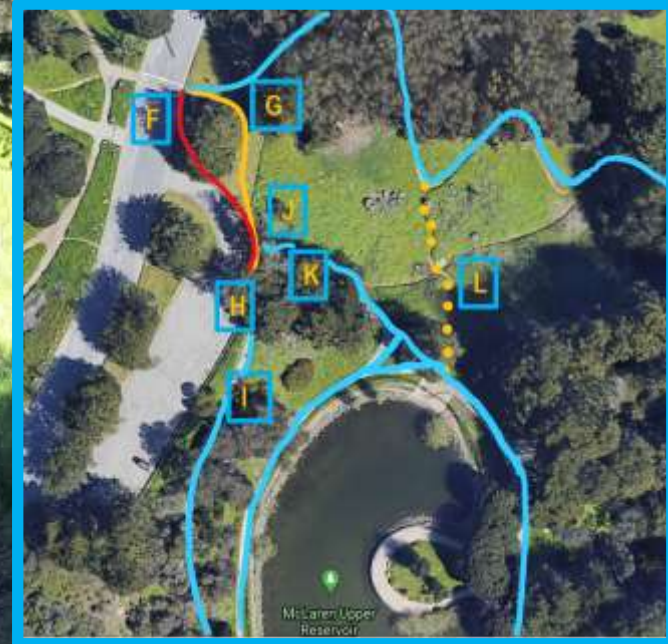
H

NEW CURB RAMP AND ADA RESTIPING AT PARKING LOT



I

REPAIR EXISTING ASPHALT PATH WEST OF THE RESERVOIR FOR ACCESSIBILITY



J

REMOVE ASPHALT AND CONCRETE DITCH, ADD SWALES AND NATIVE PLANTING



K

REPLACE BOX STEPS AND ASPHALT WITH STABILIZED NATURAL SURFACE



L

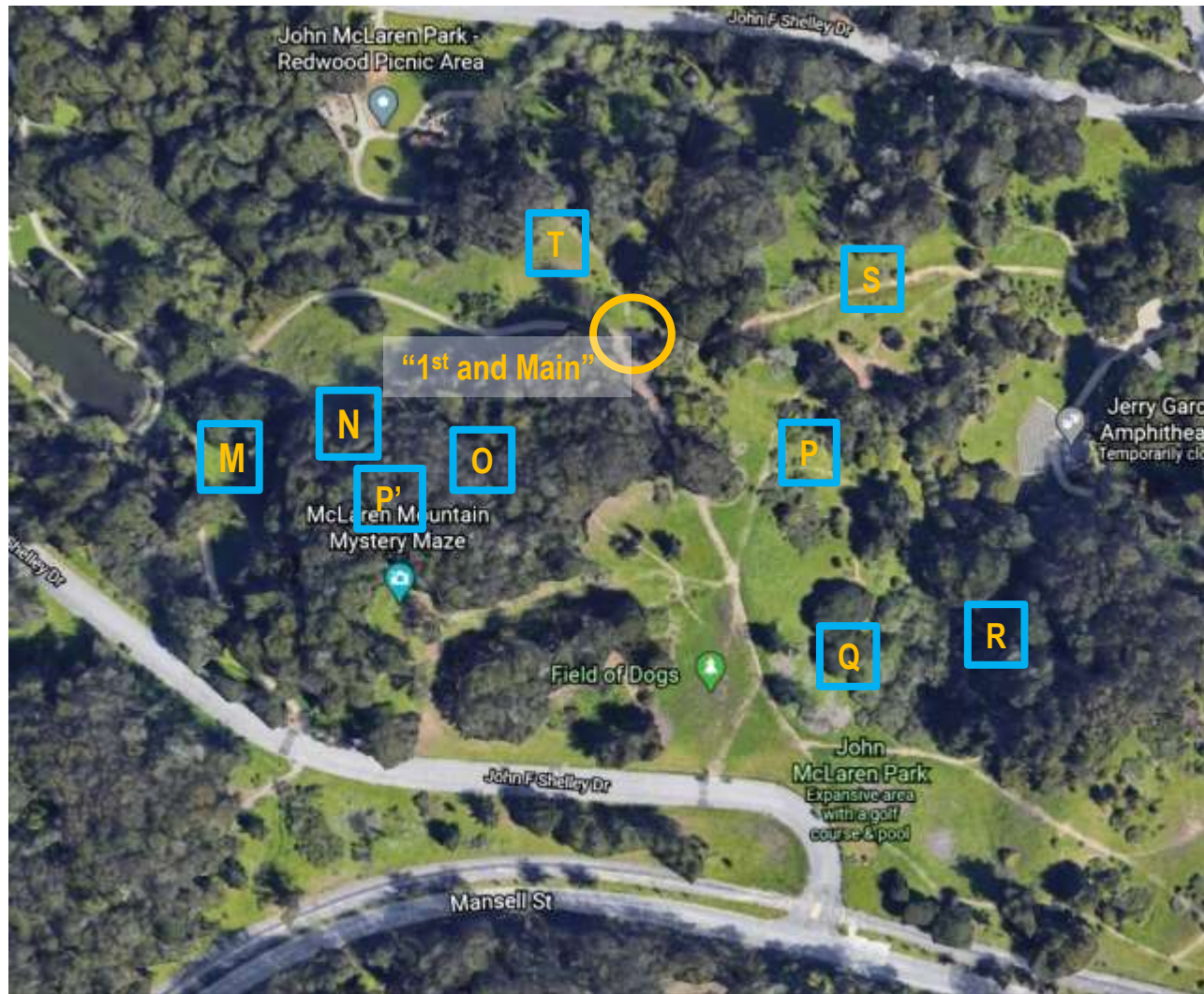
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FOR SEASONAL WETLAND; TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

TRAILS WITHIN UPPER HALF CORE

- CLARIFY TRAIL ALIGNMENTS
- REPAIR TRAIL SURFACE EROSION DAMAGE
- IMPROVE DRAINAGE TO MINIMIZE FUTURE EROSION
- REMOVE TRAILS IMPACTING THE CREEK AND CONSOLIDATE TRAILS TO INCREASE CONNECTIVITY
- HABITAT RESTORATION PLANTING



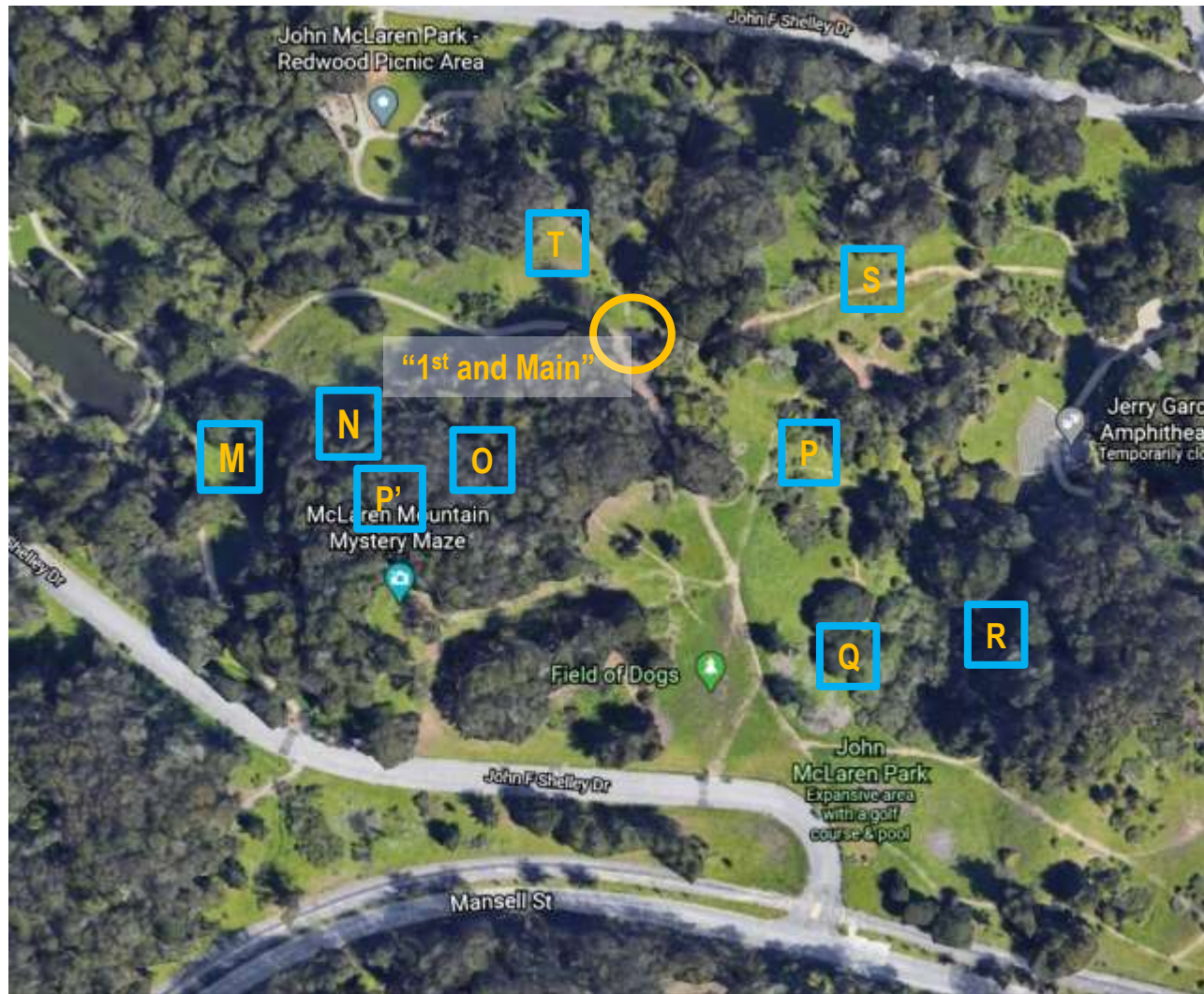
PRIORITY AREA: SHELLY LOOP INTERIOR



KEY

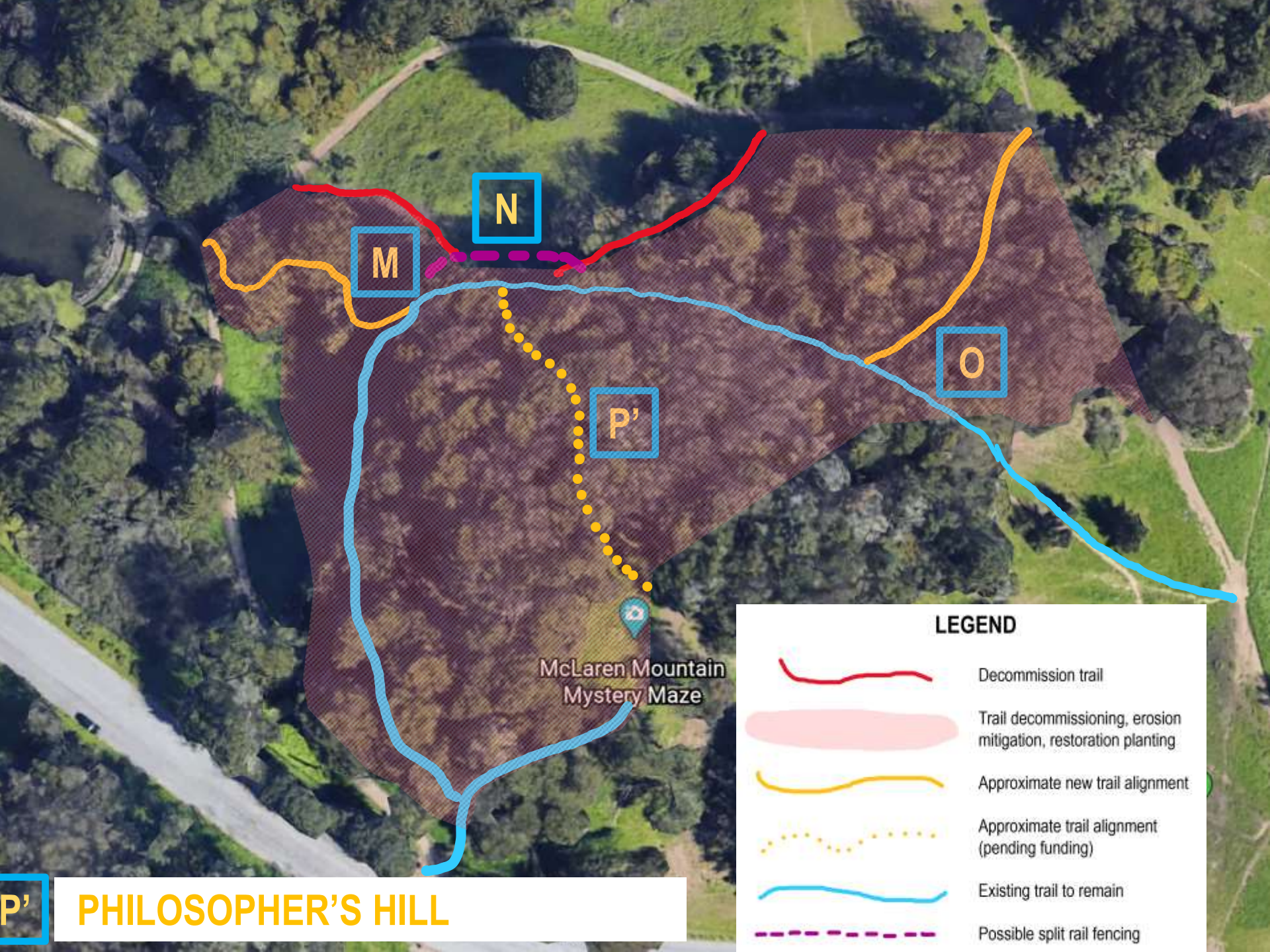
- (M) Formalize sustainable trail
- (N) Shape overlook at Sidalcea slope
- (O) Reinforce VoCal trail and connect to 1st and Main
- (P') Formalize new trail to top of hill
- (P) Consolidate trails and enhance scrub habitat
- (Q) Consolidate trails above Grey Fox Creek riparian zone
- (R) Formalize trail through cypress eucalyptus; remove trails across and adjacent to creek; establish a new overlook at riparian zone
- (S) Repair and slightly reroute access road to mitigate erosion and improve accessibility
- (T) Consolidate trails to improve connection between 1st and Main and Group Picnic Area

PRIORITY AREA: SHELLY LOOP INTERIOR



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McLaren Mountain
Mystery Maze

LEGEND

- Decommission trail
- Trail decommissioning, erosion mitigation, restoration planting
- Approximate new trail alignment
- Approximate trail alignment (pending funding)
- Existing trail to remain
- Possible split rail fencing

P' PHILOSOPHER'S HILL



M

FORMALIZE SUSTAINABLE TRAIL AND DECOMMISSION OTHERS



N

SIDALCEA SLOPE OVERLOOK



P' - O

NEW TRAIL TO TOP & CONNECT VOCAL TRAIL TO 1ST AND MAIN



LEGEND



Decommission trail



Trail decommissioning, erosion mitigation, restoration planting



Approximate new trail alignment



Existing trail to remain



Possible split rail fencing

P-R

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS AND ENHANCE HABITAT IN CORE



P

CONSOLIDATE GRASSLAND TRAILS TO EXPAND HABITAT



P

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE AMPHITHEATER



Q

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE RIPARIAN ZONE



Q

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS ABOVE RIPARIAN ZONE



R

REMOVE TRAIL THROUGH GREY FOX CREEK AND ENHANCE RIPARIAN HABITAT



R

REMOVE TRAILS ADJACENT TO GREY FOX CREEK



R

CREATE AN OVERLOOK AT RIPARIAN AREA, TOWARDS AMPHITHEATER



R

CREATE NEW TRAIL THROUGH THE CYPRESS AND EUCALYPTUS



S-T

IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND REDUCE EROSION



S

MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EROSION AND REPAIR ACCESS ROAD

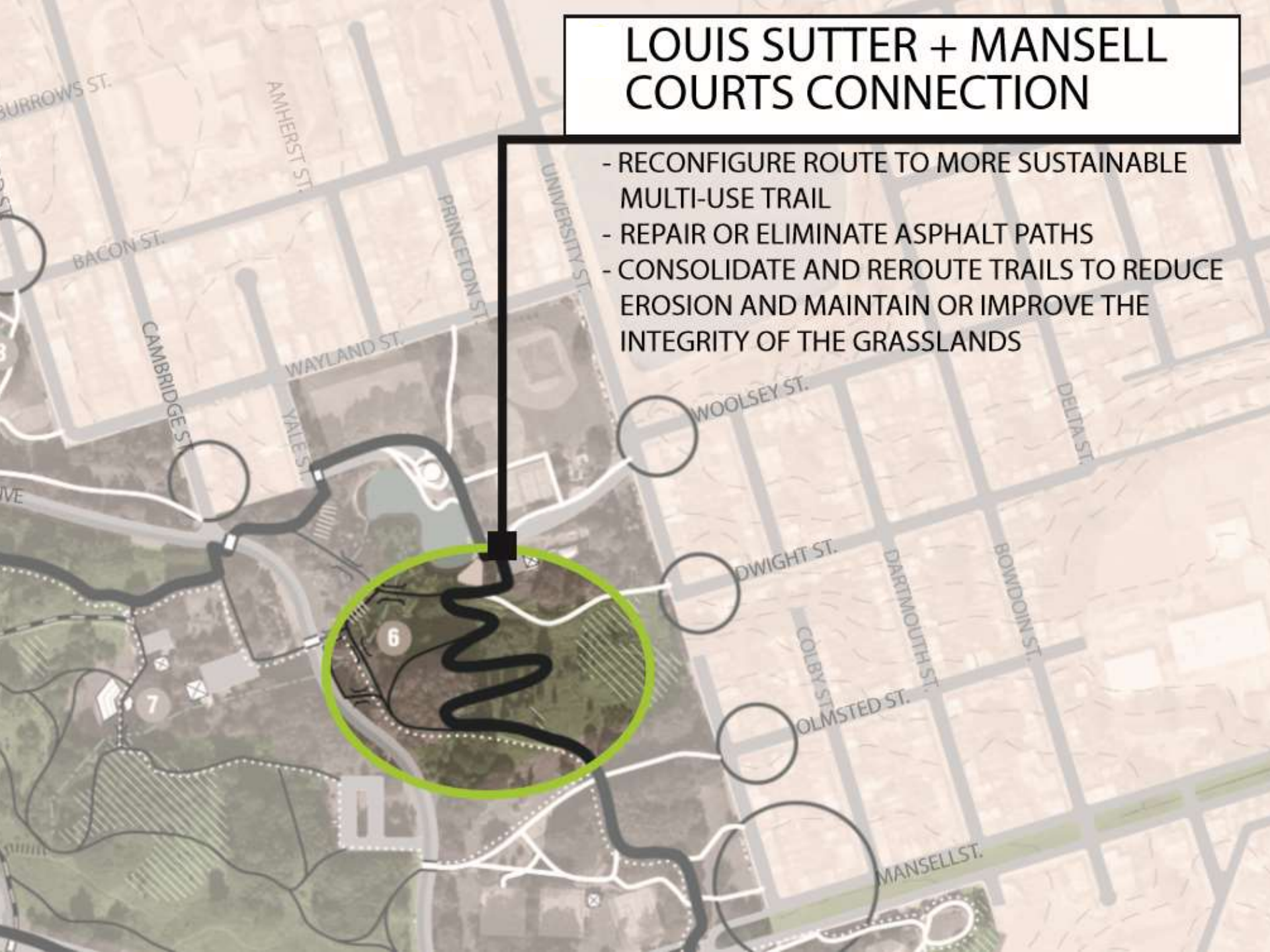


T

CONSOLIDATE TRAILS BETWEEN 1ST AND MAIN AND GROUP PICNIC AREA

LOUIS SUTTER + MANSELL COURTS CONNECTION

- RECONFIGURE ROUTE TO MORE SUSTAINABLE MULTI-USE TRAIL
- REPAIR OR ELIMINATE ASPHALT PATHS
- CONSOLIDATE AND REROUTE TRAILS TO REDUCE EROSION AND MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE GRASSLANDS



PRIORITY AREA: UNIVERSITY HILL



KEY

(W) Remove asphalt and steps; add stabilized natural surface trail with several switchbacks, from Louis Sutter Playground to Mansell Courts. New ribbon of 6' wide trail weaves through the trees and the western edge of the grassland

(X) Consolidate erosive switchback trails across grassland to a single trail on grade, from new stabilized natural surface trail to dead end at the uphill side of University

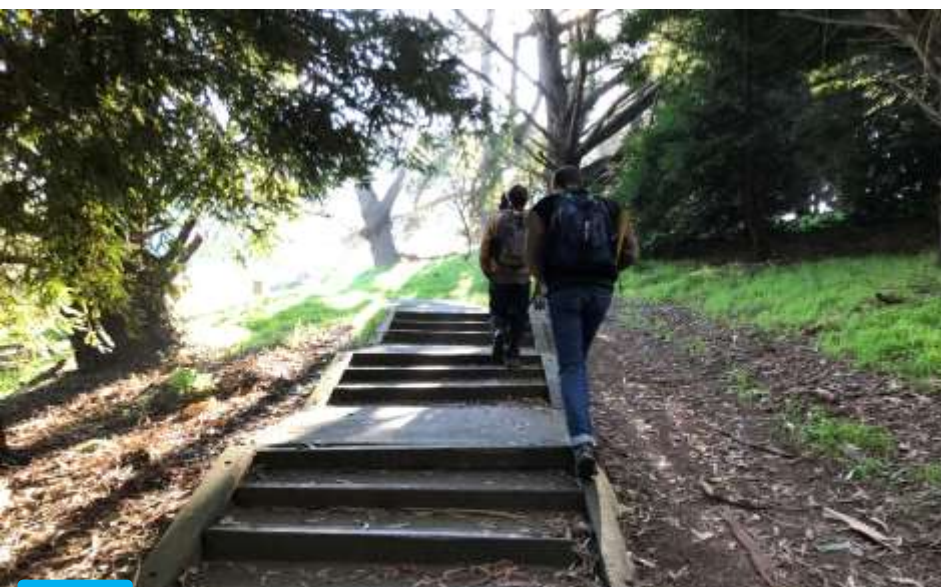
(Y) Remove asphalt and steps; add stabilized natural surface trail connections with minimal stairs to connect Hidden Bridges and picnic area with main trail.

(Z) Possibly add a run of box steps from upper University to lower University at Dwight (IF budget allows)



W

REPLACE ASPHALT TRAIL AND STEPS WITH SWEEPING MULTI-USE TRAIL



W

REPLACE ASPHALT TRAIL AND STEPS WITH SWEEPING MULTI-USE TRAIL



X

REMOVE EROSION SWITCHBACKS FROM GRASSLAND HILLSIDE



Y

REMOVE ASPHALT STEPS AND TRAILS AND IMPROVE CIRCULATION

NEXT STEPS

Share presentation slides, Q&A, and notes

Solicit additional community feedback

Detailed survey of key areas

Refine conceptual design

Revise project cost estimate

Environmental review

Present final conceptual design to Recreation and Parks Commission (target summer 2020)

PROJECT CONTACT

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THANK YOU!

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- John McLaren, 1927