
Citizens' Advisory Committee

Memo-21-15
Meeting 21-05
September 27, 2021

To: Citizens' Advisory Committee
From: Lucas Shellhammer
Subject: Provide Update and Request Feedback for Coyote Valley Public Access Project

REVENUE/COST

The Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Public Access Project is projected to cost approximately \$1,200,000.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) is currently planning for accessibility improvements to the Heart's Delight Trail to stabilize the trail surface and provide new day-use areas for visitors of all physical abilities. Additional trailside amenities are planned to include seating with learning stations for individual and small group use supporting education and interpretation. The project will narrow existing ranch roads to trail width and protect natural resources such as the Oak trees.

Previous public meetings include a joint Use & Management Committee and CAC meeting in October 2018 and a Use & Management Committee in February 2021.

Project website:

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/our-work/current-projects/coyote-valley-open-space-preserve.html>

DISCUSSION

Authority staff will provide the Committee and the public with information and seek feedback on scope, schedule, budget, and funding strategies for the Coyote Valley Public Access Project.

Staff will be providing an overview of:

- Project goals and objectives
- Project scope of work and concept design alternatives
- Project budget and funding strategy
- Project schedule

RECOMMENDATION

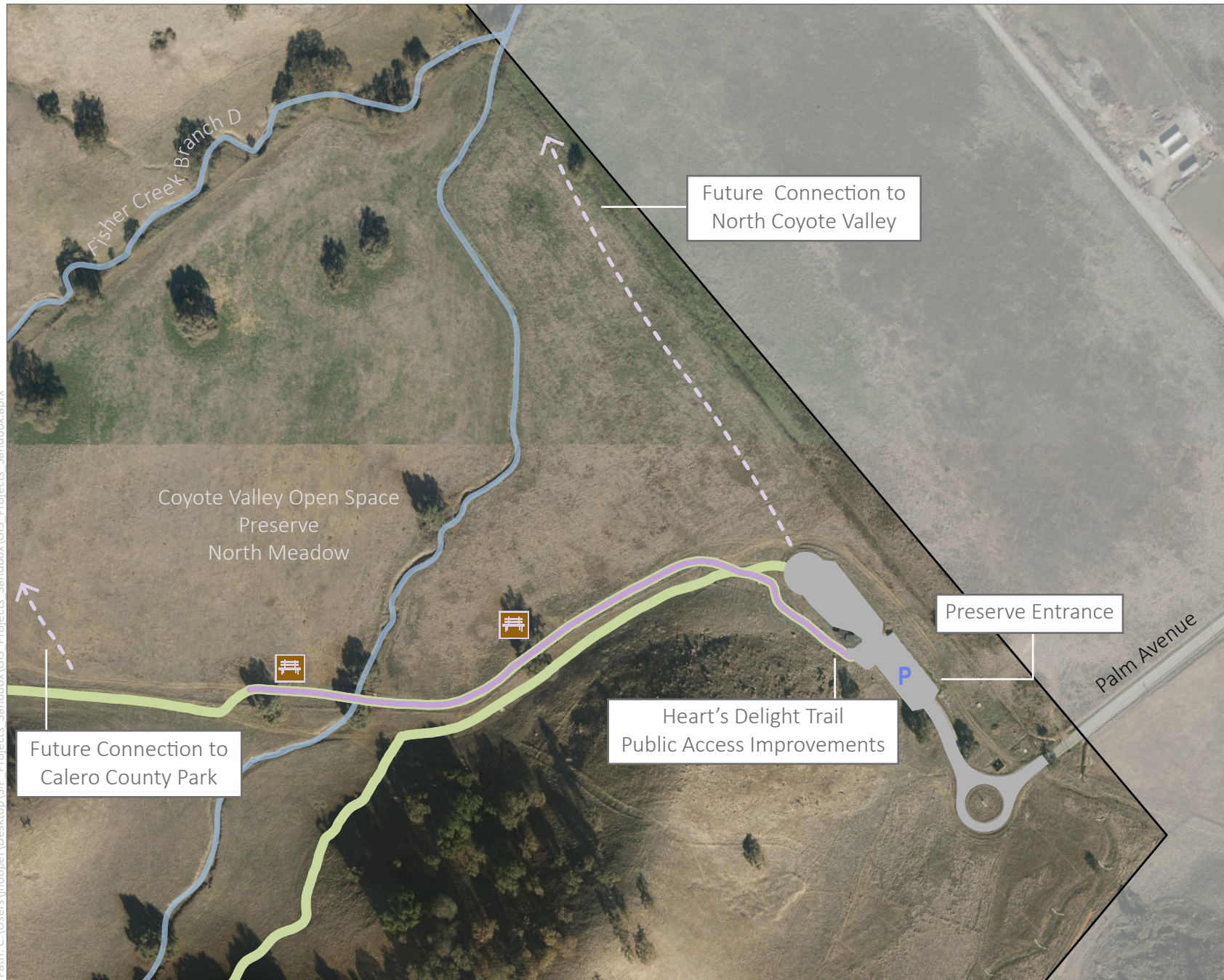
This item is informational and no action is required, however, Staff will seek feedback from the Committee.

Attachment(s): Exhibit A -- Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Public Access Project Site Map

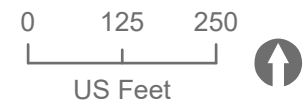
COYOTE VALLEY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Exhibit A

Public Access Improvements Site Map



- Proposed Features
- Proposed Trail Improvements
- Potential Regional Trail
- Existing Trail
- Existing Staging Area
- Preserve Boundary
- Creeks



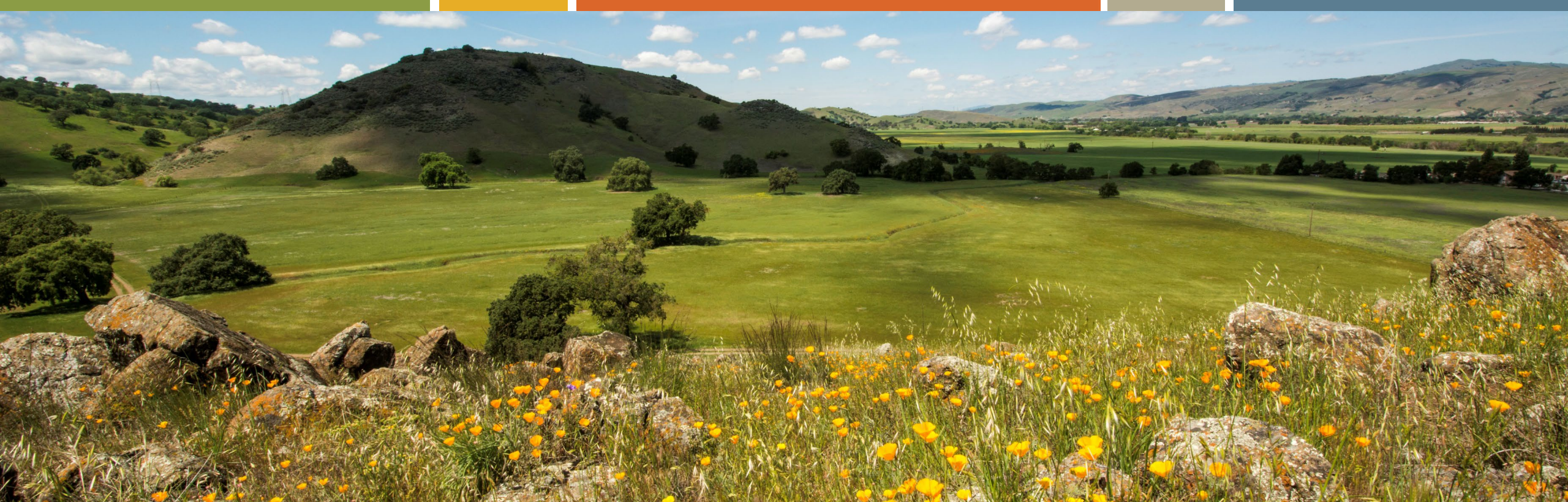


Public Comment Received

Meeting: Citizens' Advisory Committee
Date: September 27, 2021
Item: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Heart's Delight Trail
Public Access Capital Improvement Project Updates

Name:	Organization:	Comment:
Steve Mink	Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Member	Consider setting up a table at the Preserve entrance to provide the public with information about the project and seek feedback. This could include maps and other materials to share. Partner with Preserve Stewards to share information about the project with the public. This could happen during regular hours and not be an "event."
Mera Burton	CAC Member	The public might like to see photos of projects as they progress, consider documenting and sharing in coordination with Communications Team.
Lani Wong-Bassett	CAC Member	Consider how sharing project information via social media can reach different demographics. Staff noted that the Authority is working to develop stakeholder lists.
Garnetta Annable	CAC Member	Prioritize project improvements further into the Preserve to keep people excited about what is to come, including regional trail connections.
Kathy Sutherland	CAC Member	Prioritize increasing the length of accessibility improvements. If budget becomes an issue, consider making other trailside amenity improvements as additional funding becomes available.

This reflects comments from meeting participants and does not include the full discussion that took place, including member questions and staff responses. For a full audible transcript from the meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office (clerk@openspaceauthority.org).



Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Public Access Improvements Project

Citizen's Advisory Committee Update
September 27, 2021



Project Updates

- Previous public meetings include a joint Use & Management Committee/ CAC in October 2018 and Use and Management Committee in February 2021
- Staff review of biological and cultural inventories, and draft-concept design underway, seeking feedback
- Next Steps:
 - Provide design/engineering consultants direction for concept design. Begin CEQA process.
 - Continue public outreach through website, email notifications, Board of Directors, CAC meetings.
 - Please continue refer the public to our website for the latest project information!



Project Updates

- Initial inventory, analysis phase
- Draft-concept design /costing
- Cultural resources report
- Biological resources report
- Pre-CEQA analysis
- Continued tribal engagement (pre-AB 52)
- Phase 1 scope: accessible trail and related amenities

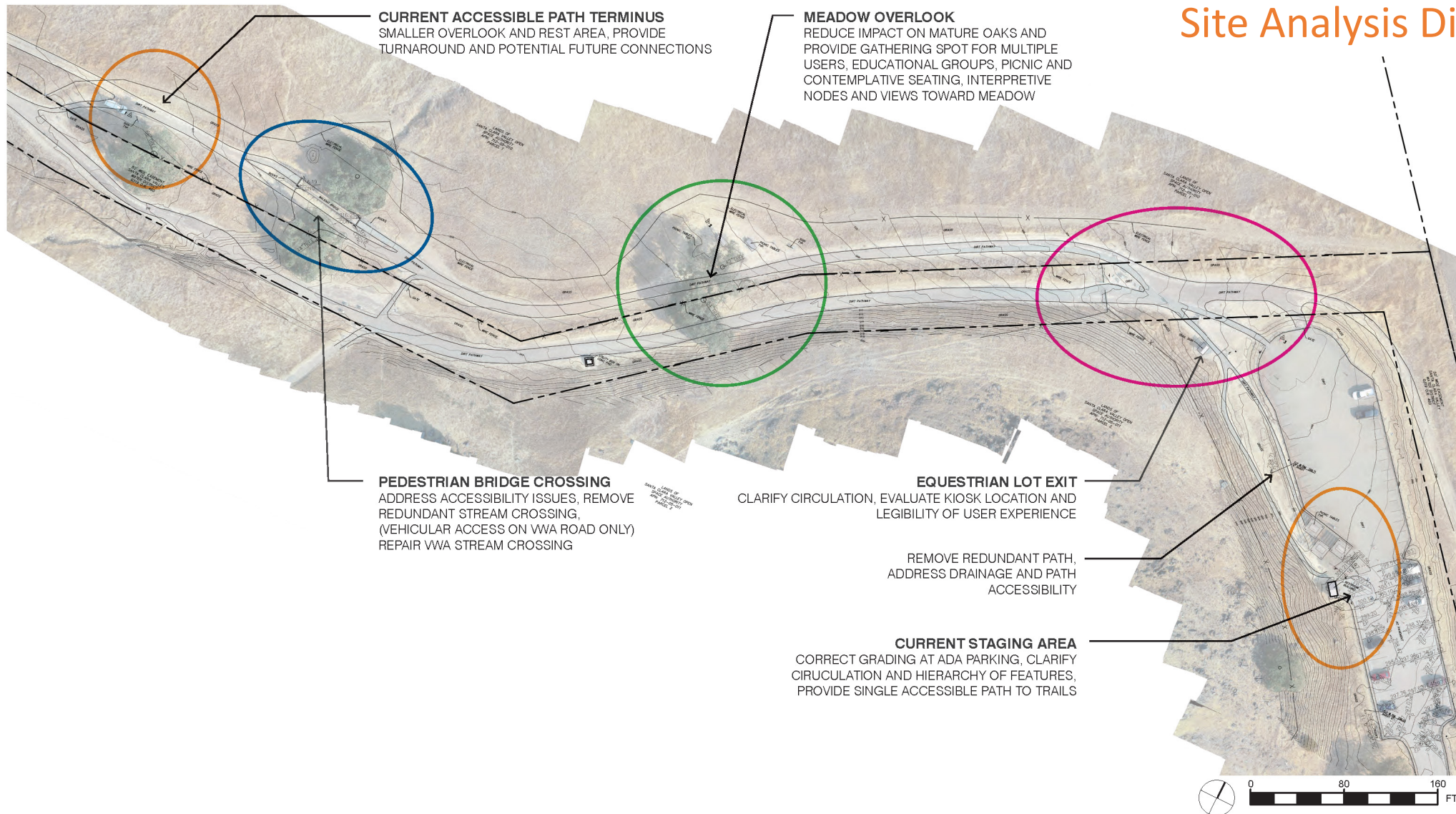
COYOTE VALLEY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Public Access Improvements Site Map

Early Site Map



Site Analysis Diagram

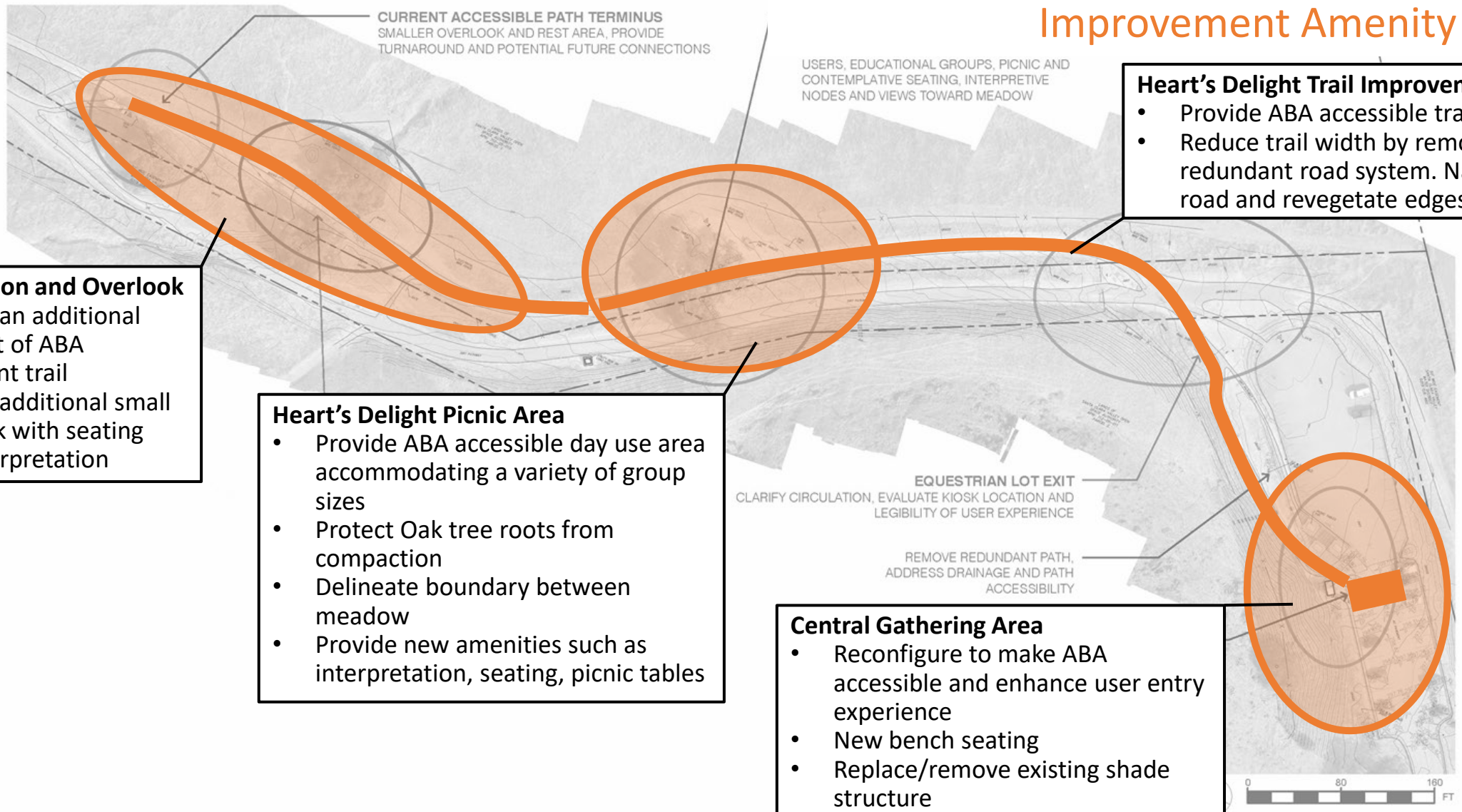




Project Goals and Objectives

- **Provide equitable public access connecting people to nature on and long the Heart's Delight trail**
 - Retrofit existing trail to meet ABA guidelines. Connect from ADA parking to use area.
 - Provide new accessible features (trail, use areas, interpretive elements, signage and wayfinding)
 - Consider wayfinding and user experience. Provide new accessible signage and wayfinding
 - Incorporate the Authority's JEDIA goals into project
- **Protect and highlight existing natural features (natural and cultural)**
 - Protect tree roots from compaction
 - Clearly delineate day use areas and meadow
 - Phase 2 archeology investigation and tribal engagement
 - Minimize biological impacts
 - Remove redundant roadways, increase habitat through revegetation
- **Utilize funds and meet the spirit of Valley Water Grant funds originally awarded for "Outdoor Education Center" project**
 - Complete project construction by June 30, 2024

Improvement Amenity Areas



Trail Extension and Overlook

- Provide an additional segment of ABA compliant trail
- Provide additional small overlook with seating and interpretation

Heart's Delight Picnic Area

- Provide ABA accessible day use area accommodating a variety of group sizes
- Protect Oak tree roots from compaction
- Delineate boundary between meadow
- Provide new amenities such as interpretation, seating, picnic tables

Heart's Delight Trail Improvements

- Provide ABA accessible trail
- Reduce trail width by removing redundant road system. Narrow road and revegetate edges

Central Gathering Area

- Reconfigure to make ABA accessible and enhance user entry experience
- New bench seating
- Replace/remove existing shade structure
- Replace/relocate information kiosk
- Bring ADA parking up to code



Framing Questions

- Which of the proposed public amenity areas are priorities?
- What level of built features are appropriate for this project/preserve?
- How does this project fit in to future Coyote Valley Conservation Area Master Plan and regional planning efforts?

Schedule

Milestone	Expected Completion Date	Complete
Public Outreach	Ongoing	
Site Inventory and Analysis	Q4 2021	Pending
Concept Design Phase	Q4 2021	Pending
Schematic Design Phase	Q1 2022	
Completion of CEQA Analysis and Documentation	Q4 2022	
Design and Construction Documents Complete, Permitting	Q1 2023	
Construction Bidding and Contract Negotiation	Q2 2023	
Project Construction	Q3 2023	
Preserve Opening	Q2 2024	

Note: Draft Schedule Only – Subject to Change Based on Design, Permits and Construction

Budget

Task	Activity/Work Product	Cost
Pre-planning, Conceptual Design, and Environmental Studies	topographic survey, conceptual design, biological and cultural surveys, pre-con surveys, site visits	\$85,000
Environmental Planning, CEQA	CEQA documentation	\$85,000
Design, Engineering, Permitting	construction documents, architecture, interpretive design, permit strategy and County of Santa Clara applications/fees	\$200,000
Construction (ABA accessible trail, picnic/use areas, interpretive features, and wayfinding)	construction (labor, materials, overhead, markup, etc.) to complete project	\$830,000
	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$1,200,000

Grants Awarded

Valley Water: \$200,000 (extension in progress)

Note: All costs are estimates and subject to change.



Framing Questions and Feedback

- Which of the proposed public amenity areas are priorities?
- What level of built features are appropriate for this project/preserve?
- How does this project fit in to future Coyote Valley Conservation Area Master Plan and regional planning efforts?