



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-24-60

May 16, 2024

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Selection of trail names for Phase II Trail Segments at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, renaming of the Alma Trail, and naming of the existing ADA-accessible path through the Alma Cultural Landscape Area

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review and affirm renaming the existing Alma Trail in western Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve as Upper Pete Siemens Trail
2. Review and affirm the following recommended trail names for Phase II Trail segments:
  - a. Segment 1 – Lower Pete Siemens Trail
  - b. Segment 3 – Toad Hollow Trail
  - c. Segment 4 – Oak Knoll Trail
  - d. Segment 5 – Myotis Trail
  - e. Segment 6 – Beaver Trail
  - f. Segment 7 – Salamander Springs Trail
  - g. Segment 9 – Radio Hill Trail
  - h. Existing ADA-accessible path – Almadale Trail
3. Review and select a preferred trail name for the following Phase II Trail segments:
  - a. Segment 2 – Webb Mill Trail or Thimbleberry Trail
  - b. Segment 8 – Aqueduct Trail or Big Eared Bat Trail
4. Forward a recommendation to consider approval of all the proposed new trail names to the full Board of Directors.

#### SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is preparing to open the Phase II area of Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to the public in Fall of 2024 with the exception of the multi-use trail that is planned to open in 2028. As part of the process, the General Manager recommends the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) forward a recommendation to the full Board of Directors (Board) to rename one existing trail, name nine (9) new trail segments, and name one existing ADA-accessible pathway with the following proposed trail names:

- Existing Alma Trail – rename as Upper Pete Siemens Trail
- Segment 1 – Lower Pete Siemens Trail
- Segment 2 – Webb Mill Trail or Thimbleberry Trail
- Segment 3 – Toad Hollow Trail
- Segment 4 – Oak Knoll Trail
- Segment 5 – Myotis Trail
- Segment 6 – Beaver Trail
- Segment 7 – Salamander Springs Trail
- Segment 8 – Aqueduct Trail or Big Eared Bat Trail
- Segment 9 – Radio Hill Trail
- Existing ADA-accessible path – Almadale Trail

The map showing the location of each trail segment is included as Attachment 1: Trail Segment Map.

The proposed trail names are consistent with the naming criteria specified in Board Policy 5.01, *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* (Attachment 2). Pending Board approval, trail names will be implemented through new trail signs, updated Preserve maps and the mileage added to trails GIS data. As part of this effort, new trail directional signs will be developed and installed.

## **DISCUSSION**

The District Board of Directors (Board) approved the Preserve Plan for Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Preserve, Bear Creek Redwoods) and certified the associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in January of 2017. The EIR covered all planned phases of opening the Preserve for public access. Major efforts of Phase I, which were completed in 2018, included construction of the Alma College Parking Area and opening the western part of the Preserve to hiking and equestrian use. The Phase I area encompasses the Alma College Area and the western part of the Preserve.

Phase II includes opening the northernmost area of the Preserve to public use. Many of the trails in the Phase II area are either legacy pathways or access roads. These trails have only previously been open to boarders of Bear Creek Stables by permit access. Over the last three years, staff have been working to improve the current network of pathways and roads to prepare the site for general public trail use. New drainage improvements, retaining walls, bridges, and new trail construction have been underway, with trail work completed primarily by District trail construction crews and larger capital projects completed through outside contractors. The improvements are nearing completion in preparation to open the northernmost trail system to general public access for hiking and equestrian use in the Fall of 2024. This added trail network will be accessible from the existing Alma Parking Area. A new, additional parking area under design, known as the North Parking Area, will also provide direct access to the Phase II trails. In alignment with Board Policy 5.01 regarding trail naming, new proposed trail names have been identified for LFPAC review. The proposed trail names are listed in Table 1.

**TABLE 1 – PROPOSED TRAIL NAMES**

Segment	Approx. Length	Description <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Name
1	1.7 mile	Through Trail <sup>2</sup>	Pete Siemens Trail
2	0.4 mile	Equestrian Bypass	Webb Mill Trail or Thimbleberry Trail*
3	0.6 mile	Multi-Use to Stables	Toad Hollow Trail
4	0.3 mile	Stables Loop East	Oak Knoll Trail
5	0.25 mile	Patrol Links Central	Myotis Trail
6	0.4 mile	Stables Loop West	Beaver Trail
7	0.9 mile	Alma College to Briggs	Salamander Springs Trail
8	0.1 mile	Short Connector	Aqueduct or Big Eared Bat Trail*
9	0.4 mile	Half Loop	Radio Hill Trail
10		ADA-accessible Path through Alma Cultural Landscape	Almadale Trail

\*LFPAC is asked to select from one of the two listed trail names.

### *Segment 1 & Existing Alma Trail*

During the June 27, 2023 LFPAC meeting, the Committee received a presentation and provided feedback on recognition options for recognizing former Board members Larry Hassett and Pete Siemens. The Committee recommended that staff work with the Siemens family to identify a trail to recognize Mr. Siemens at Bear Creek Redwoods. In consultation with Director Siemens' family, renaming the existing Alma Trail in the west area of the Preserve and naming the connecting Through Trail in the east area as the Pete Siemens trail was determined to be the most appropriate option because of his significant contributions to the Preserve and his personal enjoyment of long hikes. The trail passes through a multitude of habitat types, including redwood forest, open grassland, and oak woodland. To provide locational clarity, the connecting trail west of Bear Creek Road is proposed to be renamed as Upper Pete Siemens Trail with the section of trail east of Bear Creek Road named as Lower Pete Siemens Trail. The proposed trail name complies with Policy 5.01 because it aligns with the Special Recognition component of the policy.

### *Segment 2*

The Equestrian Bypass will allow equestrians to utilize a loop trail without overlapping with cyclists once the multi-use trail is open – planned for 2028. The suggested names for this trail segment include Webb Mill Trail and Thimbleberry Trail. During the milling era, a man with the last name of Webb operated a mill in what is now Upper Lake. Thimbleberries are native plants that have known sightings throughout the Preserve. Both trail names comply with Policy 5.01 because they are consistent with historical events and botanical components, respectively.

### *Segment 3*

Segment 3 stretches from the Through Trail (segment 1) in the north to the entrance of Bear Creek Stables. The proposed name for this segment is Toad Hollow Trail. Natural Resources

<sup>1</sup> Trails were given informal names and descriptors during the Preserve Planning process, as well as during the development of the Phase II Trails project and Phase II Trails naming effort. These descriptors are used to differentiate the segments before they receive formal names.

<sup>2</sup> The Through Trail is also the future multi-use trail that will open to bicycle use in 2028.

staff noted that the native California toad is found in the tributary that is crossed by this trail and is one of a few locations within District lands in which these amphibians have been recorded. This is a noted breeding location. This name complies with the zoological component of the naming policy.

#### *Segment 4*

Segment 4 is the eastern portion of what has been known as the Stables loop. The proposed name is Oak Knoll trail. The area has multiple species of oak trees and several small knolls that the trail passes by. This name complies with the botanical and geographic component of the naming policy.

#### *Segment 5*

Segment 5 is a short segment of trail that spans the eastern and western stables loop sections. The proposed name for this segment is Myotis Trail. Myotis is a genus of mouse-eared bats that are present in the Preserve, including California and Yuma myotis. They like to forage in open areas around trails. This name complies with the zoological component of the naming policy.

#### *Segment 6*

Segment 6 is the western portion of what has been known as the Stables loop. The proposed name is Beaver Trail. Beavers are native to the area but were locally extinct for a long period of time. In recent years, beavers have been reintroduced to the Guadalupe Watershed and there have been signs of beaver activity (chewed stumps and tracks) in recent years in the Lexington Reservoir area. This name complies with the zoological component of the naming policy.

#### *Segment 7*

Segment 7 is a longer trail segment that passes adjacent to Alma Cultural Landscape and connects to the Through Trail near Highway 17. The proposed name for this segment is Salamander Springs Trail. It passes close to Briggs Creek, which is known habitat for California giant salamander and Santa Cruz black salamander. California giant salamanders lay eggs and the young live in creeks and streams before they metamorphose into the adult phase. Black salamanders are often found in springs and outcrops but are terrestrial. This name complies with the zoological component of the naming policy.

#### *Segment 8*

Segment 8 is a short connector trail that connects segments 1 and 7. The proposed names are Aqueduct Trail and Big-Eared Bat Trail. Aqueduct Trail refers to the aqueduct that was built during the Tevis estate period and is located near the trail. Big-eared bat refers to the Townsend's Big-Eared bats that roost in the nearby garage in the Alma Cultural Landscape. Both trail names comply with the naming policy on the basis of historical locations and zoological components respectively.

#### *Segment 9*

Segment 9 is a half-loop trail at the eastern part of the preserve near Highway 17. It travels around the base of a hill. The proposed name for this segment is Radio Hill Trail. The hilltop is reportedly the location that received the first radio transmission from Pearl Harbor. This name complies with the historical event component of the naming policy.

#### *Segment 10*

Segment 10 is the existing ADA-accessible path that travels through the Alma Cultural Landscape area. Almadale is the proposed trail name to recognize the Estate period (1887-1934), starting with its first owner, Captain Stillman H. Knowles (1887-1894), its second owner James Leary Flood (1894-1905) and later owner Dr. Harry Tevis (1905-1934). Flood named the property Almadale, which was eventually purchased by the Jesuit order in 1934. The name Almadale complies with the historical event component of the naming policy.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The recommended action has no immediate fiscal impact.

## PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

- **January 25, 2017:** The Board approved and certified the Environmental Impact Report. ([R-17-15, meeting minutes](#))
- **April 6, 2020:** The Board received an FYI memo regarding the Multi-use Trail Alignment at Bear Creek Redwoods. ([FYI](#))
- **June 8, 2022:** The Board reviewed the recommended Multi-use Trail Alignment and directed the study of additional trail alignment options that better separate user groups and to return to the Board at a later date with the findings. ([R-22-69, meeting minutes](#))
- **June 27, 2023:** The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee received a presentation and provided feedback on recognition options for recognizing former Board members Larry Hassett and Pete Siemens. ([R-23-70, meeting minutes](#))
- **December 13, 2023:** The Board selected Alignment 3 of the Multi-Use Through Trail Alignment. ([R-23-142, meeting minutes](#))

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

The Board's selection of a trail name is not a Project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Installation of trail signs is within the scope of activities included in the Preserve Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report to the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, adopted by Board Resolution No. 17-02 on January 25, 2017.

## NEXT STEPS

Following Committee consideration, the General Manager will forward the recommended trail names to the full Board for consideration and approval. The following tentative schedule is planned for the naming and sign development process.

<b>Tentative Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
July 10, 2024	Board of Directors Meeting
July 2024	Signage Design
August 2024	Sign Fabrication

August 2024	Sign Delivery
September 2024	Sign Installation
October 2024	Trails open to the Public

**Attachments**

1. Trail Segments Map
2. Policy 5.01 Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition Policy

Responsible Department Head:  
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Path: G:\Projects\Bear\_Creek\_Redwoods\Phase1\_Trails\BCR\_MultiUseTrail\_Trail\_Naming.mxd  
Created By: ismith



**Legend**

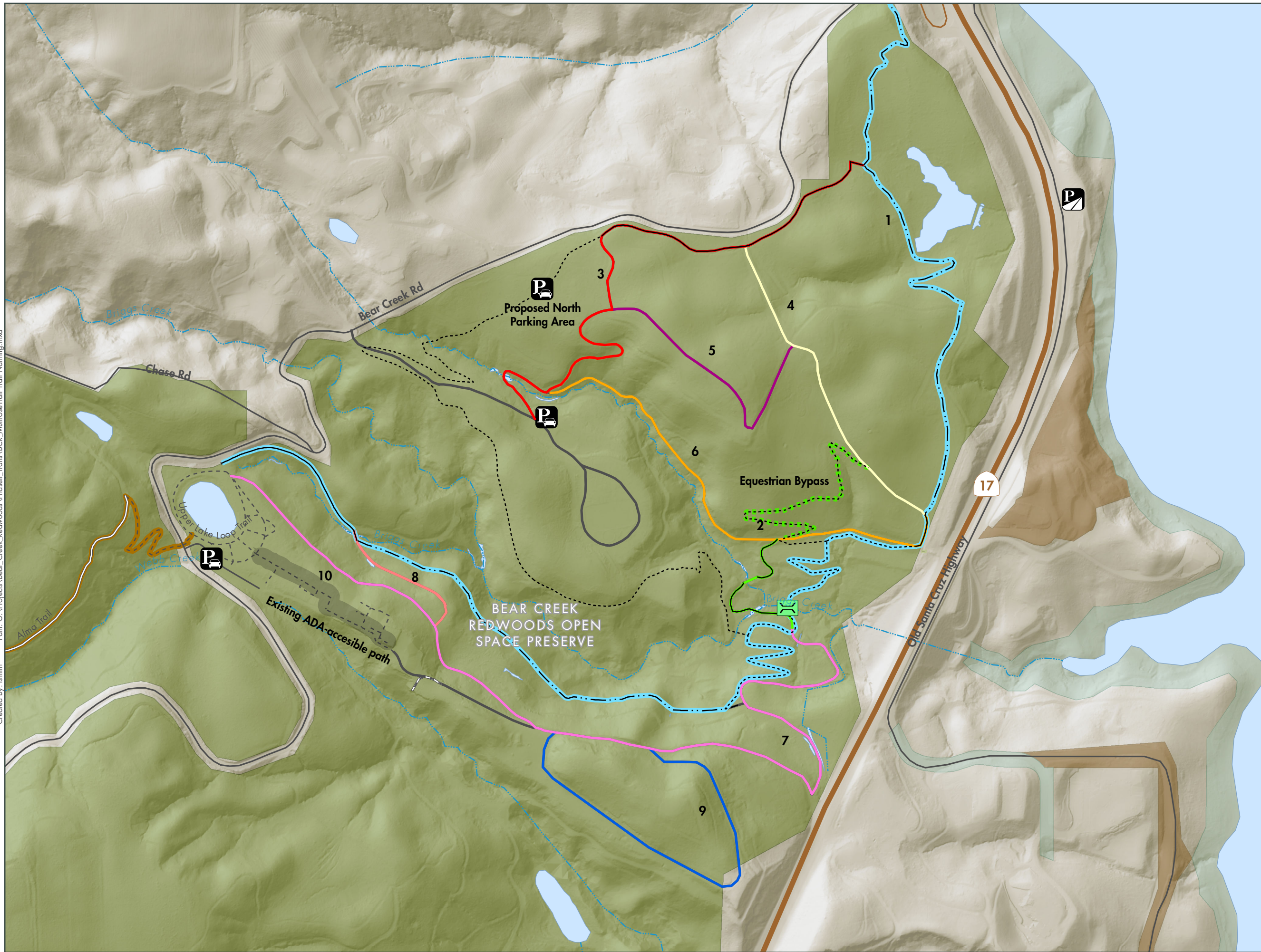
**Trail Segment to be Renamed**

Alma Trail (Existing)

**Trail Segments to be Named**

- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- Segment 7
- Segment 8
- Segment 9
- Segment 10

- Feasible Bridge
- Trail - Proposed
- Trail - Complete
- Road



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

<b>Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition</b>	<b>Policy 5.01 Chapter 5 – Historical/Cultural</b>
Effective Date: 8/25/93	Revised Date: 5 /24/23
Prior Versions: 8/25/93, 9/14/94, 6/24/98, 9/12/01, 10/8/08, 1/13/10, 10/27/10, 11/13/13, 12/12/18	

I. SITE NAMING

All District site names and signs should be kept as simple and functional as possible. When a property is acquired, either as an addition to an existing preserve or for the establishment of a new preserve, a name will be recommended in the Preliminary Use and Management Plan. In most cases, "open space preserve" is appropriate as part of the name; however, there may be circumstances when another designation may be used. In some cases, a temporary name may be retained until the next Comprehensive Use and Management Plan review.

A. Open Space Preserves

The name given to each open space preserve should be general enough to remain suitable if the site is enlarged, but specific enough to give its location some significance. Properties added to an open space preserve may not always be contiguous with that preserve.

1. Preserves shall be named after:

- a) Geographical features of broad, general significance to the preserve;
- b) Historical persons, cultural names, uses, or events broadly associated with the locale.

2. Preserves shall not be named after any individuals other than historical persons as noted above.

B. Preserve Areas, Trails, Site Improvements, Historic Sites and Unnamed Natural Features

This designation refers to specific locations, land formations, trails, natural and physical features, staging areas and other site improvements, and areas of significance within open space preserves. Recognition of significant land gifts, including "bargain" purchases, will be negotiated at the time of the gift or bargain purchase.

1. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements including benches and bridges, historic sites and previously unnamed natural features shall ordinarily be named



after:

- a) Geographical, botanical or zoological identification;
- b) Historical persons, uses, or events associated with the site, or

persons and organizations listed in Section III: "Special Recognition".

2. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements, historic sites and unnamed natural features may in rare instances be named after a living individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the District, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

II. GIFT RECOGNITION

The purpose of the gift recognition policy is to provide an opportunity for the District to recognize and commend individuals or groups that have made significant contributions of cash, equipment, materials, goods or professional services toward the enhancement of the District, its programs, and its facilities.

A. Unsolicited Cash Gifts:

Up to \$1,999.99	Thank you by email or letter
\$2,000 to \$4,999.99	*Thank you by email or letter with offer of District gift item (note cards, etc.)
\$5,000 to \$9,999.99	*Thank you by email or letter with offer of framed photograph of favorite District preserve
\$10,000 or more*	Thank you by email or letter with offer of Resolution and framed photograph of District preserve and mention in a District publication
*These items will be provided only if desired by the donor	
All gifts will be recognized annually on the District website.	

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) shall be the committee designated to discuss all requests that meet the criteria of the policy for special recognition made by members of the Board of Directors, and after deliberation shall forward a recommendation to the full Board for a vote.

The General Manager or his/her designee will review constituent bench dedication requests to determine eligibility based on the policy guidelines outlined below in Section III D.

Constituent bench requests may be brought to LFPAC if there exists ambiguity regarding whether the request meets the requirements below.

The District places benches in its preserves for three distinct purposes:

A. District Rest Benches

These benches provide constituents with a place to rest. District staff places these benches without involving a District committee or the full Board. Regular benches must be either a backed or a backless standard bench as described in Section V below.

B. Constituent Bench Dedications

These are benches which have been requested by constituents in order to honor or memorialize a member of the public and are funded by the requestors who must pay \$5,000 for a 10-year term. Requests must be in reference to a significant supporter or a volunteer, as defined in Section III D below. The General Manager or his/her designee reviews requests to determine if they meet the eligibility definitions. Requests that are administratively declined because they do not meet the eligibility definitions may be appealed to the General Manager for a second review. Eligible requests will be administratively implemented.

a) Constituent bench dedications shall only be selected from and placed in locations that have been pre-determined by the District and/or approved by the Planning and Natural Resources Committee and/or by the full Board of Directors.

b) If a request for a constituent bench meets the eligibility requirements, the requestor(s) shall pay for the cost of constructing, installing and maintaining a bench and plaque by contributing \$5,000 to cover the 10-year dedication term of the bench.

c) Bench plaques will be 2 x 6 inches in size.

d) Benches must be one of the two District standard bench designs.

e) Constituent bench dedications will have a term limit of 10 years. After 10 years, the original donor will have the option to contribute an additional \$5,000 donation for each additional 10-year term. Should the original donor decline to renew an existing bench, the bench will be offered to the public for re-dedication.

C. District Bench Dedications

These are benches which are installed by the District in response to requests by members of the Board of Directors to honor "Founders," "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers".

a) LFPAC can initiate a bench request and refer a decision to the full Board or individual Board members can initiate a bench request which will be referred to LFPAC for discussion before it is referred to the full Board for a final decision. Honorees must be "Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" (per policy Section III D below).

b) For these benches there are no design specification limits or limits on their location. The District will pay for the lifetime cost of the bench.

D. Founders, Significant Supporters, and Volunteers

"Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" are eligible for special

recognition, including memorials.

"Founders" shall be defined as an individual or group of individuals who participated in the formation of the District, or were significant supporters of the formation of the District.

"Significant Supporters" shall be defined as individuals or group of individuals who have shown conspicuous or noteworthy support for the District through extraordinary contributions of time and effort to the advancement of the goals, philosophy and mission of the District.

"Volunteers" shall be defined as individuals or groups of individuals who donated a minimum of 250 volunteer hours and 5 years of service to the District by working for the District's docent or volunteer program.

#### IV. RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC SITES

A. A recognition monument, normally in plaque form, may be considered by the Board if it is in relation to a specific existing building or other remaining structure of significant historic value. In such cases, the plaque will be affixed or in close proximity to the structure itself. If there is no structure, then recognition may be considered for inclusion on District informational materials or trail signage. Such a site, in the absence of a building or structure, will ordinarily not be physically marked except as determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis as part of the Use and Management planning process for the corresponding open space preserve.

Any Board-approved memorial names shall be included in site brochures, maps, or other informational materials.

#### V. STANDARD BENCH DESIGN SPECIFICATION

A. District Rest Benches and Constituent Bench Dedications, described in III (A) and (B) above, are limited to either of the two following standard bench designs:

Backed bench:

Dumor - Bench 88, recycled plastic slates (color: CEDAR), steel leg supports  
(color: BLACK, IMBEDDED)  
6' or 8' lengths

Backless bench:

Dumor - Bench 103, recycled plastic slates (color: CEDAR), steel leg supports  
(color: BLACK, IMBEDDED)  
103-60PL 6' long, 3 supports  
103-80PL 8' long, 3 supports

B. The General Manager or LFPAC can at any point bring designs to the Board that differ from the District's standard bench designs.

## VI. PARTNER RECOGNITION SIGNBOARD

Partner recognition signboards provide an opportunity for the District to recognize and acknowledge significant partners who have made conspicuous or noteworthy contributions of cash, land, and/or time that were instrumental to the conservation, restoration, management, and/or public opening of a preserve. Partners may include agencies, organizations, or individuals. Partner Recognition Signboards may also be used to satisfy recognition requirements specified in grant, purchase, or other funding agreements.

Excluding recognitions previously approved by the Board (e.g. recognitions required in Board-approved agreements and resolutions), LFPAC shall review and forward for Board approval the list of partner(s) to recognize on the Partner Recognition Signboard. Following Board approval, the General Manager or his/her designee will follow the guidelines and specifications listed below.

- a. Guidelines and Specifications:
  - a) Partner Recognition Signboards shall be standalone signboards that follow the same design specifications as the District's standard trailhead signboards to maintain District branding and visual cohesiveness.
  - b) Partner Recognition Signboards shall normally be placed directly adjacent to existing preserve signboards to consolidate trailhead information and signboard placement.
  - c) Recognition content shall include logos and/or names.
  - d) The District will review recognition content with each partner for accuracy and completeness.
  - e) The General Manager or his/her designee will approve the final recognition content.
  - f) Exceptions to these guidelines and specifications will be forwarded to LFPAC for review and to the full Board for consideration of approval.