



**AGENCY:** City Council  
**MEETING DATE:** May 26, 2015  
**DEPARTMENT:** CDD  
**PRESENTED BY:** Marie Jones

## **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**TITLE:**

**RECEIVE REPORT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE COASTAL TRAIL PROJECT**

**ISSUE:**

The Fort Bragg Coastal Trail is partially constructed. The North Trail was constructed in 2014-15 and opened to the public in February, 2015. The South Trail is currently under construction and is expected to be opened to the public in September of this year.

Staff is seeking direction from the City Council regarding a couple of new design options for the Coastal Trail:

1. Consider changing the paved width of the south trail from 8 feet to 12 feet, with a corresponding elimination of the soft running trail along the western edge of the trail (it is not possible to expand the overall width of the trail);
2. Select design(s) for artist mural(s) on one or more of the restroom buildings to make them more attractive and interesting;
3. Select an appropriate fencing style for the access road from Cypress Street;
4. Consider dedicating a bench on Otsuchi Point to former Mayor and Councilman Jere Melo;
5. Provide direction regarding recommended modifications to the Fort Bragg Municipal Code to address issues unique to the Coastal Trail; and
6. Consider setting a date for the Coastal Trail grand opening ceremony.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Direct that the current multi-use trail layout (8 feet of asphalt and 4 feet of soft running/walking surface) be retained on the south parkland;
2. Direct that either two or three murals be painted on the restrooms;
3. Approve the fencing plan for site;
4. Approve dedication of a bench on Otsuchi Point in memory of Jere Melo;
5. Direct staff to bring back amendments to Fort Bragg Municipal Code, Section 9.68 "Preservation of Parks" for adoption; and
6. Set a date in September 2015 for a grand opening celebration for the Coastal Trail.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

**ANALYSIS:**

**Multi-Use Trail.** The City’s North Coastal Trail project is a great success. As shown in the photo below the trail is heavily utilized and, at times, can be crowded.

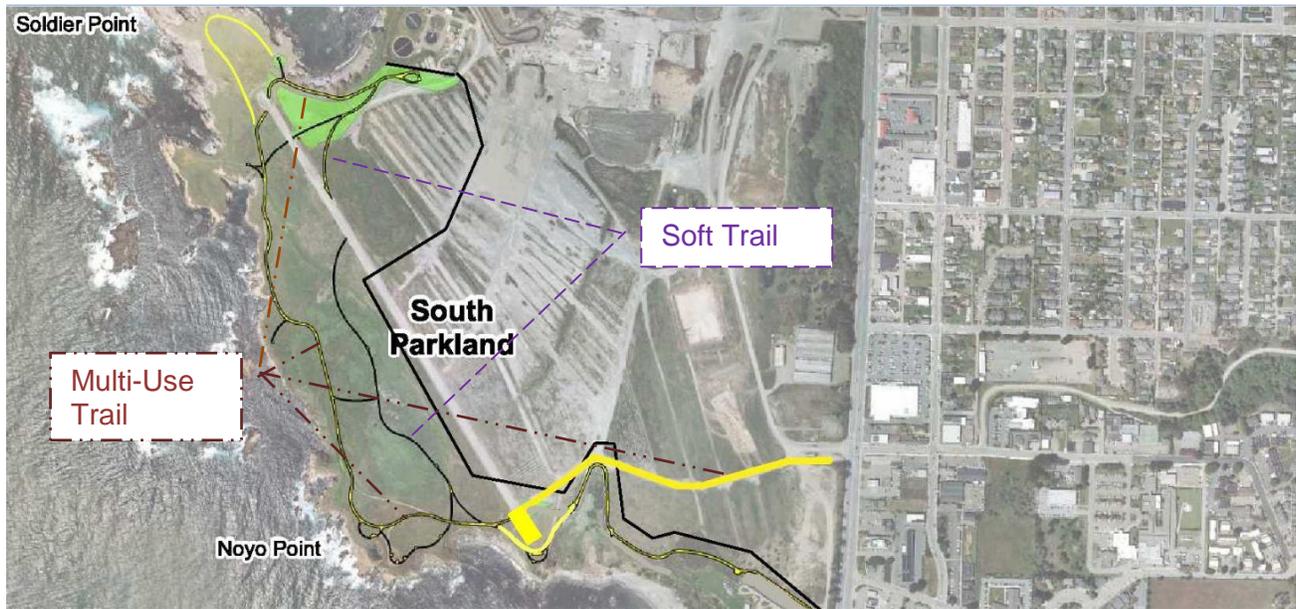


Cyclists, in particular, have complained about the trail width as it prevents them from riding as fast as they might like, given the heavy level of use by pedestrians. The City could surface the entire south trail surface (12 feet width) with asphalt and eliminate the 4 foot wide soft shoulder. The pros and cons of an “all asphalt” surface are summarized in the Table 1 below:

<b>Table 1: Pros &amp; Cons of Constructing an “all asphalt” Multi-use Trail on South Project</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More space and surface for cyclists</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cyclists may ride faster and more dangerously</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More hard surface for people with disabilities and children in strollers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited trail alignments for runners and walkers</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional \$30,000+ in cost</li></ul>

The south trail includes an interior soft surface trail alignment, which runs from the Wastewater Treatment Facility all the way to the south end of the runway. This trail alignment is steeper and covers higher ground, though it is shorter in length and lacks the white water views of the multi-use trail. Please see Figure 1.

Also for Council consideration, State Parks has submitted a Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant application to repave the Old Haul Road at MacKerricher State Park. If funded, this will provide a more attractive surface for cyclists and other users and may take some of the pressure off of the North Coastal Trail.



**Figure 1: Multi Use (Hard and Soft Trails) and Soft Trail on the South Parkland**

**Artist Murals on the Bathrooms.** Two of the three bathrooms have been delivered and installed and while they are indestructible and designed for the harsh coastal environment, they lack aesthetic refinement. Staff met with local muralist Jonathan Palmer to discuss installation of a wrap-around mural on two or three of the restrooms. Mr. Palmer would paint each restroom with a unique mural theme as follows:

1. Elm Street Restroom – A Fort Bragg logging history and forest mural would connect this location with the history of the Old Haul Road, Mill Site and our Fort Bragg history, while providing something unexpected (e.g. not about Glass Beach) at the Elm Street Welcome Plaza.
2. Noyo Center Restroom – Marine mammal mural. This mural would provide a tangible reference to the future Noyo Center project and connect with the adjacent relocated Visitor Center for the Noyo Center.
3. South Runway Restroom – Fishing History and Practice. This mural would reference the working Noyo Harbor, fishing practices, stormy weather and underwater fisheries.

See Attachment 1 for sketches of the proposed murals, drawn by local artist Jonathan Palmer. The proposed contract price for the professional artist-painted murals is \$15,000 for two or \$18,000 for all three. The murals would be painted in the July and August timeframe and would be painted with marine grade paints for durability.

**Cypress Street Gate Fencing.** The 3-strand fencing on the interior boundary of the parkland between the park and Georgia-Pacific’s property is not effective in preventing trespassing onto GP’s property. As part of the proposed transfer of land from GP to the City to expand the Elm Street parking lot, to allow for access to the south trail parking area from the Cypress Street intersection; and to move the parkland boundary to run along the east edge of the runway— GP has requested that the City install a more effective fencing material. Staff recommends that the interior boundary of Noyo Headlands Park be fenced with a 5’ high poly-coated (black) wire mesh fencing, as shown in Attachment 2.

**Memorial Bench Dedication.** The Coastal Trail is now home to a number of beautiful artist benches along with many simple redwood benches manufactured by Parlin Forks work crews. Nearly four years ago, Jere Melo, a member of the City Council and former Mayor, was tragically killed. Jere was a big supporter of the Coastal Trail and also of the Otsuchi Cultural Exchange program. Staff recommends that the City Council consider dedicating a bench on Otsuchi Point in memory of Jere Melo. Madeleine Melo is supportive of this idea and has suggested that the dedication be conducted as part of the annual memorial walk in honor of Jere.

**Fort Bragg Municipal Code Amendments.** On April 28, 2015, the Community Development Committee reviewed a number of recommended changes to the Municipal Code to address specific challenges of the coastal trail site. The proposed changes include prohibitions of the following:

- 1) Trespass into rare plant areas. The City installed habitat protective fencing to keep people from trampling through rare habitat, however many people ignore the fencing and may be endangering State and federally listed plants. Additional habitat protective fencing and signage has been installed to deter people from entering these fragile areas. It is recommended that a section be added to the Municipal Code that would enable City police officers to issue citations to people who violate the signage and fencing.
- 2) Use of City property to tie-off for rappelling down the bluff face. At times, abalone divers use City property (benches, culvert structures, fencing, etc.) to tie off and rappel down the bluff face in order to collect abalone. Staff is concerned that such activities are unsafe and could result in damage to City property. It is recommended that a section be added to the Municipal Code to prohibit use of ropes and other rappelling equipment to scale bluff faces at the City's two coastal parks.
- 3) Removal of glass from Glass Beach. With the installation of the new access stairs to Glass Beach on the City's property, it is possible for people to remove large amounts of beach glass. The Community Development Committee discussed the possibility of restricting the removal of beach glass to a small amount per person and, upon consideration of enforcement difficulties, recommended that removal of beach glass be prohibited.
- 4) Digging on the site. Humans and dogs that dig on the Coastal Trail property could disturb and/or remove cultural resources from the site. A prohibition against any digging on the site is recommended.
- 5) Fireworks. Use/possession of fireworks on Noyo Headlands Park could impact coastal resources (rare plants, marine mammals, nesting sea birds) and is a serious fire concern. Additionally, use of fireworks on Noyo Beach has become increasingly problematic and challenging for law enforcement during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. A provision that prohibits possession or use of fireworks in park areas except by permitted pyrotechnic engineers in conjunction with a special event is recommended.

The Community Development Committee recommends that City Council consider adopting the revisions to the Municipal Code as shown in Attachment 3.

**Coastal Trail Grand Opening.** Staff recommends that the grand opening for the Coastal Trail be held in September upon the completion of the south coastal trail. A large celebration will take significant staff time to organize and the south trail offers the runway and parkland area, which provide a venue of sufficient size for visitors and dignitaries for the grand opening. Additionally, overflow parking can easily be accommodated on the south trail.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The additional Coastal Trail features would be funded with existing funds that have been allocated to the project.

**CONSISTENCY:**

Staff will review all proposed project modifications for consistency with the Coastal General Plan and Coastal Land Use and Development Code. CEQA review and permit amendments are required for the proposed changes and are currently being completed.

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

All proposed design changes will be implemented in 2015.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Sketches of proposed art work for Coastal Trail murals
2. Fencing plan for Cypress Street Gate
3. Proposed text changes to the Muni Code Ordinance 9.68

**NOTIFICATION:**

1. Coastal Trail interested parties list

**City Clerk's Office Use Only**

Agency Action <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Amended Resolution No.: _____      Ordinance No.: _____ Moved by: _____      Seconded by: _____ Vote: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred/Continued to meeting of: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____
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