

# Regnart Creek Trail

The Regnart Creek Trail is a trail project that will connect Creekside Park to the Cupertino City Center, including the Cupertino Library and Cupertino City Hall. It's also known as the Library Trail. It's being built on publicly-owned land for the use of the public. The City Council has to act in the best interests of all residents when it comes to the issue of public access to public land. Every City Council vote on the trail had been 5-0. All four serious 2020 City Council Candidates support the trail.

Regnart Creek Trail will be a safer, off-road, pedestrian and bicycle route to three parks, two schools and to the City Center. It will benefit elementary and high school students. It will be a new recreation option for the entire community. It will encourage residents to walk or bicycle to the Cupertino Library, where we will be adding secure bicycle parking. As many are aware, parking at our library can be difficult at times and this trail will help ease that parking issue. The trail is much less expensive, and much more environmentally friendly, than building a multi-million dollar multi-story parking garage on Library Field!



The trail will be built on land owned by the Santa Clara County Water District. The service road along Regnart Creek used to be open and ungated and was used by residents, including students walking to the elementary school that was located at Wilson Park. Families with children are especially excited about this new trail.

Currently, there is no safe, off-street, route between Creekside Park and Cupertino City Center. The present route involves bicycling or walking on busy residential streets with many intersections and driveways; experienced cyclists may be okay with riding on these streets, many people are not and they prefer to be riding on paths with no cars, so they drive instead of bicycling. The Regnart Creek Trail will link up with the protected bicycle lane being built on Pacifica, which in turn connects to the protected bicycle lane being built on McClellan. We are trying to create a safer pedestrian and bicycle friendly city.

The Water District encourages trail development along its waterways. There are already many such trails, including Stevens Creek Trail, Los Gatos Creek Trail, and San Tomas Aquino Trail. Some of these trails are also immediately adjacent to the backyards of homes, sometimes separated only by a chain link fence.

There has been some opposition to reopening the Regnart Creek Trail by residents whose homes back up to Regnart Creek. The valid concern is that there will be some loss of privacy when people are allowed to walk or cycle on the trail. Currently, many of the fences have back gates, and residents have had access to portions of the trail for many years, but the general public has not had any access. I've made several visits to the area of the proposed trail along La Mar and each time there have been residents using the trail area. The Water District will not allow new gates to be installed if fences are replaced, but the City will pay for new wooden fences without gates, or will pay part of the cost of concrete fences with no gates.

The City of Cupertino has worked diligently with residents whose homes back up to the trail in order to mitigate, as much as possible, the effects of the trail on their property. City Council voted to spend significant extra money on the project to reduce the impact to residents even though they were not obligated to do so, and most residents along the trail were appreciative of this. But the fact remains that there will now be people using the Water District property and there will be some impact to residents. One positive aspect to homeowners along the trail is that trails increases property values for nearby homes (see [tinyurl.com/trailvalue](http://tinyurl.com/trailvalue)). Invariably, once a trail is built, those initially opposed to it become some of the biggest users.

Despite some opposition, there is overwhelming support by Cupertino residents for the Regnart Creek Trail. It is a vital link in our bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. It is being built on public land for the benefit of the public. Since all four serious candidates for City Council in 2020 support the Regnart Creek Trail project it would be unwise to vote based solely on this one issue. Sticking to the facts about the Regnart Creek Trail, not resorting to personal attacks, and not posting false information about this project would be much appreciated by those of us who are doing the best we can to serve all of our City's residents. We are obligated to be truthful with the public—even when it involves speaking hard or unwelcome truths.