Ravenswood Bay Trail Easement Project Summary

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is in the process of identifying a specific route and conceptual design for a future trail segment to close a ½ mile Bay Trail gap across San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) lands located adjacent to Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in the communities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park in San Mateo County, CA. In 2011 the District obtained an open space easement from the SFPUC and the SFPUC agreed to consider the proposed conveyance of a Bay Trail easement upon completion of appropriate environmental review.

The study sponsored by the District, currently underway, will focus on identifying a suitable trail easement route that utilizes SFPUC lands and avoids the Dumbarton Rail right-of-way owned by SamTrans. Our goal is to identify a feasible alignment for a 20-foot wide public trail easement that is most suitable for developing a multi-use Bay Trail link compatible with surrounding land uses, avoids or minimizes environmental impacts, and offers an enjoyable user experience consistent with the goals of the Bay Trail Plan. This in turn will enable the District to complete its negotiations with the SFPUC to acquire the desired trail easement. Once the public trail easement is secured, the District can work with the Bay Trail Program, and the Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park to determine the best party to implement trail improvements.