



The Evolving Plan for Park Lands in San Mateo County

Mori Point

Natural Zone

The area would be managed for ongoing restoration of natural habitats, and to protect threatened and endangered species while improving the trail system for public enjoyment of the site and its exceptional views. Access would be enhanced with modest trailhead and parking improvements. Trail connections to the community, Sweeney Ridge, adjacent public lands, and the California Coastal Trail would be improved in partnership with other land managers. Collaboration with adjacent land managers would also contribute to expanded efforts to preserve endangered species and their habitats, and improve habitat connectivity across management boundaries.

Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, and San Pedro Mountain

Natural Zone

These lands, if acquired, would be managed to maintain natural features and scenic beauty, and to continue the habitat restoration and access improvements initiated by the community and other agencies. Trailheads and trails would be developed and enhanced to improve accessibility and connections to the California Coastal Trail and adjacent public lands. Public access to Devil's Slide and the surrounding coastal bluffs west of existing Highway 1 would be managed to protect nesting seabirds.

Rancho Corral de Tierra

Natural Zone (Majority of the area)

The upland areas and land outside the existing equestrian centers would be managed to preserve the wild, open character of the landscape and offer trail-based recreation that is light on the land, including walking, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. Natural processes and habitats in the zone, which includes four creek corridors, would be restored to the greatest extent possible with the help of community stewards. Visitors would enjoy the scenic coastal environment through an enhanced system of sustainable multiuse trails. The trail network would connect local communities to the park and link the ridges of Montara Mountain to the Pacific Ocean.

The park would work with SFPUC to complete a trail connection to Sweeney Ridge through the watershed's northwest corner. Unnecessary roads could be converted to trails or removed. Exploration of the park could be facilitated by scenic overlooks, sites for picnicking, primitive camping sites, and possibly a hikers' hut in a remote setting.

Diverse Opportunities Zone

Park "portals" would be created in this zone consisting of trailheads and other visitor facilities that provide for the enjoyment of this new area. Detailed planning following GMP approval would determine the mix of uses that would share this zone. Equestrian uses would be retained at Rancho, with the exact location, type, and scale of facilities subject to future planning efforts. Park managers would continue to work with equestrian operators to enhance the best management practices employed to protect the environment and to expand programs that welcome and benefit the public. New facilities in this zone could include trailheads, trails, community stewardship/educational center, warming hut, group picnic area, rustic campsite, and horse camp. Significant constraints on the availability of water will influence the development and operation of facilities. Any new visitor facility would be sited to allow natural and cultural resources to be preserved, and where compatible with adjacent land uses such as agriculture. In addition, safe trailheads would be developed near Highway 1 to support exploration of this large, diverse landscape and the extensive adjacent public lands. The multiuse trails and trailheads would be compatible with adjacent agricultural uses.

Habitat restoration and community stewardship activities would have a strong presence in both zones (Natural and Diverse Opportunities). The park would partner with surrounding land managers to improve habitat connectivity, protect sensitive habitats, protect water quality, restore the creek corridors, reconnect them to the ocean, and to reestablish anadromous fish passage where possible. The park would connect people to the agriculture history of Rancho through interpretation of its cultural landscape and adjacent working farms while not impinging on their operations.

Montara Lighthouse

Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone

The historic lighthouse structures and other associated resources would be preserved and interpreted. Management would enhance the current hostel and day use programming. Trail connections from the hostel up and down the coast would better integrate this site with other park lands and open space. Access from Highway 1 would be improved. The park would look for an opportunity to locate a multi-agency visitor information and orientation facility in this vicinity.

Phleger Estate

Natural Zone

The area would be managed to provide recreation in a natural and contemplative setting that complements the more developed facilities at adjacent Huddart County Park. The redwood forest ecosystem would be restored and managed for trail-based recreation. The history of logging on the estate and its role in the settlement of San Mateo County would be interpreted. Trail connections to adjacent lands and the regional trail system would be pursued in collaboration with San Mateo County and SFPUC. These connections would include the Bay Area Ridge Trail, potential access from trailheads on Cañada Road and Skyline Boulevard, and a multiuse trail connection between Cañada Road and Skyline Boulevard north of Phleger Estate. Community stewardship of the site would contribute to trail and habitat improvements.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Peninsula Watershed Easements

Natural Zone (Majority of the area, corresponding with the Scenic Easement)

Park managers would continue to cooperate with the SFPUC for the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational features of the watershed. Within this zone, the park would promote completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail connection from Phleger to Highway 92 and a new trail connection between the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the California Coastal Trail on the existing alignment over Whiting Ridge; this would connect Sweeney Ridge with McNee Ranch and Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Scenic Corridor Zone

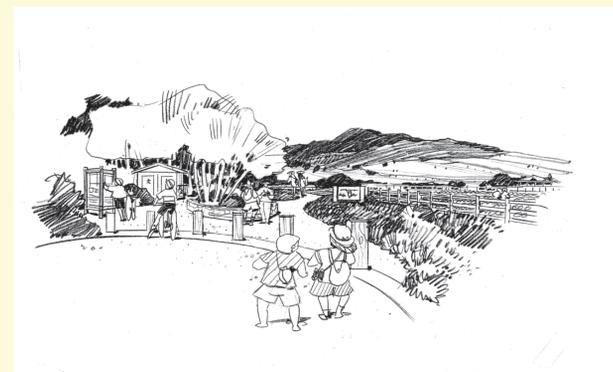
(Eastern area closest to Highway 280, corresponding with the Scenic and Recreation Easement)

Park managers would promote preservation of the natural, cultural, and scenic values with improved public access on trails. Proposed trail improvements include connecting the existing San Andreas multiuse trail to Sweeney Ridge via Sneath Lane, and improving trail access to the Phleger Estate from a new trailhead on Cañada Road. Park managers also would promote the implementation of other trails proposed in the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed Management Plan (2004), including completion of the north-south corridor through the watershed in areas of low sensitivity. The park would work with the SFPUC to provide a multiuse trail connection through the watershed lands between Cañada Road and Skyline Boulevard north of Phleger Estate. Preservation of scenic views along the trails, Cañada Road, Skyline Boulevard, Interstate 280, and its vista points would also be promoted in cooperation with SFPUC and Caltrans. The park would collaborate with SFPUC in creating a watershed visitor education center near the Pulgas Water Temple on Cañada Road as described in the Peninsula Watershed Management Plan.

Offshore Ocean Environment

Sensitive Resources Zone (Fitzgerald Marine Reserve)

In areas where the park boundary coincides with the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR), the two organizations would continue to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the California State Marine Life Protection Act. The FMR area between Montara State Beach and Ross Cove designated as the Montara State Marine Reserve: no fishing, harvesting, or collecting would be allowed in this area. The FMR area between Ross Cove and Pillar Point Harbor designated as the Pillar Point Marine Conservation Area: some fishing would be allowed in this area.



Concept Sketch: Visitors to Rancho Corral de Tierra could be welcomed at a new trailhead.