

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile trail circumnavigating the San Francisco Bay, running through nine counties and 47 cities, and across seven toll bridges. This multiuse trail—which is approximately 70% complete—is enjoyed by cyclists, pedestrians, birders, runners and families, among others looking to experience the majesty of the Bay. The Bay Trail connects neighborhoods, schools, parks and transit centers, providing unique active transportation options for the region's nearly 8 million residents.

Project Overview

Located in the northernmost part of the City of San Jose, the Bay Trail gaps in the Alviso neighborhood are adjacent to iconic salt ponds with scenic views of the bay. Three distinct but closely related elements comprise this project: (1) conversion of the existing gravel trail along the Alviso Slough to a Class I multiuse path; (2) construction of a bicycle-and-pedestrian bridge over the Alviso Slough; and (3) completion of the Bay Trail that will connect to the existing Highway 237 Bikeway. The closure of these gaps will provide new trail access to Santa Clara County's Alviso Marina Park and the Alviso neighborhood, and allow for a short on-street connection to the Guadalupe River Trail. The project will also include long-overdue wayfinding signage in Alviso and ADA improvements. The trail will offer views of wetlands, brackish and freshwater marshes, as well as salt ponds that are part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

Transformative Impact

Once developed, this project will transform the Alviso waterfront and surrounding communities by providing a safer route for active transportation and recreational users to cross the Alviso Slough, avoid illegally crossing the rail corridor, access businesses in the neighborhood and connect to Santa Clara County's Alviso Marina Park and Sunnyvale Baylands County Parks, all while enjoying the natural setting of the area. With the completion of these gaps, users can connect to the Highway 237 Bikeway as well as the Guadalupe River Trail, vastly expanding regional, car-free access. Overall, closure of these gaps will connect approximately 40 miles of existing trail to the northeast, and 13 miles to the northwest. This trail segment is likely to see thousands of weekly users upon completion.



Project Data

- **Total Project Miles:** 1.7
- **Continuous Bay Trail Miles Linked by Gap Closure:** 44
- **Estimated Project Cost:** \$17.8 million
- **Project Status:** Preliminary design complete; funding for final design and construction needed; project initiation required for segment south of Alviso Slough

Project Action Plan

The City of San Jose and Valley Water have partnered for the segment south of Alviso Slough and are pursuing \$4.1 million dollars in regional funding sources for final design and construction as part of the Valley Water Stream Restoration Project. Assistance with advocacy, communications, support letters for grant applications, meetings with officials, or speaking at public hearings will greatly assist the forward momentum of this project.

alviso gaps

Project Leads

- City of San Jose
- Valley Water

Primary Stakeholders

- County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department
- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- Bay Area Trails Collaborative
- San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- State of California
- Caltrans

Project Contact

Liz Sewell

elizabeth.sewell@sanjoseca.gov
Trail Manager—Capital Improvement
City of San Jose



Valley Water



The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails to Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.

