

The All-Weather Trails in Huddart Park Phase II – The Dream continues

The dream of local equestrians to be able to ride the single-track trails of Huddart Park in the winter came true with the completion of Phase I of the All Weather Trails in Huddart Park in December last year. Many of you have enjoyed riding the Dean and Upper Crystal Springs trail this winter. The equestrian community was wonderful in their generous donations to enable this to happen.

We are going to go ahead with Phase II and plan to do the work in October and November this year. This phase will expand the upper loop to include the full length of the Chinquapin Trail. The lower loop will be expanded to include Lower Crystal Springs Trail down to Richards Road. There will now be two ways to get to Skyline Drive in the winter. The total length of this phase is 2.76 miles, and will require 1,300,000 pounds of base rock. We will be using a trail contractor to install and compact the base rock, as we did last year.

The enthusiasm last year was so wonderful that we have a good start on funds for Phase II. This is fortunate because there are two bridges that need to be replaced or significantly repaired at an estimated cost of \$10,000 each. The Crystal Springs bridge is being worked on right now. The total estimated cost of Phase II is \$80,500. The County has been able to carve out of their limited budget \$31,500 of in-kind labor, services and base rock. So the equestrian share is \$49,000. With the \$25,000 remaining from last years fundraising, we need to raise \$24,000 to complete the entire project...

In this difficult economic time, it might be hard to raise enough money, so the plan is to complete the Lower Crystal Springs Trail (Phase IIA) first, and then do the Chinquapin (Phase IIB) next year. But I am an optimist; and I believe we will raise the \$24,000 and more. The excess funds from this effort will be applied to building All-Weather Trails in Wunderlich Park. That will be our 2010 project.

Because the base rock will be compacted, it should be sufficiently settled to be ridden after completion. Only in the case of a heavy rain will the rocked single-track trails be closed this winter. Next year it will be fully settled and open year around.

What better way to escape momentarily from our pressure of our daily lives than riding under a crisp winter sky, hearing the creeks bubble, and breathing the fresh mountain air? We believe the equestrian community will support this project and will provide funding for it. In order to finalize the contracts and schedule, we need to have the funds in by September 30.

Please send what you can to support this project. The Mounted Patrol Foundation is leading the fundraising effort. It is a 501(c)3, and tax deductible checks can be sent to:

Mounted Patrol Foundation
ATTN: Huddart/Wunderlich Trail Fund
521 Kings Mountain Road
Woodside, CA 94062

Thank you for your support. Call Don Pugh at 650-851-8343 or email don@sandon.com with questions. More information can be found at www.MountedPatrolFoundation.org

