

## Joe Rodota Trail Update

March 5, 2020

### Trail Reopening Day

Sonoma County Regional Parks is working to reopen an approximately 3-mile section of the Joe Rodota Trail by mid-March (*March 14 target date.*) The county closed the trail section in late January after occupants vacated a large homeless encampment.

### What work was necessary to reopen the trail?

- Clean-up crews spent February removing approximately 100 tons of debris and hazardous waste from the trail section in southwest Santa Rosa. The county's Transportation and Public Works Department supervised the first two-week phase of work by waste-removal contractors.
- Regional Parks directed a second phase of cleanup by the nonprofit Clean River Alliance and Sonoma County Probation work crews. These crews removed "micro" elements of debris from soil, shrubs and trees (shards of glass, metals, plastics, etc.)
- Parks staff are repairing the trail surface and restoring gravel along the shoulders.
- The total cleanup effort cost approximately \$450,000, paid from Regional Parks' budget and from emergency funds the Board of Supervisors approved in December 2019.

### Additional repairs

Regional Parks will continue to restore and repair fencing along the trail this spring. New fencing in some areas will improve the trail's appearance, discourage loitering along shoulders and allow for short-term closures for maintenance. Regional Parks also is restoring regulatory and directional signs on the trail.

### Future enforcement

The county plans to respond expeditiously to any future trail encampments. With the county's investments in shelter services and coordinated outreach, we expect to be able to enforce laws prohibiting unauthorized camping. Rangers will patrol regularly and collaborate with outreach workers and law enforcement so anyone attempting to camp is aware of shelter services and the need to vacate the trail. Neighbors and trail users should report any trail encampments within the city limits to Santa Rosa Police and any trail encampments outside the city limits to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office.

### Future trail improvements

Regional Parks is exploring opportunities to revitalize the trail's undeveloped shoulders. This summer, we will launch a community engagement process to get ideas for further developing the trail as a "linear park" with more active recreational amenities. Plans call for a significant amount of new housing in this area of Santa Rosa, so we believe new recreational features will make the trail an even greater community resource and will improve trail safety and stewardship.

###