



CITY OF PACIFICA
OPEN SPACE & PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 16, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
Portola Room, Pacifica Community Center, 540 Crespi Drive, Pacifica

CALL TO ORDER:

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS: (5 minutes)

Roll Call

Approval of Order of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2022 (distributed to OSPAC with Agenda)

PRESENTATION (15 minutes)

Introduction of new committee members Lauren Goodmiller, Amanda Skaggs, and Ian McDermod

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Oral Communications - *This portion of the agenda is available to the public to address the Committee on any issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that is not on the agenda (3 minutes per speaker).*

Committee Communications

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: (5 minutes)

- 1. Update by GGNRA/GGNPC**
- 2. Update by City Council Liaison**

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: (5 minutes)

- 3. Development project updates**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 4. Review and receive inputs for OSPAC workplan** (25 minutes)
- 5. Discuss forming an OSPAC-led volunteer effort to maintain Ahni Trail at Cattle Hill** (20 minutes)
- 6. Vote to add members to Funding Subcommittee** (10 minutes)
- 7. Confirm cancellation of December 21, 2022 OSPAC Meeting** (5 minutes)

ADJOURNMENT

***Please note that timeframes were provided at the request of the Committee Chair and are meant to provide guidance and not limitations.*

THE CITY OF PACIFICA WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES UPON AT LEAST 24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE TO THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE (738-7301). IF YOU NEED SIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE OR WRITTEN MATERIAL PRINTED IN A LARGER FONT OR TAPED, ADVANCED NOTICE IS NECESSARY. ALL MEETING ROOMS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.



CITY OF PACIFICA
OPEN SPACE & PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 21, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Link” <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89681830282>
Action Minutes

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Arnos, Read, Cardona, Lancelle, and Natesan were present. Staff Liaison Bonny O’Connor was also present.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Patton called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Roll Call. A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Order of Agenda. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2022. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Oral Communications: Carl Nicolari Discussed that he attended the MidPen anniversary event. No other update from Parks Beaches and Recreation Committee

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. **Update by GGNRA/GGNPC.** None

a) **Special presentation regarding GGNRA land acquisition requirements (Darren Brown)**
Darren presented to OSPAC on the topic of Land Acquisitions.

2. **Update by City Council Liaison.** None

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

3. **Development project updates.** O’Connor provided updates on return to in-person public meetings, resignations of committee member Johnson, Housing Element update meetings, adoption of the Sharp Park Specific Plan. Updates on development projects Pacifica Highlands (Parcel 20) and Quarry Reclamation Plan (Parcel 11).

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. **Input for OSPAC work plan.** Read suggested including coordination with conservation organizations. Cardona suggested that we explore climate threats or benefits associated with our open space. Natesan suggested including organizing funding opportunities for open space. Arnos suggested this item be brought earlier in the agenda and believes that they understand the implications of 30x30 and SB 330. Patton suggested including the update council’s mandate for OSPAC and prioritize the open space needs. Patton offered to prepare a draft workplan for OSPAC’s consideration.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS:

5. **Committee Communications:** Lancelle expressed her appreciation for the committee. Cardona provided update on 30x 30. Arnos wanted to move work plan up on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

OSPAC WORKPLAN

Updated XX/XX/XXXX

| Project | CC Priority/ Goals | OSPAC Objectives | | | | Lead OSPAC Member | Status |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| | | GGNRA | Cattle Hill/ Pedro Pt | SMC Parks | Economy | | |
| Investigate conservation agencies that provide funding | | | | | | | |
| Prioritizing OSPAC mandate update | | | | | | | |
| Reach out to other Committees and nonprofits regarding X | | | | | | | |

O'Connor, Bonny

From: Petersen, Lisa
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Paul Jones
Cc: O'Connor, Bonny
Subject: FW: Cattle Hill
Attachments: Cattle Hill Issue Paper to City Council.pdf; Cattle Hill (1).pdf

Hello Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your e-mail and thank you for your service to the Pacifica community! I appreciate your suggestions below and do agree that grant funding would be helpful to address the Cattle Hill trails. The City recently contracted with a consultant to help with grant writing and I will make them aware of the trail needs for this area and ask them to look for grants related to this need. Public Works will make contact with NCCWD related to the erosion on the access road and the drainage issue and I have discussed your attachments with our Field Services Manager, Paul Lavorini, who will review this information.

Although I am not the staff contact for the OSPAC, I am including Bonny O'Conner on this e-mail who is. She can provide information related to the OSPAC meetings and volunteer efforts that are supported by OSPAC.

Sincerely,

Lisa Petersen, P.E.
Public Works Director
Pacifica Public Works Department
(650) 738-3770 desk
(650) 730-4948 cell
petersenl@ci.pacifica.ca.us



From: Paul Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 8:45 AM
To: Petersen, Lisa <lpetersen@pacifica.gov>
Cc: Bier, Mary <mbier@pacifica.gov>; Bigstycck, Tygarjas <bigstycck@pacifica.gov>; Patton, Arlene <pattona@ci.pacifica.ca.us>
Subject: Cattle Hill

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Ms. Petersen:

My name is Paul Jones and I am writing to express my concern with the condition of the City's property known as Cattle Hill. But first let me introduce myself as I don't believe we've had the pleasure of meeting.

I've lived in Pacifica since 1980 and during that time have worked in a variety of capacities to help protect the natural environment in our beautiful city for the benefit of our citizens and visitors. I've been a director on the board of the Pacifica Land Trust, a commissioner on the Citizens Advisory Commission to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) representing San Mateo County and by appointment from the Secretary of the Interior, a founding member and chair of the City's GGNRA Liaison Committee and the Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee (OSPAC), a member of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for the GGNRA's Pet Management Rule again by appointment from the Secretary of the Interior, and I helped establish the San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition. A few years ago, I was very pleased to receive the Pacifica Open Space and Parkland Committee Preservation Award. Professionally, I worked for 27 years for the US Environmental Protection Agency in wetland, stream, and watershed protection before retiring in 2017. I base my comments and concerns about Cattle Hill in the context of that experience.

I know you're busy, so I will provide details of my concerns with Cattle Hill's deteriorating environmental condition in attachments (an issue paper for City Council that I wrote while still on the OSPAC and a related Powerpoint presentation in pdf file format). In short. the key issues are:

1. The concerns we elaborated 5-6 years ago to your predecessor and to City Council remain relevant and have even worsened. Covid has caused people to flock to nature and Cattle Hill has become a popular spot for hiking and mountain biking. You might even say it's being loved to death.
2. I know the City is cash strapped, but there's a lot that can be done by either volunteer labor (with some minor cost to the City to help with getting liability forms and possibly tool loans) or through grants. The OSPAC or City staff could seek grant assistance from the County (Community Funding Program or supervisors' discretionary funds) or from a variety of state and federal funding sources. With grant assistance, the bulk of the repair work could get done in a single season, leaving the City with setting up a regular maintenance program - and that could be done with largely volunteer assistance. Citizens of Pacifica are eager to help.
3. The City should work closely with the NCCWD (and perhaps the cell tower contractors) to get the erosion under control on the access road from the parking lot up to the water tank. The flow of water needs to be directed from the very top of the road into the swale on the west side and down into the detention basin. This detention basin is currently not functioning and all of the sediment is going into San Pedro Creek via the stormwater system.
4. Volunteer work on the waterbars and invasive plant removal could begin as soon as the winter rains soften the soil. There's no reason to hesitate and lots of reasons to act swiftly. The City and volunteers can start blocking off social trails.

I'd be pleased to meet with you about this if it would be helpful. I also am prepared to attend an OSPAC meeting to discuss details with the committee members. Finally, I really appreciate your attention to this request.

Attachments: Cattle Hill Issue Paper; Cattle Hill PPT in pdf format

cc: Mary Bier, Mayor
Tygarjas Bigstyk, Council Member
Arlene Patton, Chair of OSPAC

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Cattle Hill Issue Paper to City Council
Open Space and Parkland Advisory Committee
Prepared by Paul Jones
January, 2017

Background

The Cattle Hill property, which is 261.68 acres, was deeded to the City on March 2, 1989, from Challenge Developments, Inc. and memorialized by City Council in Resolution 8-89.

The property was included in the 1998 Boundary Study as "Tract 10" (see page 39 of the Boundary Study, Pacific West Region, National Park Service, April 1998), which was approved by the City of Pacifica on January 26, 1998, the GGNRA Advisory Commission on February 12, 1998, and forwarded to Congress. Cattle Hill was listed as a "high priority" for inclusion in GGNRA and a photograph captioned "View from the top of Cattle Hill to the southwest" is included on page 9 in the section on Scenic Resources as it is described, along with Mori Ridge, Milagra Ridge, and San Pedro point "...as features of major local and regional scenic significance."

The report's "Feasibility" section states: "The property is owned by the City of Pacifica, and the city has indicated its intention to donate the land to the NPS. The details of the donation are being negotiated." The report's "Summary Conclusions" goes on to say: "The Property is appropriate for addition to GGNRA. Acquisition should be subject to toxic waste and geotechnical analyses. Fee acquisition would be the appropriate protection method."

However, the study itself was controversial. See Attachment 1 for a SF Chronicle article on the issues. Early reference to the site can be found in the 1985 Sweeney Ridge General Management Plan Update in which there is a short discussion of the possibility of the GGNRA acquiring the Cattle Hill area: "If the trail extending from Fassler Avenue continues to be an important access, the National Park Service would seek to acquire a right-of-way up to the present park boundary." (Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed of Sweeney Ridge and Amendment to the General Management Plan; September 6, 1985).

Cattle Hill is mentioned in many places in the current GGNRA General Management Plan (GMP), which reflects the NPS's intention to include the parcel in the GGNRA unit. Obviously, this transfer has not taken place but there are alternatives, which this paper addresses below.

The coastal sage-shrub habitat was degraded from off-road motorcycle use, creation of social trails, and generally from a lack of open space management. To remedy this, former members of City Council sought and obtained funding to create a permanent

trail while addressing the serious hillside erosion problems that had developed over the decades of neglect.

Trail Construction and Erosion Control Work (2005-2006)

GGNRA received funding from PG&E for impacts in the Crystal Springs watershed due to the PG&E Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Line Project improvements that were needed at the time. Some of that funding, approximately \$220,000 was direct from the GGNRA to the City and used to cover costs associated with erosion control, habitat re-vegetation, and trail construction. These were provided pursuant to an Environmental Assessment/FONSI approved September 2, 2005, by the National Park Service after public scoping was initiated at a GGNRA Public Meeting on September 21, 2004, held at the Sanchez Concert Hall in Pacifica. The following is from page 90 of the EA/FONSI:

Cattle Hill Restoration Proposal: Cattle Hill is located adjacent to (west of) Sweeney Ridge, Pacifica, San Mateo County. Sweeney Ridge is presently part of GGNRA and Cattle Hill is presently owned by the city of Pacifica, and is proposed to become part of GGNRA. The objective of the project is to rehabilitate and restore the landscape on the damaged areas of Cattle Hill and realign the trail. Existing eroded ruts are up to 6 feet deep in several places. The prescription includes trailhead development; extensive restoration of severely eroded and damaged existing trail and landscape areas between trail segments; and establishment of a more sustainable multi-use trail route to the Sweeney Ridge property.

GGNRA trail planners and staff assisted the City's Department of Public Works in the alignment and construction designs for the current trail. Since that time, GGNRA also installed signs at the end of Fassler Avenue, at the top of the trail (indicating the "Farallon View" trail) and near the boundary of the park at the west end of the Baquiano trail.

In March 2015, the GGNRA issued "Trail Guidelines," which states the following concerning two major issues that need to be addressed on Cattle Hill:

Erosion

Proper drainage and minimizing erosion often go hand in hand, with water movement the most common vector of erosion. Erosion results in damage to both trail quality and the surrounding landscape.

Social Trails

Social trails are informal trails that are typically associated with visitors trying to reach a desirable view or destination. In the absence of a designated trail, or with a poor trail design, visitors will create their own paths. Social trails often develop without sensitivity to cultural or natural resources and can become major landscape problems. Issues associated with social trail development and continued use include damage to native habitat and historic landscapes, increased erosion, the spread of invasive species, influence on wildlife usage, accessibility and visitor safety.

Environment

The site is coastal sage scrub habitat dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertifolium*), purple needlegrass (*Nasella pulchra*) and other vegetation characteristic of south-facing slopes in the coastal zone. Ravens, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, white-crowned sparrows, fox sparrows, song sparrows, California quail, and California thrashers can be found there. Coyotes, gray and red foxes, and mountain lions use Cattle Hill where they hunt for brush rabbits and deer.

The OSPAC has reported recently to Council of issues related to ongoing invasions of non-native plants such as Pampas grass and scotch broom. The site is also experiencing erosion and habitat degradation due to lack of site management of the trail system. Motorcycles continue to illegally access the property and visitors are creating a spreading network of "social" trails that are causing erosion problems. Additionally, the access road to the NCCWD's tank needs to attention to address erosion problems. The water was never diverted into a vegetated swale to direct flows to a detention basin that was built with the Jefferson-Martin mitigation funding.

Recreational Use

The site is getting increasing use since the trail work was completed in 2006. See Attachment 2 for a short article on current use. Before the trail and erosion control work was completed, the site was used primarily by hikers to visit the "Portola SF Bay Discovery Site." We expect increased visitation associated with the celebration of the Portola expedition planned for 2019 (see Attachment 3, Director's Report, San Mateo County Parks Department, August 4, 2016). In addition, news articles are appearing online directing hikers from around to Bay Area to the site (see Attachment 4).

Options for land management

In-fee title acquisition by the National Park Service (GGNRA). Originally, the GGNRA has intended to acquire the property from the City; however, due to changing circumstances related to funding and other acquisitions (such as Rancho Corral de Tierra), the GGNRA is less interested in this option.

Recreational or conservation easement managed by the GGNRA. In recent years, the NPS has indicated its willingness to possibly manage the site under one of the two types of easements mentioned. It may be fruitful to pursue this with GGNRA management.

Recommendations

A. OSPAC recommends that City Council contact senior managers at GGNRA and seek to find a mutually agreeable solution. The City is not the entity best suited to managing parkland with significant environmental and recreational. The General Management

Plan for GGNRA states in Vol 1, Page 115 for *Sweeney Ridge (including Cattle Hill and Picardo Ranch)*:

"Sweeney Ridge was added to the park in 1984. The area would continue to be managed for natural values and protection of historic resources such as the San Francisco Bay Discovery Site National Historic Landmark and the 20th century Nike facilities. **Cattle Hill is expected to be transferred to the National Park Service by the City of Pacifica in the near future and recent collaboration has provided trail and habitat improvements on this site.** (emphasis added)

Given this "expectation," the OSPAC recommends resolution of the land management issues as soon as practicably possible.

B. While exploring the possibility of transferring land management to GGNRA, the OSPAC is committed to finding grant funding to cover costs associated with short- and long-term trail repairs, erosion control, and re-vegetation (or rehabilitation). Below is a list of priority actions that should be done in the next year or two. Possible sources of funding include Measure K funds from San Mateo County, state funding from the CA Coastal Conservancy,

- (1) Water runoff/rut forming on access road from Fassler Avenue up to water tower and cell tower should be fixed by improving the lateral drain along the road and as well as the swale at the bottom (heavy equipment/excavator work). Alternatively, the road could be paved. This needs to be resolved with NCCWD.
- (2) Multiple social trails present would typically be addressed by installing post and cable fence where appropriate to block off social trails in accordance with the GGNRA Trail Guidelines (see RA-4 in Guidelines). Rehabilitation would include education signs and installation of coconut blanket and straw wattles on the disturbed areas. Native plants might also be planted in those areas.
- (3) Small reroutes could be established to avoid large rutted sections of trail and the abandoned sections would be rehabilitated.
- (4) A large reroute (~100') could be established on a particularly rutted section of switchback at the top of the trail where it intersects the "Farallon View" trail. The reroute would be established uphill from the current trail and the old trail would be rehabilitated. An alternative to this reroute, that would likely require less compliance and less labor on the ground, would be to fill and crown the existing trail, and establish larger drains in that section.
- (5) A section at the top leading toward the existing gate that is at the GGNRA boundary on the Baquiano trail (~100') is wide and rutted and at least a foot

below existing grade on both sides. This would address this issue by using "check and fill" (see GGNRA Guidelines at ST-1). This involves the installation of 8' long pressure-treated wood peeler logs perpendicular to the trail, at grade, and spaced down the trail according to rise over run, and the section would be filled and crowned with drain rock and our tread material until it is at or slightly above grade. This particular section of trail (and perhaps others mentioned here) would involve accessing the jobsite through the gate at the GGNRA border, driving through Sweeney Ridge from the Sneath Lane access.

OSPAC is currently seeking more detailed estimates for each of these tasks; however, the costs are considerable. The most urgent work is Task 2 above and could be accomplished with approximately \$10,000, though specifics are not yet available.

OSPAC is recommending approval from City Council to proceed with identification of funding sources and then subsequent approval to work with Public Works staff to ensure the work is completed by either City staff or a contract, as appropriate.

Attachment 1.

SF Chronicle Article. 1998-03-10 04:00:00 PDT PACIFICA -- The **National Park Service**, which for years has had a large presence in Pacifica, is casting its net further over this city by the sea.

Park lovers are delighted. Champions of property rights are outraged.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, part of the park service, has its eye on 15 parcels scattered within the city limits. It wants to extend its boundaries around them as a way of acquiring some or all of them for park land.

For park lovers, that sounds like a loving, protective embrace. For some private property owners, it's more like an invasion from outer space.

On January 26, the **Pacifica City Council** voted 3 to 2 to approve what the park service wants to cover in the boundary study. The study must still be approved by Congress before the the recreation area can expand its boundaries, but most observers consider it a done deal. The Pacifica Boundary Study, as it is called, is a kind of wish list for the park service to acquire at least a portion of the tracts from willing sellers in the future.

With the addition of the parcels, say Pacifica planners and park service officials, the recreation area boundaries in and around Pacifica can be made much more logical. They would pave the way for more direct access routes from Sweeney Ridge to the ocean through Pacifica. That could mean more tourists and hikers will be attracted to Pacifica, park advocates say, boosting Pacifica's anemic economy.

The park service already owns about 14 percent of the land within Pacifica's city limits, or 1,132 acres. Most of it is taken up by Sweeney Ridge and Milagra Ridge Park. With the addition of 1,075 more acres that make up the 15 parcels, the park service could, if it ever finds the money, take up about one-third of the land within Pacifica's city limits. And that is an exciting prospect for many residents, some of whom have been fighting for this for more than 20 years.

"It's about time," said **Ferd Simons**, a longtime resident of this city of 40,000. He has been prodding politicians and park planners to protect more land from development. "This means we'll be able to open up the park to the Pacific."

But not right away.

Park officials, sensitive to those in the city who are adamantly opposed to the idea, say no land is likely to be added any time soon because the park still must persuade Congress to come up with money to buy the land.

But others in Pacifica see it as nothing less than a brazen land grab.

"It's not really a wish list, it's a hit list," said Councilwoman **Barbara Carr**, a **real estate** agent who voted against the plan. "By putting this report out they have lessened the value of these properties. I don't think the U.S. government should be sticking their hands in people's pockets."

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is the largest urban park in the world. It was created in 1972 as part of a national movement to bring the park experience to city residents. This was accomplished largely through the efforts of Representative **Phillip Burton**, a Democrat, with the help of local preservationists.

The recreation area's 74,000 acres stretch along 28 miles of spectacular coastline and mountain ridges from Marin County through San Francisco down to San Mateo County.

But when Burton put together the original plan, he left out several key parcels in San Mateo County that would complement the park. That was largely because of a lack of money at the time, said **Doug Nadeau**, chief of resource management and planning for the recreation area. "The key point is that the method of preserving some or all of the parcels is still open," said Nadeau. "If Congress acts on this, they will simply be giving us authority to buy, or strike a deal for land exchanges, or just secure a trail corridor through a parcel."

The reason for extending the park's boundaries before the park even owns the land is tied to a federal law that prohibits the park land from being purchased unless it is already within a park boundary approved by Congress, Nadeau said. The gradual nature of the process is partly what upsets some Pacifica property owners.

"This isn't something that is going to happen overnight, but it casts a shadow over every piece of land inside that boundary," said **Clorinda Campagna**, secretary-treasurer of the **Pacifica Land Alliance**, a group of property owners. "We already have a lot of GGNRA property here in Pacifica. It's beautiful and fine, but we don't need anymore."

Jim Toal, a member of the **Pacifica Planning Commission** and the open space committee, which recommended that the City Council approve the boundary expansion, insisted the plan in no way is a "land grab" or an intrusion on property rights.

"The purpose of all this is to focus on the future, even if it takes a hundred years. I am not a land- grabber."

Added Michael Vasey, a biologist and former city councilman: "This finally has the potential to make the GGNRA a real asset to the town, just as the GGNRA is to Point Reyes."

POTENTIAL PARKLAND IN PACIFICA

A National Park Service boundary study has outlined property tracts in Pacifica that could become part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Tracts in boundary study Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

- 1 Milagra Ridge. 44.7 acres.
- 2 North slope of Milagra Creek Canyon. 57 acres.
- 3 East slope of Milagra Ridge. 48 acres.
- 4 Mori Point. 108 acres.
- 5 Mori Point Quarry lands. 116 acres.
- 6 East Fairway Park hillside. 9.9 acres.
- 7 North slope of Vallemar. 28.2 acres.
- 8 Northeast fork of Calera Creek. 3.8 acres.
- 9 Western extension from Cattle Hill. 109.2 acres.
- 10 Cattle Hill. \ 261.68 acres. (bold emphasis added)**
- 11 Eastern Calera Creek Valley. 6.61 acres.
- 12 Picardo Ranch. \ 166.61 acres.
- 13 East of St. Lawrence Court. 89 acres.
- 14 Park Pacifica stables.\ 118.8 acres.

Attachment 2. Article from the San Jose Mercury News about Cattle Hill, September 1, 2015 written by OSPAC Chair Jim Sullivan.

"Located at the easternmost end of Fassler Ave in Pacifica, Cattle Hill is owned and maintained by the City of Pacifica. This very popular open space is a haven for dog walkers, hikers and bicyclists alike. Occasionally you will encounter horseback riders up there too! The lower section of the trail was improved when erosion issues were addressed 10 years ago using mitigation funds provided to the City by the National Park Service.

There is limited on-street parking at the very end of Fassler ave. (and please be respectful of the local residents by parking carefully and being as quiet as possible). The main trail heads north from the gate on a fairly steep climb about 1/2 mile to where the main trail heads east another 1.2 miles to Sweeney Ridge and the "San Francisco Bay Discovery Site." Note that, once you pass through the gate on the main trail heading east toward Sweeney Ridge, you will be on GGNRA lands and the rules for dog walking (on-leash only) are more regularly enforced.

Alternatively, you can head west a half mile to an overlook that affords a view of the Farallon Islands, Mount Tamalpais to the north, and Point San Pedro to the southwest. The whole of Montara Mountain frames the spectacular view to the south.

If you take the main trail east, you can access Milagra Ridge or hike down to San Bruno along the Sneath Lane trail, which overlooks the Crystal Springs reservoir. Bring your sturdy shoes for this trail as it's pretty steep right away and the short section that heads west is also challenging. The main trail east eases into a more walkable grade as you near the crest. From various conversations I've had, the name Cattle Hill stems from the fact that cattle were grazed here extensively around the turn of last century.

Ongoing efforts by regular visitors to keep the trails well drained and visible have met with various success. Please stay on the main trail when visiting; informal paths have sprung up and signs of erosion are amply evident when these unsanctioned cuts get established. Look for upcoming volunteer opportunities on Cattle Hill at the Pacifica Trails Facebook page.

We hope to be bringing this nugget of open space into better condition by keeping the trails better defined and controlling erosion. Sustaining good recreational condition is going to require ongoing efforts of the many visitors and volunteers."

Attachment 3. From Director's Report, San Mateo County Parks Department, August 4, 2016

Rediscovering America/Portola Trail On February 8 and June 8, 2016, 40 individuals representing federal, state and regional agencies, federal, state and county legislators, community groups, and Native American

tribes met to discuss recognition events related to the 250th anniversary of the Portola Expedition. Application to the National Park Service has been made for a Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance grant for assistance for this effort which will recognize 10,000 years of Native American settlement in San Mateo County, the impact of the Portola Expedition in anticipation of the 250th anniversary in 2019, and opportunities to complete the California Coastal Trail.

Attachment 4. Online article from TrailSpotting.com indicating a 4 star rating.

[Baquiano & Cattle Hill Loop \(Sweeney Ridge\)](#)

Rating: 

Area: [San Francisco Peninsula](#)

Distance: 7 miles

Type: Loop

Difficulty: [Medium](#)

Elevation gain: 1,400ft (from 0 - 1,300ft)

Sweeney Ridge is one of the best ways to explore the hills above Pacifica, but most of these routes are out-and-back affairs which involve treading the same trail twice. We've managed to scout out a great loop trail into the hills using Mori Ridge and the Baquiano Trail, but also includes a little-known trail from the top of Cattle Hill.

Involving some moderate and occasionally steep inclines, you'd be wise to tackle the trail in a good pair of walking boots. From the top of Sweeney Ridge you'll find an abandoned Nike missile base, the San Francisco Bay discovery site ([link](#)) and great views across the peninsula.

Because of difficulties picking up the Cattle Hill trail from the bottom, we recommend approach the route in a clockwise direction. Our trail map locates the trailhead at the end of Bradford Way (use Route 1/Sharp Park Rd exist and drive south) where you'll find plenty of parking available, but another option is to start by the Shelldance Nursery, accessible only to northbound Route 1 traffic.

Tangents:

- [Trailspotting Images: Baquiano Trail on Flickr](#)

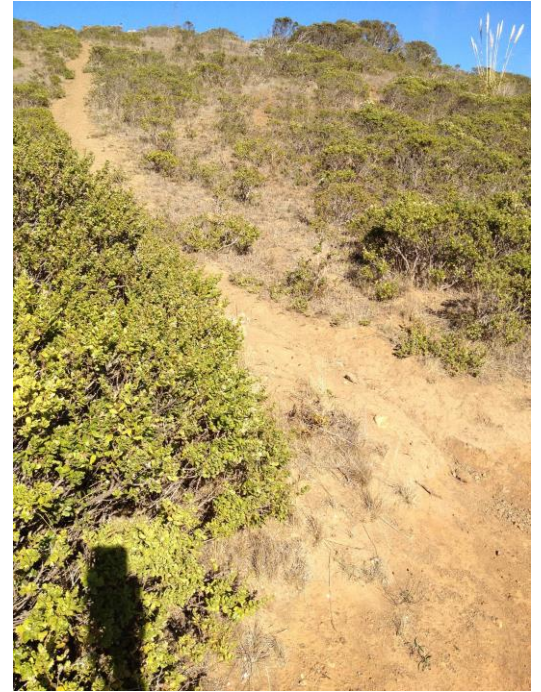
- [Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy](#)

- [Wikipedia: Mori Point](#)

Cattle Hill

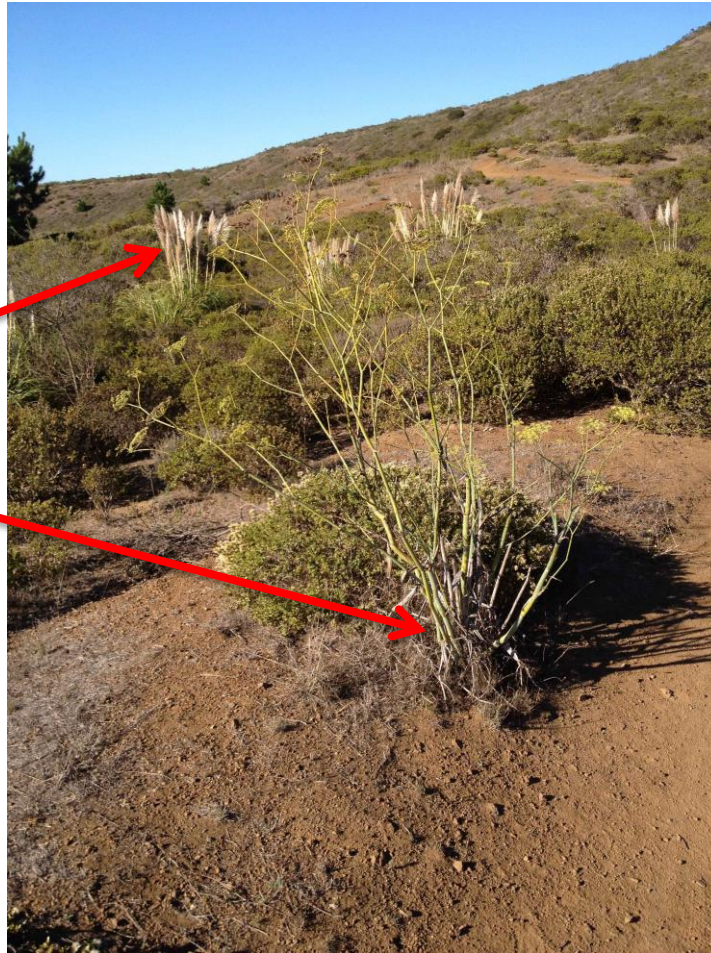
Deferred maintenance and related issues
for consideration by the
Open Space and Parkland Committee

Social Trails



Invasive species control

Pampas grass
Anise
Scotch broom
Italian thistle



Water bars and erosion

Failed water bars



NCCWD road and erosion



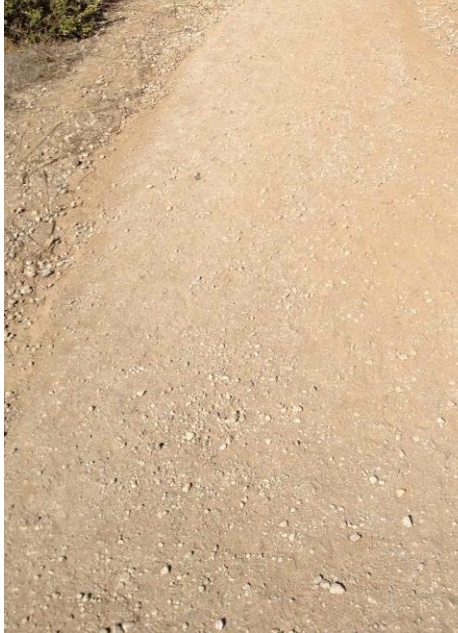
- Needs bolder to block motorcycle access.
- Shows erosion on road; gravels wash onto Fassler Ave.



NCCWD



Erosion on access road



Social trail on ROW



Detention basin not functional

Summary

- NCCWD
 - Road erosion and gravel control; direct stormwater flows into detention basin; ask if willing to add boulder to block motorcycles; block social trails on NCCWD right-of-way access areas
- Fix water bars
- Block social trails
- Add signs explaining why to not cut trails
- Add signs asking dog walkers to pick up
- Need Council & Dept of Public Works support
- Establish “friends of” volunteer group