

# TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

## WHY TRAILS?

The proposed Trail Network Recommendations aim to enhance recreational opportunities and improve quality of life for residents through safety and more comfortable alternatives to motor vehicle travel. The proposed trail network builds upon existing city and regional trails, connects to on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and provides access to transit, schools, and parks. Recommendations include paved linear trail segments, trailheads, and crossing improvements.

## WHAT WE HEARD:

- Improve trail maintenance, specifically related to trail surface quality
- Improve access to trails through more trailheads and removing existing barriers
- Enhance trail connectivity through safer crossings at roadways
- Improve connections to parks, schools, transit, and commercial areas; integrate trails into the overall bicycle and pedestrian network



## CLASS I - PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

### SHARED USE PATH



Shared use paths are routes completely separated from motor vehicles and are often independent from the roadway network. Proposed paths in Milpitas primarily follow creeks, including Penitencia Creek, Calera Creek, and Berryessa Creek. Creek alignments support more direct, low-stress connections among destinations while supporting lengths of uninterrupted recreational space. Paths should be at least 8 feet wide, with a preferred width of 12 feet.

### SIDEPATH



Sidepaths are located adjacent and parallel to a roadway. Located within the right-of-way, sidepaths are separated from motor vehicle travel by an unpaved buffer or other physical barrier. Sidepaths accommodate bicycle and pedestrian travel and can help connect share-used paths and other low-stress bicycling facilities.

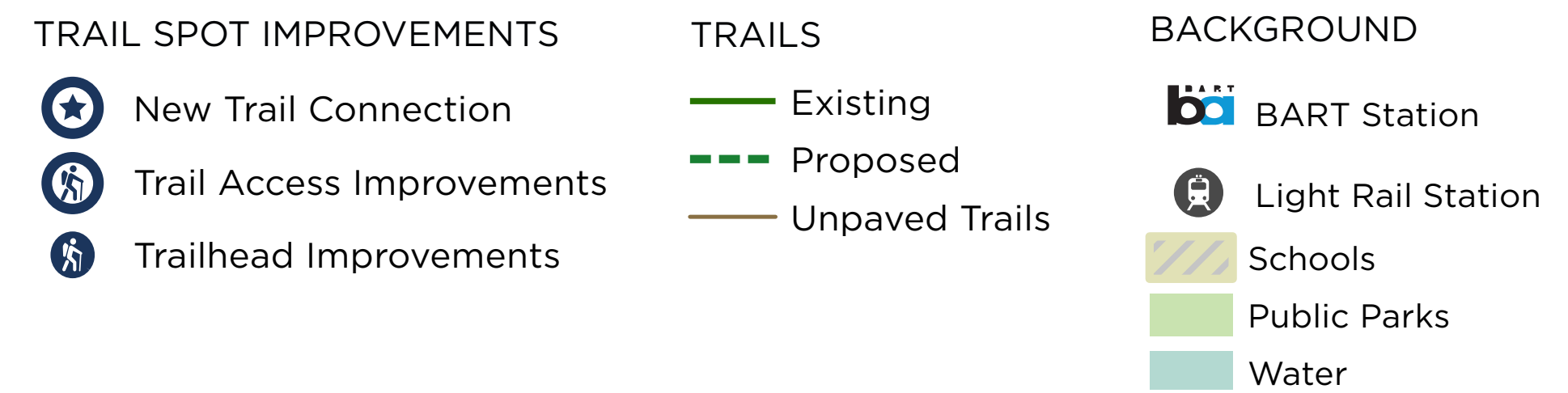
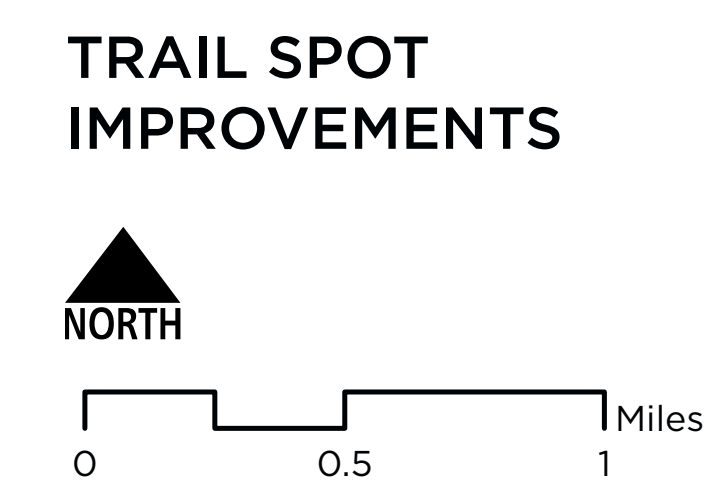
### PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK



- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>TRAILS</b>  | <b>BACKGROUND</b>  |
| Existing       | BART Station       |
| Proposed       | Light Rail Station |
| Unpaved Trails | Schools            |
|                | Railroad           |
|                | Public Parks       |
|                | Streets            |
|                | Water              |

# TRAIL SPOT IMPROVEMENTS

When designing functional, attractive, and inviting trails, the small details matter. Essential elements, including clear access points, wayfinding, trail system information, bike parking, comfort stations, and items like a bike repair station help orient people to the trail system, support their selected activities, and create a welcoming environment for all trail users. The following recommendations include spot improvements that consider both how people access trails and how they navigate barriers, such as major roadway crossings.



- Trailhead Improvements:** Frequently in existing parks or at key entry points for existing trails, trailhead improvements identify locations where amenities such as restrooms, bicycle storage, maps, and wayfinding can improve user experience accessing the trail network.
- New trail connections:** These locations represent opportunities for new connections to the trail network. These locations should include amenities such as those listed below.
- Trail Access Improvement:** Opportunities for new connections and access to the trail network, as well as improvements to roadway crossings to prioritize low-stress travel along trails.

## TRAIL ACCESS & CROSSINGS



Where trails cross roadways, treatments ranging from pavement markings and signage to signals may be used to support safe crossings. The type of treatment depends on the width, traffic volume, and travel speed of the roadway.



Access points connect trail users to the network at locations other than a trailhead. Opportunities include major roadway crossings, neighborhoods and parks, or through parcels that connect high-densities of residents and employees directly to the trail network. These locations should be well-marked with signs and a clear entry point.



Where high-use corridors connect, elements that clearly define the travel pathway and encourage slow speeds can reduce conflict among user groups and improve wayfinding along the trail network.

## TRAILHEAD AMENITIES



Bike amenities at key entry points to trails can include a bike repair station, pictured above, and short-term or long-term bike parking. These amenities allow people to conveniently stop and store their bikes and repair them if needed.



Wayfinding and signage can provide trail users with information regarding nearby destinations and rules of the trail to enhance the route's predictability. Wayfinding elements should be consistent across the system and consider how they integrate with on-street and regional wayfinding systems.



Lighting enhances visibility and perceptions of safety for trail users at night. Distinct, pedestrian-oriented lighting also adds to the trail's sense of place.