

VOLUNTEER TRAIL PROJECT OVERVIEW

After seeing the work the California Conservation Corp did to restore Shoreline Trail, Friends of China Camp volunteers are now taking on the restoration of sections of Bayview Trail. The California Conservation Corps and California Department of Parks and Recreation continue to provide resources, advice, and assessment of the results. We have completed several volunteer trail work days, with very good results. We are developing an amazing team of volunteers from all over the Bay Area, who return again and again to make a difference in this jewel of a park.

Some of our volunteers have told us they would like to know some of the technical details of trail restoration. The information below provides some detail about the work we are doing. If you plan to join us as a volunteer, don't worry: we'll tell you just what you need to do!

China Camp State Park's trails are designated as multi-use trails, accommodating hikers, bikers, and horses. California state standards for multi-use trails are 36" to 48" in width, with exceptions for backcountry and steep trails. FOCC's plan is to develop the lower trails to the maximum width with added turnouts to accommodate easy passing for the varied users. As we move up Bayview Trail we will minimize improvements and allow challenging sections of trail to remain.

- 1.) We need to excavate the trail tread deep enough to erase the "memory" of the worn grade. This is generally 8" to 12".
- 2.) In clay and sandy clay soils we need to add gravel at approximately a 50/50 mix with native soil to harden the tread. Otherwise these sections will be subject to erosion and rutting in winter conditions.
- 3.) The tread needs to be sloped to the outside at a minimum of 5% to maximum 12% for sheet drainage. In flatland areas we can crown the trail at these same percentages from the center point.
- 4.) Rolling swales should be installed strategically at downslope turns, prior to S turns, and switchbacks.
- 5.) We are not authorized to disturb the trails at wetland or drainage passages.
- 6.) If we renovate a switchback we must reverse slope the entry and install drainage dissipation for off flows.

All of these improvements are modeled on the renovation work the California Conservation Corps has done on Shoreline Trail; hiking that trail will give you an idea of what the finished product should look like. It's also a great hike!