

**Ara M**

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**From:** Paul Funk [pfunky@dslextreme.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 8:24 PM  
**To:** aram@rpv.com  
**Cc:** avona@pvplc.org  
**Subject:** For Sept. 29th Upper Filiorum Trails Input meeting--Please research and provide info

Hi, Ara...

At the last meeting, a strong desire was expressed for an improved connector trail from the Three Sisters Reserve to the Upper Filiorum Reserve.

There are currently two existing trails—both in Barkentine Canyon.

The lower trail is in really bad shape, and will be a major erosion problem when the first hard rain hits in the winter. It goes between the Barkentine Trail and the York Associates property line fence, then hugs the line OUTSIDE of the fence up the ridge to the upper limit of York's property, where it turns right, again OUTSIDE of the fence. When we suggested this trail be improved, someone pointed out that the property on the East side of Barkentine Canyon belongs to Jim York. But there are no Private Property signs until the chain link fence, which is at least 100 feet from the canyon bottom, up on the ridge. PLEASE review the official property records available to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and come prepared at the meeting on September 29 with a drawing of the actual property line between the Three Sisters Reserve and Jim York's property. That would be immensely helpful in our discussions and to advise the Land Conservancy on trail construction, maintenance and use in the area.

The upper trail is a seldom-used trail which takes off from upper Barkentine Trail and goes down a steep canyon side on the West and up the other (East) side to a point halfway up the ridge to the McBride Trail which most people at the meeting named "The Matterhorn." I have hiked that trail and I believe it is so steep as to not be suitable for a crossing from Three Sisters to Upper Filiorum (of course, that's just my opinion). Here is the map from the meeting to explain what I mean. A picture is certainly worth more than a thousand words.



**Ara M**

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**From:** SunshineRPV@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 26, 2010 9:38 PM  
**To:** aram@rpv.com  
**Subject:** Filiorum Reserve  
**Attachments:** Missing links map -0439.pdf

MEMO from Sunshine (310-377-8761)  
TO: Ara Mihranian, RPV Planner  
RE: Filiorum Reserve Trail Designation map

First off, thank you for including a compass rose, scale bar, date and the names of the agencies. This sort of thing is rather lacking on the figures in the RPV General Plan.

On the attached map, little things first. There is a black circle around each end of the McBride Trail easement where it is shown incorrectly. An easement is a legal access. A trail is a physical access. They are not always at the same place. The City of RPV holds a 30 foot wide trail easement all along the east, south and west (up to Crenshaw) sides of the Island View development. You should show that the public has a legal right to use the top end of the Rattlesnake Trail.

The white stripe with the yellow dots is where I suggest you move the border between the Filiorum Reserve and the Three Sisters Reserve so that all three of the "sisters" are in the Three Sisters Reserve.

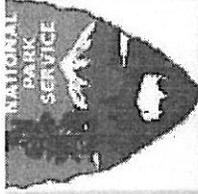
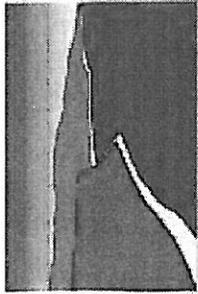
My major concern is for the missing links. From a process point of view, how did you decide to show the trail from the Berma Road Trail to the property line in Kelvin Canyon? This trail is not in the Portuguese Bend Reserve Trails Plan.

What I have marked in red are trails which are a similar situation. Trails to the outside world should be on the Reserve maps so that they are maintained on our side no matter what the situation is outside the City's jurisdiction.

That brings up the signage issue. Years ago the Martingale Trail had a sign that said TRAIL ENDS IN 300 FEET. The reaction among trail users was... "Which idiots in which city put that up? The trail obviously doesn't end." I now hear that there are similar signs at the upper east side of the Portuguese Bend Reserve where the trail crosses into Rolling Hills. The signs should say that the PUBLIC trail ends here and something like... respect private property.

Lastly, I object to the use of a trail head symbol to indicate a property line crossing. A trail head is a place where people gather to begin and end a trail use experience. The PUMP Committee never did finish recommending which amenities should be at which entrances to the Reserves. However, crossing an invisible jurisdiction line does not make a trail head. Please, choose some other symbol.

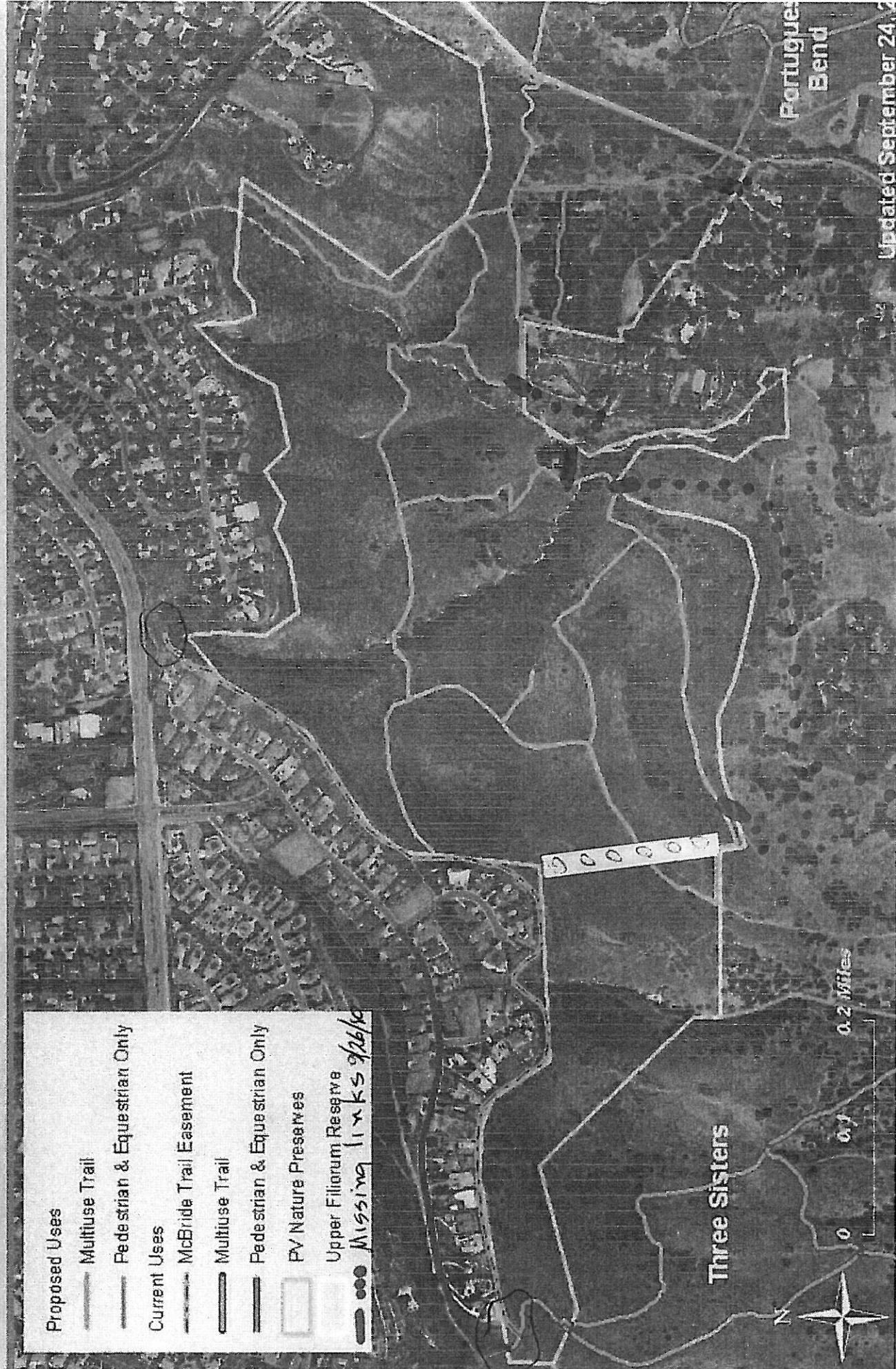
9/29/2010



RANCHO PALOS VERDES

# Upper Filiorum Reserve Trail Designation Public Meeting

- Proposed Uses**
- Multiuse Trail
  - Pedestrian & Equestrian Only
- Current Uses**
- McBride Trail Easement
  - Multiuse Trail
  - Pedestrian & Equestrian Only
  - PV Nature Preserves
  - Upper Filiorum Reserve
  - *Missing links 9/26/10*



**Ara M**

**From:** Troy [troy@eworld-media.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 5:24 PM  
**To:** Ara Mihranian  
**Cc:** Lily Verdone; Tom Odom; RPV City Council  
**Subject:** September 29th Filiorum workshop comments

Ara,

I'm on vacation in Hawaii so I won't be able to attend the September 29th Filiorum workshop. Please add my comments on the proposed Filiorum trails plan.

Thank you,  
 Troy Braswell



**Proposed Filiorum Trails Plan**

I was present at the September 8th Filiorum workshop. Attendees were split into three groups of approximately 12 individuals. After roughly an hour of discussion representatives summarized group conclusions. All three groups appeared to agree on several key points.

- Multi-use trails are preferred
- Keep main trails
- Loop trail in Eucalyptus grove
- Establish crossing to Three Sisters Reserve

Yet the plan proposed for the September 29th workshop excludes bikes on two trails, eliminates several, and provides no link to Three Sisters. Unfortunately no explanation was offered to justify the changes, leaving the public to speculate.

**Segregated Trails**

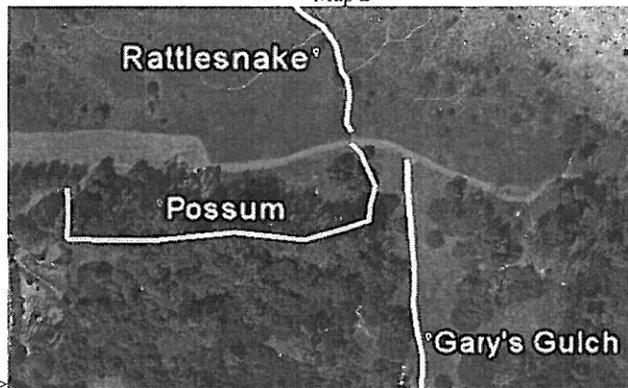
There was clear consensus at the first workshop that all trails should be designated multiuse. Surprisingly, the proposed plan eliminates bikes on two trails. This change is very perplexing. The key may be the steep lower terminus of Gary's Gulch trail which affords no connecting trail for bikes. Since the proposed trail map terminates Possum trail at Gary's Gulch, it may have been designated as pedestrian/equestrian by association.

If this assessment is correct, there are several easy solutions.

- Designate Gary's Gulch trail as multiuse. Cyclists who ride to the bottom can simply ride back up. I have done this many times. This may allow cyclists who live in Portuguese Bend a legal route into the reserve. Currently, they have none.
- Draw Possum trail route to avoid Gary's Gulch trail. There are several options. Use the current entry from Rattlesnake trail (map 1) or change the start of Gary's Gulch trail (map 2).

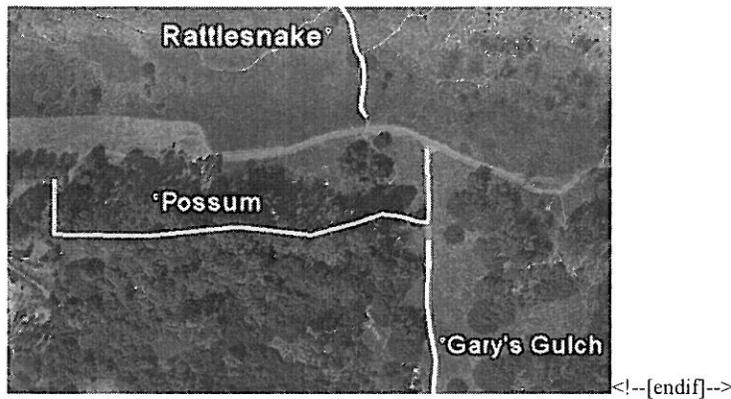
Map 1

Map 2



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- Since there were numerous requests for extending Possum trail below its current location, there are many possible routes that could accommodate multiuse.

### Eliminated Trails

The workshop groups were asked to eliminate unsustainable and redundant trails where possible. After lengthy discussion the groups asked to keep all well established main trails. Yet the proposed plan eliminates several popular trails, including trails that offer a potential crossing into the Three Sisters Reserve.

Several arguments can be presented for keeping these trails.

- After being given specific instructions to remove redundant trails, a number of small trails were discarded. However, the public overwhelmingly asked to keep all of the trails on map 3 (below). Even though some trails appear redundant on a two dimensional map they offer significantly different and desirable user experiences. The best example is Jack's Brim trail, which provides an easier route around Jack's Hat and wonderful views of Vanderlip Canyon.
- Trails used for decades by the public are nearly impossible to close or require exceptional effort. The public has already voted for these popular trails with their feet.
- The elimination of unsustainable or difficult to maintain trails usually applies to steep rugged challenging trails. Our trail system needs to provide opportunities for all skill and conditioning levels. Three Sisters East Fork trail provides this kind of experience.

The Three Sisters East Fork trail also offers the only possible connecting route to the Three Sisters Reserve.

Rancho Palos Verdes is fortunate to have a nationally recognized trail building expert and a capable trail work volunteer program to repair and maintain any trail.

- Eliminating trails to increase contiguous open space is a generalized concept without specific habitat justification. I have always disagreed with this broad swipe at improving habitat. There has never been a specific impact associated with trails that have been closed. Our open space has done a fair job of surviving without human assistance. Eliminating trails may improve fauna mobility but there has never been a study to justify this action.

What studies, if any, have been conducted in the areas adjacent to the trails slated for elimination that verify specific habitat improvement? If they are going to take a trail away from public use it should require some specific, not general, justification. Keep the trails, conduct a scientific study, and eliminate or relocate trails associated with specific impacts.

### Three Sisters Connecting Trail

Completely missing from the proposed plan is a connecting trail into the Three Sisters Reserve. This is a major flaw in the trails plan.

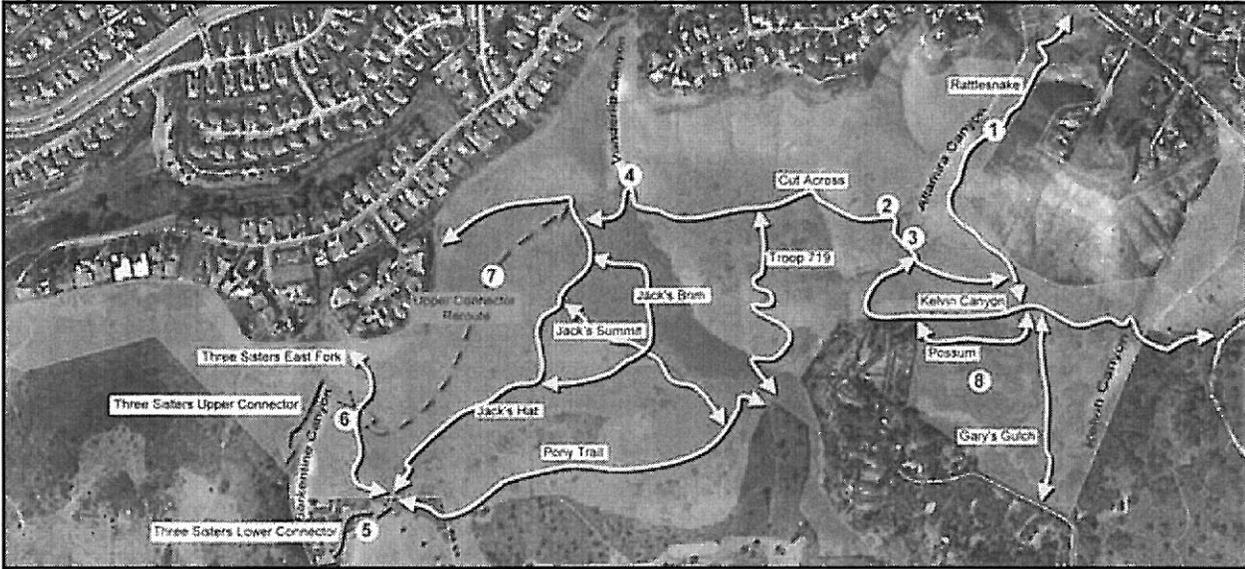
Unfortunately, the easiest route, Lower Three Sisters Connector trail, was not part of the Filiorum property purchase agreement. A small corridor should have been added to complete the link. A dedicated easement is still an option but not likely.

The only usable connector on reserve property would require much work on the existing trail and an extension down to a main trail. That option was supported by the first workshop. It should be included with the "route to be determined". This approach has already been used at the Forrester Reserve with Cristo Que Viento and Crystal trails.

If this connector is not included in the current plan, the NCCP process and approval by multiple agencies makes it very difficult to add later.

The ideal trails plan would include the trails and designations as show in the map below.

Map 3



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[endif]  
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## COMMENTS CONCERNING PROPOSED TRAILS IN THE UPPER FILIORUM- THREE SISTERS AREA

This comment accompanies a DVD-ROM which contains the following:

1. Sub-directory Maps & Comments. This subdirectory contains two annotated images in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format. TECHNICAL NOTE: These two images are designed to be opened in Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader. They have "sticky note" comments which pop up when one clicks on the yellow "sticky note" balloons on the two images.

One image is a portion of the City's map of proposed trails with new annotations marking the re-alignment proposed here. The re-alignment is designed to by-pass and eliminate a steep, highly-erodable section of Barkentine trail that nearly parallels the long-standing, nearby McCarroll fire access/vehicle road. The proposed by-pass cross-trail follows an existing trail along a nearly level contour that connects Barkentine Trail to the McCarroll fire access road and avoids the steep face of the natural terrace that suffers from severe erosion.

The second image is a photo that depicts the steep elevations of the existing upper Barkentine trail. The photo is marked to show both the proposed new cross-trail and the steep, highly erodable section of trail proposed for abandonment.

2. Sub-directory Erosion Photos. This is a series of photos in .jpg (photo) format. It is designed to be opened by a photo program and to be operated as a slide show.

This directory contains selected photos depicting severe erosion on the portion of upper Barkentine Trail that is proposed for closure, erosion repair, and habitat recovery/restoration. These are a few photos taken from the more than 900 photos provided earlier on DVD-ROM.

These few photos show that the erosion is caused primarily by high-speed, downhill bicycle traffic. Note that the high speed off-road bicycle tires plough these finely grained, highly friable top soils with continuous, fall-line furrows to depths as much as ten inches, that cut off the stabilizing roots of grasses and shrubs. As these photos show, the bicycle tracks plough continuous, fall-line channels that accumulate and accelerate rain water streams. The water streams, once accumulated and accelerated, pick up sand, pebbles, stones and even larger rocks that become an abrasive cutting fluid. Two photos depict the deep channels that were cut into this steep upper section of Barkentine Trail in January and February, 2010. Other photos depict the current situation. Over the past summer, bicycles have cut even deeper channels. In many sections, the bicycles have cut new paths adjacent to the deeply channeled old path, thus nearly tripling the width of the pre-bicycle path, and ploughing yet more of this fragile, irreplaceable topsoil.

Once this unique, fragile, fine topsoil is eroded, the native habitat cannot survive or propagate, and invasive foreign weeds take over. Precisely because of the steepness of this natural terrace face, it supports mature, old growth scrub sage habitat that survived farming and ranching. That old growth supports the species of plants and animals upon which conservation and preservation efforts are focused. Where the topsoil is lost to erosion, all conservation and preservation efforts fail in the eroded area.

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2010

PLANNING, BUILDING AND  
CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mother Nature took thousands, if not tens of thousands, of years to evolve this unique topsoil and the plants and animals that it supports. It quite literally is irreplaceable.

The depicted topsoil damage is being done by a few tens of high-speed, downhill bicycle riders who enter the McCarroll fire access road at the top of Upper Filiorum and divert from the McCarroll fire access road to this very steep upper section of Barkentine Trail, presumably because it is more thrilling to rush down the steepest natural terrace faces than to ride down McCarroll fire access road.

It is very rare to see a bicyclist peddling uphill, even on the McCarroll fire access road. During eight years of observation, no uphill rider has been seen on this steep section of Barkentine Trail. Only one uphill bicycle rider has been seen on the McCarroll fire access road at this elevation. Horses have been observed on only two occasions on Barkentine Trail. Horse hoof prints have been observed on about five occasions in that same period. Horses do little damage in dry periods but create deep tracks in these soils when they are muddy.

The downhill bicyclists have even used tools to smooth out "bumps" in the trail that actually were acting as rain-water barriers which diverted water off the trails and prevented accumulation of water into fall-line channels. The result of trail "smoothing" was to create and connect fall-line channels that directly caused even more destructive accumulation and acceleration of erosive water streams.

The nearby McCarroll fire access/vehicle road that roughly parallels upper Barkentine Trail has already been stripped by erosion of top soil, down to hard pan and gravel. Diverting bicycles to McCarroll does much less damage than that being suffered by upper Barkentine Trail.

3. Sub-directory EROSION PHOTOS 2. This subdirectory contains additional photos in .jpg format. Open with a photo computer program. Suitable for slide show

4. Subdirectory EROSION PHOTOS .PDF. This subdirectory contains the same photos converted from .jpg (photo) format to .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format.

Lowell R. Wedemeyer  
13 Clipper Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

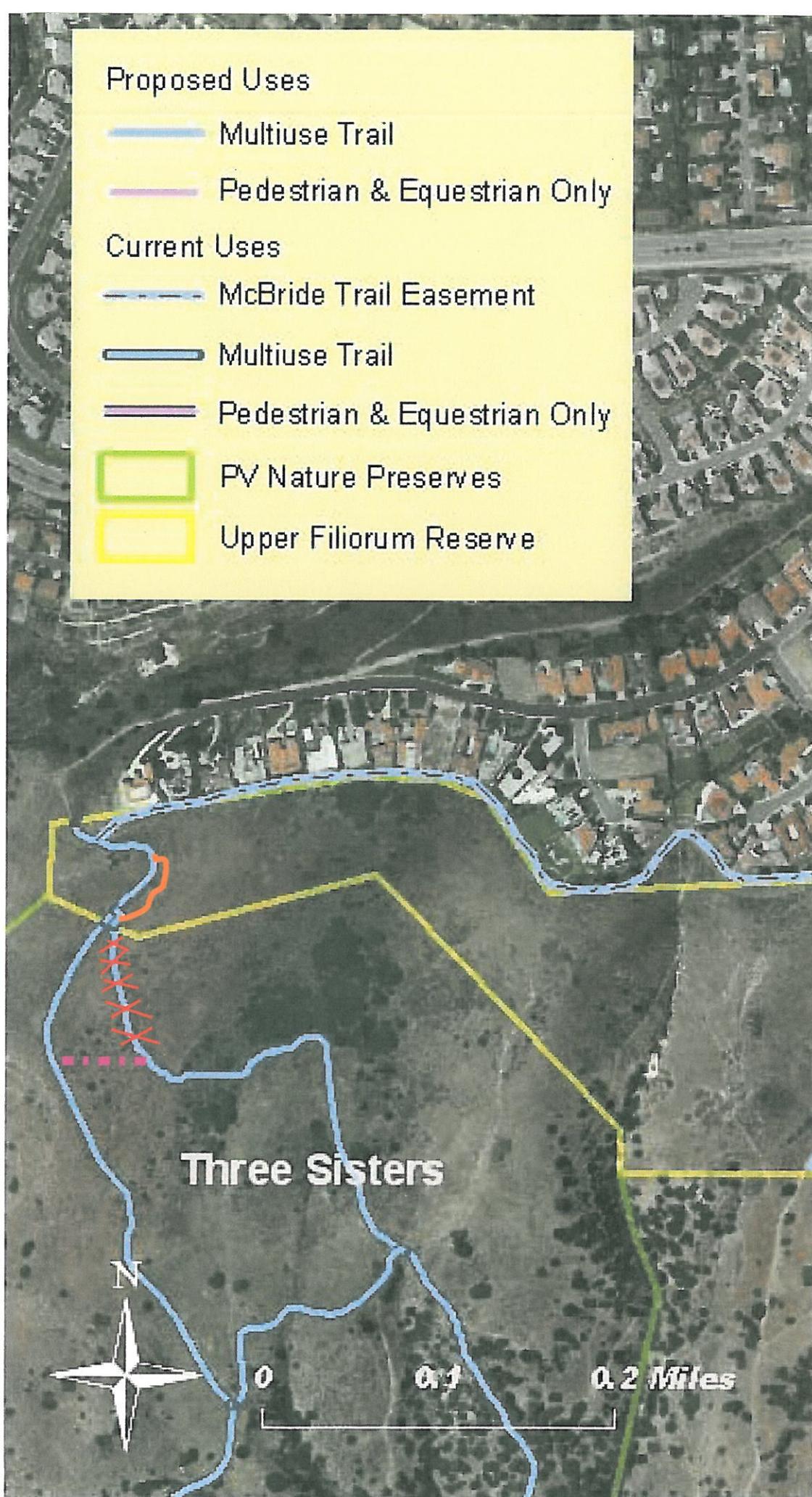


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Three Sisters

N

0

0.1

0.2 Miles

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**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 8:24 PM  
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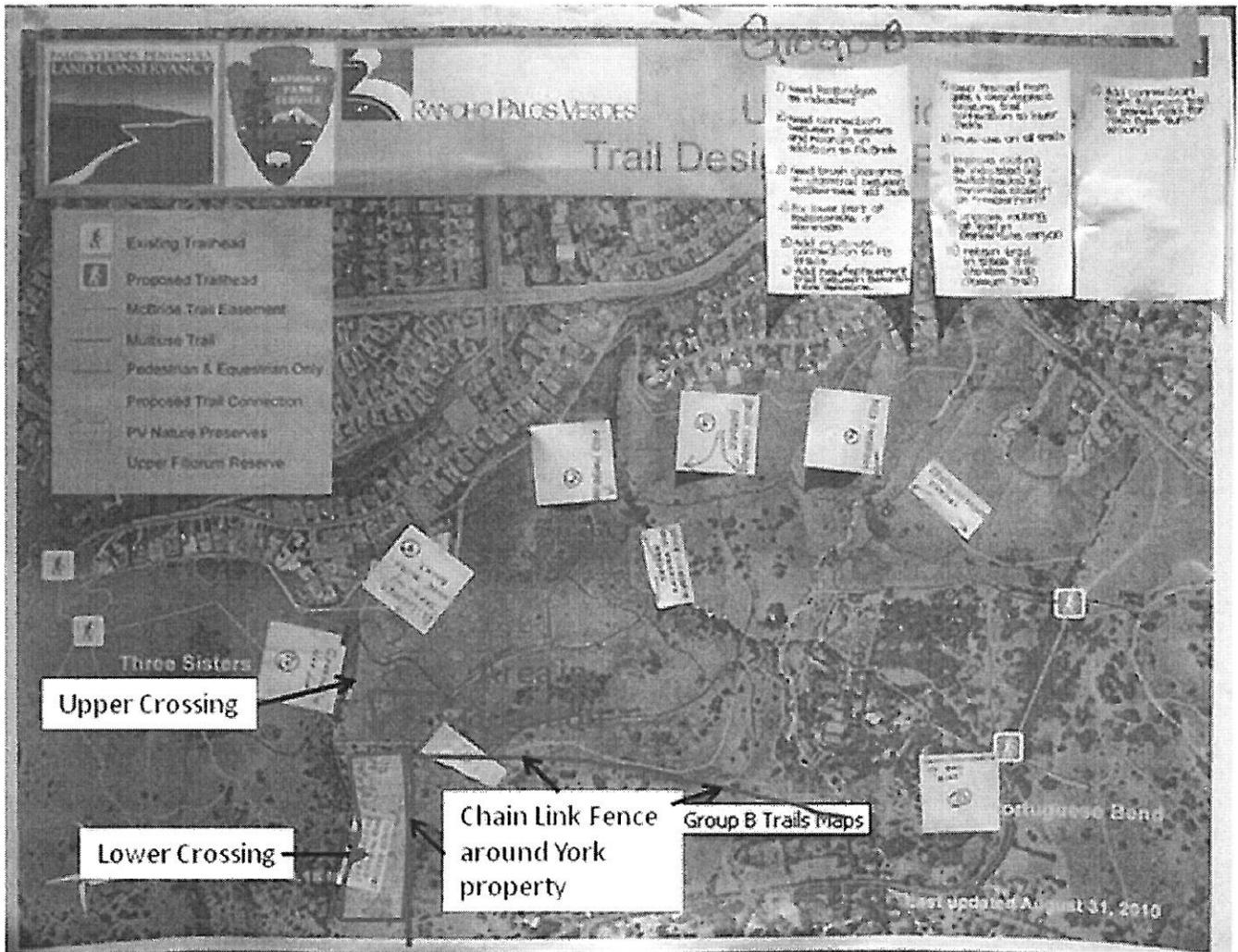
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Thank you in advance for your help.

PAUL FUNK  
Peninsula resident and interested Hiker

**Ara M**

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**From:** Al Peschel [alpeschel@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:08 PM  
**To:** aram@rpv.com  
**Cc:** avona@pvplc.org.  
**Subject:** Trail Continuity: Burma Road into/beyond Kelvin Canyon (CORRECTION)

CORRECTED VERSION FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD (bolded section)

Hi Ara-

I have been a resident of RPV since 1967 and wife Marilyn since 1986. I am writing you on behalf of preserving trail continuity with respect to the provisions of the RPV Conceptual Trails Plan.

In 1985, the Palos Verdes Loop Trail Project divided the 26 mile ideal route into 100 segments. In 1988, my wife and I adopted Segment 40. Physically, the trail is a little challenging. Our goal has been to monitor development proposals. If one came along, our commitment to the Project was - and still is - to lobby for trail continuity, public access in perpetuity and that the trail be improved.

We were so disappointed when even though I testified before the Public Use Master Plan Committee (PUMP), the portion of our Segment, from the Burma Road Trail into Kelvin Canyon was not included in the PUMP Trails Plan.

The Palos Verdes Loop Trail as proposed in what is now being called the Upper Filiorum Reserve (which is a sub-area of the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve) is described in the RPV Conceptual Trails Plan (CTP) as crossing the "Jack's Hat Parcel" SECTION THREE, trail A9. When the CTP was written, this land was owned by the Filiorum Corporation.

Now that this land has been divided into three or more parcels, the trail continuity is at risk. And we see that our special quarter mile of trail is shown on the Upper Filiorum Trail map ***even though it is not in the Portuguese Bend Reserve.***

We are writing to hopefully prevent a circumstance which we understand occurred when the Portuguese Bend Reserve trail map was adopted.

We hope that this specific public trail omission will be corrected in the update of the rest of the Reserves' trail plans.

And we trust also that any additional places lacking trail continuity be addressed in the same spirit of the long term provisions of the RPV Conceptual Trails Plan.

Thanking you in advance,  
Alfred & Marilyn Peschel

Ara M

**From:** Snell, Kathy A [Kathy\_Snell@apl.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 1:24 PM  
**To:** aram@rpv.com  
**Cc:** iverdone@pvplc.com, PortugueseBendCA@aol.com, Kathy Snell  
**Subject:** Inclusion of PRIVATE PROPERTY in Nature Reserve boundary causing hazards

Please take a look at all of the Nature Reserve maps that show an incorrect boundary that includes privately held property on Narcissa Drive in the Reserve. The inclusion of the private property on your maps has caused scores of people to enter private property. Some of the trespassers have caused traffic problems when standing in the middle of the street on a sharp curve almost being hit by on-coming traffic.

Since hikers, hikers with dogs and bikes are continuing to cause dangerous traffic situations, will you please correct all of the nature preserve maps on various websites and post signs. The fire road gate at Vanderlip should also be closed up.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration. Kathy Snell 310-707-8876

Private properties 73, 17, 18 and 19 need to be removed from the Reserve Boundary



Green line is incorrect on Upper Filicium Reserve Map



7572-001-903

9/29/2010

