



Santa Clara County

Open Space Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Loop Trail Eases the Climb in the East Foothills

San Jose, CA May 17, 2007 – When it comes to the Open Space Authority’s Boccardo Trail in the foothills above Alum Rock Park, there’s more than one way to get to the top. The opening Sunday, May 27, of the new Boccardo Loop will provide a second approach to the trail summit, a gratifying goal that offers views from San Francisco to Gilroy on a clear day.

“This is a great improvement to the Boccardo Trail, creating a loop and an easier way to the top,” said Jim Foran, chair of the Authority’s board of directors. “I’m looking forward to hiking it myself.”

The first reach of the Boccardo Trail, opened to hikers, cyclists and equestrians on May 11, 2002, gains approximately 1,250 feet in elevation with the grade in some sections reaching 30 percent. The new loop turns off the existing trail near its beginning and joins it again near the peak but follows an old ranch road and a series of switchbacks that stretch the climb by an extra half mile.

The result is a gentler slope and additional views into the eastern portions of Penitencia Canyon. It also provides the opportunity for a different return. The round trip using both portions of the trail is just over three miles.

The Boccardo Trail is located on 1,676 acres owned by the Open Space Authority in the foothills north and east of Alum Rock Park. Access is through the park on the Todd Quick Trail. The new loop will be open to visitors starting May 27. An official dedication will be held in the fall.

Maps are available at the trailhead and can also be downloaded from the Authority's website, www.openspaceauthority.org.

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The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) is an independent special district created in 1993 to help preserve, protect and manage urban and non-urban open space in the areas of Campbell, Milpitas, Santa Clara, San Jose, Morgan Hill, and southern Santa Clara County.

The OSA has protected over 10,000 acres of land through purchase or easement and contributed to conservation easements covering an additional 2,180 acres.

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