



MEMORANDUM

Date: 31 March 2020
To: Jon Campo | Rob LaPorte
Organization: Marin County Parks (MCP) | Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC)
From: Erik Stromberg, ASLA – RDG | Gary Roth, ASLA - RLLA
Project: Roy's Redwoods Visitor Access and Public Engagement
RE: Final Schematic Design
ENC: Schematic Design
CC: Lauren Hammack, Prunuske Chatham, Inc.

Rob and Jon:

The following design summary is intended to provide a brief narrative of the Roy's Redwoods schematic design. This is our opportunity to capture notable elements of the design and document relevant decisions that occurred between the concept and schematic design phases. This narrative builds off the design basis submitted with the concept design by focusing on changes since the concept design phase. The dilemma with providing a brief narrative is the necessity to omit significant detail behind the decisions reflected in the schematic design. Signage alone, for example, could benefit from multiple pages of discussion to cover the intent and design basis. With that in mind, we intend this narrative to be a companion to the schematic design drawings and to offer an additional -if not exhaustive - layer of detail that is not present on the plans.

We are pleased with the progression of the design and are eager to continue moving towards implementation. Our effort over the last year to get to know and understand the site has led us to forming a special bond to Roy's Redwoods. We are invested and we look forward to the next steps!

RESTORATION
DESIGN
GROUP, INC

BERKELEY
2332 5th Street, Suite C
Berkeley
California 94710
510.644.2798

MOUNT SHASTA
1808 Deetz Road
Mount Shasta
California 96067

MEDFORD
1495 S Oakdale Avenue
Medford
Oregon 97501
541.238.2812

Sincerely,

Erik Stromberg, ASLA
Principal Landscape Architect
Restoration Design Group, Inc.

Gary Roth, ASLA
Owner
Roth | LaMotte Landscape Architecture

RDG | RLLA Team

*Restoration Design Group
Roth | LaMotte Landscape Architecture
Hughes Structural
Miller Pacific
Campbell Grading
R. Borinstein Company*

SCHEMATIC DESIGN SUMMARY

An overview of elements fundamental to the design of visitor access improvements at Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Overview

Project Goals:

Design a trail system that achieves multiple benefits of habitat restoration, hydrologic restoration, and an immersive and sustainable visitor experience.

1. Protect the diverse biological resources on-site
 - a. Support the decompaction and revegetation of designated sensitive resource areas
 - b. Guide visitors to less sensitive key destinations
2. Improve hydrologic function
 - a. Work in concert with hydrologic restoration
 - b. Integrate with long-term restoration goals
3. Provide access and amenities for visitors to enjoy Roy's Redwoods into the future
 - a. Create a more legible experience for the first-time visitor
 - b. Maintain existing sense of discovery for new and returning visitors
 - c. Propose methods and materials appropriate to the sites character, level of use, and its setting of the old growth redwood forest in an alluvial valley
 - d. Consider how visitors circulate through the entire Preserve and to trails on adjacent open spaces

Revisions Since the Second Draft Schematic Design Submittal

1. Added Roy's Loop Trail connector trails
2. Provided structural designs for boardwalk and new 28-ft long pedestrian bridge
3. Revised layout of short southern boardwalk
4. Revised Meadow to Fire Trail section of Roy's Loop Trail
5. Added gathering areas and informal seating
6. Revised signage layouts based on MCP discussion

Coordination with Restoration Plans

Currently the visitor access improvement plans are further developed than the restoration plans, which are at the concept alternatives phase. Final public access elements are subject to future coordination with the restoration to ensure the two remain compatible and supportive. It is anticipated that next round of restoration plans will respond to these schematic designs. Any new opportunities or conflicts that arise from this process will be able to be addressed as the public access plans move forward. The primary elements that will require special consideration are:

1. All boardwalks are intended to be under 30" in height to avoid guardrails. The final grades of the channel should consider this requirement and adjust the grades

accordingly. Any constraints to meet this requirement should be identified so that alternative options can be developed for the crossings.

2. The secondary trail alignments that cross the valley floor may need to be adjusted to allow for the restoration goals to be met. These trails may require realignment or the addition of scramble elements to provide suitable access during wet conditions.
3. The Access and Discovery Trail from the Fairy Ring to the Nature Exploration Area will need to be designed to remain above the primary floodplain to provide suitable access without a significant maintenance burden. This will need to be investigated closely during the refinement of the restoration to evaluate feasibility and the degree of compromise this trail may bring to the restoration (if any).

Design Summary

Trail Alignments

1. Final alignments will be flagged and laid out in the field during construction to requirements based on trail types. Schematic layouts provide guidance and confidence that routes can be found to meet trail type requirements. Microtopography, trees, and surface conditions will all influence final alignments.
2. Sections of the Access and Discovery Trail are getting close to maximum grade as currently laid out and will require careful attention during final layout
3. The existing meadow trail and sections of the two Roy's Loop Connector Trails will require significant effort to decommission. Additional social trails within the grove are not typically shown for decommission but will be - likely as part of the restoration project. Decommissioning will be done by brushing, decompaction and placing duff. Revegetating with vegetation transplants from plants salvaged during trail construction
4. Revegetation efforts will need to be coordinated for extent and strategy. Duff, logs and plants will be salvaged where they conflict with trail alignments. This material will be used for the restoration of the redwood forest understory. It is expected that intensive revegetation will occur in the downstream heavily impacted section of the redwood grove.

Accessibility

1. Accessibility is based on the 2016 Marin County Inclusive Access Plan and to meet the criteria for an Access and Discovery Trail
2. Accessible parking and the trail alignments are shown as depicted in the preferred concept plan. Final layout of the trail from the Fairy Ring to the Nature Exploration Areas will need to respond to restoration strategies. If the restoration plans indicate this trail will be subject to frequent disturbance, it may be best to not include this section as part of the Access and Discovery Trail.

Trail Types

The following trail types are depicted on the plans. This has remained unchanged since the concept level plan, although the secondary route and scramble are now anticipated to be blended, with scramble elements included along secondary trails are required for wet weather passage.

1. Access and Discovery Trail (4 to 6-ft width)
 - a. Accessible grade
 - b. Edging as needed
 - c. Conditioned firm and stable surface
2. Primary Trail Route (2 to 4-ft width)
 - a. Natural surface
 - b. Weave around some downed trees, cut through larger ones
 - c. Include trail steps
 - d. Possibly accessible in slope, but not in surface
3. Secondary Route (2 to 3-ft width)
 - a. Natural surface
 - b. Low use route
 - c. Clearly defined edges
4. Scramble
 - a. Includes elevated surfaces that are not accessible
 - b. Low logs and boards to keep people off wet forest floor
 - c. Simple to construct, simple to maintain, annual maintenance required
 - d. Legible risk – limit hazardous conditions
 - e. Deemphasize route to maintain character of an informal trail
 - f. Sign at the entrance/map explaining the scramble

Boardwalks and Bridges

Boardwalks are now more detailed but will require a full framing plan for the final design phase. Footings and lateral plates are galvanized steel. Longitudinal beams and decking are all anticipated to be reclaimed redwood from the Marin Municipal Water District stockpile along Bullfrog Fire Road. All boardwalks are designed without guardrails.

Project Team discussion on the height of the edge protection on boardwalks resulted in the preliminary acceptance of a 5-inch height as shown on the plans. The 6-inch prescribed height in the IAP was perceived as being out of scale to the Project Team and was not preferred. Review of the applicable codes requirements was not definitive. For additional guidance, the Project Team reached out to the inclusive access community to provide feedback on preferences. The feedback was varied with recommendations ranging from 2 to 6-inches. 5-inches was deemed a suitable compromise and was moved forward for the Schematic Design Phase.

There are two edge protection types depicted on the plans. Although not shown, the intent is to use the wood blocking detail (Type 1) as the primary edge protection and the round detail (Type 2) as an accent at the boardwalk ends and spurs. The final design will clearly prescribe their location.

The schematic design now includes a longer 28-ft span hiker only bridge. The abutments and bridge design are derivative of the boardwalk designs. The bridge includes a rail and steel beams. The bridge also uses wood from the MMWD reclaimed redwood stockpile.

Nature Exploration Area

The work involved in creating the Nature Exploration Area primarily focuses on delineating the space with natural logs set at the perimeter. Additional logs and log rounds will be

loosely placed with the intention that they will be moved and manipulated by open space visitors. Curation of additional loose parts such as branches and boards will be led by MCP staff on an ongoing basis. The intent is to maintain the natural appearance and function of the space and to limit any permanent elements that appear designed - other than those created and composed by the open space users themselves. See the Concept Design Summary for a more detailed synopsis of the design basis for the Nature Exploration Area.

Gathering Areas

Gathering areas along the Access and Discovery Trail provide places to pause and rest. At the entry along Nicasio Valley Road, a primary gathering area located in the area of the existing restroom, provides the location of the primary wayfinding and a natural meeting point for groups. Additional gathering areas on either end of the meadow are sited to take advantage of the views of the meadow and redwood forest edge and begin to provide separation from the road and associated noise. All gathering areas are defined by the placement of natural logs and the occasional boulder.

Site Amenities

As an open space preserve, Roy's Redwoods is intended to remain natural and undeveloped. With that as a guiding principle, site furnishing such as benches, tables, restrooms and trash receptacles are avoided. Even the trail experience is intended to blend into the site. Visitors are guided by trails and the occasional use of soft trail edging of redwood fascines (bundled branches) and downed logs to guide users through the site and reduce off trail travel. The use of fences is limited to the entry to preserve the undeveloped character that currently exists at Roy's Redwoods.

Interpretation and Signage

The concept design phase provided various options for interpretation. Further progression of the interpretive design elements will happen during the next design phase. For now, the interpretive elements are not depicted on the design plans but are anticipated to be incorporated in the final project following continued discussion with GGNPC and MCP.

Roy's Redwoods provides MCP with new opportunities to implement the newly developed signage plan on an open space preserve. As there are many decisions that may help with precedents within the preserve system, MCP will continue to lead the ultimate wayfinding strategy. The current iteration is depicted on the schematic design plans. The Project Team's consideration for the need for clear wayfinding and the desire to preserve the undeveloped nature of the site has led to limiting signs to the entry with only wayfinding posts within the interior of the preserve. The large gathering area at the entry will be home to the primary sign and notice board. Tertiary signs may be used at the north and south entry to provide additional guidance to the primary sign as well as details on the Access and Discovery Trail designated route. Special consideration to the scramble will also be considered on how best to communicate the unique trail conditions of the scramble. Currently the plans show the signs at the scramble as a wayfinding post, however a tertiary sign is an option. The scramble will be identified at all entries to that trail type. Finally, alternate wayfinding post designs are being considered to reflect the undeveloped character of Roy's Redwoods. The design of these posts will continue to be discussed leading to final design.