# EL CERRITO TRAILS SIGNAGE PLAN

Wayfinding Concepts | July 2016 | REVISED DRAFT

#### Acknowledgements

#### **PROJECT PARTNERS**

The El Cerrito Trails Signage Plan represents a collaborative effort between the City of El Cerrito and the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, with technical assistance provided by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.







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### **Plan Overview**

The El Cerrito Trails Signage Plan provides a framework for the design and development of wayfinding signage for the City of El Cerrito's network of public trails, pathways, and stairs. The concepts presented in this plan are intended to serve as a resource to guide the city in the establishment of trail signage that complements, and integrates with, existing citywide signage and wayfinding programs. In particular, the designs attempt to relate—in color and form expression—to city graphic standards detailed in *The City of El Cerrito Signage & Wayfinding Program, Graphic Standards Manual* (Release 1.0 / 07.14.2008).

While existing wayfinding programs detail signage standards for the city's urban areas, including citywide walking and bicycling routes, this plan focuses on the city's network of off-street trails and little-known street-connectors. The purpose for establishing a wayfinding signage plan in these areas is to:

- Increase visibility, access, and use of the city's existing network of trails, pathways, and stairs
- Improve connectivity between identified citywide bicycle and pedestrian routes, key community destinations, and existing trails
- Enhance wayfinding and improve trail user safety
- Advance city goals to promote walkability and enhance the quality of life for its residents

The primary audience for these signs is non-motorized trail users (e.g. walkers, hikers, off-road bicyclists, etc.).

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project planning area encompasses the City of El Cerrito, focusing on areas with identified existing public trails and pathways. Specifically, the plan concentrates on the Hillside Natural Area, given the extent of trails

located in this area and its popularity with users. Concepts for signage outside of the Hillside Natural Area were also developed to illustrate how the sign program may be applied within the broader urban context.

#### **SIGN TYPES**

Four sign types were developed for the El Cerrito Trails Signage Plan, each servicing a distinct function which, collectively, forms a comprehensive wayfinding signage program for the city's public trails and pathways.

The **Gateway Kiosk** sign concept, indicated by the "S1" prefix, represents the largest sign concept and includes a detailed information panel placed at primary trailhead locations (aka "Gateways"). It serves as a visual cue for trail users entering a park site and provides a detailed map of the area as well as trail route information and use guidelines.

The **Trail Entry** sign concept, indicated by the "S2" prefix, is intended to be placed at secondary trail access and entry points. Though smaller that the S1 Kiosk sign, the S2 Trail Entry sign still provides a detailed map for trail users with basic orientation and use guidelines.

The Trail Directional Marker concept, indicated by the "S3" prefix, is the primary wayfinding sign type developed for use at key trail junctions and intersections. The S3 Trail Directional Markers are best suited for off-street, natural surface conditions and/or locations where a lower-profile sign type is desired.

The **Street Directional** sign concept, indicated by the "S4" prefix, provides a pedestrian-scale sign type that can be applied within the city's more urbanized areas and adjacent to street rights-of-way\* in order to direct users to nearby trail entry points and/or other community resources.

#### **MODIFIED SIGNS**

Two of the developed sign types—S3 and S4—were further modified for use on trails and pathways located outside the Hillside Natural Area (see "Other Citywide Trail and Path Signs" section, p. 47).

These two modified signs were developed primarily to delineate the city's stand-alone trail, stairway, and path segments. They have been labeled in this document with an "O" prefix to indicate their intended use outside of the Hillside Natural Area. In addition, the modified S3 and S4 signs feature a logo header titled "El Cerrito Paths and Trails" instead of "Hillside Natural Area."

The signs do not replace the city's existing and planned on-street bike and pedestrian wayfiding programs. Rather, they provide identification for less-visible paths and trails that ties into the wayfinding plan developed for the larger Hillside Natural Area. Where appropriate, these signs direct users to specific destinations and other park areas but are not intended to serve as trail maps for the city's parks themselves; no S1 or S2 signs were developed for any locations outside of the Hillside Natural Area as part of this plan.

#### SIGN PLACEMENT

The placement and location of signs detailed in the El Cerrito Trails Signage Plan is approximate and intended primarily to illustrate general wayfinding concepts. Final sign placement will be subject to field verification and specific site conditions.

Where appropriate, some of the signs may be mounted to existing sign posts, in particular the S2 Trail Entry and S4 Street Directional sign types. Opportunities to take advantage of existing sign post infrastructure should be verified and confirmed with the appropriate city departments.

#### SIGN MATERIALS

The materials indicated in this sign plan were identified to balance durability with character. A key consideration in the design was to highlight and reflect the natural settings in which many of these signs are intended to be placed.

As such, unpainted cedar wood posts have been chosen to provide a natural, rustic feel to the signs located at trailheads and along natural surface pathways. As an alternate, powder-coated aluminum posts and frames can also be utilized to great effect in these areas.

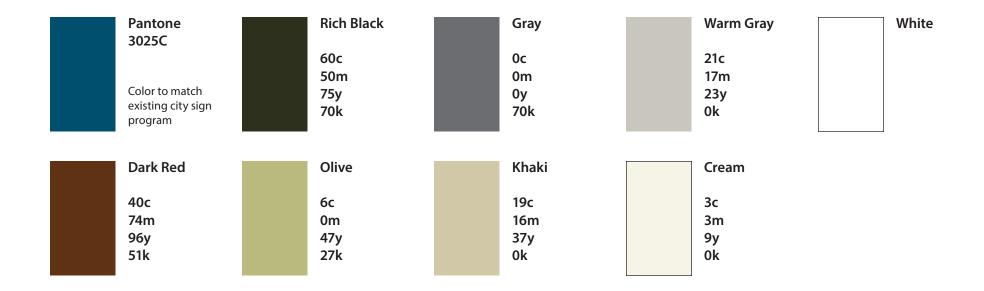
The informational display panels at the main Gateway Kiosks are fabricated from <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" thick high pressure laminate (or similar) to provide maximum durability against sun exposure, scratching, fading, and graffiti. The high pressure laminate material is commonly used in this type of application and setting and is usually backed by a 10 year warranty.

The Gateway Kiosk includes a decorative nameplate as a design element to mark and provide a unique identifier to the area's main trailhead locations. The nameplates are fabricated from Cor-Ten steel to match the city's existing wayfinding signage material. As an alternate, the panel could be fabricated from powder coated aluminum.

All other sign panels depicted in this plan are fabricated from standard aluminum, providing durability and a lower cost for replacements and future additions to the wayfinding program.

\* The S4 Street Directional sign is not intended to provide wayfinding information to motorized vehicle operators. S4 signs located within street rights-of-way should be placed under the guidance of the City's Public Works Department to adhere to all appropriate regulations.

## **Color Palette**



# Typography

**Myriad Pro** 

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 1234567890

# **S1 Gateway Kiosk Concept**

Freestanding, upright double post informational display kiosk. Located at primary trailheads / gateways.



#### NAMEPLATE

30" x 18" (tapered to 7.5") decorative nameplate with Hillside Natural Area logo (illustrative, city logo variation)

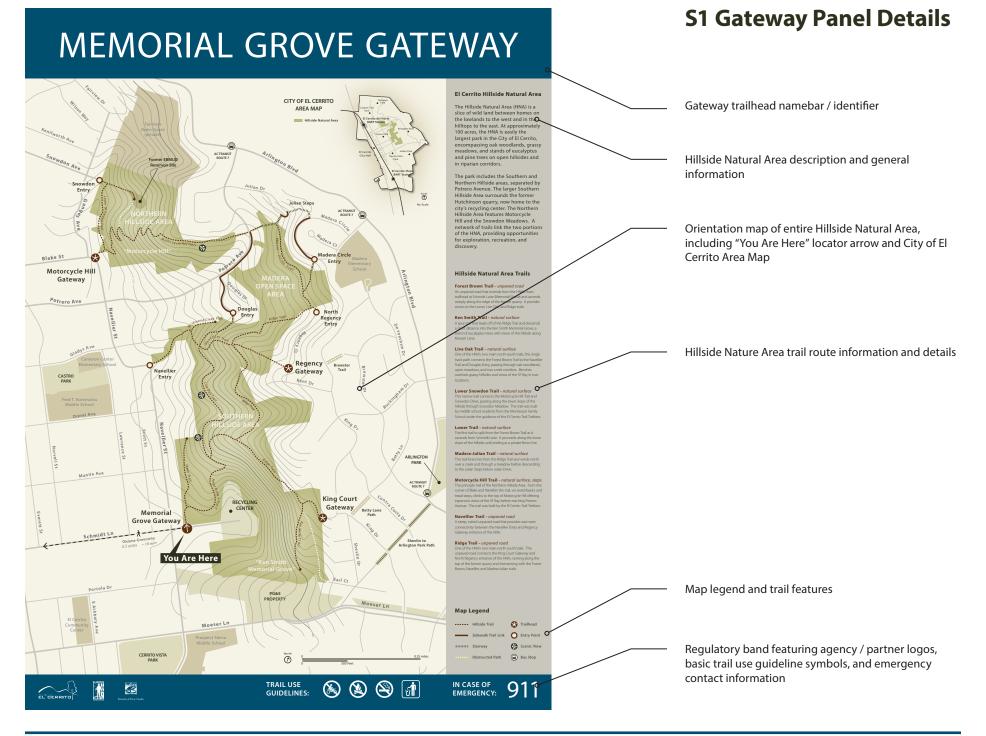
1/4" Corten steel with laser cut lettering and logo, bracket mounted to posts ALTERNATE: Powder coated aluminum panel

#### POSTS

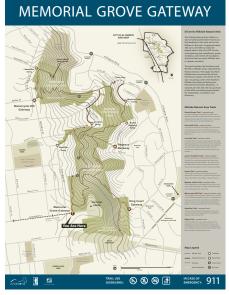
6" x 6" cedar wood posts (unpainted) ALTERNATE: Powder coated aluminum posts

#### **KIOSK PANEL**

30" x 40" informational display panel 1/2" thick high pressure laminate (or similar), bracket mounted to posts



#### **S1 Gateway Kiosk Locations**



S1-1 Memorial Grove Gateway

# <section-header>

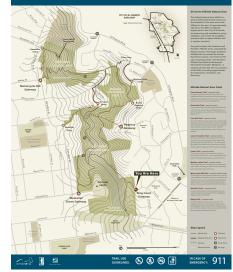
S1-3 Regency Gateway

# MOTORCYCLE HILL GATEWAY

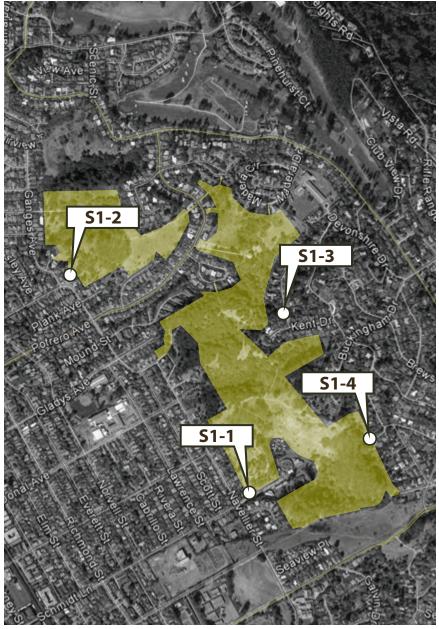


S1-2 Motorcycle Hill Gateway

#### KING COURT GATEWAY



S1-4 King Court Gateway



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# S2 Trail Entry Sign Concept

Upright, single post-mounted informational sign. Located at secondary trail access / entry points (off street).

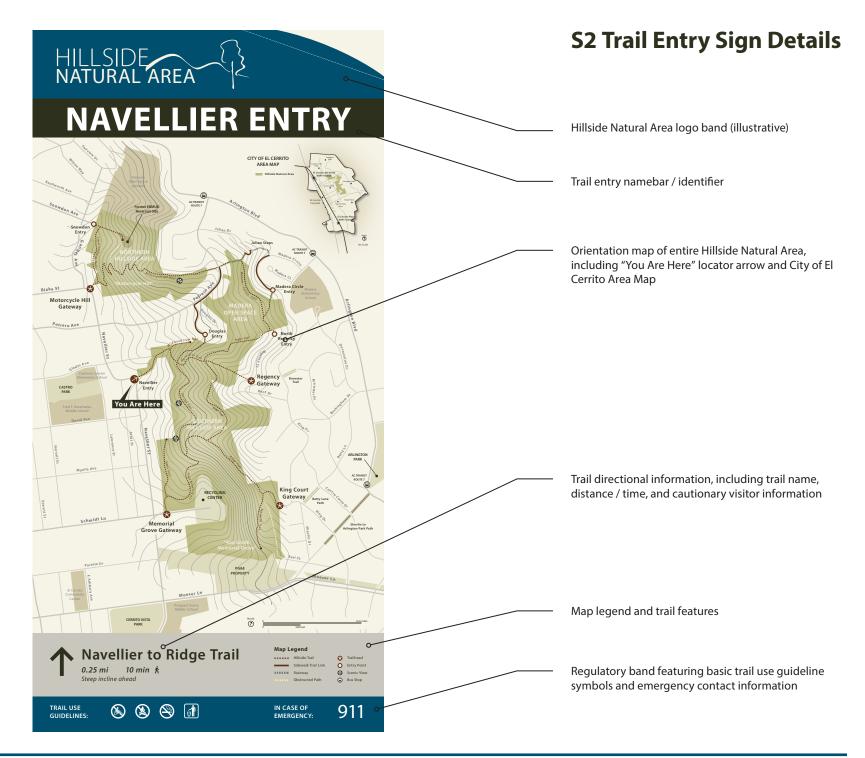


#### POST

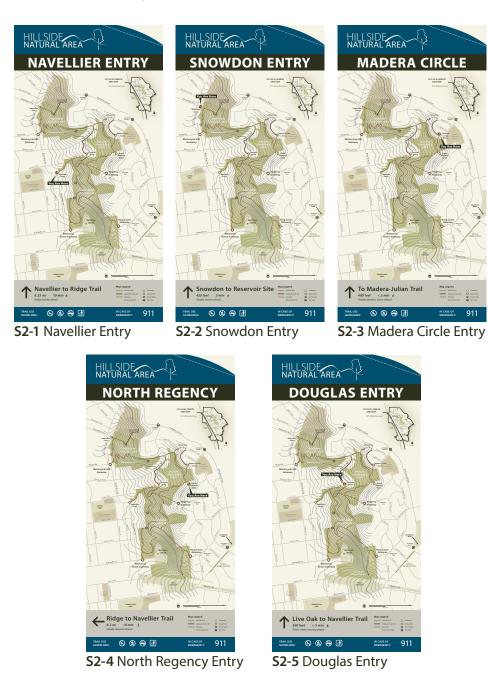
Galvanized steel U-channel or square tubing; mount to existing posts where possible ALTERNATE A: 4" x 4" cedar wood post (unpainted) ALTERNATE B: Powder coated aluminum post

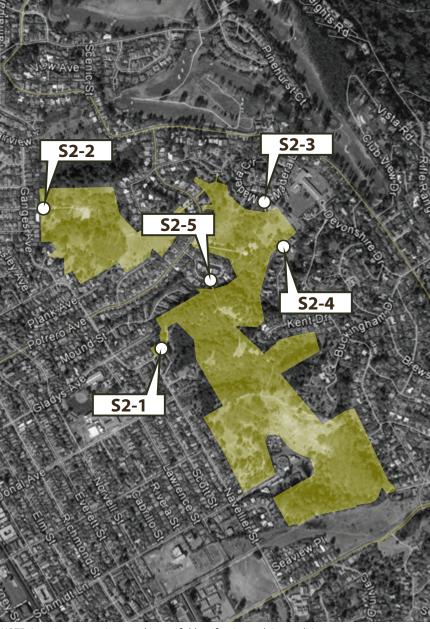
#### ENTRY PANEL

18" x 36" informational display panel Typical aluminum street sign fabrication



#### **S2 Trail Entry Sign Locations**

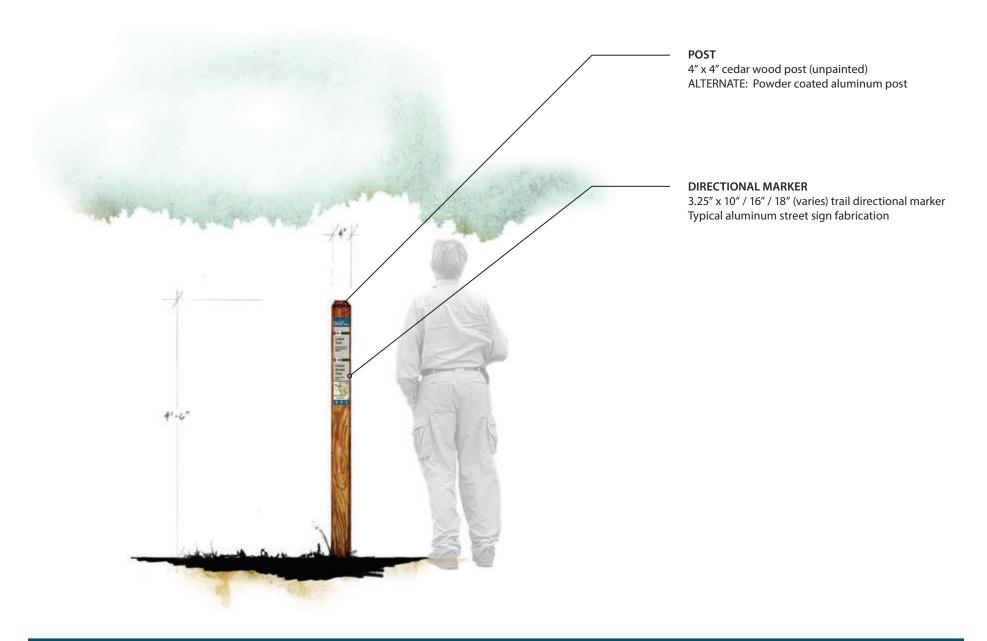




NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# **S3 Trail Directional Marker Concept**

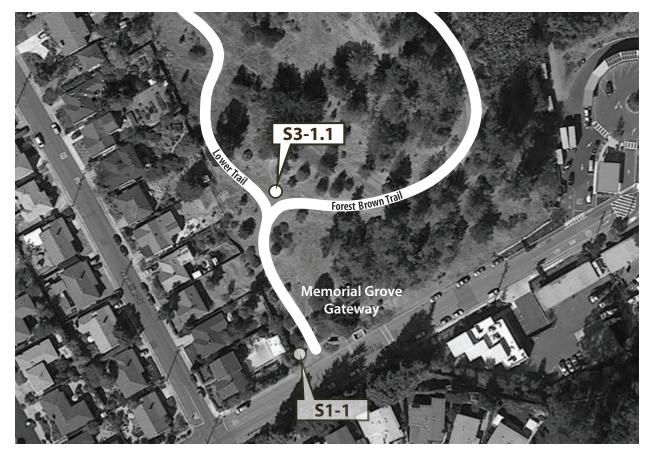
Post-mounted directional markers located at major trail junctions and intersections.





#### **S3 Trail Directional Marker Locations**

S3-1 Forest Brown and Lower Trail junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



#### S3-2 Forest Brown and Live Oak Trail junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





#### Live Oak Trail

Scenic viewpoint and rest stop ahead



#### Forest Brown Trail

Memorial Grove Gateway ahead (0.25 mi)







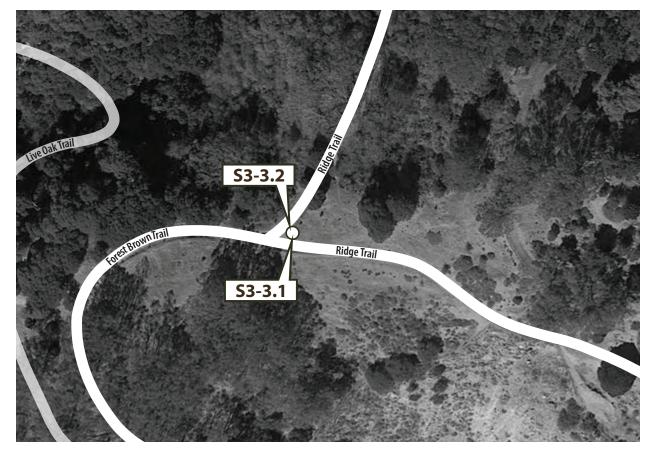
#### Forest Brown Trail

Ridge Trail ahead (500 ft); steep incline



S3-2.2

#### S3-3 Forest Brown and Ridge Trail junction



NOTE: Single post with two trail markers affixed to adjoining sides; locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





Forest Brown Trail

Memorial Grove Gateway ahead (0.35 mi)



Ridge Trail









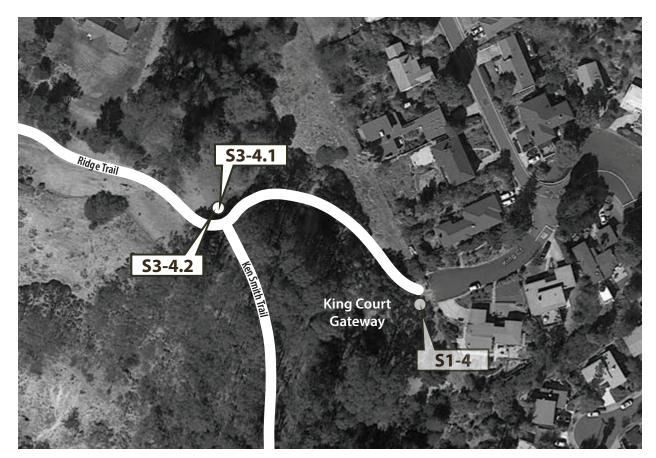
Trail

Navellier Trail ahead (0.25 mi)

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S3-3.2		

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#### S3-4 Ridge and Ken Smith Trail junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





NATURAL

Ken

Trail

Smith

No outlet, trail

AREA

S3-4.2



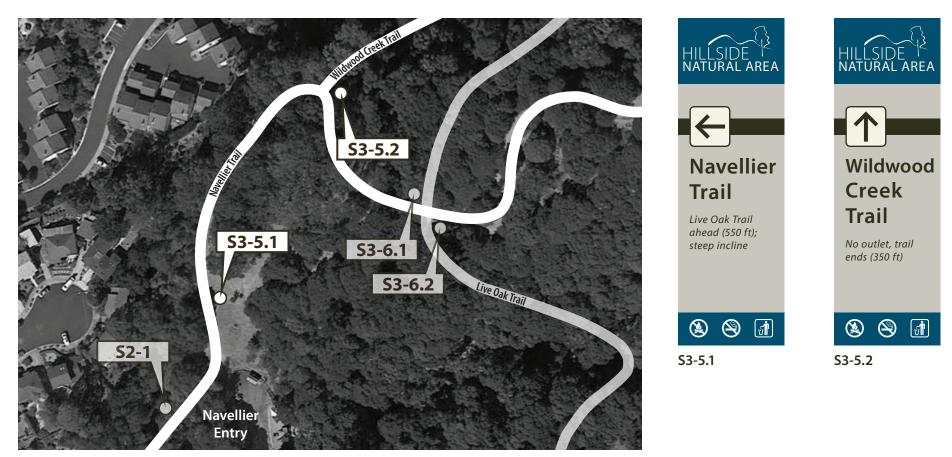
 $\rightarrow$ 

King

Court

Gateway

#### S3-5 Navellier and Wildwood Creek Trail junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# S3-7.1 S3-5.2 Ridge Trail S3-6.1 S3-7.2 S3-5.1 S3-6.2 Live Oak Trail

S3-6 Navellier and Live Oak / Douglas Trail junction

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





#### Navellier Trail

Navellier Entry ahead (750 ft); steep descent



Live Oak Trail

Douglas Entry ahead (500 ft)









Ridge Trail ahead (450 ft); steep incline



Live Oak Trail

Scenic viewpoint and rest stop ahead (700 ft)

S3-6,2

#### S3-7 Navellier and Ridge Trail junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





Navellier Trail

Steep descent to Navellier Entry (0.2 mi)



Ridge Trail

Madera Open Space Area ahead (0.2 mi)







#### Navellier Trail

Steady incline to Regency Gateway (650 ft)



Trail

Forest Brown Trail ahead (0.25 mi)



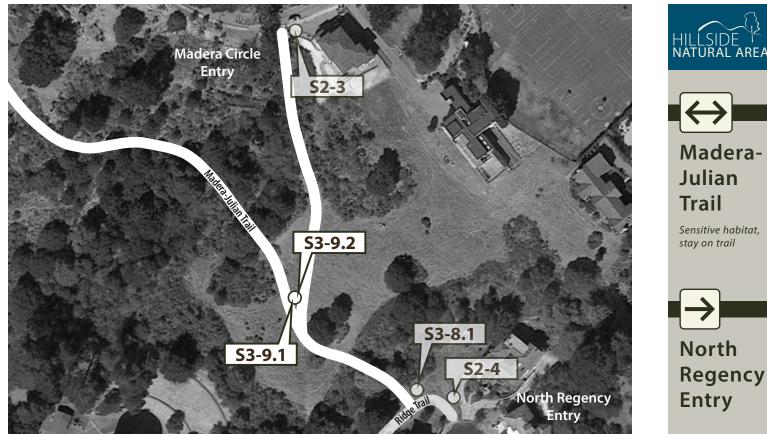
#### S3-8 Ridge and Madera-Julian Trail junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



#### S3-9 Madera-Julian Trail and Madera Circle Entry junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions







Sensitive habitat, stay on trail



S3-9.2

JRAL AREA

Madera

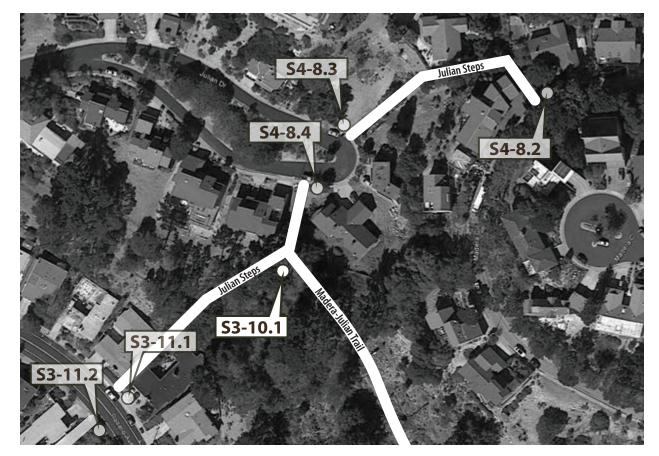
Circle

Entry

Stairs ahead

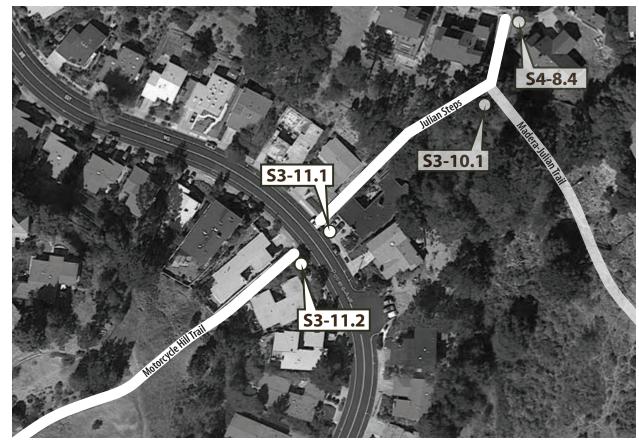


#### S3-10 Madera-Julian and Julian Steps junction



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





#### S3-11 Potrero and Julian Steps / Motorcycle Hill Trail junction

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





Julian Steps

Stairs to Madera-Julian Trail ahead (250 ft)



#### Douglas Entry

Follow Potrero Ave to Douglas Dr ahead (0.25 mi)







Motorcycle Hill Trail

Scenic viewpoint ahead (500 ft)

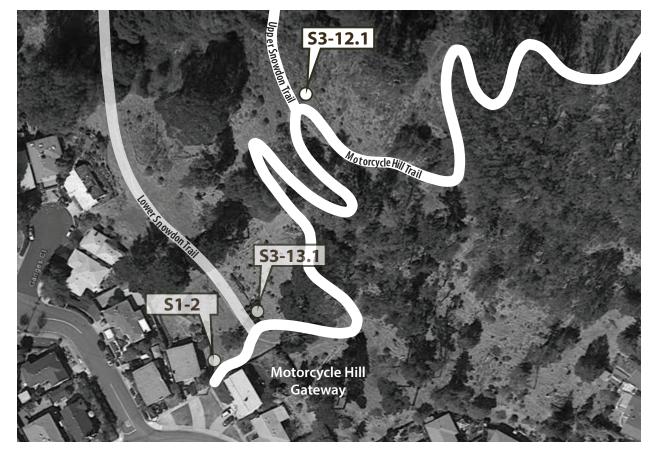


#### Douglas Entry

Follow Potrero Ave to Douglas Dr ahead (0.25 mi)



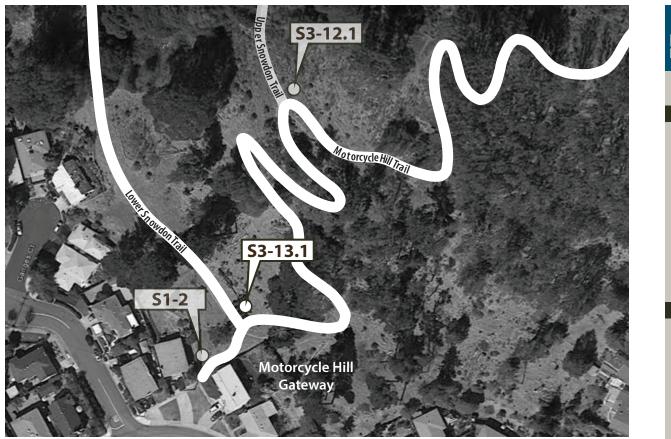
S3-11.2



#### S3-12 Motorcycle Hill and Upper Snowdon Trail junction

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



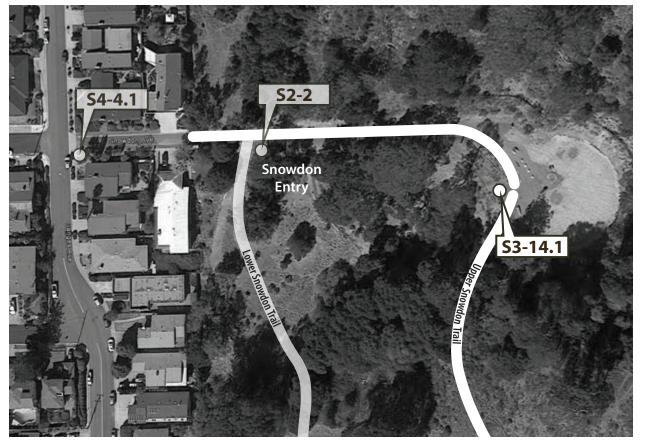


#### S3-13 Motorcycle Hill and Lower Snowdon Trail junction

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



S3-13.1



#### S3-14 Reservoir and Upper Snowdon Trail junction

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



S3-14.1

# **S4 Street Directional Sign Concept**

Pedestrian-scale directional sign.

Located adjacent street rights-of-way to direct visitors to nearby trail entry points.

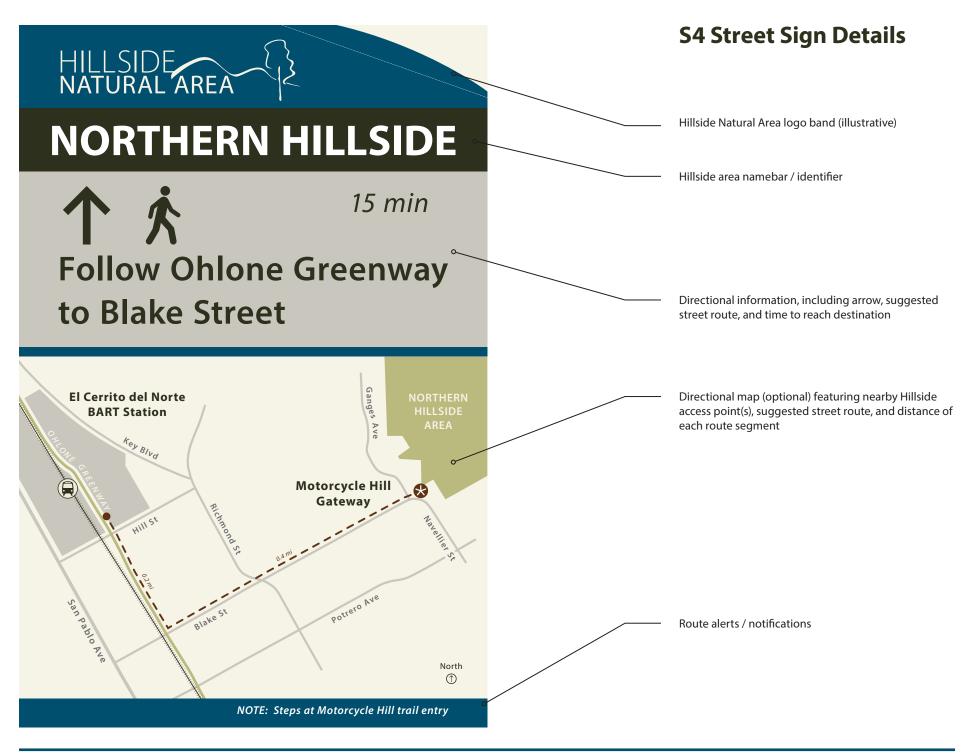


#### POST

Galvanized steel U-channel or square tubing; mount to existing posts where possible ALTERNATE: 4" x 4" cedar wood post (unpainted)

#### DIRECTIONAL SIGN

12" x 18" directional sign panel with map12" x 9" directional sign panel variation (no map)Typical aluminum street sign fabrication



# **S4 Street Directional Sign Locations**

## S4-1 Del Norte BART

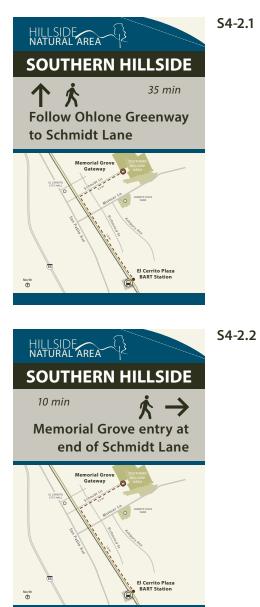


NOTE: Steps at Motorcycle Hill trail entry

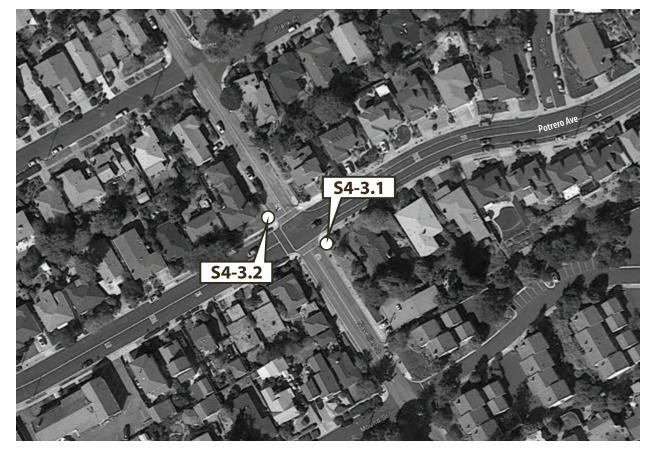
# S4-2 Plaza BART



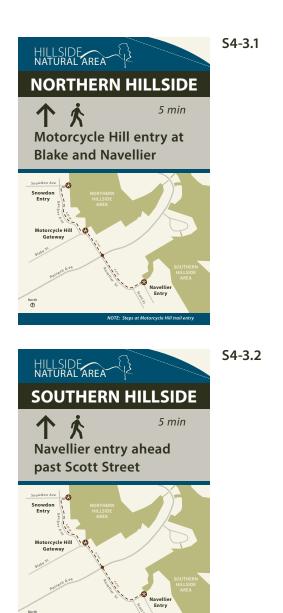
NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



## S4-3 Potrero and Navallier Intersection



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

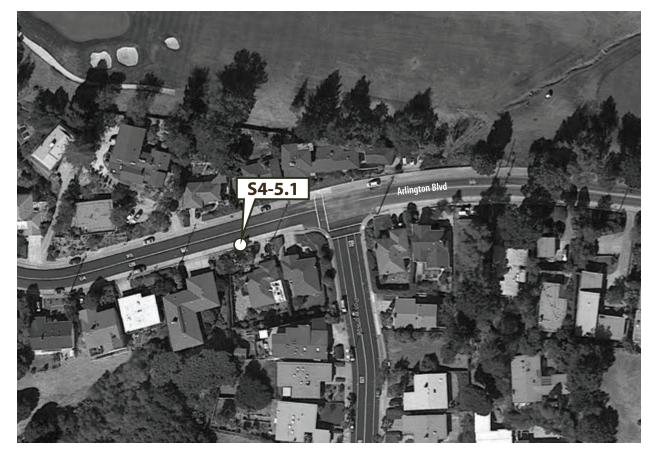


# S4-4 Snowdon and Ganges Intersection



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# S4-5 Potrero and Arlington Intersection

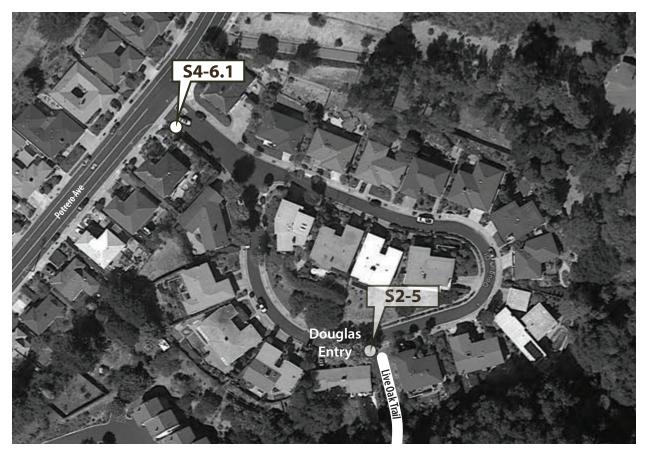


NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



5 min

# S4-6 Potrero and Douglas Intersection



SOUTHERN HILLSIDE SOUTHERN HILLSIDE SOUTHERN HILLSIDE SOUTHERN HILLSIDE SOUTHERN HILLSIDE Source a from Douglas Drive ahead

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# S4-7 Navellier Entry

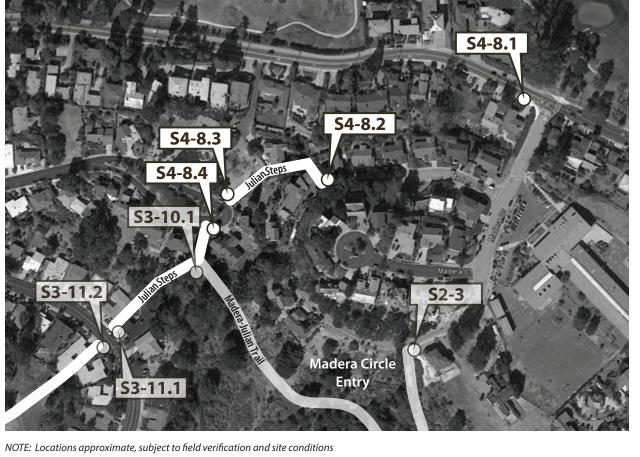




Navellier Entry to Southern Hillside Area

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

### S4-8 Arlington and Madera/Julian Steps Intersection



S4-8.1 MADERA OPEN SPACE < 5 min K → Hillside trail access from Madera Drive ahead MADERA OPEN SPACE



# **Other Citywide Trail and Path Signs**

The signs depicted in this section represent modified S3 and S4 sign concepts for trails and pathways located outside the Hillside Natural Area. These signs primarily delineate the city's stand-alone trail, stairway, and path segments.

The signs do not replace the city's existing and planned on-street bike and pedestrian wayfiding programs. Rather, they provide identification for less-visible paths and trails that ties into the wayfinding plan developed for the larger Hillside Natural Area. Where appropriate, these signs direct users to specific destinations and other park areas but are not intended to serve as trail maps for the city's parks themselves; no S1 or S2 signs were developed for any locations outside of the Hillside Natural Area as part of this plan.

#### MODIFIED SIGN DETAILS

The modified S3 and S4 sign concepts represented in this section are all labeled with an "O" prefix, indicating their intended use on trails and pathways outside of the Hillside Natural Area.

Design details on these signs remain consistent with the signs developed for the Hillside Natural Area, though they feature a modified logo header with the title "El Cerrito Paths and Trails" replacing "Hillside Natural Area" (illustrated below).



#### LOCATIONS

To organize the wayfinding sign program for locations outside of the Hillside Natural Area, the trails have been clustered into six (6) groups:

Group 1: Short, stand-alone paths, trails, and stairways across the city.

Group 2: Trails in and around Tassajara Park.

**Group 3:** Canyon Park connection to/from Ohlone Greenway (at El Cerrito del Norte BART Station).

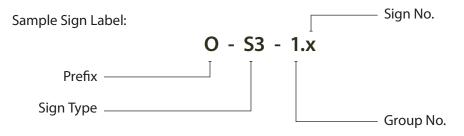
Group 4: Trails in and around Huber Park.

**Group 5:** Creekside Park connection to/from Ohlone Greenway (at El Cerrito Plaza BART Station).

**Group 6:** Arlington Park connection to/from Hillside Natural Area (at King Court Gateway).

#### SIGN LABELS

The group numbers noted above are incorporated into the overall sign labeling protocol for this section as follows:



Modified header for signs placed outside of the Hillside Natural Area

# O-S3-1.1 La Honda Way



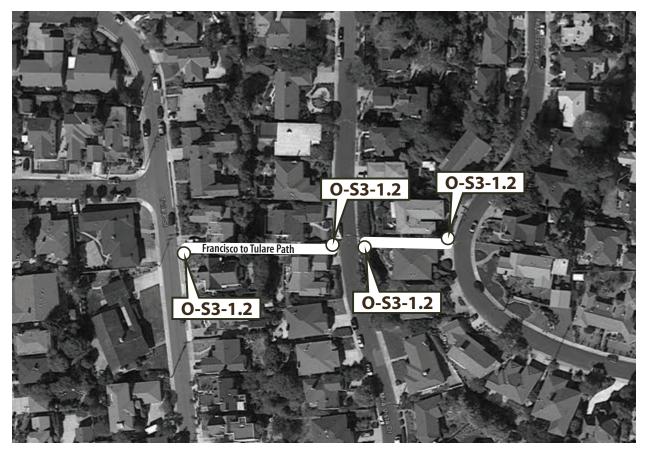
NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions





O-S3-1.1

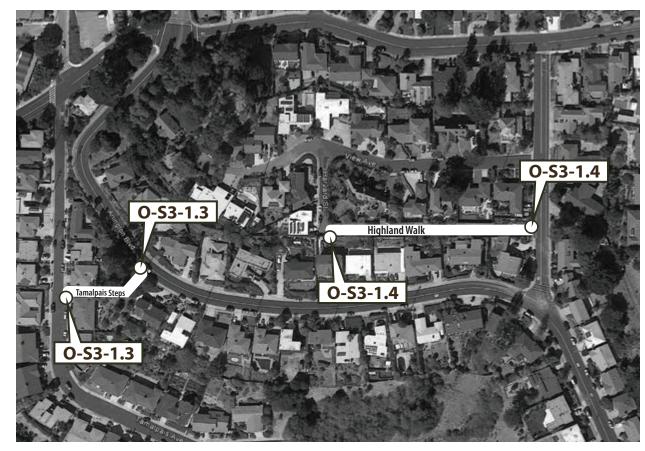
## O-S3-1.2 Francisco to Tulare Path





NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# O-S3-1.3 Tamalpais to Arlington Path | O-S3-1.4 Highland Walk



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



Steps

Stairs ahead

**v**i

O-S3-1.3

## O-S3-1.5 and O-S3-1.6 Blake to Manor Path



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions



# O-S3-1.7 Fairmount to Rockway Path



ECCERTION PATHS AND TRAILS Rockway Path Path

NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

# O-S3-2 and O-S4-2 Tassajara Park



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

**Barrett to** Tassajara Trail Stairs ahead Tassajara (vi O-S3-2.2

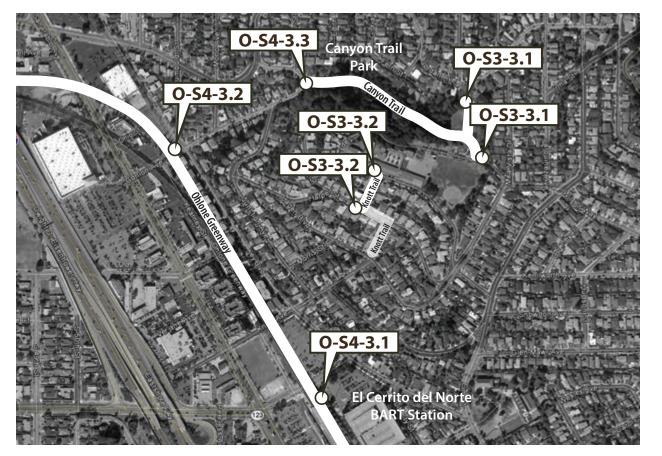
O-S3-2.1

Signs link surrounding trail paths and stairways to Tassajara Park. The O-S3-2.3 sign represents a simple entry marker to the park which may not be needed pending other sign planning efforts by the city. The O-S4-2.1 sign at the top of the Barrett to Tassajara Trail is situated near an existing bus stop to increase awareness of the trail and park to transit riders.



O-S3-2.3

# O-S3-3 and O-S4-3 Canyon Trail Park



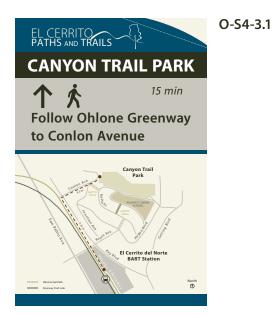
NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

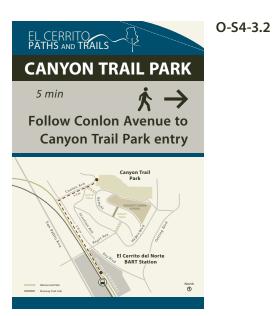
Signs link the Ohlone Greenway to/from Canyon Trail Park from the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station area (signs O-S4-3.1, O-S4-3.2, and O-S4-3.3). The O-S3-3.2 sign marks the Knott Trail and includes a map highlighting Canyon Trail Park. The O-S3-3.1 sign provides a simple entry marker to the north entry of the park which may not be needed pending other sign planning efforts by the city.

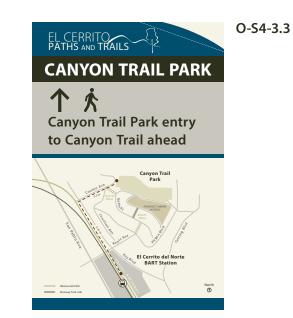


Canyon Trail Park

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# O-S3-4 and O-S4-4 Huber Park



NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

Signs mark the various trail segments, paths, and stairways in and around Huber Park. The O-S3-4.3 sign marks the open portion of the Contra Costa Steps and provides a map highlighting Huber Park and the other surrounding trail links. The O-S4-4.2 sign provides direction to the park via Park Way at Terrace Dr. The O-S3-4.1 and O-S4-4.1 signs provide simple entry markers to the park which may not be needed pending other sign planning efforts by the city.

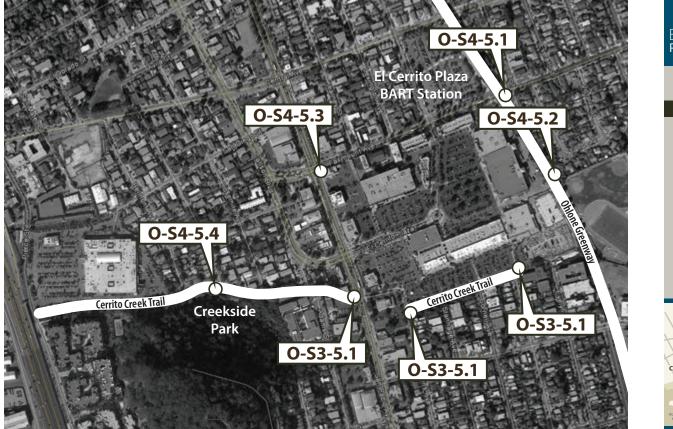


O-S3-4.3

Huber Park

vi

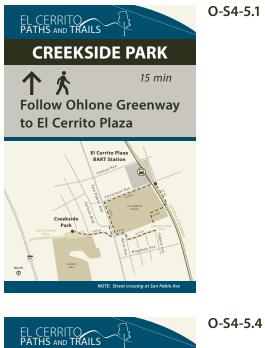
# O-S3-5 and O-S4-5 Creekside Park

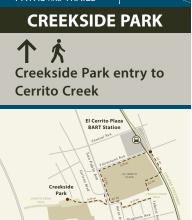


NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

Signs link the Ohlone Greenway to/from Creekside Park via two routes, both from the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station area. The first route provides a connection to the Cerrito Creek Trail link along the south end of El Cerrito Plaza (signs O-S3-5.1, O-S4-5.1, and O-S4-5.2). The second route links the park via Fairmount Avenue (signs O-S4-5.1 and O-S4-5.3). The O-S3-5.1 sign marks both sections of the Cerrito Creek Trail at each entry point. All signs include a map of the area highlighting key local resources (e.g. Creekside Park, Albany Hill, El Cerrito Plaza and BART Station, Ohlone Greenway, etc.).







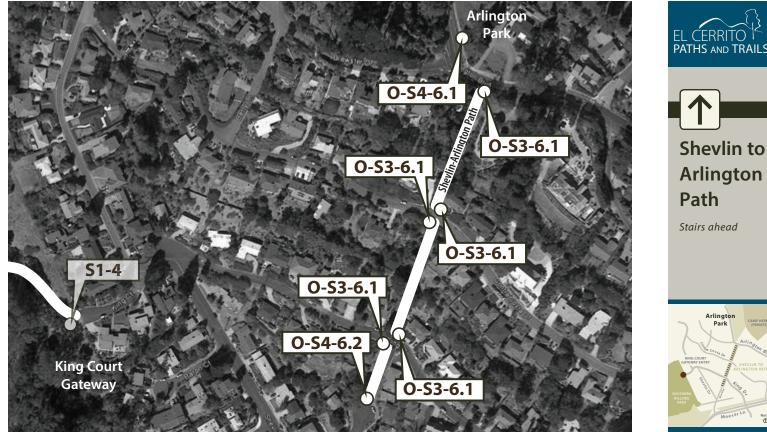
North



EL CERRITO PATHS AND TRAILS **CREEKSIDE PARK** ★ ★ 10 min **Follow San Pablo Avenue** to El Cerrito Plaza El Cerrito Plaza BART Station Creeksi

O-S4-5.3

# O-S3-6 and O-S4-6 Arlington Park

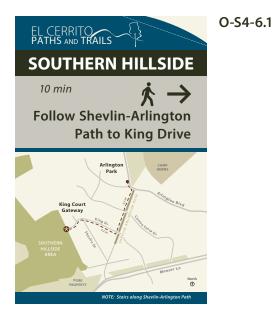


NOTE: Locations approximate, subject to field verification and site conditions

Stairs ahead (vi

O-S3-6.1

Signs link Arlington Park to the Hillside Natural Area King Court Gateway via the Shevlin to Arlington Path. The O-S3-6.1 sign marks each entry point of the Shevlin to Arlington Path, except the southern most entry where sign S4-6.2 marks the trail. The O-S4-6.1 sign is situated at the southern end of Arlington Park to increase awareness of the nearby trail and King Court Gateway entry to the Hillside Natural Area. All signs include a map of the area highlighting the trail link and surrounding resources.





# References

City of El Cerrito Community Development Department. June 2015. *City of El Cerrito Urban Greening Plan, Final Draft, June 16th, 2016.* Prepared by MIG.

City of El Cerrito Public Works Department. July 2008. *The City of El Cerrito Signage & Wayfinding Program, Graphic Standards Manual, Release 1.0 / 07.14.2008.* Prepared by Studio L'Image.

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# **Appendix: Cost Estimation**

Provided for general reference. Figures are based on similar sign type fabrication and installation in other locations. Actual costs will vary based on exact installation conditions and final sign specifications.

PROJECT ELEMENT		UNIT COST
S1	<b>Gateway Kiosk</b> Powder-coated aluminum posts, pre-designed graphic informational display panel, 1/2" thick high pressure laminate (or similar)	\$2000.00
	Gateway Kiosk Nameplate Corten steel, laser cut lettering and logo	\$750.00
	Gateway Kiosk Labor Footings, etc.	\$500.00
	Gateway Kiosk Unit Cost	\$3250.00
S2	Trail Entry Sign Post	\$75.00
	Trail Entry Sign Single-sided aluminum panel printing	\$300.00
	Trail Entry Sign Labor	\$200.00
	Trail Entry Sign Unit Cost	\$575.00
S3	<b>Trail Directional Marker</b> Powder-coated aluminum posts, up to 2 markers per sign post	\$500.00
	Trail Directional Marker Labor	\$100.00
	Trail Directional Marker Unit Cost	\$600.00
S4	Street Directional Sign Post	\$75.00
	Street Directional Sign Single-sided aluminum panel printing	\$170.00
	Street Directional Sign Labor	\$125.00
	Street Directional Sign Unit Cost	\$370.00