



To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Tony Wolcott, City of Albany Urban Forester

Subject: The Ohlone Trail Along BART

Date: July 2, 2008

I've surveyed the entire Albany stretch of the Ohlone Trail and first have the following general observation:

- The Gates design is fairly accurate as to location of existing trees with some exceptions.
- The eastern edge of the trail is bare and in need of some planting. There are only three yards utilizing the sun to grow gardens. We should avoid screening those but the rest of the eastern edge would benefit from screening. However some of the eastern edge has existing large canopies either from private property trees and shrubs or existing trees and shrubs on the Ohlone Trail. Low plantings should be utilized in front of these areas.
- Two groupings of black acacias (*Acacia melanoxydon*) should be removed
- All existing ironbark eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) should be removed
- The pervasive flowering crabapple (*Malus floribunda*) is problematic. Many are dead. Many look healthy but can be pushed over by one hand as Richard had mentioned. Many crabs are to be removed due to construction. Some of these are the best of the crabapples. It is my opinion that many of the crabs are mislocated on the design and can be saved.
- It would be my recommendation that the City of Albany do the removal of trees prior to any construction or BART activity. I am thinking of removal to ground level, no grinding. That way we can remove the dead and unsound trees as well as the ones necessary for construction. If we leave this to BART, they will take out whatever is deemed necessary for their construction including trees that could be saved. The cost would be inflated if BART does it, and removal of these trees is not difficult.
- Some of the existing landscaping is working pretty well and should be saved. In particular the large *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pines), two groups of them should be saved and not sacrificed to the enlarged pavements close to the corners. The mounding effect on the Dartmouth two sides and the Solano two sides should be kept. We will lose a few small cherry trees close to the column at Solano south but the rest of this intersection especially on the mounds works quite well. We have an existing *Magnolia soulangeana*, and we can work around that specimen.

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- Some areas on the east side are largely barren except for the encroaching growth from private properties. Many of these areas lend themselves to tree demonstrations. Richard's idea of a maple area is one theme, an oak section, a couple of native and Bay Friendly Landscaping areas (on both ends of the trail, an evergreen (broadleaf) section, a down under section, a coniferous evergreen section, there is one existing Schinus mole and we could add several weeping trees and shrubs to accent that corner.
- I am tabulating trees to be saved and trees to be removed, and also developing a list of trees to plant and not to plant. I'll have something for Wednesday night. On Tuesday at 10:00 AM there is a walkthrough with BART and Gates. Attend if you can, I suspect that there will be a wide divergence of opinion on trees to be sacrificed and trees that ought to be saved.
- Now that the meeting and walkthrough with BART has come and gone, we can re-think the focus of the Task Force. It seems almost certain that BART will approach each column from the east or barren side. This will in essence tear up the existing bike path, but that path needs to be widened (14' and two feet of DG on both sides is Albany's plan). By entering from the east and not coming through landscaping on the Masonic side, we should see much less destruction of trees, So for now we need not worry about an overall design including re-planting along Masonic. The bulk of the trees to be removed are trees close to the columns and in between the columns.
- An effort should be made to save some middle situated flowering crabapples. These lie in between the columns. Although most of the eastern side is not plated, there are some trees over there that need to be protected from the construction process. In particular some nice coast live oaks, a variety of pines, two very nice saucer magnolias, some redwoods. K-rails can be placed to protect the adequate zones of protection.

Some numbers gathered from charting the work as described, includes trying to save a few centrally located crabapples and a few larger trees on some corners. These numbers are mine and will be mixed with information from the Task Force tonight:

Trees to be removed due to BART construction: 96

Trees to be removed due to new pathway configuration: 10

Other trees to be removed due to death, near death or highly undesirable: 32

Trees Kept as designed: 258

Ohlone Trail Tree Lists

Below are various tree lists that I have developed for the Task Force Meeting tonight (July 2, 2008).

I have suggested several areas be designated for certain types of trees such as:

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A maple section, a coniferous section, a weeping section, an oak grove, a sampling of different Ginkgo varieties, a native section, a Bay Friendly Landscaping section, a broadleaf evergreen section, a deciduous section.

Also, some good size specimen trees can be planted in various locations where they could thrive un-impinged.

Trees Not to Plant on the Ohlone Trail

Tristaniaopsis laurina (swamp myrtle)
Lophostemon conferta (Brisbane box)
Acacia melanoxydon (Black Acacia)
Agonis flexuosa (Peppermint Willow)
Callistemon citrinus (Bottlebrush)
Ceratonia siliqua (carob)
Cinnamomum camphora (camphor)
Cordyline australis (Cabbage Palm)
Cornus spp. (any dogwood)
Eucalyptus spp.
Ficus spp.
Geijera parviflora (Australian willow)
Grevillea robusta (Silk Oak)
Laurus nobilis (bay)
Ligustrum lucidum (glossy privet)
Lithocarpus densiflorus (tan oak)
Maytenus boaria (Mayten)
Melaleuca linariifolia (flax-leaf paper bark)
M. stypelioides
Metrosideros excelsus (New Zealand Christmas tree)
Myoporum laetum (Myoporum)
Picea spp. (spruces)
Pinus radiata (Monterey pine)
Pinus pinea (Italian stone pine)
Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)
Fraxinus spp. (ash)
Liquidambar styraciflua (sweet gum)
Malus spp. (apple)
Morus spp. (mulberries)
Platanus x acerifolia (London Plane)
Populus spp. (poplar)
Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'
Prunus cerasifera "KV" (flowering plum)
Pyrus spp. (pears)
Salix spp. (willows)
Sorbus spp. (American ash)
Acer macrophyllum (Big leaf maple)
Acer negundo (Box elder)

Deciduous Trees to consider planting:

Acer spp. (most maples)
Albizia julibrissin (albizia)
Alnus spp. (alders)
Carpinus betulus (hornbeam)
Cercis canadensis (Eastern redbud)
Cercis occidentalis (Western redbud)
Crataegus phaenopyrum (Washington thorn)
Crataegus laevigata (English hawthorne)
Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' (Purple beech)
Koelreutaria paniculata (golden rain)
Nyssa sylvatica (tupelow)
Pistacia chinensis (Chinese pistache)
Punica granatum (pomegranate)
Robinia ambigua (purple robe locust)
Sambucus mexicana (Blue elderberry)
Tilia spp. (lindens)
Ulmus parviflora 'Drake' (Chinese elm)
Acer palmatum 'Sango Kaku' (red twig maple)
Acer pseudoplatanus 'Atropurpureum' (purple sycamore maple)

Broadleaf Evergreen

Eriobotrya deflexa (bronze leaf loquat)
Lyonathamnus asplenifolius (Catalina Ironwood)
Melaleuca quinquenervia (cajeput tree)
Olea europaea (Olive)
Lagunaria pattersonii (primrose tree)
Pittosprum undulatum (Victorian Box)
Podocarpis gracilior (Fern pine)
Prunus ilicifolia (holly leaf cherry)
Prunus lyonii (Catalina cherry)
Quercus suber (Cork Oak)
Rhus lancea (African sumac)

Acer (Maple) Grove

Acer rubrum 'October Glory' (red maple)
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset' (red maple)
 A. rubrum 'Columnare'
Acer buergerianum (trident maple)
Acer campestre (hedge maple)
Acer griseum (paper bark maple)
Acer truncatum 'Pacific Sunset'

Native Trees

Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir)
Sequoia sempervirens (coast redwood)
Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey cypress)
Quercus agrifolia (coast live oak)
Quercus lobata (valley oak)
Alnus oregano (alder)
Juglans hindsii (California walnut)
Aesculus californica (California buckeye)
Calocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar)
Cercos occidentalis (Western redbud)
Lyonathamnus floribundus (Catalina ironwood)
Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' (mountain lilac)
Garrya elliptica (silk tassel)
Freemontodendron californica (flaxseed)
Torreya californica (California nutmeg)
Platanus racemosa (sycamore)

Big Specimen Trees

Magnolia grandiflora
Quercus rubrum
Pinus torriana (Torrey pine)
Metasequoia glyptostroboides (Dawn redwood)
Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' (beech)
Gingko biloba
Magnolia soulangeana (saucer)
Quercus robur (English oak)
Quercus palustris (Pin Oak)
Quercus phellos (willow oak)
Acer palmatum (Japanese maple)
Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore maple)

Evergreen Coniferous

Araucaria spp.
Arbutus unedo (European strawberry tree)
Arbutus marina (strawberry tree)
Calocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar)
Casuarina stricta (Beefwood)
Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'
Cedrus deodara (deodora cedar)
Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir)
Thuja plicata (Western red cedar)

Oak Grove

Quercus agrifolia (coast live oak)

Q. lobata (valley)

Q. rubrum (red)

Q. coccinea (scarlet)

Q. suber (cork)

Q. kelloggii (black)

Ginkgo Varieties

Ginkgo biloba

‘Fairmont’

‘Autumn Gold’

‘Princeton Sentry’

‘Saratoga’

Weeping Varieties

Schinus mole (California pepper)

Wisteria

Corylus avellana ‘contorta’ (Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick)

Cedrus atlantica ‘Pendula’ (Weeping Atlantic cedar)

Cedrus deodara ‘pendula’ (Weeping Deodora)

Prunus x subhirtella ‘Pendula’ (weeping cherry)