Services

Trail Assessments, Design, and Planning
- Trail opportunities and constraints analysis, conceptual planning, field layout, GIS and mapping, construction documentation
- Trail damage, hazard, resource impacts, and repair needs assessment, inventory, and mapping
- Project management and owner’s representative services

Trail and Road Construction and Maintenance
- Trail construction, including mechanized construction and conservation crew supervision
- Trail and road reconstruction and maintenance (including drainage improvement, logout & brushing)
- Culvert installation
- Rock armoring and trail surfacing.
- Construction of rock and wooden retaining walls
- Erosion control, drainage improvement, and revegetation
- Trail bridge construction including concrete abutment formwork, reinforcing and pour, stringer placement and carpentry

Bike Park and Pump Track Construction and Maintenance
- Pump track, jump and skills course design, project management, and construction
- Pump track paving and soil stabilizer application
- Storm drain piping and inlet installation and stormwater retention chamber installation
- Landscaping including finish grading, irrigation, split rail fencing, and native plant and sod installation

Volunteer Management and Supervision
- Volunteer recruitment, signups, coordination, communication, training, work planning, supervision and hospitality for events ranging from 5–100+ volunteers

Education and Training
- Focused training available for field staff, volunteers, conservation corps and land managers
- Training available in trail design, construction, maintenance, or volunteer management
- Developed Trail Academy volunteer training program with online, classroom, and field training courses designed to educate and empower our volunteer workforce
https://act.santacruztrails.org/trail-academy. Over 500 unique volunteers have joined our training classes since 2013

Major Trail Construction Projects Completed:

Emma McCrary Trail, Pogonip Open Space, Santa Cruz, CA
Construction started May 2012, Completed June 2013
Length 2.25 miles.
Volunteer hours: 3,500

This multi-use trail was constructed as a partnership between the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department and Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship. This is one of the most popular trails in Santa Cruz and receives over 80,000 trips annually. Construction included 2 36’ glulam stringer bridges, 4 puncheons, and several dry stacked rock retaining walls using native limestone rock recovered from an abandoned quarry in the park. One of the two bridges is located over 1 mile from the trailhead and all materials including stringers were transported to site along the trail. Bridge stringers were placed using skyline rigging.

Flow Trail, Soquel Demonstration State Forest, Santa Cruz, CA
Construction started Jan 2014, Completed June 2015
Length 3.75 miles
Volunteer Hours: 6,500
SCMTS fundraised for and implemented the design, environmental document preparation, construction and maintenance of this world famous bicycle optimized trail at Soquel Demonstration State Forest. The trail includes 36 switchback/climbing turns, four puncheon bridges, rock and turfstone tread armoring, and log crib retaining walls.

**Enchanted Loop Reroute, Wilder Ranch State Park, Santa Cruz, CA**

Construction Started November 2015, Completed April 2016

Length: 0.8 miles

Volunteer hours: 1,385

SCMTS partnered with California State Parks to construct a reroute of the Enchanted Loop Trail at Wilder Ranch State Park. SCMTS staff and volunteers worked closely with the State Parks Trails Crew to design and construct this multi-use trail project. The project included installing 2 puncheon bridges (10’ and 16’), rock armoring of drainage crossings and rock retaining walls at bridge approaches, and decommissioning of the old trail.
Harvey West Pump Track, Harvey West Park, Santa Cruz, CA
Construction started July 2016, Completed September 2016
Volunteer hours: 256
Design and construction of a 14,000 sf bike park for City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation. Project included site grading and import of fill, construction of bicycle features, drainage and irrigation installation, revegetation and erosion control.

West Glenwood Open Space Trails, Scotts Valley, CA
Construction started May 2018, Completed October 2018
Length 2.75 miles
Volunteer hours: 1,240
Design and construction of 2.75 miles hiking and bicycling trail network at the Glenwood Preserve Open Space with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. Project included hand and machine construction on steep slopes, 8 climbing turn switchbacks, wood crib wall construction, dry stack rock wall construction, turfstone armoring of wet areas, and construction near endangered plant species.

West Engelsman Reroute
Wilder Ranch State Park, Santa Cruz, CA
Construction started October 2018, completed May 2019
Length: 1.1 miles
Volunteer hours: 1,906
SCMTS worked closely with the State Park District Trails Crew to fund and implement the design and construction of 1.1 mile multi-use trail to replace degraded ranch road at Wilder Ranch State Park. Project included rock wall construction and armoring at 5 drainage crossings and import of 100 tons of rock for tread hardening.
East Glenwood Open Space Trails, Scotts Valley, CA
Construction started January 2019, completed May 2019
Length: 3 miles
Design and construction of 3 miles of hiking only trail at the Glenwood Open Space Preserve for the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and City of Scotts Valley. Project included hand and machine trail construction on steep slopes, turfstone armoring, wood crib walls, wooden step construction, and construction of a 48’ bridge across Carbonera Creek and 55’ boardwalk through a seasonal wetland.

Pogonip Nature Loop reroute and bridge replacement
Pogonip Open Space, City of Santa Cruz, CA
Construction started June 2019, completed July 2019
Length: 0.4 miles
Volunteer hours: 240
Project included design and construction of a reroute of badly eroded section of hiking trail, and replacement of failing trail bridge with glu-lam stringer bridge. Total bridge length 55’ with mid span abutment.

Saratoga to Sanborn Trail, Saratoga Quarry Park, Saratoga, CA
Construction started November 2019, Completed October 2020
Length: 3.5 miles
Volunteer hours: 217
This multi-use trail included construction of four bridges ranging from 20’ to 70’, 3.5 miles of trail through steep and rocky terrain, 18 switchbacks, 3 culverts and approximately 1000’ of dry stacked rock retaining wall. Three of the bridges (35’, 50’, 70’) utilized segmented steel I-beam stringers, and all bridge materials were transported to the site along the 4’ wide trail corridor.
Ramsay Park Pump Track, City of Watsonville, CA
Construction started October 2020, completed March 2021
Volunteer hours: 314
SCMTS led the design, fundraising and construction of this 22,000 sf asphalt pumptrack for the City of Watsonville. Track construction included installation of 450’ of storm drainage pipes and 15 inlets, placement and shaping of 3,000 tons of fill, hand placement of 14,000 sf of asphalt, 8,000 sf of native grass turf and native landscaping including drip irrigation, and split rail fence installation.

In addition to these new trail construction projects, SCMTS is committed to the maintenance of the multi-use trails around Santa Cruz County including all of the projects we have built, and its staff and volunteers have spent thousands of hours doing trail maintenance. This gives us an intimate knowledge of the problems that develop on trails and how they can be minimized through careful thought and consideration in the design and construction phase.
About Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship
Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship (SCMTS - www.santacruztrails.org) was founded as a 501(c)3 in 1997 to advocate for access to trails in Santa Cruz. In 2012, the organization undertook its first trail construction project, and since then SCMTS has developed into a rapidly growing, highly skilled professional trail stewardship organization with a full time staff and 1,500 paying members. SCMTS has developed an expertise in trail design, construction, maintenance, and fundraising and has mobilized an extensive volunteer labor force to maintain trails as well as construct large scale trail projects in partnership with local land managers including the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Open Space, Soquel Demonstration State Forest, and Wilder Ranch State Park. Since 2012, our volunteers have completed over 30,000 hours of volunteer work and we have 6 full time staff on our trail crew.

SCMTS holds a California Class A General Engineering contractors license and has added fee–for–service trail design, construction and maintenance services to complement its self-funded projects and support staffing a full–time professional trail crew. We have provided trail design, training, construction and maintenance services for private individuals, local cities, other trail advocacy organizations, and land conservation non–profits like the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. Our reputation for high quality work, environmental sensitivity, and exceptional value has created strong demand for our services around the state, however we try to focus our work on mission focused local projects whenever possible.

SCMTS has extensive experience working on narrow width, backcountry trail projects and has specialized equipment for this setting. All SCMTS equipment has track width of less than 40”. Using equipment with this narrow footprint gives us exceptional flexibility in trail construction and final trail location and allows us to significantly reduce the landscape impact from trail construction activities compared to larger equipment.