

How about building a trail from Panorama Trail to the [Foothills] park entrance? It is a short distance that would nicely close the loop.

This is a very good question that unfortunately does not have a short, easy answer.

In the current trail master plan, there is no trail linking Panorama Trail to the park entrance. Adding this link would require having the master plan amended, which would in turn require having a park amendment ordinance, which in turn would require approval of city council. In addition, the planning process, design process and sending a proposal out to bid all take up large amounts of time.

The city manager's office and council are currently trying to trim \$3,000,000 from the city budget. I have looked at the Foothills Park map and estimate the straight line distance from Panorama Trail to the park entrance at about ½ mile. The actual trail length would probably be between 1 and 1 ½ miles due to very steep terrain it would have to cross and avoiding too close a proximity to Station 8. Trail construction costs between 15 and 18 dollars per linear foot; a projected beginning cost for the new trail would be around 87,000 dollars.

At our current staffing levels we (Open Space staff) are stretched fairly thin maintaining the nearly 40 miles of trails that we already have without adding any new ones.

Unfortunately, due to time and budgetary issues, if such a trail were to be constructed, it would not be in the near future.

As an alternate route, hikers can start out on Panorama Trail and return on the fire access road past the Boronda water tank and down the Station 8 driveway; admittedly, it does not end at the entrance station but it is somewhat closer than the top of Vista Hill.