

Santa Barbara Trails Council

2011 Annual Report



Santa Barbara Trails Council works on behalf of hikers, road and mountain bikers, equestrians, trail runners and others to support access to new trails, enhancement of existing trails and safe shared use by everyone.



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Santa Barbara Trails Council Values

Community: *commitment to having an impact on the community*

Nature: *respect for the environment*

Cooperation: *working well with others*

Teamwork: *commitment to getting work done through cooperation*

Achievement: *commitment to accomplishing goals and objectives*

Growth: *desire to increase the size/scope of our organization*

Safety: *commitment to safe shared use of trails by everyone*

An Effective Community Service for 45 Years



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Letter from the President

Recently, when called upon to comment before the Planning Commission about trails on the Gaviota Coast, I held up the *Green Book*. This is the proposal edited by our founder Vivian Obern, entitled: *Santa Barbara County Coastal Trail System—Mission to Mission Trails for Hikers, Bikers and Equestrians*. This collaborative community effort was inspired by the State Director of Parks and Recreation at the Trails Council annual meeting in 1972—forty years ago!

There has been progress toward the goals set forth in that document—the Coastal Act of 1972 and the Santa Barbara Coastal Plan of 1983, both ancient events, are still important today. Piece by piece, sections of the California Coastal Trail are falling into place, but the dream of a continuous trail still seems far off. There is a very good chance that we will see a trail all the way from UCSB to El Capitan State Park within ten years. Because ranches along the route are beginning to submit plans for land-use changes, i.e. development, opportunities for opening trail routes arise. However, trail advocates are learning the same tedious lessons that real estate developers have so often learned here in our exceptional community. Trail projects take a long time to go from dream to realization.

In the Gaviota area we are very proud to have initiated construction proposals for two new trails at the Baron Ranch and El Capitan State Park. The Council is also giving significant assistance to Montecito Trails Foundation and the community of Carpinteria for the Franklin Trail, which is technically new. The two Gaviota trails fall entirely on public lands—a combination of National Forest, County and State Parks. But even removing the obstacles inherent



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in negotiating with private landowners does not mean that these trails can be created quickly or easily.

Whenever we succeed in opening a new trail the true foundation is the dogged work done by volunteer advocates many years before, before the memory of the majority of those celebrating the event. The Trails Council, through its Board and membership, tries to preserve an institutional memory of our system of trails. We work to pass it on from generation to generation, so that when opportunities arise we are ready with petitions and shovels to have at 'em. Tireless vigilance is required, both legislative and

in the dirt, and we can use all the help we can get. We vow not to repeat those cases where advocates have blinked, hesitated or were simply uninformed and trail opportunities were lost and closed forever.

The Trails Council is committed to the battle for the long haul—for public access and for more trails and better trails. Today we have more opportunities for the realization of the new trails than we have had for decades, and we have the volunteers to make these old dreams a reality. Santa Barbara is blessed with an extraordinary community of inspired trail advocates who have been at it for many, many years and who have acquired exceptional skills in advocacy, planning and construction. These are exciting times and I like to think many of our trail-users will want to be involved. Let's continue to carry on the torch of Pearl Chase, Vivian Obern and Dick Smith!

Sincerely,

Otis Calef

Otis Calef
President

Santa Barbara Trails Council Board of Directors

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Otis Calef

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GIS Mapping

Trail Maintenance

Volunteer Recruiting

Fundraising



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California Coastal Trail: *In Our Lifetime*

Over the last year, the Trails Council has become deeply involved in trails planning and acquisition issues on the Gaviota Coast. Pending development proposals for large areas of the east end of the coastal terrace stretching between Goleta and El Capitan State Beach present a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a scenic world-class coastal bluff top location for the California Coastal Trail (CCT). Santa Barbara County is also preparing an updated Gaviota Plan to guide future use and development of the Gaviota Coast, including a trail system. The convergence of pending developments and long-range planning offers an unprecedented opportunity for the development of one of the most scenic segments of the CCT in the state, improved coastal access and new foothill trails. However, missteps and a lack of leadership from the County along with resistance from some developers threaten some of the most important segments of the CCT, may lead to inadequate or inappropriate coastal access and missed opportunities for key foothills trails.

The Trails Council is leading efforts to ensure that pending development projects and the new Gaviota Plan provide high quality trails. Pending development projects such as Paradiso del Mare, Santa Barbara Ranch (i.e., Naples) and Las Varas Ranch offer the opportunity to acquire easements for the construction of almost 4 miles of a coastal bluff top CCT in eastern Gaviota. This is over 80% of the length of the trail between Goleta and El Capitan State Beach. This bluff top trail, which would provide stunning ocean views and access to beautiful pocket beaches, would be the embodiment of the state's vision for the CCT as being located as close to the coast as aesthetically and physically feasible and within the sights and sounds of the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, some pending development proposals and preliminary County planning efforts could undermine this vision by proposing a location for the CCT far removed from the coast, directly adjacent to the noise and fumes of Highway 101.

Trails Council President Otis Calef and Executive Director Ray Ford have been leading community efforts to site and design the CCT as intended in state and county planning documents to ensure provision of a world class CCT. In particular, the Trails Council has been deeply involved in the Las Varas Ranch Development Project where County staff and the project developer have proposed an unacceptable location for the CCT. The Trails Council has prepared detailed maps and analyses of a coastal bluff top location for the CCT on Las Varas Ranch, refuting unsubstantiated claims that such a location is infeasible. Trails Council Executive Director Ray Ford has also worked tirelessly with County advisory bodies to ensure proper design of the Gaviota Trails system, providing the County with detailed maps to support this planning effort.

The Trails Council is determined to ensure that the community secures a coastal bluff top location for the CCT, appropriate coastal access, and a high quality foothill trail system along the Gaviota Coast. Over the coming years, the Trails Council will be working with the County Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, California Coastal Commission and the courts if needed to ensure this result.



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2012 Events

Annual Meeting in March

This year's annual meeting will honor veteran U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Manager Kerry Kellogg for decades of support for the trail system throughout the Santa Barbara District of the Los Padres National Forest. The evening begins with a casual wine and cheese reception at 6:30pm (event is 7-9pm), followed by a keynote speaker and recognition for Mr. Kellogg's service to our community. Join us on Wednesday March 14th at the Faulkner Gallery in the Santa Barbara Public Library.

Third Annual Spring BBQ in April

Join us on April 29th for a day to remember. This all-day event includes a range of activities for hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers and equestrians along the Bill Wallace Trail that encircles the El Capitan Ranch Canyon. Trail events are followed by an afternoon of great fun, good food and live music at El Capitan Ranch Resort. Visit our web site, <http://www.sbtrails.org> to sign-up for the event and take advantage of early bird ticket discounts. Individual tickets are \$20 and Family tickets are \$40 prior to the event. On the day of the event tickets are \$30 for individuals and \$50 for families. Proceeds from this event support our trail advocacy and maintenance programs.

Civic Groups in Support of Proper Alignment of the California Coastal Trail

Back Country
Horsemen

County
Riding and Hiking
Trails Advisory
Committee

Gaviota Coast
Conservancy

Los Padres
Trail Riders

Naples
Preservation
Coalition

Santa Barbara
Bicycle Coalition

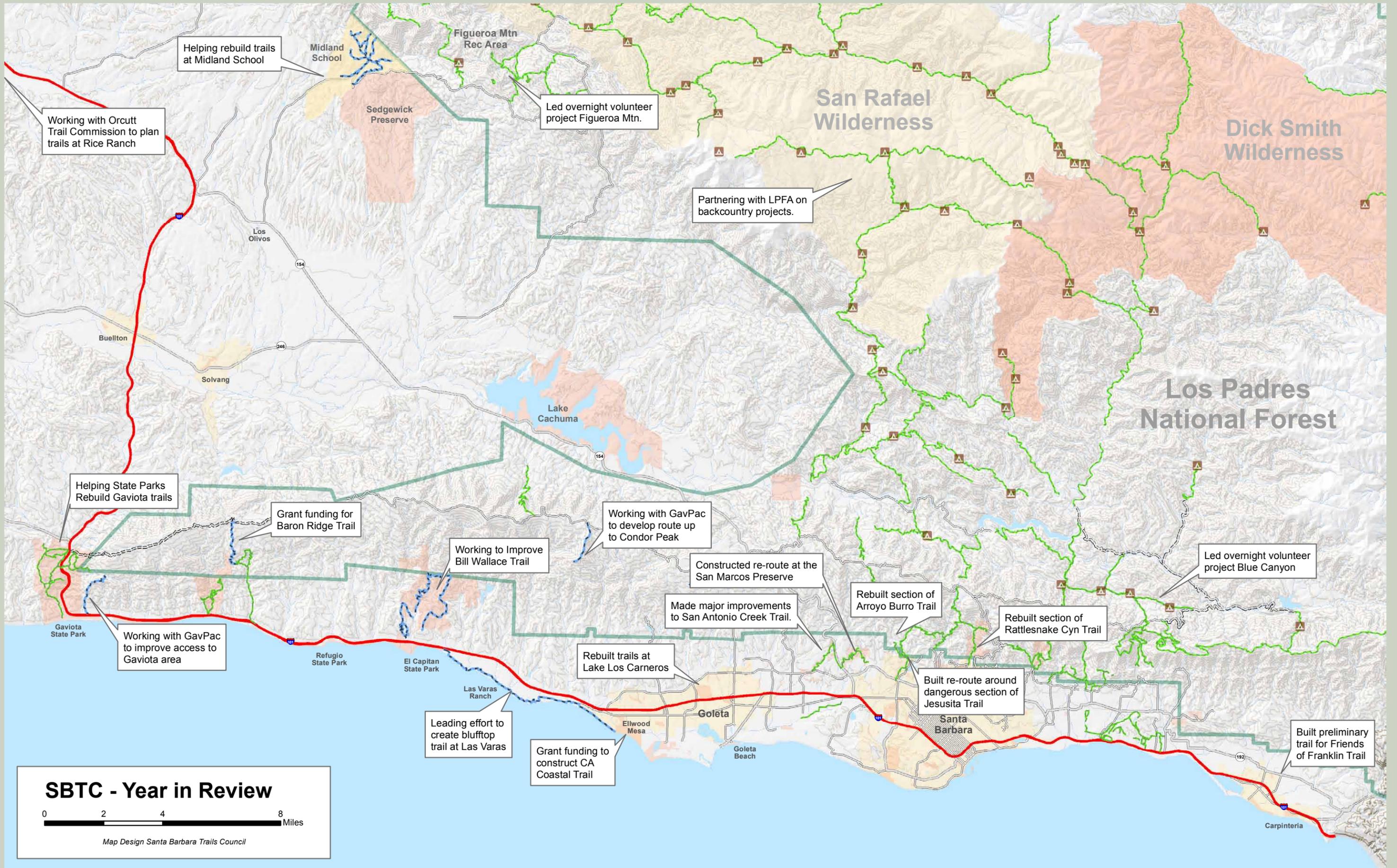
Santa Barbara County
Action Network

Santa Barbara
Mountain Bike
Trail Volunteers

Santa Barbara
Trails Council

Sierra Club

Surfrider
Foundation





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Rooted in Trail Advocacy

In 1966 concerned representatives of various outdoor organizations, faced with the increasing loss of established hiking and riding trails from rapid urbanization, formed an ad hoc council with the intent to slow this loss and develop a public trail system for Santa Barbara County. In October of 1967, members of these various groups incorporated as the Santa Barbara County Trails Council to acquire, construct and maintain public riding and hiking trails in Santa Barbara County.

The new organization was led by Mr. Francis Price, Jr., a prominent Santa Barbara lawyer with the firm Price, Postel and Parma. Other initial Directors and Officers were Mr. E.C. Riggs, 1st Vice President for Riding; Mr. John Hamilton, 2nd Vice President for hiking; Mr. Peter Bakewell, Treasurer; Ms. Dorothy Lions, Recording Secretary; Ms. Vivian Obern, Corresponding Secretary; and Directors Mr. Eugene Garnsey, Mr. Fred Eissler, and Mr. Lee Eggert.



Vivian Obern
Board Member Since 1967

The County Board of Supervisors, City Council, and the news media of the day all recognized the importance of the Trails Council in working to prevent further loss of riding and hiking trails, and taking the lead in establishing a county-wide trail system. At the request of the new Trails Council, the County Board of Supervisors appointed an advisory committee composed of Department Directors and individuals selected by the Trails Council from each supervisorial district. The Advisory Committee worked with the Planning Department to increase the number of trails in the County Master Plan. It also coordinated with County officials, State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, and the California State Horsemen's Association; eventually becoming the local clearing house for matters concerning trails.

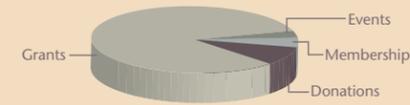
In 1973, after extensive collaboration with local, state and federal agencies, the endorsement of nearly two dozen civic organizations, and the support and guidance of many prominent citizens, the Trails Council published *Santa Barbara County Coastal Trails System—Mission to Mission Trails for Bikers, Hikers and Equestrians*. This document helped guide the formulation of County General Plan policies for developing a County-wide, multi-use, public trail system.

Through the years, the Trails Council has been a leader in trails advocacy, working within numerous jurisdictions to maintain and expand trails. This was accomplished under the watchful eye of long-standing leaders like Vivian Obern and her late husband George, after whom the paved trail between Santa Barbara and UCSB is named. Many other influential citizens too numerous to mention have been active members supporting this common goal. In 2007, the Trails Council merged with the Trails Alliance, became a public benefit corporation under 501 (c) (3) of the federal tax code, and hired Mr. Ray Ford, a local trails expert, to be its Executive Director. Since then, Ray has attracted substantial grant funds for the construction and maintenance of trails in a variety of locations. We greet 2012 with high expectations for expanding our capacity to meet the opportunities and challenges of 2012, our 45th year.

Financials

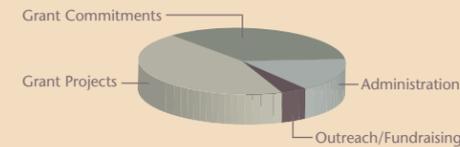
2011 INCOME

Membership	\$2,746
Donations	5,030
Grants ¹	45,800
Events	1,824
Total	\$53,576



2011 EXPENSES

Administration	\$9,535
Outreach/Fundraising	2,485
Grant Projects	25,718
Grant Commitments	20,082
Total	\$57,820



¹ An additional \$80,000 in grants were funded in 2011 and scheduled for delivery in 2012

Become a Member, Join SBTC Today!

We are often asked "what do I get by becoming a member"? The foremost answer is that you are joining a well-established community network committed to protecting, restoring, enjoying and sharing the beauty of our local trails. You are also receiving the Trails Council's year round support for the protection of existing trails and advocacy for new trails; a benefit that is priceless. We work, on our members' behalf, with Federal, State, County and City agencies to insure that the local trail system we value is here for generations to come.

What does it cost to join? Individual annual memberships start at \$25. To join online (and see other membership options) go to: <https://sbtrails.org/become-a-member/> — Payment options also include mailing a check to Santa Barbara Trails Council, PO Box 22352, Santa Barbara, CA 93121. Memberships and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



Year in Review: A Commitment to the Future

By Ray Ford, Executive Director

In late September, as I had just pulled into the parking lot for a hike out onto the Ellwood Mesa bluffs, I got a call from Marc Chytilo, attorney for the Goleta Valley Land Trust. "You've got the grant," he told me. Fantastic! GVLTL had just approved a \$50,000 appropriation to the Trails Council for the design, engineering and permitting of a section of the **California Coastal Trail** through Ellwood Mesa. The grant was a major high point for the Trail Council, in a year in which we've received \$134,000 total in grants for new trail access and restoration in areas ranging from the Gaviota Coast to the **Franklin Trail** in the Carpinteria foothills.

The past year has been one of both fulfillment and promise. Working with Santa Barbara County Parks, we built a section of new trail at the San Marcos Preserve to reopen the **Backbone Trail** after severe flooding had destroyed a section of it. Thanks to the help of County Parks' employees Mark Guy and Jeff Bozarth we've been able to re-open the **San Marcos Preserve Trail**, and make major improvements to the **Arroyo Burro** and **San Antonio Creek Trails**.

We've also completed two major projects in partnership with City of Santa Barbara Parks & Recreation. One of these, a re-route of a 900 foot section of **Jesusita Trail** around a dangerous slide area, was made possible by the donation of a new easement by homeowner Sofia Gallina and acceptance of the easement by the City. Thanks Sofia! The SBTC also recently completed major restoration work in the first 1/2 mile of **Rattlesnake Canyon**



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Trail, and is looking forward to more projects on the trail to rebuild sections of it that were damaged by the Jesusita Fire. As discussed above, we are partnering with the City of Goleta and California Coastal Conservancy on a grant package for the first phase of the **Ellwood Mesa Coastal Trail Project** that is anticipated to approach \$100,000. We're also working with the city to improve trails at Lake Los Carneros as well as other city park trails in Goleta.

A major success this year has come at Baron Ranch, located just east of the Tajiguas Land Fill. In 2010, thanks to volunteer work done by SBTC, the lower **Baron Ranch Trail** was opened. In 2011, we received \$90,000 in grants to develop and construct a route up the west ridge from the **Baron Ranch to Camino Cielo Trail**. We've



hired a local environmental consulting firm, AMEC, to help us through the permitting process, which includes an environmental assessment and coordination with the U.S. Forest Service.

Perhaps the most enjoyable accomplishment this past year occurred in May when our crew assisted the Friends of the Franklin Trail in constructing the initial route for



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the trail through Horton Ranch. Thanks to Otis Calef, Paul Hering, Kalon Kelley, Paul Cronshaw and myself, the establishment of a new mile-long route has enabled the environmental review to begin.

These successes and the grant funding we've received for new projects didn't come easily. Thanks to the hard work of the Board, our membership, and our many volunteers we accomplished a lot and can now look forward to a number of exciting opportunities.

Looking Forward.

Along the Gaviota Coast, the Trails Council has been active in promoting trail access and will continue to do even more in 2012. We are deeply involved in the Gaviota Community Planning process (GavPac) to ensure trail access is protected. The Trails Council has made a major commitment to siting the **California Coastal Trail** through Las Varas Ranch on the bluffs and not a mile inland, as the property owners would rather have it located.

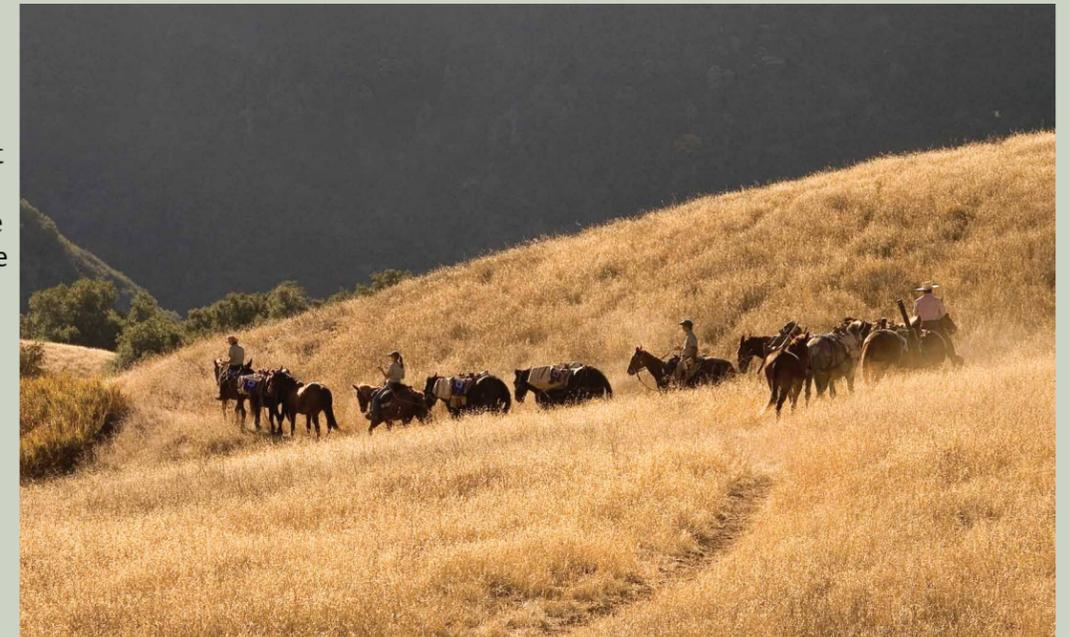
At El Capitan we are working with State Parks and the private canyon ranch owner to improve access to the **Bill Wallace Trail**. We've received major funding, thanks to Natalie Hodges, to support our efforts to increase access at El Capitan as well as the trails at Gaviota State Park. Also important, the public hearing for our **Baron Ranch to Camino Cielo Trail** project is pending and with the expected approval we'll be constructing the trail to the crest this fall. If all goes to plan, we'll also be working on the next phase of the Franklin Trail and we'll see the trail completed by the end of the year.

This spring, SBTC will be initiating a major trail project in the Santa Ynez Valley. Over the past year

we've been working with Midland School to map their trails network, consisting of more than 10 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. Long a favorite of hikers heading up to the poppy-covered hillsides of Grass Mountain, the trails at Midland represent a tremendous opportunity to expand equestrian opportunities and improve many others. We'll be working with a new valley partner on the project, the Santa Barbara County Outdoor Foundation (SBCOF).

There is a strong possibility that we'll be breaking ground on the Coastal Trail Project at Ellwood Mesa in 2012. In the meantime the Trails Council will be looking at how we can put together more pieces of the puzzle that is the **California Coastal Trail**, linking to the Coal Oil Point area on the east, and adding sections to the west through Sandpiper Golf Course, Bacara Resort and several others. The promise of a coastal trail stretching from Goleta to El Capitan has always seemed a pipe dream, but with your help and the continued efforts of the Trails Council we hope 2012 will become a breakthrough year for the expansion of trails along the coast, in the Gaviota mountains, and others in the network of Santa Barbara County trails.

In the meantime, one way you can help is by becoming a trail volunteer. We've helped set-up a website devoted just to outdoor volunteer projects: <http://sbvolunteers.org>—It's easy to join, and members can opt to receive notices of upcoming projects automatically. Let's work together to make 2012 the *Year of the Volunteer*.



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