



Niles Canyon Road Closes to Automobiles on September 22nd for “Stroll and Roll” Event

For the third time in four years, Niles Canyon Road will be closed to motor vehicles on **Sunday, September 22**, to give full access to the roadway to hikers, runners and bicyclists, and to raise awareness about a proposed new public trail through the scenic Canyon.

To make way for “The Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll,” automobiles will be barred from a stretch of Niles Canyon Road between Mission Boulevard in Fremont and Main Street in Sunol from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 22. (From 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., the road will be open to bicyclists only). Participants in the unusual event also will have the chance to discuss proposals to enhance public access to Niles Canyon with staff from Alameda County and the East Bay Regional Park District.

A project study completed in 2017 suggested that a 10-foot-wide paved pathway running mostly along the north side of Niles Canyon Road would be the preferred way to enhance access to the Canyon for pedestrians, bicyclists and possibly equestrians.

Alameda County Supervisors Scott Haggerty and Richard Valle have been leaders in the push for a Niles Canyon recreation trail. In October 2015, the supervisors co-sponsored the first “Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll,” an event that proved so successful it was repeated in 2017. Organizers of this year’s Stroll and Roll say they are preparing for as many as 10,000 people to participate.

Proposals for a public trail through Niles Canyon are driven by the canyon’s breathtaking scenery, which is accessible only via Niles Canyon Road, a winding two-lane portion of State Highway 84. Bicyclists have repeatedly called for a trail due to safety concerns related to sharing the narrow roadway – which includes no shoulder space in some sections - with automobiles. Recreation enthusiasts point out that hiking access to the Canyon is limited and that a trail would provide a vital link between trail networks in the Tri-Valley and Alameda County’s bay-front corridor.

Supervisors Haggerty and Valle are leading a long-term initiative that is exploring options to build a trail through the canyon, which would be separated from automobile traffic to accommodate walkers, joggers and bicyclists who want to take a close look at the Canyon’s steep slopes, dense vegetation, stunning vistas and wildlife. An in-depth environmental review of the trail proposal is now being planned, with the study expected to begin sometime next year.

Go to www.84strollroll.com to learn more about the Niles Canyon Multi-Use Trail proposal and the September 22 roadway closure.

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