

Description of Corte Madera Creek Concrete Channel Components

Prepared by Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed
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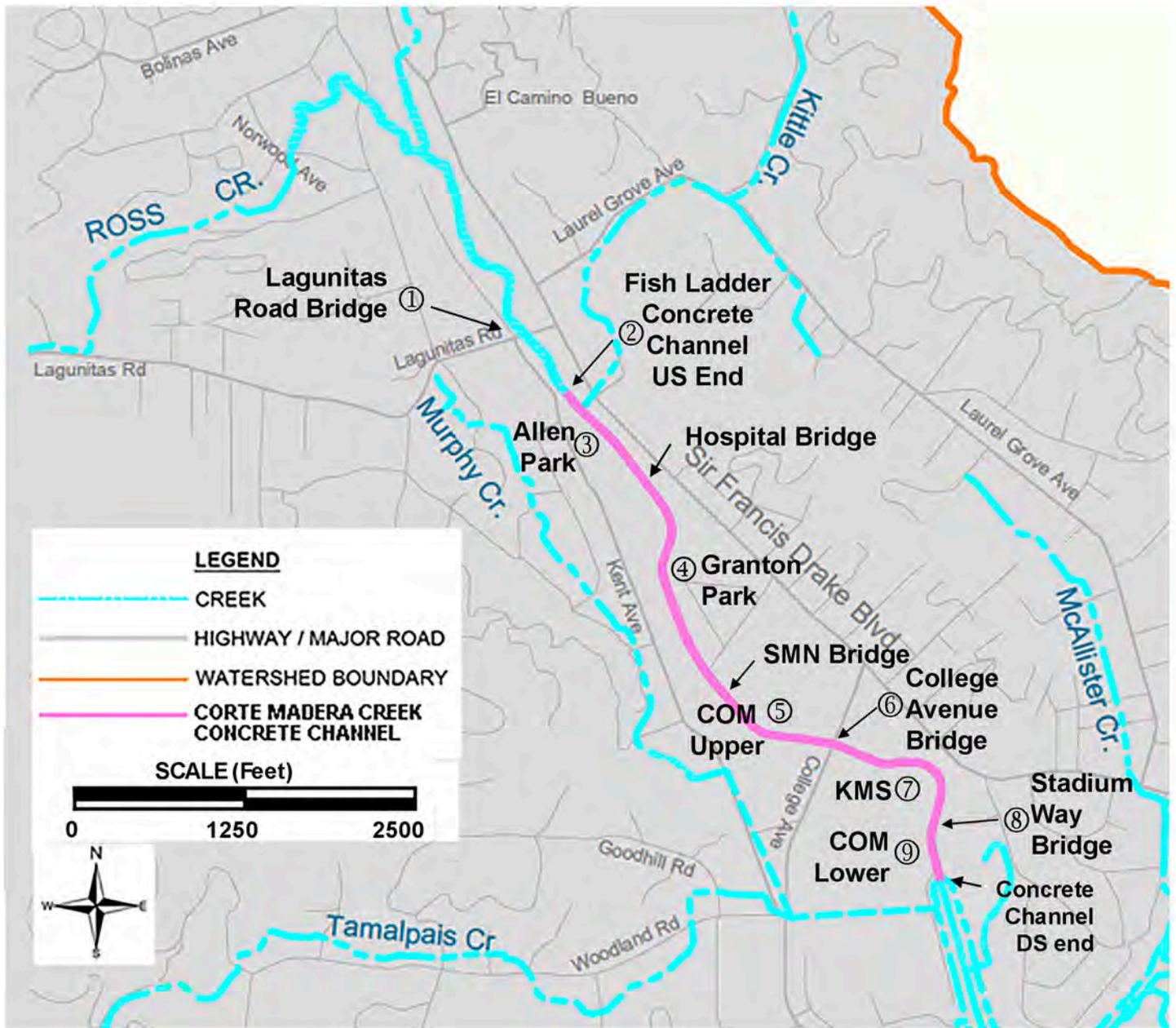
The following map identifies nine components of the Corte Madera Creek concrete channel and immediately upstream. This narrative describes the conceptual plans that have been prepared for modifications to various sections of the concrete channel, from upstream to downstream. References to the sewer refer to the large Ross Valley Sanitary District sewer along the left side of the concrete channel, installed when the concrete channel was built in the late 1960s. The Stations refer to the concrete channel as constructed. Note that in this description, the left and right banks are in reference to looking downstream along the creek.

- ① **Lagunitas Road Bridge:** This bridge is the likely upstream limit of work done as part of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project. Station 377+10
- ② **Fish Ladder:** The fish ladder, which is actually a barrier to fish passage, will be removed as part of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project. It is at the upstream end of the concrete channel. Station 369+70
- ③ **Allen Park:** This reach extends from the Lagunitas Road Bridge to the Hospital Bridge. It includes removing one or both concrete walls to create an expanded creek section with riparian benches at Allen Park, and creek improvements upstream of the fish ladder to improve creek stability and flow routing efficiency. Depending on the restoration design at Allen Park, an existing sewer pipeline along the creek left bank may be rerouted. This component is a part of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project. Station 377+10 to Station 360+80
- ④ **Granton Park:** This reach extends from the Hospital Bridge up to the Science-Math-Nursing (SMN) Bridge, near the upstream boundary of COM property. It is not feasible to widen the right-of-way in this reach because it is lined with homes and the Kentfield Rehabilitation Hospital. The key issues here are passage for salmonids and flood protection of the Granton Park neighborhood. Station 360+80 to Station 345+55

Passage for Salmonids: Downstream of this reach, tidal action makes it possible for spawning salmonids to pass through the concrete channel even though there are no places for them to rest. Analysis of fish passage by Michael Love shows that this reach is a substantial barrier to spawning salmonids and regulatory agencies expect this barrier to be treated as a condition for approving construction of the Allen Park project. Conceptual designs for this reach are preliminary but will likely include constructing resting pools to allow spawning salmonids to travel through this reach at fish passage flows. Friends of Corte Madera Creek submitted an application to the Coastal Conservancy for Prop 1 2019 funds that would partially fund the design for fish passage restoration in this component.

Flood Protection for Granton Park: Construction of a new floodwall at the left bank along this reach is proposed. This would minimize creek overtopping into the adjacent Granton Park neighborhood, which is a low-lying area. In addition, the proposal includes construction of a new pump station in this reach to route stormwater out of the interior drainage system in Granton Park neighborhood especially when the water level in the creek is high. Design and CEQA review of this project, also part of the Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project, are underway. It is being funded by the Ross Valley Watershed Program and a grant from the Department of Water Resources.

- ⑤ **COM Upper:** This reach extends from the SMN Bridge to the College Avenue Bridge. The conceptual plan calls for removal of the right wall in this reach, with the left bank left in place to protect the sewer and infrastructure installed by COM. Station 345+55 to Station 335+00
- ⑥ **College Avenue Bridge:** This bridge constricts flow, but it is in good condition and provides adequate capacity for traffic. The proposed solution is to build two high-flow, by-pass culverts, one on each side of the existing bridge, within the FCD right-of-way. Station 335+00
- ⑦ **KMS:** The Flood Control District has an easement for the concrete channel and land on either side of the channel. Removing the right bank of the channel at Kent Middle School (KMS) would require extending the project beyond the FCD easement onto land owned by the Kentfield School District (KSD), either to lower the entire playing field to create a floodplain or widening the channel by laying back the bank. The multi-use path would be moved to the left bank of the creek and the left wall would remain to protect the sewer and provide space for the multi-use path. If KSD will not allow a wider easement, then various alternatives to accommodate more flow within the FCD right-of-way will be developed. This is the least well-defined component of concrete channel modifications. Station 335+00 to Station 323+50
- ⑧ **Stadium Way Bridge:** The bridge will be replaced with a new, longer bridge. The design will depend on how the right bank at Kent Middle School is treated. The bridge is part of Safe Routes to School used by students going to Kent Middle School. The multi-use path crosses the creek on this bridge, although it is likely that the path will be moved to the left bank as part of increasing flood-flow capacity in the KMS reach. Station 323+50
- ⑨ **COM Lower:** This reach starts at the downstream side of the end of the Stadium Way Bridge and extends to the downstream end of the concrete channel. Conceptual plans call for removing the concrete on the right bank and maybe the bottom of the channel and preserving the protective covering of the sewer along the left bank. The multi-use path would be retained, but rerouted. The Flood Control District (FCD) owns the right-of-way; the wider creek would expand onto College of Marin (COM) land along the right bank. The design for this component is anticipated to be funded by the grant from Marin Community Foundation, managed by the Coastal Conservancy. Station 323+50 to Station 319+00



Project areas (see previous pages for descriptions of conceptual plans):

- ① Lagunitas Road Bridge
- ② Fish Ladder
- ③ Allen Park
- ④ Granton Park
- ⑤ COM Upper
- ⑥ College Avenue Bridge
- ⑦ Kent Middle School (KMS)
- ⑧ Stadium Way Bridge
- ⑨ COM Lower

Source: Base map modified from Ross Valley Watershed Program map