



# UCSC Great Meadow Bike Path Improvements

Santa Cruz, California

Civil and Structural Engineering



The Great Meadow Bike Path is an iconic multi-use, one-mile-long trail that allows students and recreational cyclists to ride and walk from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) to the City of Santa Cruz in a safe and spectacular setting. This improved direct route will encourage more bicycling trips to and from the campus; and it also provides great recreational riding opportunities.

The path travels through sensitive meadowland habitat within the natural setting of UCSC. The grassland terrain is home to wildlife such as hawks, gophers, and deer.

The original 44 year-old path was upgraded to current Caltrans standards. The upgraded path has wider bike lanes and shoulders. The uphill portion of the bike path can accommodate pedestrians, now that it is wider.

The improved width, colored paint markings, and signage accommodate multi-use, functionality and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Construction was completed in about three months despite the delays caused by the CZU Lighting Complex Fire and Covid-19.

Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) was used to pulverize the existing asphalt, base, and subgrade with lime/cement mixture to create a new base that required no construction waste off-haul; and allowed for easier constructability due to the narrowness of the pathway.

The improved path has a Low-Impact Design to mitigate runoff impacts. Existing drainage patterns and open vegetated areas were preserved. Stormwater runoff was treated through infiltration in adjacent vegetated areas. Construction-phase erosion control features were installed. All runoff was retained on-site in natural depressions and existing retention ponds and minimal use of virgin material was needed.

MME provided the civil engineering design and construction documents including plans, specifications and estimates for use in competitive bidding and construction.

## Client Reference:

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**Project Cost:** \$1,341,000

**Project Completion:** October 2020

