

A photograph of a dirt trail in a forest. The trail is a narrow, unpaved path that curves slightly to the right. It is surrounded by dense green vegetation, including large ferns in the foreground and various trees in the background. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment. The text "Fitzgerald Marine Reserve" and "San Mateo County" is overlaid in the top left corner, and "Dardenelle Trail" is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
San Mateo County

Dardenelle Trail

Dardenelle Trail fern grove has been obliterated by heavy machinery –
construction site 10/14/12



Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Coastal Trail Improvements PLN2010-00093, approved 1/14/2011.

Construction of an ADA-compliant trail in the location of the existing unimproved trail... 8-foot wide Gravel-pave (pervious) trail with a 2-foot shoulder (downhill side) and a 1-foot shoulder (uphill side). Clear-span pre-fab fiberglass bridge 60-foot long by 8' 4" wide. Tree removal: one 40" cypress, 3 dead cypress; possible removal of additional 40" cypress and 3 eucalyptus depending on grading requirements.

Condition of Approval #27

"The disturbance or removal of native vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to construct the trail. In particular, the applicant shall minimize disturbance to the area of the Western sword fern and rushes to the maximum extent possible. Any Western sword fern or rushes that must be removed by trail construction shall be carefully removed, saved, and replanted as part of the revegetation of this area."

“Why must our Coastal Trail, winding through beautiful natural areas of the marine reserve, be sized for road vehicles?

Rather than have bulldozers over-excavate the trail, destroying tree roots which extend far beyond the canopy of trees, more care



should be taken to adjust the trail grade for accessibility by adding fill over roots and low areas. The narrower sections of the existing trail could be carefully widened to 6 or 8 feet in the same manner. This type of careful non-invasive trail improvement would greatly reduce the need for extensive weed control follow-up caused by major soil disturbance and would preserve the sensitive habitat and natural experience of the existing trail. Is there an adequate budget for the years of follow-up weed control necessitated by all this soil disturbance?” L.Ketcham to Planning Commission 1/9/11.