

Len,

A week of recuperation from a bit of surgery has kept me off the mountain, so I hiked the CCT route discussed in the meeting last Wednesday. I find that I spoke too strongly too soon on one stretch, namely the Vallemar bluffs and the paper street called The Strand.

It can't be anything more than a footpath, but I now see no reason why the CCT can't take this route. There is one narrow spot along one property's back fence, but the entire route has held up remarkably well over the past few years. The trail can happily go on the blufftop with a bit of minor improvement in spots and clearing a few feet of iceplant away. If the bluff is lost right on into the backyards of private property during future wet, stormy times, a switch to Juliana and Vallemar will still be available for a route.

The other factor is that Niagara is no longer posted as a private street.

So, heading roughly north on Wienke, I think the trail should continue right on to The Strand, as some of us had it years ago. It should follow the casual trail that exists all the way to Niagara, then go right on Niagara up to Vallemar.

If the current narrowest spot becomes a problem, the southern half of this route might still be retained by opening a path up Marine Walk to Vallemar. This assumes Marine Walk is still public property, which the side fencelines of the bordering houses suggests.

Sorry about my personal flip-flop on this, but the blufftop route fits the role of the CCT much better than walking the streets, and it is a pretty little stretch of rocky shoreline that the public should not be denied as long as it is feasible. If the blocks occur eventually, then the route can be switched from horizontal to vertical access to continue access to the bluffs.

Carl May