

GOALS, ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
TRAIL USERS WORKING GROUP



A Summary of Concepts
for New Trail Development

March 2022

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East Bay Regional Park District

Trail Users Working Group

Goals, Issues and Solutions

A Summary of Concepts for New Trail Development

March, 2022



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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¹ TUWG members are listed without affiliation to acknowledge their participation as individuals and not as representatives of a particular organization. In addition, many of the members represented more than one type of trail user.

INTRODUCTION

In October, 2019, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) Board of Directors held a public workshop on trails. At that event, the Board heard testimony from a range of park and trail users about their issues and concerns regarding safety, environmental stewardship and access. The Board directed staff to convene a working group, ultimately made up of 30 stakeholders who are active trail users and who represent a variety of perspectives. Individuals asked to serve on the Trail Users Working Group (TUWG or Working Group) were invited by staff from hiking organizations, equestrian groups, conservationists, the mountain biking community; as well as regional and land trust perspectives, dog owners, youth, the disabled and representatives from the diverse cultural communities of the East Bay. Part of the strength and value of the TUWG membership derived from the fact that some of the voices represented multiple perspectives or organizations. Also of particular value were voices new to these discussions, which broadened the dialogue and connected the District to additional communities, not typically engaged in discussions of trails and trails policy. The organizations represented by the membership included:

<i>Albany Landfill Dog Owners Group</i>	<i>Outdoor Afro</i>
<i>Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)</i>	<i>Park Ambassadors/Multicultural Advisory Committee</i>
<i>Bay Area Ridge Trail Council</i>	<i>Point Isabel Dog Owners</i>
<i>Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay</i>	<i>Regional Parks Association</i>
<i>California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter</i>	<i>Regional Parks Foundation</i>
<i>Civikorps</i>	<i>Save Mount Diablo</i>
<i>EBRPD Park Advisory Committee</i>	<i>Share Our Trails</i>
<i>Golden Gate Audubon Society</i>	<i>Sierra Club</i>
<i>John Muir Land Trust</i>	<i>Safe Trails for Environmental Protection (STEP)</i>
<i>Metropolitan Horsemen's Association</i>	<i>Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association</i>
<i>National Interscholastic Cycling Association</i>	<i>Valley Humane Society</i>
<i>Orinda Hiking Club</i>	

On August 21, 2020, the Working Group held its first meeting to introduce one another and to establish the operating procedures of the group. Each subsequent meeting was organized to highlight the perspective of one or more user groups, with presentations by representatives of those groups, followed by a discussion period. At some meetings the TUWG entered breakout rooms to brainstorm ideas for addressing the concerns raised in the presentation; at other meetings the discussions were held as one large group.

Park District staff created a webpage on the website(<https://www.ebparke.org/trail-user-working-group>) dedicated to the TUWG and its process. On this page, TUWG members were invited to submit articles, videos, presentations and other materials to share that could assist in the group’s awareness of important issues and experiences. The TUWG meetings were recorded and the videos were posted to the webpage and available for public viewing. Meeting whiteboard notes and visual summaries captured different member perspectives and were also posted to the webpage.

There were nine TUWG meetings: the dates of the meetings and the topics covered are :

Meeting #	Date	Topics
1	August 1, 2020	Welcome/Launch/Process Overview/Introductions of Members
2	November 13, 2020	Hikers’ Perspectives
3	February 19, 2021	Bicyclists’ Perspectives
4	April 22, 2021	Equestrians’ Perspectives
5	June 3, 2021	Conservationists’ Perspectives
6	July 15, 2021	Disability Community and Dog Owners’ Perspectives
7	August 5, 2021	Inclusive Communities’ Perspectives; Process Summary
8	October 22, 2021	Discussion of Summary and Recommendations
9	February 7, 2022	Final meeting

This report documents the key elements of Working Group meeting discussions, where members:

- articulated a set of goals for guiding the development of new trails;
- described general and specific issues that impact enjoyment of the trails and protection of parks’ natural resources; and
- proposed a variety of solutions that the group feels should be taken into consideration as the Park District opens up new trails in existing parks and on Land Bank properties.

Six appendices accompany the report:

- Appendix A is a catalogue of Users’ perspectives for specific ideas generated from the series of meetings.
- Appendix B is the TUWG Charter and Operational Procedures
- Appendix C is the Recommendations Scorecard and Levels of Agreement spreadsheets
- Appendix D is TUWG member Comments and Edits to Draft Recommendations
- Appendix E is TUWG member email correspondence after the draft Summary document was released to TUWG members (November and December, 2021)
- Appendix F is the meeting “mural” summaries (for those meetings where one was prepared).

There was consensus and agreement by the Working Group on a number of solutions to the trail use questions (Appendix C). For example: improving signage; use of scientific surveys to determine trail development, and to provide access and participation by underrepresented group, to name a few. There was also disagreement on how to resolve issues of opening new parks in the Land Bank, and the efficacy of connecting to regional trail networks in and around Park District parks. Ultimately, the disagreement which the Working Group could not come to consensus on was the presence of bicycles on natural surface trails (not ranch or fire roads).

The final meeting was held on February 7, 2022; members suggested specific points of discussion to be taken up by the Park Advisory Committee (PAC). The Board has given direction to continue this work of considering solutions for new trails policy at the PAC. After the Working Group meeting in February, it is clear that the subject which was the initial question of the group in August 2020 remains a primary concern: shared use of natural surface trails. There is interest from the group in attempting “pilot” trail studies in several parks for staff to try out a series of management and other strategies to evaluate those that work best, and which could be replicated elsewhere in the District; at the same time, Working Group members want the pilot studies to be discussed by the PAC and Board in public.

The Board agrees with staff that the discussions exploring solutions to trail use issues which the Working Group has debated for the last year and a half should continue at the PAC. The PAC meets monthly in public sessions, and its Chair and members want to make trails use and policy a part of their workplan for 2022.

GOALS

Over the course of seven meetings between August 2020 and August 2021, TUWG members shared and discussed a number of special qualities about the experience on Park District trails. They acknowledged that all users have an appreciation for access to nature and all trail users want to minimize the impact that trail use has on the natural resources in the parks. In full group and small group discussions, members identified a range of potential solutions for minimizing trail use conflict and impact to the environment, while promoting the health benefits of recreational use of parks and trails. Among the overarching goals expressed were:

- **Honor the dual mission of the Park District:** The Park District’s mission is to “preserve a rich heritage of natural and cultural resources and provide open space, parks, trails, safe and healthful recreation and environmental education.” The Working Group recognizes this dual mission, and its goal is to develop and maintain a sustainable trail network that protects and restores the natural environment.
- The Park District and citizens should work together to **open more trails as expeditiously as possible**. There is high – and increasing – demand for trails throughout the Park District’s two-county area, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Optimize user experience and safety, while protecting natural resources**, by developing and implementing solutions that are based in design, engineering, education, management and enforcement.
- **Promote equity** in the communities welcomed into the parks: by providing more trails and access in areas of the East Bay that currently experience barriers and challenges getting to and enjoying the parks.
- Advertise the message that **not all trails should be for all users, but all users should have access to safe and satisfying trail experiences**.

KEY ISSUES

Among the many specific issues raised by TUWG members, the key themes consistently referenced were:

- Over-crowded trails, parking lots, and facilities that impact safety, resource protection, and user experience on multi-use trails.
- Increased demand for a variety of uses, including mountain biking and dog walking, and limited trails that are open or designed for such use.
- Establishment and use of unpermitted, “bootleg” trails.
- Increase in new users with need for education and information about shared trail use, trail etiquette, and resource protection.
- Lack of trail etiquette, such as inadequate or inappropriate warning of approach; excessive speed from bikers; and unwelcoming attitudes toward new users.
- Poor trail design/maintenance contributes to hazardous conditions and resource impacts on some trails.
- A variety of perspectives on the preferences and needs for types of trails and the suitability of narrow trails for multi-use.
- Need for an inclusive approach to trail planning.
- Trail damage and erosion, a consequence of a variety of factors (usage, design, natural/environmental, maintenance).

Many of these key issues are not new to the Park District staff or to the active trail users of the working group. There was an understanding that increasing interest in accessing Park District trails, exacerbated by effects of lockdown restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, has resulted in a corresponding increase in real and perceived trail conflicts. In this, the Park District was not unique: collaboration with managers of other park districts and systems report similar experiences.

SOLUTIONS

Following are the overarching ideas generated in small-group and full-group discussions by TUWG members during their meetings. See Appendix A, “Catalogue of Users’ Perspectives,” for a more detailed list of ideas generated. These solutions, couched in the form of recommendations, are presented in four categories:

- A. **Design/Engineering** – ideas for creating new trails that support designated uses, minimize user conflict, and protect the natural resources.
- B. **Information/Education/Training** – ideas for ensuring widespread awareness and understanding of trail usage, resource protection, and trail etiquette.
- C. **Management** – ideas for operating trails in ways that promote conservation and enjoyment, while providing safe and sustainable outdoor experiences.
- D. **Enforcement** – ideas for discouraging and penalizing dangerous, impactful, discourteous and illegal behavior on trails.

TUWG members indicated their level of support along the scale shown below (“Gradients of Agreement”) for each of the proposed strategies via a SurveyMonkey scoring process, which also provided an opportunity to suggest modifications to the language presented. Results from this process are captured in Appendix C, and comments on the recommendations and on the overall summary document are provided in Appendix D. The scoring process and results were discussed by the Working Group at the October 22nd meeting.

GRADIENTS OF AGREEMENT

1. I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.
2. I find the recommendation acceptable. It appears to be the best of the real options available to us at this time.
3. I can live with the recommendation, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not agree with the recommendation but I am willing to live with it so the TUWG process can move forward.
5. I do not agree with the recommendation, and I would like the District to do more investigation of this strategy.
6. I do not agree with the recommendation; I am not comfortable moving it forward.

The recommendations presented below are shown with their original numbering but ordered according to the relative level of support, from highest to lowest level of support, that resulted from the survey process.

A. Design/Engineering Strategies

- A1. Plans for future trail development should be informed by scientific survey / reliable data on past and current trail experiences and conflicts, usage and flow patterns, current demographics and trends, analysis of nearby facilities (e.g., equestrian demand highest where stables nearby), trail connectivity, increase in park / trail access in underserved communities.
- A9. Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities, environmental advocates and recreational users.
- A2. Plans for future trail development should be informed by environmental analysis, such as, well-timed floristic and wildlife biological surveys. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts should be the preferred alternatives.
- A6. Balance recreation and conservation – consider presence of sensitive natural resources and stewardship of ecological communities in planning and designing new trails.
- A3. Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying widths and surfacings.
- A7. Ensure that camping is a consideration in developing new trail opportunities.
- A4 & A8 combined. Open and develop Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails and to provide and augment access for specific uses.
- A5. Consider pilot trails for new design concepts.

B. Information/Education/Training Strategies

- B12. Improve signage regarding navigation, acceptable uses, resource protection and hazards on trails.
- B11. Provide information regarding trail accessibility in accessible formats (e.g., providing audible trail information for sight-impaired), including identifying, designating, and signing accessible trails.
- B2. Provide signage on trails to make clear the rules and limitations to usage.
- B8. Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier access to parks and trails for transit purposes.
- B9. Provide a welcoming trail experience for all including multi-language information (online, maps, brochures, etc.), signage and wayfinding.
- B10. Promote trail use by diverse / multicultural communities through targeted education campaigns and working with organizations that provide education, experiences and equipment for users from underserved communities.
- B14. Develop consistent symbology on maps and signage.
- B6. Promote trail safety for all users.
- B7. Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resources and habitats.
- B3. Foster collaboration and communication between user groups, including education on needs of other user groups.
- B13. Implement digital education and multi-cultural public outreach campaigns.
- B1. Establish a trail etiquette program and provide information and education regarding trail etiquette.
- B4. Provide opportunities for people to experience a variety of park environments.
- B5. Provide new trail users with educational resources to promote positive trail experiences.

C. Management Strategies

- C11. Provide access for and participation by underrepresented communities.
- C12. Optimize experience for mobility-, visually-, and hearing-impaired individuals.
- C14. Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.
- C10. Provide and protect equestrian access by designating hiker/horse only trails near stables.
- C6. Designate “bike only” trails or bike areas and improve facilities.
- C8. Identify low speed or “walk your bike” zones and provide bike bell stations at key spots.
- C1. Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions.
- C13. Prioritize connectivity with other regional trail networks.²
- C2. Discuss connectivity and interfaces with adjacent land managers.
- C5. Consider limiting uses on trails less than 8’ wide.
- C7. Consider disallowing bike use on trails less than 8’ wide.
- C4. Establish one-way or uphill-only for certain trails or at certain times.
- C3. Establish times/days for alternate uses on certain trails.
- C9. Balance access to trails for the various user groups throughout the Park District.

² Park District staff edited Recommendation C13 to remove the specific example in the original wording, to match other recommendations which also removed specific examples.

D. Enforcement Strategies

- D2. Communicate what penalties are for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education).
- D3. Provide information on signs regarding how to report dangerous or illegal behavior.
- D4. Block off bootleg trails, restore damaged areas, conduct enforcement against users of these illegal trails.
- D5. Ensure adequate resources for enforcement.
- D1. Consider the effect that increased law enforcement presence has for causing some park users to feel unsafe and unwelcome in parks.

ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AND NEXT STEPS

Issues for future consideration

At the October 22, 2021 TUWG meeting, two issues generated sustained discussion—the process to open Land Bank properties; and connectivity of Park District facilities to the greater regional trail network. Both of the recommendations pertaining to these two subjects were given votes of 1 and 6 in the online survey, indicating a wide split in opinion from the TUWG members. With the limited time available at the October meeting, a more robust debate on these subjects could not occur at the meeting. By exposing these two issues in this section, it is staff's intention to give these subjects continued attention by the Park District and the interested public, as the TUWG process winds down and the Park District decides how to proceed towards further consideration of any new trail policies.

Land Bank opening: Many vocal members of the TUWG see the opening of new trail facilities on Park District property currently in Land Bank to be a strategy for reducing trail conflict by allowing demand for trail activities to be spread out over more locations. Equally, a separate group of TUWG members want a greater understanding of the process the Park District follows to open Land Bank properties; and sees some Land Bank properties as preserve or conservation land that should have limited or no public access to protect natural habitat and wildlife corridors.

Park District staff's position is that not all areas within Land Bank properties (currently, approximately 37,000 acres) should be open to the public for all types of recreational trail access, but that some land acquired by public funding propositions and bonds (such as Measure WW) is obligated to be opened to the public for the purpose of recreation once all required analysis and permitting is completed.

It is ultimately the Board's decision as to what trails policy to pursue when it comes to Land Bank properties opening to the public. For reference, staff is currently working on plans to open several properties currently in Land Bank: Roddy Ranch golf course in Antioch (230 acres), Vasco Hills and Byron Vernal Pools south of Brentwood (1,000 acres) and Southern Las Trampas (600 acres). Other Land Bank properties are in preliminary stages of planning.

Trail connectivity: Park District staff is, at any given time, attempting to make connections between Park District trail facilities and the greater regional trail network, that includes regional, State, and Federally designated recreational trails and trails operated and managed by other agencies. For example, the Park District has prioritized connecting and completing segments of the East Bay Skyline National Recreation Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and is currently funding and planning extensions of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Garin to Vargas Plateau and Kennedy Grove to El Sobrante) through Park District lands. As other agency's parklands and trail systems are developed adjacent to Park District lands, there will be increasing pressure to connect to trail networks within these parklands as well.

The 2013 Park District Master Plan has one policy that addresses trail connectivity and linking parks together with unpaved trails, which staff continues to follow in their work plans:

The District will expand its unpaved multi-use trail system as additional acreage and new parks are added. The District will continue to provide multi-use trails to link parks and provide access to park visitor destinations (Regional Facilities and Areas-4).

Designing trail connectivity to and through Park District lands to the greater regional trail network can be a source of conflict in some cases where the most practical potential trail connections are proposed through areas of sensitive natural habitat. The Park District will make all efforts to avoid and minimize environmental impacts of trail development while honoring its commitments to partner agencies to create a regional trail network.

Concluding the TUWG and Next Steps

The Park District received several comments from TUWG members during the winter of 2021 recommending different ideas for the Summary report, and how to continue the discussion of trail use after the TUWG process concluded (Appendix E). Staff conferred informally with several members of the TUWG during November and December 2021, to hear ideas for how to complete the Working Group process and continue the discussions of trails use by other groups at the Park District. After considering the options, staff decided to formally end the TUWG with a final meeting and to transition the discussion of trail use to the Park Advisory Committee (PAC).

Staff gave an informational presentation at the PAC meeting of January 24, 2022 to give an update on the work to date of the TUWG. In the presentation, Brian Holt, Chief of Planning/Trails/GIS noted two policies from the 2013 Master Plan which are relevant for the trails discussion:

[T]rails will be designed and designated to accommodate either single- or multiple users, as appropriate, based on location, recreational intensity, environmental and safety considerations.” (Regional Facilities and Areas – 2)

The District will expand its unpaved multi-use trail system as additional acreage and new parks are added. The District will continue to provide multi-use trails to link parks and provide access to park visitor destinations (Regional Facilities and Areas-4).

PAC members expressed interest in bringing the trails discussion into the PAC work plan.

At the final TUWG meeting, held on February 7, 2022, staff presented the decision to transition the trail use discussion to the PAC work plan, and sought suggestions for specific direction to the PAC. A robust discussion at the meeting included, among other suggestions, the idea by some TUWG members that the Board direct staff to begin work on a “Trails Master Plan” in advance of opening new trails. The meeting concluded with staff’s gratitude for the work of the TUWG volunteers and plans for an in-person social gathering in the Spring.

Finally, staff presented the work of the TUWG to the Board Executive Committee on February 11, 2022, specifically seeking the Committee’s agreement that the trails discussion continue at the PAC. The Committee recommended that the PAC take up the issues of new trails, and that the PAC should also add a consideration of potential “trail pilot” projects (such as the Briones trails pilot and the proposal for a dedicated bike flow trail in Wildcat Canyon, both of which are currently being analyzed by staff).

The Trail Users Working Group has concluded its activities, with the positive results of sharing user perspectives, agreeing on potential solutions, identifying disagreements, making affiliations across the different trail users, and bringing a necessary discussion about trail policy to the Board. The Working Group’s good work will continue at the Park District with the focused attention of the PAC, and TUWG members will continue to advocate for trails and greater trails access in the Park District.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: CATALOGUE OF USERS' PERSPECTIVES

This appendix summarizes goals, issues and solutions identified during discussion at each TUWG meeting in response to presentations by the various trail user groups. These summaries do not necessarily represent the perspective of the titled user group.

HIKERS' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ Enjoy nature
- ✓ Experience solitude, serenity
- ✓ Get exercise
- ✓ Mental and physical health, relieve stress
- ✓ Enjoy views
- ✓ Take photos
- ✓ Enjoy social aspect of trails
- ✓ Experience a variety of trails
- ✓ Want trails to work for as many users as possible
- ✓ Participate in environmental stewardship
- ✓ Understand who uses the parks, how to use technology, report violations

Issues

- Parks overbusy; overflows at trailhead parking, crowding on trails
- Lack of trail etiquette and anti-social behavior, hikers not paying attention because of earbuds
- Newer trail users have a learning curve
- Different users side-by-side experience conflicts; sharing trails with cyclists, dogs, horses can be a problem; weekend hikers don't do their part in maintaining trails; younger hikers seek social media opportunities
- Facilities insufficient, many closed or not maintained
- Poor cleanliness and trail maintenance; poison oak
- Lack of information on signage re. nearby trails, distance, etc.
- Destruction of environment through bootleg trails causing soil and root damage
- Maximum group size / special events permit requirement for more than 30 – makes no sense for hiking groups

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- List parks information accurately and communicate re wide variety of trails, including info re accessibility
- Important to update maps to include new trails, update usage data, show connectivity of parks including non-EBRPD parks, and make maps easier to read online
- Better signage on trails, especially at trailheads; additional information on signage, e.g., mileage, trailhead location
- Webpage showing real-time status of facilities
- Wayfinding tools on mobile phones
- Effective ways to improve trail behavior / inform new users including campaigns to create culture of civility, signage encouraging good trail etiquette
- Information on signs about how to report emergencies and dangerous behavior

Management

- More trails to disperse users / less overcrowding
- Alternate days for user groups (track who users are)
- Consider encouraging long loops for bikers, short loops for hikers (get bikes further from trailheads)
- Consider some trails that are not multi-use
- Create permitting and required education process for motorized bikes
- Create transport / access to trails for differently abled

Enforcement

- More staff on trails

BICYCLISTS' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ Enjoy nature, fresh air
- ✓ Destress and unwind
- ✓ Build skills
- ✓ Get exercise
- ✓ Better and uninterrupted trail experiences for all users
- ✓ Address safety issues
- ✓ Trail connectivity
- ✓ A variety of cycling experiences sought - some enjoy wide trails for social biking, some seek the challenges of technically challenging trails, some enjoy fast speeds
- ✓ Bike parks
- ✓ Singletrack trails enjoyable for the natural setting

Issues

- Excessive speed invited by wide trails; Narrow trails slow riders down and are easier to engineer to reduce speeds
- Lack of courtesy / non-compliance with rules
- Harassment (of who, and how?)
- Hikers and trail users with earbuds not paying attention
- Collisions with and by bicycles can be dangerous.
- Lack of access / trails built with cyclists in mind; Insufficient trails with technical challenges for bikers; bike-only access is not a current reality
- Insufficient trail maintenance
- Inappropriate use of trails for cyclists (Crockett Hills, sharing narrow trails with horses)
- People riding up and off trail to try to create new features; environmental degradation caused by social trails
- On narrow trails, moving out of the way means leaving trail, ecological damage, plus danger of running into poison oak; this is perhaps true for trails 4' and narrower; not so true for trails 5' and wider.
- Better trail connectivity needed between parks
- Wildlife avoids bike areas
- Bells can be a noise issue for those seeking a peaceful park experience
- Dogs on long retractable leashes pose a potential hazard to hikers

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- Regionwide collaborative education efforts (including on trails) e.g., programs such as Marin's "Slow and Say Hello"

- Education on awareness of other users needed for all users
- Education for new trail users – with many new family users, youth users through Mountain Bike teams, opportunity to create new generation of park stewards
- Direct discussion with users
- Explicit, clear signage to limit congestion, decrease conflicts – yield signs take a moment to figure out
- Advertise trails open to bikes

Management

- Bike bell stations
- Explore alternate days / times for different users
- Explore one-way trails as an option for greater safety / fewer conflicts
- Review bike access points / inter-jurisdictional flow between parks
- Do trail user conflict survey
- Park District trail ride to inform master plan for management
- Designate “bike only” trails and bike areas; explore locations for bike skills courses, improve facilities (e.g., install bike repair stations)

Enforcement

- Bikers use peer pressure to discourage poor behavior
- Park police on e-bikes could be an effective enforcement tool

Engineering/Design

- Comprehensive trail plan developed based on current issues, with funding for good environmental analysis for trail locations and construction – include access plans for Land Bank properties
- Design trails for multi-use from the outset, by using design features that increase views downtrail; that slow bikes with grade reversals; limiting grade, and pinch points.
- Include bike-only or bike-optimized trails.
- Consider that trail design may be more effective than education.
- Create and publicize trails especially for bikers seeking technical challenges – include narrow trails in strategic locations
- Bike trails close to residential areas so families can ride there with kids
- Evaluate system-wide connectivity—both between parks and with neighboring agencies and jurisdictions (such as cities of Oakland, Lafayette, Walnut Creek; CA State Parks).

EQUESTRIANS' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ Enjoy nature
- ✓ Build skills
- ✓ Get exercise
- ✓ Have a safe trail experience (safety from vehicles, startling events), including for children, novice riders, solo riders
- ✓ Space for all gaits
- ✓ Friendly encounters with other trail users
- ✓ Peaceful and stress-free experience

Issues

- Horses are large, heavy, react to danger by bolting – big impact on rider and horse safety
- Excessive bike speed, particularly e-bikes; bike use may be higher impact than horses – faster, more focused on activity than looking around
- Lack of courtesy; casual or untrained users unfamiliar with etiquette and self-enforcement
- Harassment, aggression, bad behavior
- Conflicts with dogs / uncontrolled dogs on trail
- Lack of signage or signage that is difficult to understand (triangular “Yield” signage)
- Lack of accessibility / appropriate facilities – entrances / parking that doesn’t accommodate large trailers or provide room to maneuver; cars block trailers

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- Better training on how to interact with horses, including horse trail brochure, better education and clearer signage around right-of-way issues - triangular yield sign is confusing; use simple language
- Desensitization programs for horses
- Bike bell station programs on trails to educate and reduce cyclist / equestrian conflict
- Ensure signage in all parks indicating where bikes aren’t allowed
- Collaboration between user groups and joint trail user events (ride / hike / bike); discuss experiences and learn how to interact safely / courteously
- Emphasize uses in parks that would benefit those users the most. Create “best of” list on Park District website for specific uses.

Management

- Planning for existing trails. Include considering how to handle current trail conflicts.
- Trail user dispersion – separate trails for equestrians and/or hikers, times for different uses; open different trails to allow for more usage
- Limit uses on narrow hazardous trails
- Use more creative management techniques for excess use during COVID
- Designate sections of land within parks for certain uses rather than just trails – web of trails complicated to enforce and manage
- Mitigation or permit fees for certain uses to help support increase maintenance costs, etc.

Enforcement

- Enforce user regulations, including limits to bike use/speed limits

Engineering/Design

- Think holistically about all uses when designing new trails or parks. Design with flow patterns in mind and consider designing for shared use, use of fire roads.
- Consider design standards and separate trails for different uses, especially separate for bikes (horse/hikers can share). Create enough space at multi-use parks so there are trails for specific uses. Designated trails will help reduce conflicts, may work better than trail design/management.
- Increase management on new trails.
- On narrow trails, design places to pull off to allow other users past, including other equestrians
- Add designated parking
- Measure percentage of trail users who are equestrians to help determine # of trails to be designated horse-only
- Consider things that help multi-use such as good sightlines and designs to slow speed, including less than 10% grade

CONSERVATIONISTS' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ Enjoy nature
- ✓ Restore and protect habitat
- ✓ Restore and conserve natural resources
- ✓ Appropriate access for recreation consistent with protecting natural world – provide a range of opportunities
- ✓ Limit impact of new trails

Issues

- Erosion
- Encroachment on habitat
- Predation
- Excessive speeds
- Lack of courtesy
- Harassment
- Challenges of balancing all users' needs with protecting the environment; even restricted trails see a heavy impact

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- Make information regarding limitations to trail uses clear to visitors
- Education regarding protecting the environment, wildlife values, habitat, etc.

Management

- Consider conservation impacts of narrow trails, multi-use, etc. equally with safety concerns. Fund studies on impact of human presence and how to manage. Need thorough evaluation of why trails are eroding.
- Habitat Conservancy as County agency is a great idea (details not specified)
- Adopt-a-trail program – users have ownership, can call groups to notify about trail conditions
- Consider rotating park openings / closings as over-capacity is reached
- Expect and plan for the unexpected – natural disasters, etc.

Enforcement

- More enforcement: Restrict potentially damaging recreational activities to approved trails; require orientation and education, establish regular enforcement patrols, study impacts and exclude damaged trails, increase fines and apply proceeds to restore damage, exclude repeat offenders / require permits, use night vision cameras for

evidence of rogue trails created at night; consider requiring volunteer work rather than permit fee

Engineering/Design

- In addition to 3 E's of Engineering, Education, Enforcement, consider the other 2 E's from the start: Environmental Impact and User Experience.
- Include environmentalists from beginning of planning process and evaluate conservation needs, environmentally sensitive areas prior to considering new trails. Consider impacts of and resources needed to evaluate impacts for new trails of all kinds equally with safety concerns.
- Systemic, overall rather than siloed view of planning; don't limit considerations to the boundaries of new parks, but consider what impacts users might have on connected areas and trails.
- Carefully plan and consider process of getting and integrating stakeholder input and building consensus for more new parks.
- Design trails with maintenance in mind to limit erosion.
- In trail design, consider making off-limits areas less attractive; consider sight lines, minimize grading.
- All types of uses cause impacts to trails – key is to encourage use without causing impacts. Even restricted trails see a heavy impact and there is always a population that will be ignorant and/or ignore the rules. Some feel the best solution is to create more trails with specific uses; others welcome opportunity to consider and design trails for multi-use.
- Understand demand in new parks – take pressure off parks that are heavily impacted. Develop trails to spread people out. Consider building pilot trails in new areas and monitoring/studying. Identify future trends and how to respond.

DISABILITY COMMUNITIES' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ The same things everyone else wants!
- ✓ Health, stress relief
- ✓ Being surrounded by nature
- ✓ Variety of trail experiences catering to a variety of disabilities, including non-mobility related (intellectual, visual, auditory), with a broad spectrum of abilities

Issues

- Lack of physical access (trails, facilities, parking). Illegal use of parking placards with no enforcement.
- Lack of maintenance of accessible features
- Information barrier – lack of accessibility info / info in alternative formats (e.g., braille). Hard to judge if park or trail will meet accessibility needs, with lack of specificity in accessibility info available online.
- Lack of variety of trail experiences – most offered are short loop trails.
- Lack of transportation – not understood as a barrier. Transit cut back, many don't drive, paratransit is unreliable and/or may not go to certain parks, requires a park address which can be hard to find or, if found, paratransit drop off is a long way from trail.
- Equipment breakdown while on trails.
- Need for a companion / personal care attendant
- Weather
- Historical exclusion, no staff to identify with and previous bad experiences make many disabled persons reluctant to return
- Barriers with virtual programming
- User conflicts – uncontrolled dog behavior / conflicts with guide dogs; speeding cyclists, without adequate warning; lack of trail etiquette education, experience, knowing how to make way for cyclists and horses or how to behave around them
- Lack of understanding that there are a wide variety of accessibility needs that vary from person to person

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- Create standardized names for accessible trails
- Identify specifics in accessibility information (e.g., nature and location of obstacles).
- Describe accessibility features so that individual can decide for themselves if it meets their accessibility needs (e.g., accessible parking, restrooms, length/width/slope of trail, surface, shade, benches, water for self and service animals).

- Educate all trail users to be respectful and to be aware of the needs of hikers with non-mobility related disabilities (e.g., autistic—may not discern other users approaching, hearing or visually impaired)
- Educate wheelchair / mobility technology users in interacting with horses. Work on disabled-equestrian cooperation, desensitization programs for horses, etc.
- Create a list of more accurate GPS “addresses” supplied by Park District so that disabled hikers can be transported to the correct trailhead location.
- Provide a link to BORP’s accessible trails website.

Management

- Provide charging stations on trails for powered mobility equipment
- Technological solutions for mobility – some parks loaning out equipment
- Consider a program for volunteers to periodically assess parks for accessibility (provide checklist) and alert the park to problems

Enforcement

- Enforcement of disabled parking rules

Engineering/Design

- Think about inclusive design when building new trails. Involve BORP or other disabled representatives in assessing the accessibility of design elements **prior to construction**
- Create an advisory committee to review plans and suggest where to go beyond minimal requirements of ADA, ensure enforcement of standards.
- Wider trails are better.

DOG OWNERS' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ Culture that encourages good trail manners, social and environmental responsibility, compliance, tolerance and understanding among all user groups
- ✓ Physical and mental health benefits
- ✓ Accessibility of experience – low bar to entry, open to all with a dog and a leash
- ✓ Safe, fulfilling, restorative time in nature – trails are safer for dogs, dog walking advocates prefer trails
- ✓ Advance training and education regarding dogs on trails, promote better park user experience
- ✓ Promote understanding that dogs under appropriate control of humans are not a threat to parks
- ✓ Improve environment

Issues

- Perception that off-leash dogs are responsible for wildlife / habitat destruction (not borne out by data and studies of off-leash dog behavior on trails and off-leash companion dogs as compared to feral and free-roaming dogs)
- Concern about how dogs will be welcomed in new parks
- Dog poo baggies left on trail
- Conflicts between dogs and horses; dogs chasing or attacking grazing animals & horses; some bad actors training dogs to be vicious, letting them off leash to chase/attack (rare, more of an issue in urban parks, most issues likely due to cluelessness, negligence)

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- Educate new dog owners about proper trail etiquette; create package with list of rules, supplied doggie bags, etc. Outreach and education of dog owners in the parks is important; many are new dog owners and not part of an organized group. Educational programs such as “Be A Pup Pro” includes education that poop bags can’t be left on trails – even if biodegradable
- Minimizing conflict between dogs/horses/bikers/hikers: Clearer instructions on signage re. right-of-way, more dog/horse desensitization programs, dog and horse owners to work together

Management

- Continue dog policies in Ordinance 38 in existing parks and Land Bank areas not covered by conservation easements

- New trails in existing parks, and new trails in newly opened Land Bank should allow dog walking (when regulations permit)
- More trash cans on trails, near trailheads

Enforcement

- Enforce rules about controlling dogs
- Other dog users can use shame and peer pressure to promote better behavior

Engineering/Design

- Include recreational ombudsman in early stages of planning process for new parks / trails so that recreational interests are represented

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES' PERSPECTIVE

Goals

- ✓ The same things everyone else wants!
- ✓ Health, stress relief, AND HEALING!
- ✓ Being surrounded by nature
- ✓ Increasing the diversity of trail users
- ✓ Prioritizing the traditionally underrepresented populations of the East Bay in trail planning to help ensure inclusiveness and establish equity in the planning process
- ✓ Providing greater access to parks in underrepresented areas including urban settings

Issues

- Park / trail planning process is not always inclusionary or equitable, does not consider needs of underrepresented communities
- Lack of transit and/or information on transit accessibility of parks
- Parks are not welcoming to diverse users

Solutions

Information/Education/Training

- Provide clearer information online and on maps, and conduct educational campaigns (including ads on public transit) regarding how to access parks/trails using transit
- Provide park welcome signs in different languages
- Provide more multicultural walks and targeted education campaigns (including multicultural influencers) to draw greater engagement and participation in parks from diverse users
- Provide accessibility information in different languages
- Partner / work with organizations that provide biking education to assess barriers, increase access to biking as both transport to parks and recreation
- Organize camping trips for diverse communities, including working with organizations that provide low-or no-cost camping equipment to underserved communities
- Access requires more than providing a map. Address need for healing through time in nature among communities of color; promote discussions about positive experiences on trails to help allay fears of entering the outdoors

Management

- Help diverse users feel more welcome by increasing multicultural representation in on-site Park District staff, conducting more activities on trails during weekdays, and consider hiring diverse youth to act as trail monitors/facilitators

Enforcement

- Provide feeling of safety for diverse users by ensuring that Park District Police are fully trained to respond appropriately to situations in parks given diverse communities' negative experiences with law enforcement.

Engineering/Design

- Plan inclusively from the beginning when planning new parks/trails; involve traditionally underrepresented communities in process; forge alliances, establish buy-in, seek to understand, assess, and lead with community values, needs, impacts and ideas
- Plan more parks in underrepresented areas with less access; includes collecting data for assessment
- Identify Land Bank and other properties for potential new parks / trails that should be prioritized to increase access for different user communities as well as for diverse communities

APPENDIX B: TUWG Charter and Operational Procedures

Natural Surface Trails Users Working Group Ground Rules and Guidelines August 21, 2020

Introduction

Park District staff established the Natural Surface Trails Users Working Group (Working Group, WG) to establish a body of stakeholders to support the development of new natural surface trails throughout the Park District.

Purpose and Charge

The Working Group will work directly with Park District staff to evaluate various trail interests, constraints, and conflicts that influence the planning, design, and implementation of new natural surface trails. Feedback from the Working Group will be presented to the Board's Operations Committee. Any specific recommendations that may be agreed upon by the Working Group will be forwarded to the full Board for their review and consideration.

Membership

The Working Group is composed of fifteen members as described below.

Type	Representation
EBRPD Parks Advisory Committee (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise EBRPD PAC on policy input from the WG.
Mountain Biking Groups (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent active and established mountain bike advocacy organizations such as the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay, California Mountain Biking Coalition.
Land Trust Partners (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent established Land Trusts who manage open space land and trails who regularly partner with the Park District such as Save Mount Diablo, John Muir Land Trust, and Tri-Valley Conservancy.
Equestrian Groups (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent active and established Bay Area equestrian advocacy organizations such as California Horseman's Association, Metropolitan Horseman's Association, Tilden Wildcat Horsemen.
Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent the interests of the multi-cultural advisory committee.

Conservation Groups (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the interests of established and active environmental groups who are active in the Environmental Roundtable
Regional Planning (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the regional trail perspective, such as Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Hiking Groups (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the interests of hikers.
Accessibility Users (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the interests of the accessibility communities
Additional organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Park Association

Additional members from organizations which are not currently represented may be invited with the consensus of staff and the Trails Working Group.

Park District Staff

East Bay Regional Park District staff representation will include an inter-division approach to ensure broad representation across the agency. Park District staff who will participate will include, but not be limited to, members of:

- Planning, Trails, and GIS Department
- Stewardship Department
- Operations Division
- Public Safety Division

Ground Rules

The Working Group members shall strive for a collaborative, constructive process with active participation of all members in discussing issues and shall honor the following ground rules to ensure open and productive discussions:

- I. **Attend scheduled meetings.** WG members shall strive to attend each scheduled meeting. WG members who cannot attend a meeting shall call or email the Park District staff liaison at least one week prior to the meeting. Two consecutive absences and up to three total absences indicate an inability to serve and may result in removal and/or replacement from the WG. WG members who are unable to attend a particular meeting but would like to share their views on agendized topics have two options:
 - a. They can submit written comments to Park District staff 24 to 48 hours before the meeting to be shared with WG members at the meeting, or
 - b. They can ask another WG member to make comments on their behalf.

2. **Attend scheduled site visits.** Site visits may be scheduled to look at specific natural surface trail opportunities or established trails that are representative of the topic of the WG discussion. WG members shall strive to attend each site visit.
3. **Participate in meeting discussions.** WG members will read each packet of meeting documents before the scheduled meeting and come prepared to engage in discussions.
4. **Keep an open mind and be respectful.** WG members will keep an open mind and remain respectful of the opinions expressed by fellow WG members, the public, and information presented by the Park District project team.
5. **Represent stakeholder perspectives.** WG members represent and will actively and constructively voice the interests and concerns of their respective community and/or stakeholder groups.
6. **Work together towards solutions.** WG members will hold each other accountable to work together towards solutions and practical recommendations that address the goals and objectives of the Park District.
7. **Avoid sidebar conversations.** WG members will avoid side conversations, which may detract from the meeting. In the spirit of good group decorum, WG members will also commit to working within the WG to resolve conflicts and reach agreements before commenting at public meetings on issues discussed by the WG.
8. **Avoid repetition.** WG members will express their points and avoid continuing to reiterate the same points. If WG members share viewpoints previously raised by another WG member, they shall note the shared opinion and avoid otherwise repeating the points to help move the process forward.
9. **Step up, step back.** WG members will speak up to make their points and avoid dominating the conversation.
10. **Be a liaison to the public.** WG members will be available to hear from and discuss interests and concerns about the project with members of the public. WG members will remain alert to issues, problems, and needs expressed by the public, neighbors, and special interest groups and will raise these to the WG. WG members will also strive to keep their communities informed of the work and progress of the WG.
11. **Staff will present WG report to the Park District's Operations Committee.** Although the WG will strive for consensus, if consensus is not reached, staff will present differing views, e.g. majority and minority views.
12. **Have fun.** Enjoy the process and learn from each other.

###

APPENDIX C: Recommendations Scorecard and Levels of Agreement



TRAIL USERS WORKING GROUP PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS Development of Recommendations

The TUWG process aims to achieve a high level of agreement on a set of recommended strategies to guide development of new trails in the East Bay Regional Park District. “High level of Agreement” does not necessarily mean that all members of the group are equally enthusiastic about a given direction or recommendation. It does mean that a large number of TUWG members is willing to “live with” the recommendation, even though some individuals might prefer an alternative recommendation.

The facilitator will test for a level of agreement on various proposals using a “gradients of agreement” scale similar to what follows:

1. I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.
2. I find the recommendation acceptable. It appears to be a reasonable proposal that deserves consideration.
3. I can live with the recommendation, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not agree with the recommendation but I am willing to live with it so the TUWG process can move forward.
5. I do not agree with the recommendation, and I would like the District to do more investigation of this strategy.
6. I do not agree with the recommendation; I am not comfortable moving it forward.

The facilitator team will work with TUWG members to reach the highest possible level of agreement for each major recommendation to the maximum extent possible within time and budget constraints. We recognize that the highest possible level of agreement among TUWG members may not be possible for 100% of the proposed recommendations. Every effort will be made to reach agreement and that opposing points of view will be documented in cases where the level of agreement falls short. Finally, 100% agreement on all items will not be required to move forward with the Recommendations Report from the TUWG to the Operations Committee. The Project Team will document the levels of agreement reached by the TUWG for each major recommendation and include these results in the recommendations document that will be submitted to the Park Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS SCORECARD

Using the scale at the bottom of the page, please indicate your level of agreement (1-6) for each of the draft recommendations.

A. DESIGN/ENGINEERING STRATEGIES		Level of Agreement
A1.	Plans for future trail development should be informed by scientific survey / reliable data on past and current trail experiences and conflicts, usage and flow patterns, current demographics and trends, analysis of nearby facilities (e.g., equestrian demand highest where stables nearby), trail connectivity, increase in park / trail access in underserved communities.	
A2.	Plans for future trail development should be informed by environmental analysis, such as, well-timed floristic and wildlife biological surveys. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts should be the preferred alternatives.	
A3.	Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying widths and surfacings.	
A4.	Open and develop Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails and to provide and augment access for specific uses.	
A5.	Consider pilot trails for new design concepts.	
A6.	Balance recreation and conservation – consider presence of sensitive natural resources and stewardship of ecological communities in planning and designing new trails.	
A7.	Ensure that camping is a consideration in developing new trail opportunities.	
A8.	Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities, environmental advocates and recreational users.	

1. I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.
2. I find the recommendation acceptable. It appears to be the best of the real options available to us at this time.
3. I can live with the recommendation, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not agree with the recommendation but I am willing to live with it so the TUWG process can move forward.
5. I do not agree with the recommendation, and I would like the District to do more investigation of this strategy.
6. I do not agree with the recommendation; I am not comfortable moving it forward.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS SCORECARD

Using the scale at the bottom of the page, please indicate your level of agreement (1-6) for each of the draft recommendations.

B. INFORMATION/EDUCATION/TRAINING STRATEGIES		Level of Agreement
B1.	Establish a trail etiquette program and provide information and education regarding trail etiquette.	
B2.	Provide signage on trails to make clear the rules and limitations to usage.	
B3.	Foster collaboration and communication between user groups, including education on needs of other user groups.	
B4.	Provide opportunities for people to experience a variety of park environments.	
B5.	Provide new trail users with educational resources to promote positive trail experiences.	
B6.	Promote trail safety for all users.	
B7.	Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resources and habitats.	
B8.	Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier access to parks and trails for transit purposes.	
B9.	Provide a welcoming trail experience for all including multi-language information (online, maps, brochures, etc.), signage and wayfinding.	
B10.	Promote trail use by diverse / multicultural communities through targeted education campaigns and working with organizations that provide education, experiences and equipment for users from underserved communities.	
B11.	Provide information regarding trail accessibility in accessible formats (e.g., providing audible trail information for sight-impaired), including identifying, designating, and signing accessible trails.	
B12.	Improve signage regarding navigation, acceptable uses, resource protection and hazards on trails.	
B13.	Implement digital education and multi-cultural public outreach campaigns.	
B14.	Develop consistent symbology on maps and signage.	

1. I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.
2. I find the recommendation acceptable. It appears to be the best of the real options available to us at this time.
3. I can live with the recommendation, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not agree with the recommendation but I am willing to live with it so the TUWG process can move forward.
5. I do not agree with the recommendation, and I would like the District to do more investigation of this strategy.
6. I do not agree with the recommendation; I am not comfortable moving it forward.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS SCORECARD

Using the scale at the bottom of the page, please indicate your level of agreement (1-6) for each of the draft recommendations.

C. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES		Level of Agreement
C1.	Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions.	
C2.	Discuss connectivity and interfaces with adjacent land managers.	
C3.	Establish times/days for alternate uses on certain trails.	
C4.	Establish one-way or uphill-only for certain trails or at certain times.	
C5.	Consider limiting uses on trails less than 8' wide.	
C6.	Designate "bike only" trails or bike areas and improve facilities.	
C7.	Consider disallowing bike use on trails less than 8' wide.	
C8.	Identify low speed or "walk your bike" zones and provide bike bell stations at key spots.	
C9.	Balance access to trails for the various user groups throughout the Park District.	
C10.	Provide and protect equestrian access by designating hiker/horse only trails near stables.	
C11.	Provide access for and participation by underrepresented communities.	
C12.	Optimize experience for mobility-, visually-, and hearing-impaired individuals.	
C13.	Prioritize connectivity with other regional trail networks.	
C14.	Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.	

1. I can say an unqualified "yes" to the recommendation.
2. I find the recommendation acceptable. It appears to be the best of the real options available to us at this time.
3. I can live with the recommendation, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not agree with the recommendation but I am willing to live with it so the TUWG process can move forward.
5. I do not agree with the recommendation, and I would like the District to do more investigation of this strategy.
6. I do not agree with the recommendation; I am not comfortable moving it forward.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS SCORECARD

Using the scale at the bottom of the page, please indicate your level of agreement (1-6) for each of the draft recommendations.

D. ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES		Level of Agreement
D1.	Consider the effect that increased law enforcement presence has for causing some park users to feel unsafe and unwelcome in parks.	
D2.	Communicate what penalties are for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education).	
D3.	Provide information on signs regarding how to report dangerous or illegal behavior.	
D4.	Block off bootleg trails, restore damaged areas, conduct enforcement against users of these illegal trails.	
D5.	Ensure adequate resources for enforcement.	

1. I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.
2. I find the recommendation acceptable. It appears to be the best of the real options available to us at this time.
3. I can live with the recommendation, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not agree with the recommendation but I am willing to live with it so the TUWG process can move forward.
5. I do not agree with the recommendation, and I would like the District to do more investigation of this strategy.
6. I do not agree with the recommendation; I am not comfortable moving it forward.

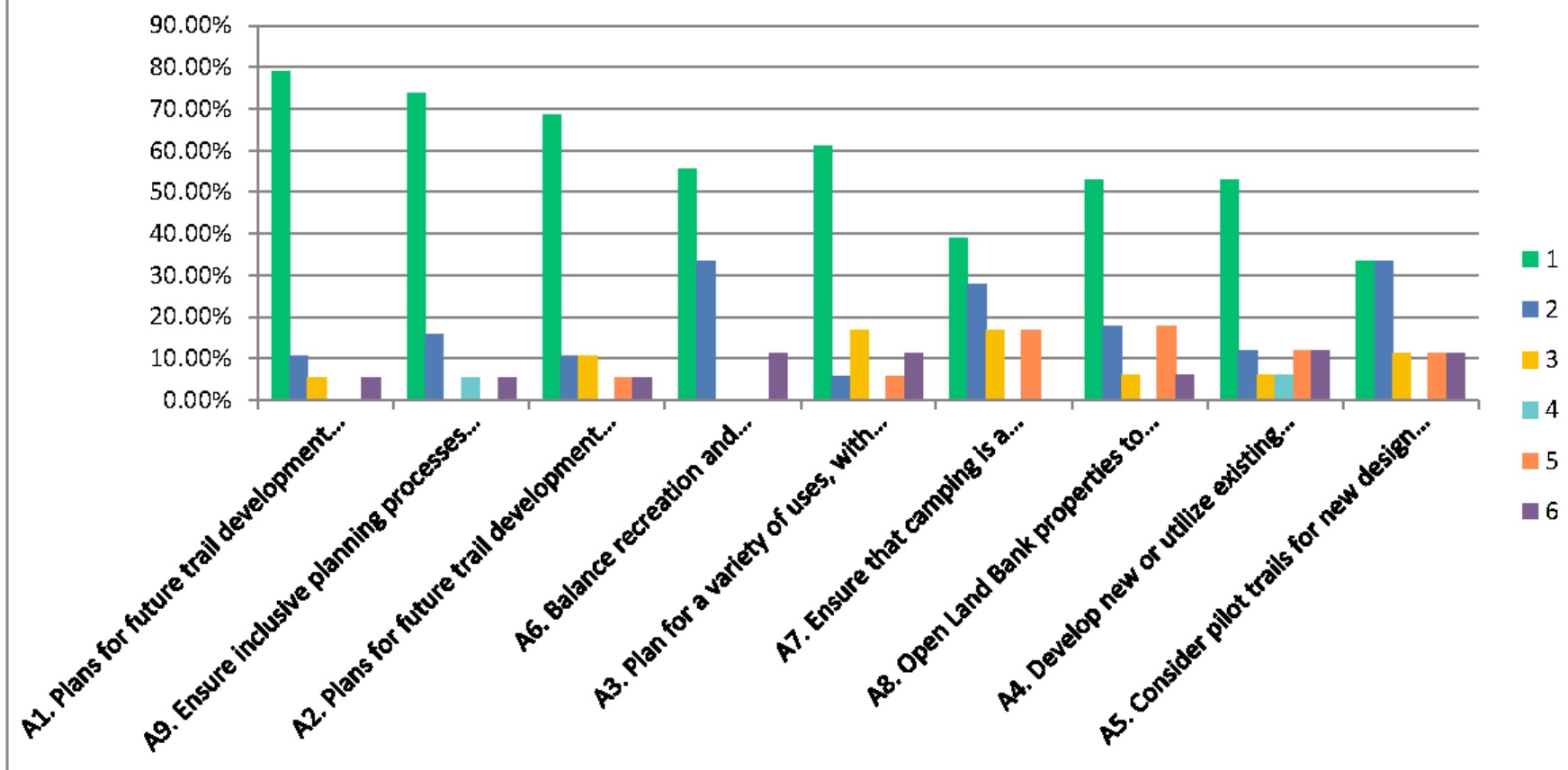
RESULTS: LEVELS OF AGREEMENT

A: Design / Engineering Strategies	Levels of Agreement												Mean / Average Level of Agreement	Total Responses
	1		2		3		4		5		6			
A1. Plans for future trail development should be informed by scientific survey / reliable data on past and current trail experiences and conflicts, usage and flow patterns, current demographics and trends, analysis of nearby facilities (e.g., equestrian demand highest where stables nearby), trail connectivity, increase in park / trail access in underserved communities.	78.95%	18	10.53%	3	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.43	23
A9. Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities and environmental advocates.	73.68%	17	15.79%	3	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	0.00%	1	5.26%	1	1.65	23
A2. Plans for future trail development should be informed by environmental analysis, such as, well-timed floristic and wildlife biological surveys. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts will be the preferred alternatives.	68.42%	16	10.53%	3	10.53%	2	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	5.26%	1	1.70	23
A6. Balance recreation and conservation – consider stewardship of ecological communities in planning, designing new trails.	55.56%	13	33.33%	7	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	11.11%	2	1.77	22
A3. Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying width.	61.11%	14	5.56%	2	16.67%	3	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	11.11%	2	2.00	22
A7. Ensure that camping is a consideration in developing new trail opportunities.	38.89%	8	27.78%	8	16.67%	3	0.00%	0	16.67%	3	0.00%	0	2.18	22
A8. Open Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails.	52.94%	11	17.65%	4	5.88%	1	0.00%	0	17.65%	4	5.88%	1	2.29	21
A4. Develop new or utilize existing facilities in Land Bank properties to provide and protect access for specific uses.	52.94%	11	11.76%	3	5.88%	2	5.88%	1	11.76%	2	11.76%	2	2.33	21
A5. Consider pilot trails for new design concepts.	33.33%	8	33.33%	7	11.11%	3	0.00%	0	11.11%	2	11.11%	2	2.41	22

Green = <20% opposition | Blue = 20-25% opposition | Red = >25% opposition

A: Design / Engineering Strategies

Please provide your level of agreement with each of the recommendations below.

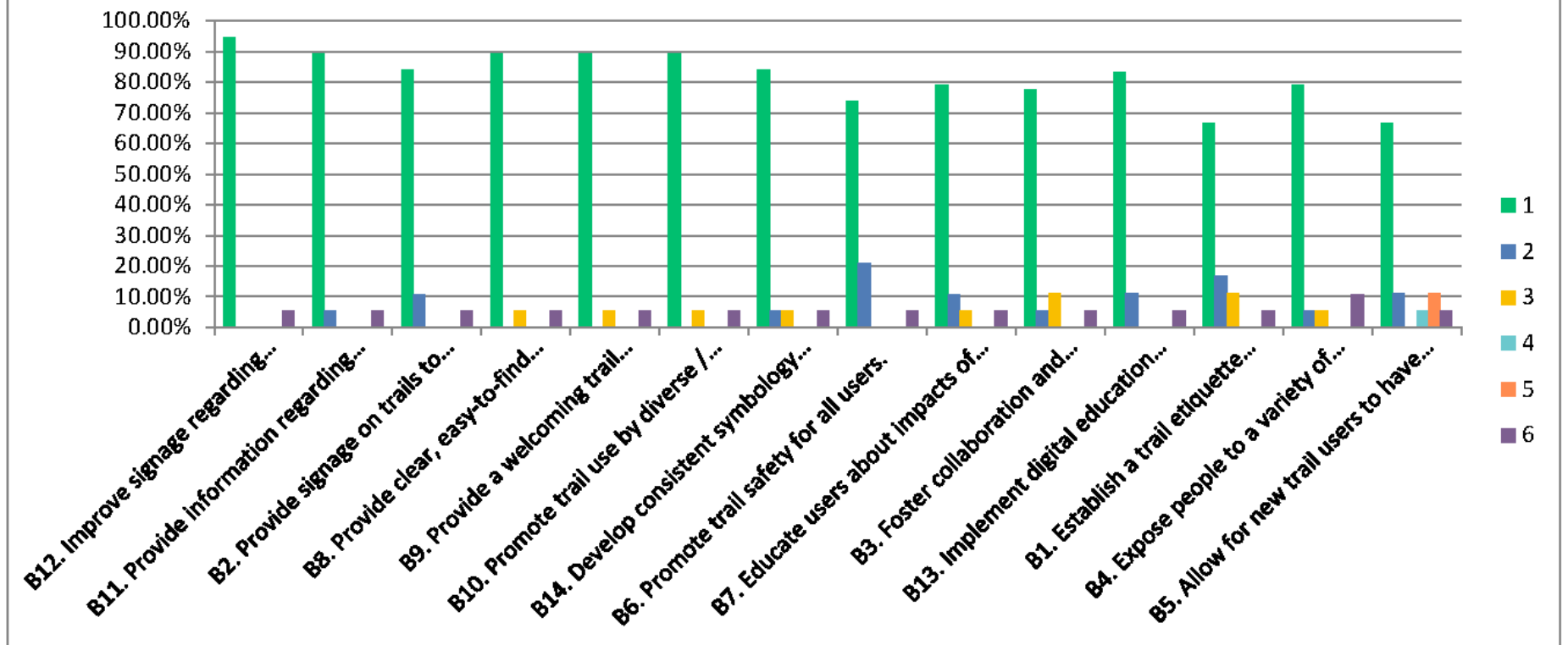


B: Information / Education / Training Strategies	Levels of Agreement												Mean / Average Level of Agreement	Total Responses
	1		2		3		4		5		6			
B12. Improve signage regarding navigation, acceptable uses, resource protection and trail hazards on trails.Is.	94.74%	21	0.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.26	23
B11. Provide information regarding trail accessibility in accessible formats (e.g., providing audible trail information for sight-impaired), including identifying, designating, and signing accessible trails.	89.47%	21	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.26	23
B2. Provide signage on trails to make clear the rules and limitations to usage.	84.21%	20	10.53%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.30	23
B8. Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier location of parks and trails for transit purposes.	89.47%	21	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.30	23
B9. Provide a welcoming trail experience for all including multi-language information (online, maps, brochures, etc.), signage and wayfinding.	89.47%	21	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.30	23
B10. Promote trail use by diverse / multicultural communities through targeted education campaigns and working with organizations that provide education, experiences and equipment for users from underserved communities.	89.47%	21	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.30	23
B14. Develop consistent symbology for specific user types on maps and signage.	84.21%	19	5.26%	2	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.39	23
B6. Promote trail safety for all users.	73.68%	18	21.05%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.39	23
B7. Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resource habitats.	78.95%	19	10.53%	2	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	1.39	23
B3. Foster collaboration and communication between user groups, including education on needs of other user groups.	77.78%	18	5.56%	1	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	1.45	22
B13. Implement digital education and multi-cultural public outreach campaigns.	83.33%	19	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	1.32	22
B1. Establish a trail etiquette program and provide information and education regarding trail etiquette.	66.67%	16	16.67%	3	11.11%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	1.55	22
B4. Expose people to a variety of park environments.	78.95%	18	5.26%	2	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.53%	2	1.61	23
B5. Allow for new trail users to have a learning curve.	66.67%	14	11.11%	3	0.00%	1	5.56%	1	11.11%	2	5.56%	1	1.95	22

Green = <20% opposition | Blue = 20-25% opposition | Red = >25% opposition

B: Information / Education / Training Strategies

Please provide your level of agreement with each of the recommendations below.

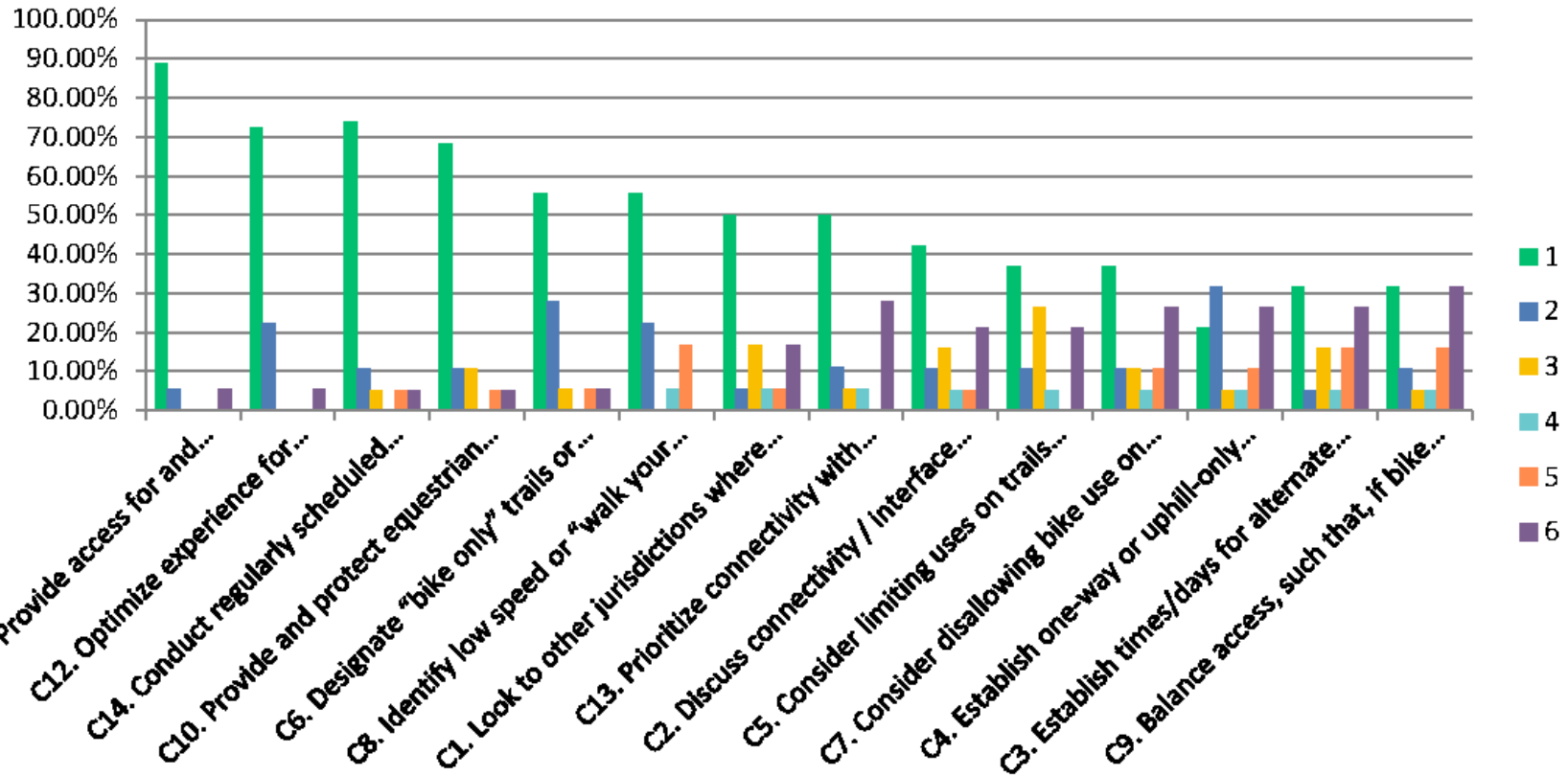


C: Management Strategies	Levels of Agreement												Mean / Average Level of Agreement	Total Responses
	1		2		3		4		5		6			
C11. Provide access for and participation by underrepresented communities.	88.89%	19	5.56%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	1.32	22
C12. Optimize experience for mobility-, visually-, and hearing-impaired individuals.	72.22%	16	22.22%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	1.45	22
C14. Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.	73.68%	17	10.53%	3	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	5.26%	1	1.61	23
C10. Provide and protect equestrian access through designated trails hiker/horse only trails near stables	68.42%	15	10.53%	4	10.53%	2	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	5.26%	1	1.74	23
C6. Designate "bike only" trails or bike areas and improve facilities.	55.56%	12	27.78%	7	5.56%	1	0.00%	0	5.56%	1	5.56%	1	1.82	22
C8. Identify low speed or "walk your bike" zones and provide bike bell stations at key spots.	55.56%	11	22.22%	5	0.00%	1	5.56%	2	16.67%	3	0.00%	0	2.14	22
C1. Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions, such as Bill's Trail in Samuel P. Taylor Park, John Muir Land Trust, Santa Cruz, Napa County.	50.00%	12	5.56%	1	16.67%	4	5.56%	1	5.56%	1	16.67%	3	2.41	22
C13. Prioritize connectivity with regional trail efforts such as Bay Area Ridge Trail.	50.00%	12	11.11%	3	5.56%	1	5.56%	1	0.00%	0	27.78%	5	2.50	22
C2. Discuss connectivity / interface with adjacent land managers.	42.11%	12	10.53%	2	15.79%	3	5.26%	1	5.26%	1	21.05%	4	2.52	23
C5. Consider limiting uses on trails less than 8' wide.	36.84%	9	10.53%	3	26.32%	6	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	21.05%	4	2.65	23
C7. Consider disallowing bike use on trails less than 8' wide.	36.84%	8	10.53%	4	10.53%	3	5.26%	1	10.53%	2	26.32%	5	3.00	23
C4. Establish one-way or uphill-only for certain trails or at certain times.	21.05%	4	31.58%	8	5.26%	3	5.26%	1	10.53%	2	26.32%	5	3.17	23
C3. Establish times/days for alternate uses on certain trails.	31.58%	7	5.26%	2	15.79%	5	5.26%	1	15.79%	3	26.32%	5	3.26	23
C9. Balance access, such that, if bike access is expanded in some places, consider closing elsewhere.	31.58%	8	10.53%	3	5.26%	1	5.26%	2	15.79%	3	31.58%	6	3.30	23

Green = <20% opposition | Blue = 20-25% opposition | Red = >25% opposition

C: Management Strategies

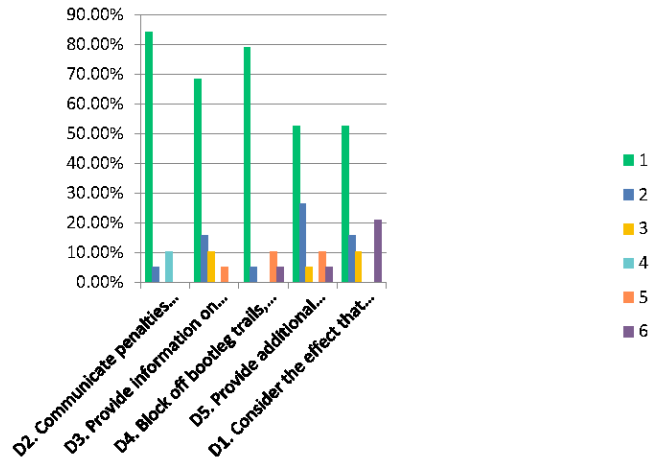
Please provide your level of agreement with each of the recommendations below.



D: Enforcement Strategies	Levels of Agreement												Mean / Average Level of Agreement	Total Responses
	1		2		3		4		5		6			
D2. Communicate penalties regarding citation and fees for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education to make equitable / welcoming for new trail users). Clear signage also needed for conviction in the legal system.	84.21%	19	5.26%	2	0.00%	0	10.53%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	1.35	23
D3. Provide information on signs regarding how to report dangerous or illegal behavior.	68.42%	17	15.79%	3	10.53%	2	0.00%	0	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	1.48	23
D4. Block off bootleg trails, restore damage, conduct enforcement against users of these trails.	78.95%	19	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	10.53%	2	5.26%	1	1.61	23
D5. Provide additional resources necessary to achieve greater enforcement.	52.63%	12	26.32%	7	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	10.53%	2	5.26%	1	1.96	23
D1. Consider the effect that increased law enforcement presence has for causing some park users to feel unsafe and unwelcome in parks.	52.63%	10	15.79%	3	10.53%	4	0.00%	1	0.00%	0	21.05%	4	2.55	22

Green = <20% opposition | Blue = 20-25% opposition | Red = >25% opposition

Please provide your level of agreement with each of the recommendations below.



APPENDIX D: TUWG Comments and Edits to Draft Recommendations

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Introduction

TUWG members were asked to respond to a survey, posted on Survey Monkey, regarding the draft summary report. The survey asked TUWG members to:

- Indicate their level of agreement for each recommendation, based on the Levels of Agreement in the Draft Recommendations Scorecard;
- Provide any comments regarding the draft recommendations;
- Identify any recommendations discussed during the TUWG meetings that had been left out;
- Provide any suggested edits or revisions to the rest of the document aside from the “Solutions” section.

All comments were recorded and are included below. Edits were made to the summary report in the following cases:

- In several cases, specific alternative language was suggested for a recommendation. TUWG members were polled during Meeting #8 on whether they preferred the original language or the alternative language for each of these recommendations. Where the alternative phrasing received the greater number of votes, the recommendation was edited accordingly. The list of suggested alternative phrasing for draft recommendations and the results of the polling are included in this Appendix D.
- Wherever edits to facts, grammar, spelling, or syntax were identified.
- Where the Park District staff deemed an edit or an addition necessary to ensure consistency or accuracy

TUWG Comments

Comments - A. Design/Engineering Strategies

Overall

- my choices are more which I consider top ranked PRIORITIES; other points are okay but presume District does all this.
- Park staff should be allowed to implement final decision making based upon their significant professional expertise. Interesting to know of the TUWG's perspectives, and to accommodate same where possible, however Park District should have the last word based upon having to take responsibility for any/all final outcomes. Parks decisions made by committee may not always be the wisest choice

A1. Plans for future trail development should be informed by scientific survey / reliable data on past and current trail experiences and conflicts, usage and flow patterns, current demographics and trends, analysis of nearby facilities (e.g., equestrian demand highest where stables nearby), trail connectivity, increase in park / trail access in underserved communities.

- A1. Include prevalence of social trails, incident reporting, enforcement history. Not all trail decisions would require a full scientific survey to make reasonable decisions regarding impacts or design of a new trail. Appropriate and adequate information should be used to make sound decisions.

A2. Plans for future trail development should be informed by environmental analysis, such as, well-timed floristic and wildlife biological surveys. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts will be the preferred alternatives.

- A2. Reasonable information and surveys should be used for environmental analysis.
- A2. While I am supportive of compliance with CEQA, we have seen opponents of new trails use the environmental review process to stall and eliminate access options from trails. I strongly suggest that a more "landscape" or programmatic review to be undertaken to identify how new trails in certain areas may be mitigated for opposed to just not being built.
- Edit to "Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts **should** be the preferred alternatives."

A3. Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying width.

- For A3-6, I checked 6 because the ideas were not clear. In other words it depends on the situation.
- On A3. Plan for a variety of uses - it is crucial that regional and long-distance connectivity is addressed for all users if they are not accommodated on one route. For example, if a trail is part of a regional trail, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, if all uses cannot be accommodated in one trail then parallel opportunities for excluded uses must be developed.
- A3. Plan for a variety of uses - it is crucial that regional and long-distance connectivity is addressed for all users if they are not accommodated on one route. For example, if a trail is part of a regional trail, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, if all uses cannot be accommodated in one trail then parallel opportunities for excluded uses must be developed.
- A3 and A4 are confusing and obtuse. What do they mean? Can be interpreted as many ways come Sunday. Recommend remove them.
- Edit end of sentence to "widths and surfacings."

A4. Develop new or utilize existing facilities in Land Bank properties to provide and protect access for specific uses.

- For A3-6, I checked 6 because the ideas were not clear. In other words it depends on the situation.
- A4,5,6 and 8 are open to interpretation.
- A3 and A4 are confusing and obtuse. What do they mean? Can be interpreted as many ways come Sunday. Recommend remove them.
- A4-I understand people's interests in seeing new trails developed but just because the land is there doesn't mean it needs to be developed. I'd rather see an emphasis on creating more green spaces in urban areas in under-served communities that don't have access to vehicles.
- Edit to "Open and develop Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails and to provide and augment access for specific uses."

A5. Consider pilot trails for new design concepts.

- A5 - I oppose the idea of pilot trails, because once a usage type is established, it is difficult to return the trail to less intensive use.
- A5: It is unclear what is intended by pilot projects. Often they became permanent. True pilot projects must be viewed as utterly contingent and not simply as a way to justify a certain use or value.
- For A3-6, I checked 6 because the ideas were not clear. In other words it depends on the situation.
- A4,5,6 and 8 are open to interpretation.

A6. Balance recreation and conservation – consider stewardship of ecological communities in planning, designing new trails.

- A6: "Balance" between conservation and recreation usually means recreation trumps wildlife and habitat because there is insufficient analysis of human impact on wildlife and habitat. Therefore, while I rated this a "1," it is a very qualified "1."
- For A3-6, I checked 6 because the ideas were not clear. In other words it depends on the situation.
- A4,5,6 and 8 are open to interpretation.
- Comment on A6 - A recommendation to balance recreation and conservation is at risk for being a zero sum approach - a fallacy from game theory. Biodiversity is in decline and human activity is a huge and growing pressure. It's not a level playing field. Instead, the future of the Park is better served by accepting that habitat values are imperiled by human activity. A precautionary approach to protecting high value habitat from any and all human activity is the best means for saving what we have left.
- Edit to "Balance recreation and conservation – consider presence of sensitive natural resources and stewardship of ecological communities in planning and designing new trails."

A7. Ensure that camping is a consideration in developing new trail opportunities.

- A7 - This question makes no sense. "It depends" where the camping is contemplated.
- I think camping can be problematic because the presence of people in early morning, dusk, and night can be more disturbing to animal life than during daytime hours
- A7: Camping should be provided but it must fully evaluated. I would not want the Park District to commit the same mistake it made in the early 2000's when it proposed a 300 person group camp in Sibley that actually encroached on the Caldicot Wildlife Corridor and heard staff claim that there would be no impact on wildlife, and even more outrageous, that it was perfectly acceptable to have children in tents where mountain lions likely roamed. Yes, that was said, folks. Today, that would be a ridiculous statement for a public official to make.
- I do want to say that, on behalf of PIDO and ALDOG, we have nothing against camping or trails to camping. (I don't remember really discussing camping as part of the TUWG process, though.)

A8. Open Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails.

- A8- "It depends".
- A4,5,6 and 8 are open to interpretation.
- Comment on A8 - Land Bank properties represent future value for the Park. Once a property is developed as a trail, it never fully recovers its original land bank value because it is now a recreation destination. Unless it is closed and restored to its pre-trail condition, a trail no longer represents any other future potential benefit. Of all the activities on Park land, trail activity is among the most damaging, costly, and resource-intensive management and maintenance challenges. Therefore, it is premature to move forward with converting Land Bank properties to new trails until all studies are completed and all alternatives are exhausted.
- A8 is Duplicative of A4. Delete and modify A4 as shown

A9. Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities and environmental advocates.

- Page 6, Design/Engineering Strategies, A9: The list needs to explicitly include recreational users.

Comments – B. Information / Education / Training Strategies

Overall

- Again, all are worthy approaches for the District re: trails, I gave 1 for what I believe should be most important than others as far as District resources can extend
 - All of these B1-14 sound good, and I support them. However, I don't want to see bikes on narrow trails with hikers and equestrians. I'd like to see that as a recommendation.
 - Invite and encourage staff feedback on park user conduct and responses to these strategies. Employ a rating system to determine effectiveness. Internalize adaptive measures to gauge efficacy.
-

B1. Establish a trail etiquette program and provide information and education regarding trail etiquette.

- B1 - a commonsense generality, but what if all the funding is to be used on trail etiquette rather than safety engineering or law enforcement?
 - B1- B6 are all very laudable. I gave them "2's" because it is unclear whether these are 6 are supposed to justify mountain bikes on narrow trails. Doing these 6 does NOT justify opening up narrow trails to bikes.
 - B1-Truthfully I think the people that need the most training on etiquette are going to be the ones to disregard the rules unless there are tangible and consistent consequences
 - Park District is uniquely positioned to undertake a large public education program around trail use and etiquette
-

B2. Provide signage on trails to make clear the rules and limitations to usage.

- B1- B6 are all very laudable. I gave them "2's" because it is unclear whether these are 6 are supposed to justify mountain bikes on narrow trails. Doing these 6 does NOT justify opening up narrow trails to bikes.
-

B3. Foster collaboration and communication between user groups, including education on needs of other user groups.

- B3 - a commonsense generality, but what if all the funding is to be used on trail etiquette rather than safety engineering or law enforcement?
 - B1- B6 are all very laudable. I gave them "2's" because it is unclear whether these are 6 are supposed to justify mountain bikes on narrow trails. Doing these 6 does NOT justify opening up narrow trails to bikes.
-

B4. Expose people to a variety of park environments.

- This statement doesn't make any sense.
 - B1- B6 are all very laudable. I gave them "2's" because it is unclear whether these are 6 are supposed to justify mountain bikes on narrow trails. Doing these 6 does NOT justify opening up narrow trails to bikes.
 - Edit to "Provide opportunities for people to experience a variety of park environments."
-

B5. Allow for new trail users to have a learning curve.

- This statement doesn't make any sense.
 - B1- B6 are all very laudable. I gave them "2's" because it is unclear whether these are 6 are supposed to justify mountain bikes on narrow trails. Doing these 6 does NOT justify opening up narrow trails to bikes.
-

- B5. What is meant by "allow" new trail users to have a learning curve? This recommendation needs to be reworded. For example: Provide new trail users with educational resources to promote positive trail experiences.
- B5: is awkwardly written. While I understand the intent, others may not comprehend what this strategy is suggesting. Thus, I suggest re-wording to state, "Allow for new trail users to experience progressive challenges that provide opportunities suitable for those brand new to trail running, hiking, riding to more experienced users."
- B5-Not really sure what this means or how this would be implemented
- B5 is confusing. What does it mean? Too obtuse. Recommend remove it.

B6. Promote trail safety for all users.

- B1- B6 are all very laudable. I gave them "2's" because it is unclear whether these are 6 are supposed to justify mountain bikes on narrow trails. Doing these 6 does NOT justify opening up narrow trails to bikes.

B7. Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resource habitats.

- Edit to "Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resources and habitats." Comment: This seemed to be a "biggie" ... should it be bolded?

B8. Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier location of parks and trails for transit purposes.

- B8. Transit information and accessibility for under-served communities is particularly important.
- B8 & 13, Others may apply: grow relationship with Bike East Bay and their rides, getting folks to the parks using bikes & transit; guided tours already in place
- Edit "location of" to "access to"

B9. Provide a welcoming trail experience for all including multi-language information (online, maps, brochures, etc.), signage and wayfinding.

- B9 is especially important. Maybe go further in some cases, especially when a park opens --provide not just info, but transit, or arrange for transit options on a temporary or ongoing occasional basis

B10. Promote trail use by diverse / multicultural communities through targeted education campaigns and working with organizations that provide education, experiences and equipment for users from underserved communities.

- B10-Ensuring that there is diverse staffing also is required for providing a welcoming experience

B11. Provide information regarding trail accessibility in accessible formats (e.g., providing audible trail information for sight-impaired), including identifying, designating, and signing accessible trails.

- No comments

B12. Improve signage regarding navigation, acceptable uses, resource protection and trail hazards on trails.

- For B12. please work with designers to develop signage and maps that are easy to read and understand. For example, bikers should easily be able to see where they can travel on trail and on maps if they are excluded from certain trails. The Park District should invest in working with UX/UI designers to make these communications very clear for trail users
- B12. Comment - Crockett Hills still has trails built over 6 years ago without trail signage and a trail map posted with trail names that differ from the electronic and paper maps. Improved signage and mapping would greatly improve the users experience. There are examples demonstrated of very effective trail signage and mapping on other trail systems that could be adopted and applied.

B13. Implement digital education and multi-cultural public outreach campaigns.

- B13-Not sure if digital education means virtual programming
- B8 & 13, Others may apply: grow relationship with Bike East Bay and their rides, getting folks to the parks using bikes & transit; guided tours already in place

B14. Develop consistent symbology for specific user types on maps and signage.

- B14. The EBRPD maps need consistent symbology and to promote interconnectivity with adjacent non-EBRPD trails. For example: the EBMUD lands are adjacent to Lake Chabot. It would be beneficial for user groups to see that these areas are connected and accessible for specific user groups. From Lake Chabot, one can travel to Las Trampas or Garin Park.
- B14-Isn't there consistent symbology currently?
- Delete "for specific user types" from sentence.

Comments – C. Management Strategies

Overall

- Once again, section C. Management is written in a way that vilifies bicycles. All the management strategies are targeted at bikes - why are there none targeted at equestrians. I think the language and using only restricting bicycle use and access as examples in the strategies goes against the purpose of this group and feels like it was heavily influenced by the louder voices in the group. I would hope that these are revised to include examples of other types of exclusions as well prior to publishing.
- Section C. I would like to state that “anti-bike” is not a management strategy and not in the spirit of this working group.
- Section C. Management is written in a way that makes bicyclists out to be the problem user group. Restricting bicycle use and access as possible strategies goes against the purpose of this group and does not sit well with me.
- All above may be reasonable goals as time, budget, and public education allow

C1. Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions, such as Bill’s Trail in Samuel P. Taylor Park, John Muir Land Trust, Santa Cruz, Napa County.

- c1 -add Montana de Oro State Park in San Luis Obispo County near Dos Osos, San Luis Obispo County
- C1 - imitating controversial examples that appeal to one user group at the expense of another is a bad idea. Further, there are no jurisdictions that have examples that can be scaled up to the much larger expanse of EBRPD.
- C1 and C2-Other jurisdictions with the exception of the John Muir Land Trust have more stringent limitations on dogs, and I would be afraid that collaboration would default to the higher regulation of dogs. It seems to be the automatic reaction, that if adjoining parcels have different rules about dogs, the solution is to limit them in both areas. I think that this should be approached very carefully.
- C-1 I have problem with because we need to know what the particular trail is like before accepting that principle.
- Looking elsewhere, sure, but C1 is not a productive question without any information about why Bills' Trail, Napa, and Santa Cruz are used as examples.
- Comment on C1 - Other jurisdictions have different missions and objectives than EBRPD. Also, the habitats and impacts are vastly different and can't be uniformly applied. Comment on C2 - don't understand; need more info.
- We suggest deleting specific examples, as there are many more that should be listed, and not all of the ones listed are comparable in terms of demographics or volume of use.

C2. Discuss connectivity / interface with adjacent land managers.

- C1 and C2-Other jurisdictions with the exception of the John Muir Land Trust have more stringent limitations on dogs, and I would be afraid that collaboration would default to the higher regulation of dogs. It seems to be the automatic reaction, that if adjoining parcels have different rules about dogs, the solution is to limit them in both areas. I think that this should be approached very carefully.
- Connectivity is a loaded and controversial proposition. I cannot support connecting trails if that means mountain bikes can travel on trails with high habitat and wildlife values that must be protected like the Skyline trail. There is a push to make all trails connect, but that cannot be at the expense of wildlife and habitat.
- Edit to “Discuss connectivity and interfaces with adjacent land managers.”

C3. Establish times/days for alternate uses on certain trails.

- C3 Lukewarm because implementation will be difficult
- C3-Time and day trail sharing only works if there is enforcement, which EBRPD Public Safety says cannot be counted on.
- C3-this may take time for people to realize this can be a good thing instead of acting so privileged and expect that they have to right to go wherever and whenever they want.
- Comment on C-3 and C-4 Establishing alternative uses/times/days will not work unless you have HEAVY enforcement

C4. Establish one-way or uphill-only for certain trails or at certain times.

- C4 Uphill only should be for bikes, the purpose being to limit speed, which is not an issue for other users.
- C4-this restriction may not work for wheelchair users if the entire trail isn't accessible and they have to turn back so an allowance needs to be made for that unless the one-way only applies to cycles.
- Comment on C-3 and C-4 Establishing alternative uses/times/days will not work unless you have HEAVY enforcement

C5. Consider limiting uses on trails less than 8' wide.

- C5 and C7 -Problem is 8' is wide enough for multiple simultaneous uses. Asking the same question for trails narrower than 4 feet makes more sense. Limiting trail use on trails of a certain width should be on a case-by-case basis. As worded we are being asked in C5 and C7 to build consensus on a general rule applying to all trails of less than 8 feet wide. That is too broad a prohibition to stand.
- C5 - what uses?
- C5, C7, C9-Regarding bicycles- I think there should be some narrow trails for bicycles. There is a huge demand for this. They should be carefully constructed with good sight lines OR perhaps some challenging one-way trails open to bikes only. I don't think your average existing trail less than 8 ft wide should be for bikes, but there should be some.
- C5 and C7. An 8 foot trail is wide enough for multi-use and should not be an issue. This question should be reframed if the intent is to develop a policy based on a specific width. However, each trail needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if multi-use should be allowed and factors in addition to width would be used to make this determination.
- C5 & C7: I don't understand focus on trail width. More important to look at sight lines, trail condition, etc.
- C5 & C7: These are unacceptable in my opinion. How about allow bikes on narrow trails and prohibit horses? I don't see this option included as a strategy?
- Comment on C-5 and C-8 Limiting any uses or access eg on < 8' wide trails requires enforcement.
- Delete. None of us recall any discussion of a specific trail width, nor of limiting uses by trail width.

C6. Designate "bike only" trails or bike areas and improve facilities.

- C6 - what facilities?

C7. Consider disallowing bike use on trails less than 8' wide.

- C5 and C7 -Problem is 8' is wide enough for multiple simultaneous uses. Asking the same question for trails narrower than 4 feet makes more sense. Limiting trail use on trails of a certain width

should be on a case-by-case basis. As worded we are being asked in C5 and C7 to build consensus on a general rule applying to all trails of less than 8 feet wide. That is too broad a prohibition to stand.

- C5, C7, C9-Regarding bicycles- I think there should be some narrow trails for bicycles. There is a huge demand for this. They should be carefully constructed with good sight lines OR perhaps some challenging one-way trails open to bikes only. I don't think your average existing trail less than 8 ft wide should be for bikes, but there should be some.
- C7. I do not agree with this recommendation. Bicycle use is more common than equestrian use and is a more broadly accessible recreation use. This entire user group should not be banned from narrow trails. This recommendation goes against the spirit of the working group and needs to be removed for us to support the findings of the report.
- C5 and C7. An 8 foot trail is wide enough for multi-use and should not be an issue. This question should be reframed if the intent is to develop a policy based on a specific width. However, each trail needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if multi-use should be allowed and factors in addition to width would be used to make this determination.
- C5 & C7: I don't understand focus on trail width. More important to look at sight lines, trail condition, etc.
- C5 & C7: These are unacceptable in my opinion. How about allow bikes on narrow trails and prohibit horses? I don't see this option included as a strategy?
- Comment on C-5 and C-7 Limiting any uses or access eg on < 8' wide trails requires enforcement.
- C7. Comment - Bike access to trails less than 8' wide is a valid recreation use and can be accomplished safely through a variety of methods. This is not a reasonable recommendation.
- C7: This recommendation seems a bit out-of-the-blue, although perhaps I'm blanking. The TUWG never really discussed and debated the width (what is narrow, what is wide, what other options might be possible, such as parallel trails for different kinds of uses) and I don't recall discussing the consequences of banning bikes in various places.
- Delete. None of us recall any discussion of a specific trail width, nor of limiting uses by trail width.

C8. Identify low speed or “walk your bike” zones and provide bike bell stations at key spots.

- C8 - this would depend on situation and availability of law enforcement.
- C8-Don't know what a bike bell station is?
- C8 - Comment - Low speed, Walk You Bike zones, and bike bells are 3 different items. As written it is hard to support. I strongly support bike bells, can support low speed or 'trails merging' / 'no wake' zones, but have significant reservations with Walk Your Bike zones in most cases.
- C8: I don't remember discussing “walk your bike zones” and how that would work or what the impact might be. I didn't realize that the bike bells stations were a done deal either. These ideas need to be explored more before we recommend them.
- C8 - I do not recommend the bell stations. In Auburn Recreational Area, the bells were all taken quickly and not returned. I think it's an investment that would not pay off.

C9. Balance access, such that if bike access is expanded in some places, consider closing elsewhere.

- C9 -You can't close access elsewhere on trails that are just opening and have not had previous usage patterns. Otherwise trade-offs make sense.
- C5, C7, C9-Regarding bicycles- I think there should be some narrow trails for bicycles. There is a huge demand for this. They should be carefully constructed with good sight lines OR perhaps some challenging one-way trails open to bikes only. I don't think your average existing trail less than 8 ft wide should be for bikes, but there should be some.
- C9 could be problematic, depends on situation.

- C9. Once again, I feel that this recommendation is against the spirit of the group. Bicycles have the least access of any user group and represent one of the primary recreation modes in the East Bay. Their access needs to be expanded so we can reduce trail user conflicts. If bicycle facilities were expanded in a smart way, then there would be less pressure on the few trails that do allow bikes.
- C9. This is a negative recommendation with an “anti-bike” perspective. Bike and e-bike users need more access to trails and pump tracks in East Bay. These user groups are growing and we need to design trails that are inclusive of bikes for the future.
- C9: Why close trails to bikes in certain areas when we already know that there exists very limited narrow trail opportunities for cyclists.
- Comment on C-9 This is a zero-sum approach. We don't have a level playing field. Biodiversity is declining; human pressure is increasing. There is no balance and bikes are a huge negative impact.
- C9 - comment - Bike access is not balanced today compared to demand. A zero sum approach is a limit not a balance. Removing bike access in a zero sum fashion when new access is added is not likely to improve the situation for any user group. Redistributing access may improve overall impacts but that does not address an overall shortage of trails and bike access. This is not a reasonable recommendation.
- C9: Balancing access is a good goal in general. (The park district works hard at that already.) I'm uncomfortable recommending that for a group that appears to be currently underserved, though, with only about 50 miles of dirt trails. Let's talk first about how that can be corrected.
- C9: Why close trails to bikes in certain areas when we already know that there exists very limited narrow trail opportunities for cyclists.
- Edit to “Balance access to trails for the various user groups throughout the Park District.”

C10. Provide and protect equestrian access through designated trails hiker/horse only trails near stables.

- c10 –consider differentiating between trails less than 8” and trails less than 3-4’ Trails 5-8 feet wide have a lot more room for different users than trails 2-4’ wide.
- C10 - comment - If a trail near a stable would be critical to connecting bike access to other areas of a park I do not see a hiker/equestrian only designation as reasonable if the only reason is proximity to a stable. The recommendation is written as a blanket statement applying to all areas near stables without consideration of other users' practicality.
- Edit to “Provide and protect equestrian access by designating hiker/horse only trails near stables.”

C11. Provide access for and participation by underrepresented communities.

- C11 and 12 - doesn't District already do these? So is TUWG meant to ratify all the things District already does? I answer as to what I thought would work to solve the safety and bike issues and protect the environment.
- C11 Providing access for underrepresented communities is fine - just doesn't address what I thought was TUWG emphasis.

C12. Optimize experience for mobility-, visually-, and hearing-impaired individuals.

- C11 and 12 - doesn't District already do these? So is TUWG meant to ratify all the things District already does? I answer as to what I thought would work to solve the safety and bike issues and protect the environment.

C13. Prioritize connectivity with regional trail efforts..

- Connectivity is a loaded and controversial proposition. I cannot support connecting trails if that means mountain bikes can travel on trails with high habitat and wildlife values that must be

protected like the Skyline trail. There is a push to make all trails connect, but that cannot be at the expense of wildlife and habitat.

- C13 providing connectivity is just one factor; it shouldn't be used as principal reason for approving a new trail.
- C13. I truly appreciate and strongly agree with the inclusion of this recommendation to prioritize connectivity for regional trails.
- C13 needs further details in that it does not provide any framework for what ""connectivity" entails, i.e. any width of trail? all uses? priority all, including environmental protection?. Priorities are good to identify, but include question on prioritizing the park trail user experience and environmental protection, with other desirable objectives next. Recommend explain these in sufficient detail.
- Comment on C-13 More connectivity increases by orders of magnitude the negative impacts to wildlife, wildlife corridors, and fragile habitat values. No connectivity. Eliminating connectivity helps save patches of habitat from human encroachment and the inevitable bad behavior of some bad actors.
- C13 Comment - Access for hikers, equestrians, and cyclists should be the priority. If a trail option can not support all three user groups then alternatives for the segment should be implemented such that all three user groups have an option to connect that segment.

C14. Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.

- C14: I do not think all parks lands within EBPRD necessitate the same level of protection; more remote properties lend themselves more to conservation while the parks nearest high density residential areas are more suited to increased recreational use and, thus, might not be held to the same protection standards.
- C14 Comment - What is 'intense recreational use'?
- C14: The TUWG members seem to range from those who feel any impact on the parks is unacceptable and those who believe the district can thoughtfully build out trails that allow public access. This recommendation should be tweaked to say "...mitigating any unacceptable impacts of intense recreational use..." or something similar. Clearly, everything has an impact. Looking at the big picture, is [name of impact here] acceptable?

Comments – D. Enforcement Strategies

Overall

- Page 6, Solution D: “Impactful” is an oblique term that can be pro or con here. Harmful, damaging, destructive?
- Not sure this survey addresses head on the major PROBLEMS of safety issues from multi-use trails. Where are choices between bikes and no bikes on narrow trails?
- Section D. Increased enforcement in EBRPD needs to be accompanied with DEI training, anti-bias training, and increased incident reporting. Any enforcement agent, EBRPD employee or volunteer, needs to be monitored to see if increased enforcement is disproportionately impacting BIPOC at the parks.
- Enforcement is most effective when it originates from the park user as a form of self-regulation. Mtn bikers need to do A LOT more to encourage their colleagues to behave legally and safely.
- Education as a first priority, enforcement as a follow-up to those clearly communicated expectations.

D1. Consider the effect that increased law enforcement presence has for causing some park users to feel unsafe and unwelcome in parks.

- D1, what about the positive impacts of increased law enforcement by causing some park users to feel more safe in parks?
- D1 - EBRPD law enforcement officers - at the infrequent times they are present - do not appear intimidating to the vast majority of park visitors. Further, law enforcement presence makes most of us feel safer.
- I raised this issue in a different context. That context was how the Park District deals with allegations such as those brought by the woman in Central Park against an African-American birder, alleging he was attacking her when that was totally false. The Park District has NEVER responded to my request for its protocols or rules on how its officers respond in that context. So this is a major issue for communities negatively affected by a police presence. On the other hand, every one deserves and should have a park experience where they feel safe and secure from the criminal element or from users who threaten their safety. This can only be accomplished with a greater presence of appropriately trained officers in the field.
- D1. Thank you for your inclusion of D1. This is an excellent starting point and should be considered first with any form of enhanced law enforcement presence.
- D1-ensuring that there is diversity within the law enforcement dept may help some feel less threatened?

D2. Communicate penalties regarding citation and fees for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education to make equitable / welcoming for new trail users). Clear signage also needed for conviction in the legal system.

- D2 - requires law enforcement resources.
- D2 is overly negative. Should encourage communication/education. What does the last sentence even mean?
- Edit to “Communicate what penalties are for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education).”
Comment: We deleted the rest of this sentence because it makes no sense, and the signage for conviction bit is not only obvious but also sounds very negative and contrary to the word “welcoming”.

D3. Provide information on signs regarding how to report dangerous or illegal behavior.

- No comments made

D4. Block off bootleg trails, restore damage, conduct enforcement against users of these trails.

- D4 –penalties for bootleg trail creators and for users who persist after a trail has been clearly closed, but perhaps not for the casual user who sees the trail without knowing it is not an official trail. Is it illegal to leave trails and go cross-country? Not that I know of, so the illegality here has to be that the modification of the landscape, and disobeying clear signage, not simply “using” a bootleg trail.
- D4 Comment. Consider criminalizing use of bootleg trails by hikers and equestrians. Currently cyclists are the only enforceable user of bootleg trails unless signed specifically banning hikers and equestrians.
- Edit to “Block off bootleg trails, restore damaged areas, conduct enforcement against users of these illegal trails.”

D5. Provide additional resources necessary to achieve greater enforcement.

- The devil’s in the details.
- D5-Depending on how much of an issue illegal behavior is should determine providing additional resources.
- D5 requires further explanation. Does it mean more officers? More officers on bikes?
- D5 Comment - Consider in person education efforts ahead of enforcement. Enforcement should be a last resort
- Edit to “Ensure adequate resources for enforcement.”

Please identify any recommendations discussed during the TUWG meetings that have been left out.

- It would have been easier to assign I-6 to Catalogue...than survey as written - far too many were written vaguely or were too broad.
- Working with the tech community to identify ways to better track park visitor access, activity, etc.
- I'm pretty sure that I mentioned that not having data on the number of disabled people using the trails is an issue.
- Set a goal and a timeline for building new trails in land banked areas. Create a campaign to mobilize the general public behind building new trails in land bank areas.
- I do not see any mention of building bike specific trails or pump tracks at key locations mentioned. I also think that the summary of the various user group's perspectives is misleading as I don't recall cyclists suggesting a number of the bullet points. Many of the "issues" listed are characterized in manner that makes cyclists look bad and I do not recall the cycling representatives stating these issues as they are recorded. For instance, wildlife do not avoid bike areas and we did not state this.. How many times have I encountered coyotes, turkeys and deer while riding? Too many to count! I do not support the way the issues are summarized.

Suggested Additions to A. Design/Engineering Strategies

- A10 addition. Trails should be added near populations as possible to provide easier access for the public and reduce the distance needed to travel to reach a trail.
- A11 addition. Trail access should be designed with equitable distribution of use opportunities better reflecting the park users desires.
- A12 addition. Landscape level analysis and planning should be done considering other land manager properties and providing inter connecting trail networks.
- A13 addition. Trail System planning should consider the various user groups with designed flow patterns to minimize conflict.
- A14 addition. Consider planning where practical to have areas where certain user groups are more concentrated.
- A15 addition. Consider a phased opening process for land bank properties starting with an opening utilizing the existing infrastructure, limiting all users to existing roads and trails, and the addition of minimal additional facilities to expedite public access to land bank properties. Development of further trails or facilities could follow an initial opening in a phased approach.
- A16 addition. Consider identifying unnecessary fire/ranch roads (wide trails), renaturalizing them, and replacing them with narrow trails designed for recreation in the same trail corridor. This would reduce the environmental footprint of the trail and the new trail would exist in the same corridor which is already deemed acceptable and likely require less review and permitting effort and could be accomplished with less resources and in less time.
- A17 addition. Identify and evaluate 'bootleg' trails for suitability for formal adoption. Identify environmental resource issues and consider addressing those issues versus disturbing an entirely new trail corridor. Converting bootleg trails that don't have unacceptable environmental
- Consider grades, surfacing, sight lines and pullouts in design of new trails. Also likely user groups and anticipated amount of usage. And proximity/accessibility for user groups.
- Consideration based on above factors and presence of natural resources of whether a trail should be multi- or limited- use.

Suggested Additions to B. Information / Education / Training Strategies

- B15 addition. Implement collaborative education efforts (including on trails) e.g. programs such as Marin's 'Slow & Say Hello', 'Trails are Common Ground', and 'Be Nice Say Hi'. A version of this

recommendation was listed under solutions in the Bicyclists Perspective section but didn't appear to make it to recommendations.

Suggested Additions to C. Management Strategies

- The following recommendations detailed in Appendix A 'Inclusive Communities Perspective' should be included in our management strategies. These are: 1) Plan inclusively from the beginning when planning new parks/trails; involve traditionally underrepresented communities in process; forge alliances, establish buy-in, seek to understand, assess, and lead with community values, needs, impacts and ideas. AND 2) Help diverse users feel more welcome by increasing multicultural representation in on-site Park District staff, conducting more activities on trails during weekdays, and consider hiring diverse youth to act as trail monitors/facilitators.
- C15 addition. EBRPD should partner with public transit authorities to include routes so that people can reach the parks via public transit. Routes serving underserved communities should be prioritized. Buses should be fitted to be able to transport bikes.
- C16 addition. Use opposing direction of travel for hikers/equestrians versus bikes where appropriate. By having bikes approach other uses from the front the chance of being surprised or startled is reduced along with increasing the safety. Bikes approaching from behind even at slow speed can easily be perceived as being too fast when the situation is likely that communication by sound is too close and too slow for most users to feel comfortable. Continuously ringing bike bells help alleviate these issues.
- C17 addition. Provide significant narrow trail bike access in a number of parks distributed across the district such that there are options relatively close to most residents. Currently Crockett Hills is the only park with a significant narrow trail bike access opportunities and is located on the perimeter of the district. Briones, Wildcat/Tilden, Chabot, Pleasanton Ridge, Las Trampas, Del Valle, and Black Diamond are candidates for a distribution of parks with significant opportunities.
- C18 addition. Consider changing trail use to allow bikes or other users and/or exclude other users if it can improve the trail system design and user flow to improve all trail user experiences overall.
- C19 addition. Revise Ordinance 38 Bicycle restrictions to allow bicycles on all trails except the listed trails, and then list the trails that bicycles are not allowed on. List the trails by park. A similar list of allowed trails with mileage and totals by park could be included.
- C20 addition. Revise Ordinance 38 to list the trails bikes are allowed on by park, including the mileage of each trail allowed, and the total mileage allowed in that park. District/Board Priorities
- C15. Monitor complaints and incidents, and adjust management strategies as needed.

Suggested Additions to D. Enforcement Strategies

- I do not see a recommendation proposing additional resources and support for trail monitoring groups comprised of representatives from various user groups. How about volunteer bike/horse/hiker "ambassadors" who can help with education?
- Include question about: Construct passive in-trail enforcement measures to discourage unpermitted trail uses in environmentally-sensitive areas, trails with safety risks, etc.

Suggested Additions to Recommendations – Proposed New Category E: Building More Trails

- There isn't a recommendation that says simply build more trails. There aren't enough trails. It's listed as a goal in the report It may not fit into any of the 4 identified categories very well but probably fits into a category of District/Board Priorities. Supporting recommendations to affect building more trails would include:
 - E1. Ask that the board place a significantly higher priority and value on narrow natural surface trails and allocate resources that will result in more narrow natural surface trails.

- E2. Allocate more funding for natural surface narrow trail planning, permitting, construction, maintenance, management, operation, and allocate increased staffing.
- E3. Establish a mileage and timing goal for constructing new trails. A man on the moon by the turn of the century. All Bay Area Ridge Trail gaps on EBRPD lands closed in 10 years for hikers, equestrians, and cyclists. Natural surface narrow trail access to mountain bikes expanded from the current 50 miles to 60 miles in 5 years, 80 miles in 10 years, and 100 miles in 15 years.
- E4. Include a direct allocation for the funding of new natural surface trail projects in all new funding ballot measures
- E5. Work with permitting agencies to create a more efficient means to work through appropriate permitting and resource protection and in a more timely manner. Identify key elements that draw high resources or have significant schedule impact and aim to improve those big impact elements. Consult with other land managers on practices and experience to improve project cycle time regarding environmental evaluation and permitting.
- I expected that further time would be held for discussion of other recommendation ideas but that now appears to not be the case. Some of the suggested recommendations may not have been discussed but I believe are valid for consideration.

Please provide any suggested edits or revisions to the rest of the document aside from the “Solutions” section.

Overall Document

- These "solutions" do not provide a pathway forward to move beyond the 14 miles of new trail that has been built in the last few decades. I hope that an analytical section is added to the report that will utilize the survey results to map out a pathway forward. I really would like to know how these user groups can start working together to support the development and construction of new trails.
- NICE JOB SUMMARIZING TUWG MEETING CONTENT!!!
- Add SCORING SUMMARY section

Acknowledgments

- Add after each name who they represent

Introduction

- Page 1: Edit 3rd sentence to read: “The Board directed staff to convene a working group to guide development of new trails throughout the Park District. The working group was to be, ultimately made up of 30 stakeholders who are active trail users and who represent a variety of perspectives.”
- Page 3: I would like to see a description of how this report will be used by District leadership and how the ideas generated may inform trail development in existing parks - not just the land banked properties.
- Page 3: “This report documents the key elements of TUWG meeting discussions, where members articulated a set of goals for guiding the development of new trails; described general and specific issues that impact enjoyment of the trails and protection of parks’ natural resources; and a variety of solutions that the group feels should be taken into consideration as the Park District opens up new trails on existing and Land Bank properties.” Run-on sentence, difficult to read. Suggest converting to bullet points. (Edit made to document)

Goals

- Page 4, at the end of the first paragraph: Giving people access to the parks is about more than health benefits. (For just health benefits, one can go to the gym or walk the city streets.) It’s also about connecting with Nature, building community, and deepening engagement with and support of the park district.
- Page 4, add to last sentence of first bullet: “while providing equitable access to District resources for all user groups.”
- Page 4, second bullet: Suggest this statement be modified to state that more trails need to be built as many of the existing trails were not designed or constructed to modern standards.
- Page 4, edit end of second bullet from “particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic” to “which has been further heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic.”
- Page 4, third bullet: I strongly believe that future trail design should be informed by best practices and construction standards being utilized by other park districts.
- Page 4, 5th bullet: Edit to say “Embrace the message that while **not all trails may be appropriate for all users, all users should have access to safe and satisfying trail experiences**” (Original text was way too negative)

Key Issues

- First sentence should be edited to: “Among the many specific issues raise by TUWG members, the key issues and concerns consistently referenced were:”

- Add “causing damage to natural resources” to the end of Bullet 3.
- Bullet 5 should be edited to: “Lack of trail etiquette, such as inadequate or inappropriate interactions between individuals from the various trail user groups.” Comment: original text seemed to pick on bikers, while there are other conflicts that were mentioned, such as hikers harassing bikers, inconsiderate dog owners, etc.
- Key Issues p. 5 - With poor trail design I suggest it be noted that the ranch and fire roads were not designed for recreation or in many cases resource impacts.
- Bullet 8, “Need for an inclusive approach to trail planning.” Including WHO? Needs clarification.
- Page 5: The second to last bullet should be “People who...” (edit made to document)
- Add bullet: “Ordinance 38 – Appropriate modification to address real-life situations; Public Education and Enforcement.”
- Page 5: I would add to the list of Key Issues, the need for enhanced connectivity between District parks and other properties such as EBMUD managed trails. I would also add an acknowledgement that existing trail maps and website resources are inadequate to help new users safely navigate and find appropriate trails to recreate on.

Next Steps

- Add Scoring Summary section after “Next Steps”
- Page 9, Next Steps: I would like to see this section strengthened by indicating that a presentation to the board of directors on the TUWG will be held and a discussion on how to put identified recommendations into motion will be had by a certain deadline.
- Add the phrase “and development” to the end of the paragraph.

Comments on Appendix A – Catalogue of Users’ Perspectives

Overall

- Appendix A Comments For all groups the ‘Issues’ are issues identified from the discussion and are not necessarily the perspective of the titled user group. (see continuation below: starts “Under the Bicyclists Perspective section...”)

Hikers’ Perspective

- references hikers conflicts with equestrians—but I don’t think anyone reported any such incidents. Hikers do experience conflict, and it can be significant, with a small minority of cyclists, and dogs/dog owners; minority should be stressed here, and equestrians don’t merit a mention.
- Bullet 8 under Issues: Edit to “Destruction of environment through bootleg trails causing soil and root damage” (Edit made to document)
- Add to Issues: “Concern about e-bikes on trails”
- 4th Bullet under “Management”: edit to “Consider establishing some trails that are not multi-use”

Bicyclists’ Perspective

- 8th bullet under Goals: Edit to “A variety of cycling experiences sought - some enjoy wide trails for social biking, some seek the challenges of technically challenging trails, some enjoy fast speeds.”
- Add new bullet under Goals: “Singletrack enjoyable for the natural setting”
- First under Issues: Excessive speed is invited by wide trails –narrow trails slow people down, and also much easier to engineer them to reduce speed.
- First under Issues: Edit to “Excessive speed (invited by wide trails)”? WIDE fire roads allow for high speeds and are, I think, more dangerous!
- 3rd bullet under Issues: Harassment – of who and by who?

- Page A-3, Bicyclists’ Perspective, second bullet under Issues: “Harassment” is unclear. Who is harassing whom and how?
- Page A-3, Bicyclists’ Perspective, fifth bullet under Issues: This is too much of a blanket statement – it’s not ALWAYS true, as stated here – and should also be more specific. It means, mostly, that collisions with and between bikes can be dangerous, I think?
- 4th bullet, Issues: Edit to “Hikers with earbuds not paying attention.”
- 6th bullet, Issues: Edit to “Lack of access / trails built without cyclists in mind; Insufficient trails with technical challenges for bikers; bike only access is not a current reality.”
- Tenth under Issues: On narrow trails, moving out of the way means leaving trail, ecological damage, plus danger of running into poison oak –perhaps true of trails less than 3-4 feet, definitely not true of “narrow” trails that are 5 feet wide or more.
- Add to Issues: “Dogs on retractable long leashes pose a hazard to hikers.”
- Solutions: Marin program is called Slow and Say Hello, not Slow and Safe (edit already made to document)
- Engineering and Design: second bullet: separate into 2 bullets. The first should be “Design trails for multi-use from the outset, by incorporating design features that increase views downtrail, that slow bikes with grade reversals, limiting grade, and pinch points (more could be added here). Second bullet: “Include biker only or bike optimized trails...”
- last bullet –Evaluate connectivity with neighboring agencies –not so much EBMUD which has very few places that allow bikes, but Cities of Oakland, Livermore, Hayward, Walnut Creek, State Parks, etc are better examples.
- Enforcement: add a bullet that says “Park Police on e-bikes could be an effective enforcement tool”
- Under the Bicyclists Perspective section, under the Goals section it states ‘wider trails also needed’. I don’t recall cyclists making that statement. Wider trails or roads make sense for main arteries or trail sections that would expect higher traffic volume, but cyclists are generally not seeking wide trails but rather would like to have access to more narrow trails. - Excessive speed (invited by narrow trails?) was not presented by the cyclists. We stated that narrow trails reduce speed and that wide trails or roads invite higher speeds. - Inappropriate use of trails for cyclists (Crockett Hills, sharing narrow trails with horses). Cyclists did not make this statement. There are trails at Crockett Hills that it probably doesn’t make sense to have equestrians on. - ‘On narrow trail, moving out the way means leaving trail, ecological damage, plus danger of running into poison oak.’ Would it be better to make a wider trail and remove more vegetation and habitat rather than have the impact of infrequently having trail users step off trail to allow passing? I don’t think it would be better.

Equestrians’ Perspective

- First: A horse running from danger has an impact on (should say) “rider and horse” safety, not so much trail safety. (edit already made to document)
- Edit first bullet under Issues to: “Horses are large, heavy, react to danger by bolting – big impact on trail safety.”(edit made to document)
- Page A-6, Engineering/Design, second-to-last bullet: Basing percentage of horse trails on number of equestrians seems like it would quickly make equestrians in the parks obsolete. This shouldn’t be the criteria. Horseback-riding may be a minority activity but it (and many other activities with relatively few participants) belongs in the parks. The park district is big enough to accommodate good equestrian trails.
- Edit bullet 6 under Engineering/Design to: “Measure percentage of trail users who are equestrians ...” (Edit made to document)

Conservationists’ Perspective

- Page A-7, Conservationists’ Perspective, Goals, bullet fourth bullet: What are “valid” opportunities? Are some recreational activities not valid and who makes that call? That adjective should be struck.

- Page A-7, Conservationists' Perspective, Management, second bullet: I have no idea what this bullet means. It needs to be made explicit.
- Reading Conservationist's Perspective bullet points, frankly it feels hard to connect what was said and highlighted in the 4 presentations with the overall impression from the report's bullet points.
- First bullet under Solutions: (Make information re limitations clear) What/whose limitations? Needs clarification.
- Second bullet under Management: (Habitat Conservancy as County agency is a great idea) What does this have to do with the Park District? Needs clarification.
- Third bullet under Management: (...can call groups to notify about trail conditions) Notification to who?
- Last bullet, Engineering/Design: edit third sentence to "Consider building pilot trails in new areas and monitoring/studying."

Disability Communities' Perspective

- No comments

Dog Owners' Perspective

- I do not recall discussion of the Natural Surface Trails Working Group, but there does not seem to be any inclusion of any dog walking representatives on it. **updated to:** The dog owners were surprised to read about The Natural Surfaces Trail Group in the summary of the TUWG. I don't recall the discussion of this group being formed. We would like to have some representation in that group. I can understand that you may want to have a group that is not an unwieldy size. I also understand that the main area of discussion or conflict in the planning of natural surface trails, especially narrow trails, is between the bicycle riders and some of the environmentalists, horse people and hikers. The dog walkers are really a major recreational user group and would like to be included. I think we would be able to keep the focus on the main purpose of the group and not intrude with extraneous concerns except if something were affecting us.
- Page A-7, Dog Owners' Perspective, third bullet: I know what this means, as one of the dog owners, but it may be obscure to future readers. Maybe something like: "Low barrier to entry: Anyone with a dog and a leash can enjoy walking in the parks."
- Page A-11, Dog Owners' Perspective, Issue, bullet one: This bullet half-captures what dog owners talked about. The VERY IMPORTANT distinction between off-leash dogs and feral or free-roaming dogs has been lost, however. You could fix that by saying: "Perception that off-leash dogs are responsible for wildlife/habitat destruction (not borne out by data and studies of off-leash dog behavior on trails and off-leash companion dogs versus feral and free-roaming dogs)"
- Page A-11, Dog Owners' Perspective, Issues, bullet four: The District needs to distinguish clearly between recreational off-leash dog walking and criminal cow-baiting behavior. There are no instances of women walking in the parks and letting their toy poodles chase cattle. The worst incidents where dogs have harmed cattle were when large, aggressive dogs were brought to the parks by men probably intent on training the dogs as attack dogs. Lumping that criminal behavior in with off-leash dog walking is like having a section in this document about encouraging youth activities in the parks and a bullet about graffiti vandals. Law-abiding people who walk dogs can be educated to keep dogs on-leash when goats or cattle are present. We can do nothing to curtail criminal behavior in the parks. Indeed, if all dogs were banned from the parks, it would probably not change the illegal cow-baiting. Criminal aren't concerned about off-leash dog rules. This is a sore point with dog walking advocates. Probably you are not aware that there have been several attacks recently on dogs at Point Isabel by a dog being trained by a Richmond resident for dog fighting. The handler, who is part of a ring of dog breeders and fighters, masqueraded as someone out getting exercise with his dog and then set it on people's pets. He actually restrained the dogs who were being

mauled so they couldn't fight back and his dog could rip at their throats. Is that an Ordinance 38 issue re: dog walking rules and conflicts in the parks? It is not. It's criminal activity.

- Page A-11, Dog Owners' Perspective, Solutions, Info/Training, bullet one: This bullet omitted the important suggestion of collaborating with rescue/adoption/humane organizations to include information about dog walking in the parks with their clients. Also, "Must educate dog owners one-by-one, not an organized group" is odd. (PIDO is a 35-year-old nonprofit with about 6,000 members. That's pretty organized...) It would be more accurate to say: "Outreach to dog walkers in the parks is important, many are new dog owners and/or not part of organized groups."
- Page A-11, Dog Owners' Perspective, Solutions, Info/Training, second bullet: I would add to the list. Minimizing conflict between dogs/horses/bikes/pedestrians/wheelchairs (or something like that).
- Page A-11, Dog Owners' Perspective, Solutions: This section omits the CRUCIAL point that we believe new trails (in existing parks and newly opening parks) should be open to dog walking. As with other user groups, dog walkers will benefit from more trails. More trails will make existing trails less crowded, reduce conflicts, and provide good recreation options closer to where many EBRPD residents live.
- Page B-1, Appendix B: Dog walkers should be represented on the Natural Surface Trails Working Group. We appear to be the only TUWG constituency that is not.

Inclusive Communities' Perspective

- No comments

Overall Comments on Process

- The global concern overlooked in this document is that narrow trails are ill-suited to multi-use. The park district has spent a lot of money on grading equipment for building 30" wide trails. Given the propensity of mountain bikes and e-bikes to cause accidents, multi-use trails should be wide enough to admit emergency vehicles. This is the case with the Marsh Creek Regional Multi-Use Trail, one example in another agency that should be noted. Also, there is no apparent awareness of the need for the various user groups to understand their impact on the ecosystem traversed by their activities. Has anyone quantified the amount of money the park district is spending to accommodate mountain biking, beyond what hikers or equestrians cost?
- The TUWG did not accomplish what I had advocated. It has turned into a "feel good" exercise with recommendations that are what I call "John Muir and Redwoods," obvious points but ones that do not advance the critical issue of how the vast majority of park users will experience a greater presence of mountain bikers and their access to narrow trails. The various groups needed to thrash this out on their own terms. We should have had a set of meetings with the parties trying to work out their differences.
- The single most important thing that the TUWG can accomplish is a clear understanding that we each are responsible for how we conduct ourselves in the Park. The Park is not an inert assemblage of trails. The Park is made up of living beings that need protection and support. The current exceptional drought creates an even more urgent need to help protect the land from the increased stress of enduring without water.
- Need to directly poll on: Design "multi-use narrow trails for all" as the standard for new land-banked properties? This was discussed several times and also illustrated during the TUWG by photos and discussion of "bulb outs", timed use of trails, etc.
- In Appendix C it describes that the report will go to the Operations Committee and then describes the levels of agreement being documented and going to the Park Advisory Committee. Will the levels of agreement be documented in the Recommendations Report? The wording does make this clear but the levels of agreement are important to communicate to the board. This work is broadly reaching and impacts parks and users in each district and should be communicated to all board members even if the Operations Committee will have primary responsibility to receive the report. Clarification was made during the TUWG meetings that the focus of this group was on narrow natural surface trails and that was what was meant when talking about 'trails'. I don't find this articulated in places I'd expect it, such as the Introduction on p. 1. The scope of the TUWG was defined as new trails but there are many items from this effort that can be applied to the existing trails currently open. Implementing new trails in existing parks or in land park properties is likely to take years. It makes sense to take applicable recommendations from the TUWG effort and apply them to existing trails to improve trail user experiences and protection of natural resources in a shorter time frame than opening new trails.
- I appreciate the opportunity to participate. I commend the Park staff on doing an exceptional job in making sure everyone had ample opportunity to participate. The summary and statements are great except for one thing. Let's avoid new trails for a while. This participant strongly objects to the 'overarching goal' to "open more trails as expeditiously as possible." The staff should forego building new trails for a while. Too much needs to be done to assess damage and impacts to existing trails. It is exciting for the Park staff to use the brand new East Bay Ecological Health Assessment tools to scientifically calibrate and measure trail impacts and apply mitigation measures.
<https://www.ebparks.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=34637> After this ecological health assessment is applied, all users will better understand how to mitigate environmental impacts and avoid trail damage as much as possible. A lot of restoration and repair work should be done before adding to the existing work load of overdue trail maintenance. I am excited for park users to look forward to a bright healthy environmental future for the EBRPD!

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Preferred language for each recommendation, as voted by TUWG members, is highlighted.

A2. Plans for future trail development should be informed by environmental analysis, such as, well-timed floristic and wildlife biological surveys. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts will be the preferred alternatives.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts will be the preferred alternatives.	35%
B. Routes that avoid or minimize environmental impacts should be the preferred alternatives.	65%

A3. Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying width.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying width.	20%
B. Plan for a variety of uses, with portfolios of both single, dual and multi-use trails of varying width widths and surfacings.	80%

A4. Develop new or utilize existing facilities in Land Bank properties to provide and protect access for specific uses.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Develop new or utilize existing facilities in Land Bank properties to provide and protect access for specific uses.	28%
B. Open and develop Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails and to provide and augment access for specific uses.	72%

A6. Balance recreation and conservation – consider stewardship of ecological communities in planning, designing new trails.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Balance recreation and conservation – consider stewardship of ecological communities in planning, designing new trails.	25%
B. Balance recreation and conservation – consider presence of sensitive natural resources and stewardship of ecological communities in planning and designing new trails.	75%

A8. Open Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Open Land Bank properties to provide greater capacity for new trails.	47%
B. Delete A8	53%
C. Delete A4	0%

A9. Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities and environmental advocates.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities and environmental advocates.	13%
B. Ensure inclusive planning processes that involve all user groups early in the process, including disabled users, diverse communities, environmental advocates and recreational users.	87%

B4. Expose people to a variety of park environments.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Expose people to a variety of park environments.	5%
B. Provide opportunities for people to experience a variety of park environments.	95%

B5. Allow for new trail users to have a learning curve.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Allow for new trail users to have a learning curve.	25%
B. Provide new trail users with educational resources to promote positive trail experiences.	69%
C. Allow for new trail users to experience progressive challenges that provide opportunities suitable for those brand new to trail running, hiking, riding to more experienced users.	6%

B7. Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resource habitats.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resource habitats.	6%
B. Educate users about impacts of trail usage on natural resources and habitats.	94%

B8. Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier location of parks and trails for transit purposes.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier location of parks and trails for transit purposes.	5%
B. Provide clear, easy-to-find information on park and trail access, including transit, in a variety of formats, and make improvements to allow easier access to parks and trails for transit purposes.	95%

B14. Develop consistent symbology for specific user types on maps and signage.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Develop consistent symbology for specific user types on maps and signage.	30%
B. Develop consistent symbology on maps and signage.	70%

C1. Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions, such as Bill's Trail in Samuel P. Taylor Park, John Muir Land Trust, Santa Cruz, Napa County.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions, such as Bill's Trail in Samuel P. Taylor Park, John Muir Land Trust, Santa Cruz, Napa County.	18%
B. Look to other jurisdictions where there have been similar discussions for models of multi-use trail management solutions.	82%

C2. Discuss connectivity / interface with adjacent land managers.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Discuss connectivity / interface with adjacent land managers.	0%
B. Discuss connectivity and interfaces with adjacent land managers.	100%

C9. Balance access, such that if bike access is expanded in some places, consider closing elsewhere.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Balance access, such that if bike access is expanded in some places, consider closing elsewhere.	23%
B. Balance access to trails for the various user groups throughout the Park District.	94%

C10. Provide and protect equestrian access through designated trails hiker/horse only trails near stables.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Provide and protect equestrian access through designated trails hiker/horse only trails near stables.	6%
B. Provide and protect equestrian access by designating hiker/horse only trails near stables.	94%

C14. Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.	60%
B. Conduct regularly scheduled environmental evaluations for monitoring and mitigating any unacceptable impacts of intense recreational use on wildlife and native flora.	40%

D2. Communicate penalties regarding citation and fees for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education to make equitable / welcoming for new trail users). Clear signage also needed for conviction in the legal system.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Communicate penalties regarding citation and fees for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education to make equitable / welcoming for new trail users). Clear signage also needed for conviction in the legal system.	35%
B. Communicate what penalties are for illegal trail usage (with signage, advertising, education).	65%

D4. Block off bootleg trails, restore damage, conduct enforcement against users of these trails.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Block off bootleg trails, restore damage, conduct enforcement against users of these trails.	37%
B. Block off bootleg trails, restore damaged areas, conduct enforcement against users of these illegal trails.	63%

D5. Provide additional resources necessary to achieve greater enforcement.

Original Language (A) and Alternative Language (B-C)	Percentage in Favor
A. Provide additional resources necessary to achieve greater enforcement.	30%
B. Ensure adequate resources for enforcement.	70%

APPENDIX E: TUWG Comments to draft Summary Report

After the draft summary report was released in November 2021, and reviewed by TUWG members, several members shared detailed suggestions with the whole group. Original emails, and other member responses, are included here for the record.



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November 25, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Brian Holt, Chief of Planning
East Bay Regional Park District
Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605

Re: Summary from Trail User Working Group

Dear Brian,

This letter is in regard to the recently released “Goals, Issues & Solutions” report from the Trail Users Working Group meetings. The TUWG process did have some positive value. The zoom meetings provided an opportunity for different groups to meet and learn more about each groups concerns and issues. Moreover, information came out of those meetings that could be useful in the future. A key dynamic was actually getting the different user groups to meeting collectively to discuss issues. The Sierra Club has always maintained and long advocated that in regard to the issue of mountain bikes on narrow trails in the Park District’s parks, it is valuable to have user groups meet and discuss issues.

The Club does have concerns about the report, however, and these concerns need to be addressed as the Park District goes forward on this issue.

First, the final report summarized results from the survey of various issues and concerns that members of the TWUG voted on. In the final report one of the critical questions was rewritten to include additions to it that were not voted on as part of that question. This is very disturbing.

Question C7 asked to rate the proposition: **“Consider disallowing bike use on trails less than 8 feet wide.”**

Of the 23 people who took the survey, a clear majority, 62.5%, agreed with this premise.

Sierra Club to Park District
Re: TUWG Report
November 25, 2021

Specifically:

- 8 participants say an unqualified "yes" to this recommendation.
- 4 find the recommendation acceptable.
- 3 can live with the recommendation.
- 1 do not agree, but can live with it.
- 2 do not agree, and want the District to investigate further.
- 5 do not agree and do not want to move further with it.

If you add up the three grades of “yes,” there are 15 votes. If you add up the three grades of “no,” there are 8 votes. Treating the data as either “yes” or “no,” we have 15/23 (65.2%) who agree that bikes do not belong on narrow trails.

Subtracting out the weakest category for both “for” or “against,” leaves 12 votes in favor (8+4) and 7 against (5+2). This results in a vote of 63.1% in support.

Clearly, taking either calculation those TUWG members who did vote, voted overwhelmingly in favor of disallowing mountain bikes on trails less than 8 feet wide, aka narrow trails.

However, for reasons that have not been shared with Sierra Club, the Park District staff revised the language of question for the final report as follows:

Under “Solutions” on page 8 the Question was stated as follows:

Item C7 (revised): "Consider disallowing bike use on trails less than 8'wide where practical, or where certain design elements or management strategies that reduce user conflict cannot be achieved."

This question was never asked. Yet, it is stated as the question that was in the survey. Interestingly, on that same page a footnote is provided to explain why Question C13 was edited, but no such footnote was provided for C7.

Consequently, the report needs to be revised to accurately state in the “Solutions” section the C7 question. That solution is to disallow mountain bikes on trails less than 8 feet wide. Otherwise, the report gives the false impression that TUWG participants who were surveyed supported the revised statement.

But the broader issue is that the TUWG report fails to identify mountain bike access and conflicts as a major issue that is still unresolved. Instead in the section on “Issues for future consideration” (page 10), it only discusses (a) trail connectivity, and (b) opening up land banked properties with no mention whatsoever of the significant difference of opinions between hikers, bikers, and equestrians regarding mountain bike policies over mountain bike

access in parks and on narrow trails. This is the issue that is at the core of the discussion and debate. It is unfortunate that the TUWG could not engage on this issue in a meaningful way with the skilled moderator from MIG that the Park District had retained. The Park District lost an opportunity for the user groups to debate the issue and work toward a consensus.

Third, the report also identifies that the TUWG is not resulting in any concrete steps. Here is the language:

This summary report will be transmitted during public hearings to the Park District's Park Advisory Committee, a Committee of the Board, and the full Board of Directors in completion of this effort. Park District staff and TUWG members have commented on the positive value of these presentations and discussions and would like to see this type of diverse stakeholder engagement and dialogue continue as the Park District moves forward with trail planning.

At minimum, this process should have served to a) identify areas of common ground, and b) identify areas of conflict, where additional process is needed (see #2 above). The Park District can and should resolve this issue, by reconvening the group to identify these areas of major disagreement where additional process is needed. And then report those areas to the PAC and Board, and work to develop approaches to address those issues.

Moreover, the most productive approach with the most likelihood of success is for the various user groups to be together where they can discuss the issue fully and frankly with the goal of trying to reach consensus. The Sierra Club has always maintained that the Park District should bring the key stakeholders together to work through the issue with the intent, if possible, to reach consensus on various issues. We almost got to that in the TUWG. At the very last meeting in a portion for group discussion which was only for around 20 minutes, we actually started to have the kind of discussion among user groups that the Sierra Club had long advocated. Virtually everyone present commented at that time and later that this was the kind of discussion that we needed, that it should have occurred earlier in the process, and that this would be a productive way to proceed in the future. The Sierra Club still stands by that position. We had success with such an approach when we addressed mountain bike access and use when the mountain bike community sought to open up more trails on EBMUD lands for mountain bike access.

Sincerely yours,

Norman La Force

Norman La Force, Chair
East Bay Public Lands Committee

cc: East Bay Regional Park District Board
Sabrina Landreth, General Manger
Ana Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
Kristina Kelchner, AGM
Sean Dougan
Devan Reiff
Park Advisory Committee
TUWG Members
All via Email

From: n.laforce@comcast.net
To: "[Morris Older](#)"; "[Scott Bartlebaugh](#)"; "[Austin McNerny](#)"; "[Amelia Marshall](#)"
Cc: "[Kathleen Roth](#)"; [Devan Reiff](#); "[Adele Ho](#)"; "[Antoine Chambers](#)"; "[Bob Coomber](#)"; "[Bonnie Lewkowicz](#)"; "[Dan Swift CivicCorps](#)"; "[Elena Miramar](#)"; "[Emily Scholz](#)"; "[Gabriela Mosco Martinez](#)"; "[Gary Fitts](#)"; "[helen burke](#)"; "[Ian Baird](#)"; "[Jess Brown](#)"; "[Jim Hanson](#)"; "[John Aaron Graves](#)"; "[Joseph Mouzon](#)"; "[Linus Eukel](#)"; [Louh](#); "[Luana Espana](#)"; "[Maria Mayer](#)"; "[Mary Barnsdale](#)"; "[Michael Gregory](#)"; "[Mimi Wilson](#)"; "[Pam Young](#)"; "[Rick Rickard](#)"; "[Sean Burke](#)"; "[Simone Nageon de Lestang](#)"; [Amanda Sanders](#); [Becky Tuden](#); [Brian Holt](#); [Erich Pfuehler](#); [Jim O'Connor](#); [Kristina Kelchner](#); [Lance Brede](#); [Lisa Baldinger](#); [Lisa Goorjian](#); [Matthew Graul](#); [Sean Dougan](#)
Subject: RE: Some Briones trail history
Date: Monday, December 13, 2021 5:38:41 PM

I appreciate all the comments people have made. What all of the emails show is that how much we need to have the interest groups just sit down and work out an agreement that lasts for the foreseeable future together, in a room, with staff present with us, but in the same spirit at our last TUWG where for about 20 minutes we actually started to discuss (engage) the key issues among user groups. Siloing user groups with staff as the third party mediator is not how we can reach a "deal." Nor in the best interests of the Park District.

Norman

From: Morris Older <morrisolder@>
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 3:08 PM
To: '
Cc:

Subject: Some Briones trail history

Hi all,

This history I wrote up earlier this year is perhaps more detailed than some of us may wish to delve into, but it shows that the issues we are discussing today are not in any way new, and illustrates past attempts to find solutions, in part by some current members of the TUWG. The forum where this took place was the East Bay Area Trails Council which for many years, ending in 2012, offered a forum for various trail user groups to meet bi-monthly and discuss issues of common interest, both in advocating for trails here and elsewhere, and for addressing conflicts between user groups. By 2005 and through 2011, EBATC would vet proposed conversions of trails to multi-use before the park district considered them. Only if and when EBATC approved, EBRPD staff would then evaluate the proposed trail, using both a trail safety and habitat preservation checklist, and staff visits as well, to determine whether or not to move forward with a change. It just so happens that 16 years ago, EBATC first considered a trail that has caused a lot of controversy in this pandemic year -the very trail that Scott discussed in his email this weekend.

Briones Pine Tree Trail has a very interesting history re: multi use. Over 16 years ago, in November, 2005, the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay proposed that the trail be opened to bikes because it parallels the narrow twisty Briones Road into the park. The bicyclists were concerned that the excessive speed some drivers used around the turns on Briones Road made for a very dangerous bike ride into the park. The Minutes of the January 2006 East Bay Area Trails Council Meeting note that the trail had been surveyed by cyclists and by Morris, who “indicated that in his view, the trail is generally wide open and safe. He was concerned about one curve with bad sight lines. He indicated that he would have no problems at all if it were ‘uphill only’” for bikes, although the EBRPD representative there noted that EBRPD does not “have one-way directional trail use.” The meeting, attended by 3 bicyclists, 2 Ridge Trail Reps, 2 equestrian reps, and one hiker, agreed that “the trail be recommended for consideration [by EBRPD] under the [trail-use conversion] checklist, but that in the process staff be encouraged to look into ways to mitigate the possible problem of the curve in question.”

Over the next year, staff considered the trail, using the checklist that EBATC had helped develop previously to evaluate the impacts of making it multi-use. Their recommendation was evaluated by park staff, went to the Park Advisory Committee, and there was discussion by the Environmental Roundtable, and a public hearing on September 27th to consider this trail and the Towhee Trail in Anthony Chabot also proposed that year for multi-use. Because of this section that I identified in 2007, the proposal for this trail changed several times over the course of the year. The idea of opening it with that one section off limits to bikes was a compromise that staff came up with. “In May, 2007,” notes the EBATC Meeting minutes, “Norman La Force made a presentation to the Environmental Round Table representing the Sierra Club in which he asked for a moratorium on future checklist nominations,” prompting “Glenn Kirby to inquire whether Norman was accurately representing the Sierra Club.” In June, 2007 the EBRPD Board decided to walk the trail before discussing it. When

In response to Amelia's comments I definitely heard that Pine Tree trail is a major concern and we are not advocating for bike access to Pine Tree trail. Pine Tree Trail is the narrow trail on the loop we hiked. The understanding of the safety concerns of bikes and equestrians on Pine Tree trail is demonstrated in BTCEB newsletter articles from April and June 2020. A bike free equestrian loop was not noted from the March hike with Amelia and Kerry. After the March hike I reached out to the mountain bike community via the newsletter to try to educate on the issues identified, shift behavior, improve safety and reduce conflict. The intended path forward akin to Amelia's 'thought experiment' was a collaborative one with the various trail users and other stakeholders working on collaborative solutions together which Austin drafted and submitted to the district.

April 2020 BTCEB newsletter excerpt

[Pine Tree Trail](#) was another key concern. Pine Tree trail is a recognized trail in the trail system, and it's closed to bikes. The upper and lower sections are open with good sight lines and room to get off the trail. In the middle there's a section with very limited sight lines, a narrow bench, and steep exposure below and steep slope above. This is a spot that when an equestrian encounters a bike things can go very badly very quickly. The alternative for cyclists is Briones Road.

June 2020 BTCEB Newsletter

-- Pine Tree Trail has a particularly narrow section west of Briones Road with a blind entrance. While this trail is closed to bikes there have still been problems with equestrians encountering bikes. Horses encountering bikes on this section have reacted in 'flight' mode and spun 180 degrees and then bolted creating a very dangerous situation both for the riders and the horses. Please stay off of Pine Tree Trail. Briones Road provides an alternate route to connect between Old Briones Road and Orchard Trail.

The April newsletter also discussed a number of issues brought up on the hike including horse etiquette including stopping, speaking, asking when it's safe to proceed, trail intersection issues, and verbal abuse. A follow up on the behavior items at Briones was included in the June newsletter as well.

June 2020 newsletter excerpt

-- When you encounter equestrians stop and talk to the rider. Human voices put the horses more at ease and they are less likely to be spooked. Ask them to let you know when it is safe to pass. This may not be until the horse has passed you.

-- When you encounter hikers/walkers/runners verbally call out and let them know you are there. Slow down close to their speed. Try to avoid startling them. Consider using a bell.

-- When merging into trails such as Alhambra Creek trail (road), slow and watch for

other trail users particularly equestrians. Consider those merge points similarly to merging trails at a ski/snowboard area or a no-wake zone on a lake.

Regarding the discussion on broad policy or specific recommendations I think the district is looking for any means to get past the barriers to more trails that arise from trail conflict be they broad or specific. It goes beyond what type of trails are designed and constructed but also how they are managed and operated. Management options besides bike only designations that were polled did not have broad support. It would be useful to better understand the reasons those items were opposed and see if there is a way to shape those concepts toward options with higher support.

Scott

On Monday, December 6, 2021, 01:02:59 PM PST, Amelia Marshall wrote:

To respond to Austin:

1. It is certainly the case that each new park and each new trail proposed should be scrutinized closely and in a "holistic" manner. And whether multiuse trails should be constructed certainly "depends" on many factors. But it is my understanding that the park district wants general guidance, thus "blanket" recommendations from TUWG are sought. Isn't that what the vote on the Survey Monkey propositions was all about?

2. Austin wrote:

> Cyclists proposed a collaborative process for Briones Park to put this planning model to work, but my understanding is that Amelia argued against this effort and, instead, developed her own set of recommendations for Briones.

Your understanding does not match my own, Austin.

It is regrettable that the communication between the bike advocates and the Briones equestrians broke down, after we started a dialogue, in good faith. At the risk of a re-enactment of *Roshomon*, this is my understanding of what transpired:

Upon learning about the TUWG, equestrians who stable horses by Briones approached me with concerns.

On March 8, 2021 (International Women's Day), I initiated a Zoom call for women bicyclists and equestrians, Representing the cyclists was Helena Gilbert-Snyder. Adele Ho was unable to attend, but was briefed afterward. We all agreed that separate trails would be the optimum solution to bike-horse conflicts.

I discussed with the Briones equestrians a "thought experiment" for having separate trails for bikes and horses. About 12 Briones equestrians contributed ideas. I had hoped that one who is a design professional could create a concept map with separate trails,

Later in March, Scott kindly met with one of the Briones equestrians and me to walk a trail loop that had seen many bike-horse conflict incidents. I shared with him the idea for the separate trails "thought experiment".

After much deliberation, the Briones equestrians reached a consensus that having separate trails would

be infeasible for Briones,

Scott wrote an article in the BTCEB newsletter stating that the bicyclists were working with “the park district” on a flow trail for bikes in Briones,

The equestrian who hiked with Scott and me felt upset that Scott seemed to be focused on how he could increase bike access on the trails in question, rather than understanding her concern that there should be a non-bike loop on the trail segments with steep exposure, where bad incidents had already occurred.

At some point Gary initiated a Zoom call with Austin, Scott, Morris, and me. Helena could be seen in one Zoom window repairing a bicycle, but she did not enter the conversation. I felt very uncomfortable with the antagonistic tone I was hearing from the men, so I left the meeting early.

The Briones equestrians formulated their own recommendations to the park district. I presented those recommendations to the district on their behalf. These recommendations did not originate with me. I do not feel sufficiently familiar with Briones to formulate recommendations and have not ridden there in a long time. If those who do ride horses there think that separate trails would be infeasible, that is their call.

Amelia

--

On Dec 6, 2021, at 11:16 AM, Austin McInerney > wrote:

I appreciate the back-and-forth discussion and strongly support both Kathy and Morris' feedback.

I also want to stress that I am concerned by what I believe Amelia is suggesting we should be working towards. If I read her email correctly, she is hoping that the TUWG might “... formulate blanket policy recommendations for the next District Master Plan” that address what types of uses are allowed on “narrow” trails. If this is correct, I strongly disagree.

To use Amelia's own words which were expressed many times at the last TUWG meeting, deciding on appropriate trail use “depends” on specifics which vary considerably depending on where the trail in question exists. The idea that we will agree on a blanket policy concerning the viability of all trails (both existing and yet to be built) for particular types of users without actually looking at the details of the trail (terrain, sight line, steepness, drainage, proximity to other uses, etc) is not rationale nor in the best interest of the Park District nor does it serve the tax payers who are seeking well built and accessible trails.

As we know, the existing Ordinance 38 has been used to block nearly all proposals for new bike trails and, as Morris has correctly points out, hardly any new trails have been built in decades. Seeking broad policies concerning minimum trail width for bikes reinforces the status quo, which is not working to manage the increase in visitation by cyclists nor allow for responsibly built new trails.

My hope is that we can transition from arguing about the “safety” of allowing bikes on multi-use trails and focus on how the Park District might both build new trails to serve the exploding number of park visitors, many on bikes, and also use innovative management techniques to disperse and manage trails users to reduce the potential for trail conflict. What criteria should be applied when evaluating which users should be allowed on a new trail? How should new multi-use trails be designed and built to decrease the potential for negative encounters? Should certain trails be limited to certain users?

Let's be really clear, bikers are not asking that all trails be opened to bikes nor are we stating that all new trails be designed to full multi-use. We are, however, asking that new trails be built and that some of

these trails be “bike only” and that we begin looking at the actual needs of the communities surrounding many of the parks. If we focus on agreeing on what design elements should be incorporated into future new trail designs (increased sight line, low grades, speed reducing features, etc), then the Park District trail planners can put these features into place for any future proposed projects.

We could also look at individual park units holistically and take into consideration how the park is currently being used, how it might provide connectivity to regional trail systems (e.g., Ridge Trail) and what improvements could be undertaken to increase safety for visitors, disperse crowds from dangerous trails/intersections, improve ecological functions and wildlife migration corridors, etc. Cyclists proposed a collaborative process for Briones Park to put this planning model to work, but my understanding is that Amelia argued against this effort and, instead, developed her own set of recommendations for Briones.

Bottom line is that I am saddened by the lack of willingness and creativity from some of the TUWG members to think differently and broadly about responsible trail use. Other park jurisdictions around the Bay Area are building trails that serve their constituents and there is a pressing need to explore how the EBRPD managed lands can be modified to serve multiple purposes (recreation, fire prevention, conservation, etc), but this will take looking at the differences and opportunities various parcels provide; blanket policies as to which user groups get access based on trail width do nothing to serve those seeking time outdoors. Let's strive for more.

Thanks, Austin

On Dec 4, 2021, at 1:06 PM, Amelia Marshall wrote:

To respond briefly to Morris' comments:

According to PowerPoint presentations in recent BOD EBRPD Operations subcommittee meetings, the park district is presently engaged in building a narrow extension of the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Garin to Niles Canyon. I believe that planning is underway for similar narrow trails in South Las Trampas.

Amelia S. Marshall

On Saturday, December 4, 2021, 11:33:36 AM PST, Morris Older wrote:

The idea that "presently the District is building narrow trails that some stakeholders find unsatisfactory for multi-use purposes," flies in the face of the fact that the EBRPD has built only 15 miles of new trails in the last 25 years, as Sean Dougan told the TUWG early in our meetings. The 6 new miles of trails in Crockett Hills that cyclists love and which some others decry, were completed in 2014.

This de facto moratorium on trail building is a large part of why EBRPD convened the TUWG as they look in the coming years to open up 37,000 acres of land paid for by our taxpayers.

And they want to do so in a way that meets the recreational needs of everyone who lives near those lands while ensuring that vital habitat is protected. If the TUWG can reach a consensus on general guidelines for new trails, and can make clear recommendations that end the current stalemate, we will have performed a valuable public service that will benefit not just the future users of these currently land-banked properties, but the users of all the older parks as well as the pressures of a growing population are spread out over the entire area.

Morris

Hiker, equestrian and trail advocate

From: Amelia Marshall

Sent: Saturday, December 04, 2021 9:20 AM

To: Kathleen Roth +39

Subject: Re: TUWG considerations

To respond briefly to Kathy:

> I am a member of the Sierra Club, and there is little open public discussion there of mountain bikes in local parks. I think even many members would be surprised that they are contributing to outlawing mountain bikes on narrow trails. Perhaps not. It is unknown.

As another Sierra Club member on the TUWG, I don't think that "outlawing bikes" is the objective of the current discussion.

My take on why TUWG was initiated is that the park district seeks stakeholder input to guide planning decisions. Consensus on our recommendations will require some sort of agreement among the stakeholders. We should make a deal.

At issue is what kind of trails the park district will be constructing in the immediate future: both building trails in new parklands and also renovating trails in existing parks.

For stakeholders our strategic decision is whether we want to repeat this discussion around each new Land Use Plan, park by park, on an ongoing basis; or else formulate blanket policy recommendations for the next District Master Plan. If we can't make a deal, it will default to the former.

Presently the District is building narrow trails that some stakeholders find unsatisfactory for multi-use purposes.

Do we want new trails to emulate the situation in Crockett Hills RP? For the non-bicyclist majority, I think we do not.

Thanks for voicing your perspective.

Amelia Marshall

--

On Dec 3, 2021, at 10:17 PM, Kathleen Roth> wrote:

I would like to respond to concerns about the process of the TUWG. I believe the group was formed to come up with ideas and problem-solving to address the competing interests in the Regional Parks. Specifically, with the rise in popularity of mountain-biking, there is a huge demand for narrow trails for mountain-bikes. A casual walk through nearly any park will show this. This is the current state, whether we wish it or not.

The TUWG is not a representative body with members proportionate to the members of the community who share similar ideas. I don't think the numbers of members voting for or against an idea is important, because the members are not representing constituencies in proportional numbers. The members are advocates who volunteer their time and are very devoted.

I am a member of the Sierra Club, and there is little open public discussion there of mountain bikes in local parks. I think even many members would be surprised that they are contributing to outlawing mountain bikes on narrow trails. Perhaps not. It is unknown. I personally am a member because

I want to protect places like Bear's Ears and the Carrizo Plain, and also for issues like climate change. I don't believe that majority should necessarily rule in cases of protecting the environment, but I think the recreational needs of many people should be heeded. With tens of thousands of acres of upland former ranch land, there should be some place we can come to a consensus on providing narrow trails. Let's really try to come out of this with a compromise that will take different needs into account.

It is easy to forget how great these parks are. This week in this gorgeous weather I have been walking in Garin, which was a surprise. It does not look that promising from the road. If you ever get a chance, check out the Ziele Creek entrance and the Ukraina Loop- see photos above.

Kathy Roth

From: [Austin McNerny](#)
Subject: Trail User Working Group Perspective from Cyclists
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 1:53:38 PM

Dear Park District Staff and Members of the Trail User Working Group -

This letter is in response to the email from Mr. Reiff, dated November 18, 2021, in which he asked for feedback on the recently released “Goals, Issues & Solutions” report from the Trail Users Working Group (TUWG) meetings.

Building on the recent emails and letters from a few of the TUWG participants, we are writing to share our thoughts on the process used to date and to offer where we hope to see future conversations going. We want to stress how thankful we are for the time, resources, and energy expended by Park District staff, the hired facilitator and all TUWG participants.

We agree with Mr. La Force that the TUWG meetings were constructive in bringing various park user groups together to share ideas and concerns and to begin conversations aimed at identifying opportunities and challenges with planning for responsible recreation on the Park District’s “land banked” properties. We also concur with Mr. La Force that the TUWG process did identify areas of common ground and also identified contentious topics worthy of further discussion and brainstorming.

However, we are extremely concerned with how a subset of the TUWG membership continues to advocate that bikes are not appropriate on trails eight feet and narrower (in either currently open parks nor from any future parks) while also appearing to not be interested in trialing alternative trail management techniques such as limiting bikes to uphill only on particular trails, alternative day use, uni-directional routes, etc.

The Sierra Club survey design reiterates this limited approach. The survey has a clear bias against bikes as noted by other TUWG members and it does not include questions to gather opinions regarding various trail management option ideas and methods that have already been raised in TUWG discussions.

We have advocated for identifying and clarifying the interests each and every trail user group has in order to explore solutions to meeting identifying interests to the greatest degree possible. Yet, as most of the TUWG members began building an understanding and appreciation for the shared desires for safer trail experience, some members kept reiterating their position that narrow trails are unsuitable for bikes and that they had little to no interest in learning from how other public land management agencies are successfully building and managing narrow multi-use and single use trails. This unwillingness to accept and agree that many existing park trails are, in many locations, overcrowded, steep, rutted and environmentally unsustainable does not allow for the development of solutions that will

serve a diverse and growing trail user community.

We further believe that the TUWG scope limitation to new trails in land banked properties does nothing to address the current situation in presently opened Park District lands. How will the TUWG outcomes inform or be used by Park District staff to guide trail work and new trail development and application of alternative trail management strategies in currently open parks?

The status quo is not working well in many existing parks. Potential solutions from the TUWG should be considered for application to improve trail experiences in existing parks. Choosing not to try to improve the situation because change is difficult on existing trails or in existing parks does not improve a worsening situation.

Lastly, the TUWG has been talking conceptually about trail access without any specific “on the ground” parks/trails to consider. This approach does not allow the group to showcase how trails can be designed, built and managed to serve the interests and needs of a variety of trail users. As Amelia Marshal states in her letter,

“What is needed is for the most engaged stakeholders to meet in smaller groups, preferably in person, for targeted negotiations intended to craft solutions that everyone can live with. If this can be achieved, the District could make sound policy that will endure for future years, rather than necessitating the repetition of the same arguments among stakeholders, with each new Land Use Plan, in each new parkland, for years to come.”

In support of this approach, a few months ago, we developed and shared with Park District staff a proposal for a focused collaborative effort to improve the trail network in Briones Park as this would be an ideal location to look at specific methods and management techniques to both serve the need for more narrow trails for cyclists while also improving safety and enjoyment for all trail users. Sadly, we believe this proposal has not proceeded in large part due to pushback from certain user groups.

In closing, we hope that the TUWG might be able to focus attention on developing an agreed-upon set of criteria by which future trails could be designed and constructed in order to meet the reasonable desire for a safer experience for all who want to experience being outside. We would also like to see the TUWG, or some subset of the users, tasked with looking at the existing parks to consider changes, both to the physical trail network as well as possible ways to manage use, to meet the needs of legitimate user groups.

Sincerely, Austin & Scott

From: [Brian Holt](#)
To: [Adele Ho](#); [Antoine Chambers](#); [Bob Coomber](#); [Bonnie Lewkowicz](#); [Dan Swift](#); [ChivoCorps](#); [Elena Miramar](#); [Emily Scholz](#); [Gabriela Mosco Martinez](#); [Gary Fitts](#); [helen burke](#); [Jan Baird](#); [Jess Brown](#); [Jim Hanson](#); [John Aaron Graves](#); [Joseph Mowzon](#); [Linus Fukej](#); [Loub](#); [Luana Espana](#); [Maria Mayer](#); [Mary Barnsdale](#); [Michael Gregory](#); [Mimi Wilson](#); [Pam Young](#); [Rick Rickard](#); [Sean Burke](#); [Simone Nageon de Lestang](#); [Scott Bartlebaugh](#); [Austin McInerney](#); [Amelia Marshall](#); [Morris Oider](#)
Cc: [Devan Relf](#); [Amanda Sanders](#); [Becky Tuden](#); [Brian Holt](#); [Erich Pfuehler](#); [Jim O'Connor](#); [Kristina Kelchner](#); [Lance Brede](#); [Lisa Baldinger](#); [Lisa Goorjian](#); [Matthew Graul](#); [Sean Dougan](#)
Subject: Trail User Working Group
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 11:43:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Trail User Working Group Members –

First, I just want to THANK YOU all again for the many hours that you have all volunteered to meeting to discuss the natural surface trail network at the East Bay Regional Park District. You have all been generous with your time, expertise, and passion and we are grateful.

I want to assure you Park District staff has been following the recent email conversations that have been occurring where TUWG members are diving into some of the difficult questions regarding trail development and mountain bike access. There has been a lot of good history, context, and debate. I would encourage those who have not weighed in to also contribute your thoughts. It is clear that there are many who have been involved in this conversation for a long time and they bring decades of expertise and experience to this discussion. We are interested in hearing as many perspectives as possible.

The East Bay is a large and diverse community – as are our parks – and working to provide sustainable public access while protecting our natural environment requires collaboration, respect, and flexibility.

I know there is a lot of interest and opinions about what the next steps for this group – and this discussion overall – is. Devan and Sean have continued to meet with small groups to get some more focused input. We do plan to have another meeting in the New Year as has been requested by many participants. From there, we will look forward to taking in all of the input we have received and discussing next steps with Park District management.

Until we do meet again, I hope the TUWG will continue the discussion – either with the full group or with each other. I hope everyone will be able to get some time out in the parks and on the trails and be able to reflect on these conversations. Park District staff looks forward to continuing the conversation and always remain available as a resource.

Happy Holidays all – I do hope you get time to enjoy time with your family and loved ones. Stay safe and thank you for your continued support of the East Bay Regional Park District.



Brian Holt
Chief | Planning, Trails and GIS
Pronouns: he, him, his
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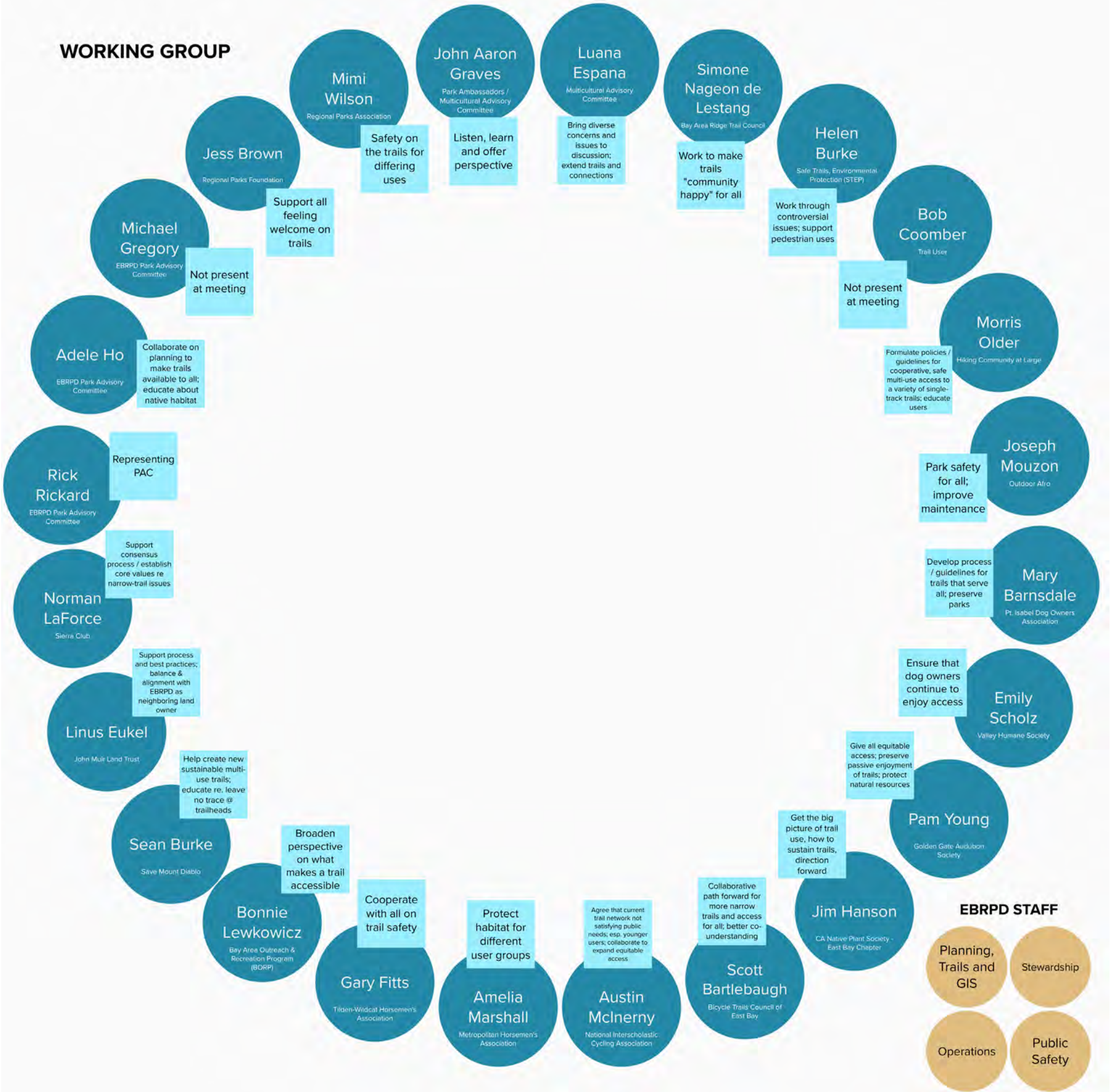
APPENDIX F: Meeting summaries (“murals”)

After each of the first six TUWG meetings, the consultant team prepared meeting summary notes in a “murals” style. These notes are included here for the record.



**EBRPD Trails User Working Group Kickoff Meeting
August 20, 2020**

WORKING GROUP



MISSION

The Working Group will work directly with Park District staff to evaluate various trail interests, constraints, and conflicts that influence the planning, design, and implementation of new natural surface trails.

MISSION STATEMENT

Suggested group charge very good; develop into mission statement	Mission statement is helpful to unite group	Is there intent to create mission statement? Yes, will make edits per group suggestions	Will circulate mission statement for revision /endorsement
Wordsmithing difficult in person; work on consensus via email	Disagree; email not best for offline consensus; requires live discussion	Use whiteboard to record discussion and edit statement	Recommend reviewing whiteboard as shared document
Synthesize revised statement w/comments; approve next meeting	Mission constrained by staff needs? Can we redefine?	Revise suggested charge: add "without compromising either the safety or enjoyment of any permitted user"	
Add language that speaks to evaluating alternative scenarios; no rubber-stamping	Can discuss reassessing / amending park district policy		

SCOPE OF DISCUSSION

Does this include just new parks / trails or also re-routes of existing trails?	Important to be inclusive of existing parks; alleviate user conflicts	Does this include discussion of creative, innovative mgmt of current trails?	Conversation is open; reference lessons learned / best practices
How can we best improve and expand the park district's trail network - not just new trails	EBRPD: a lot of overlap between existing and new trail development - same principles	Look to other jurisdictions / similar discussions	Discuss connectivity / interface with adjacent land managers
Provide bulleted list of current trail development criteria			

ADDING TO SCOPE?

Include discussion of trail maintenance	Hoping we can broaden discussion to alignment of new trails, maintenance, camping, etc.	Camping is a consideration in developing new trail opportunities	Return to discussing these opportunities
Camping raises many separate issues; should likely be separate working group	EBRPD: There is a separate land use planning process; need to focus on surface trail network	If expanding scope, will expand CEQA considerations	Take care re. "scope creep"

OUTCOME

Develop solutions / make recommendations that are implemented	Discuss what a good outcome should be	Don't see description of work product; need to define
The more we can communicate all the aspects of enthusiasm for parks, the better	Get out to a variety of parks, speak to a breadth of users	Create a plan for getting people connected to trails for a healthy Bay Area

DATA

Ensure we understand full universe of resources and uses; gather data	Use data to inform conversation; makes it easier to balance uses, mission statement more realistic	Some inaccuracies in data (e.g., user types from 2011 & 2013)
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GROUND RULES

1. Attend scheduled meetings.
2. Attend scheduled site visits.
3. Participate in meeting discussions.
4. Keep an open mind and be respectful.
5. Represent stakeholder perspectives.
6. Work together towards solutions.
7. Avoid sidebar conversations.
8. Avoid repetition.
9. Step up, step back.
10. Be a liaison to the public.
11. Staff will present WG report to the District's Operations Committee.
12. Have fun.

GENERAL

Approve of ground rules

CONSENSUS AND DISCUSSION

Operate by consensus to the extent possible	Must agree on definition of consensus	Listen to all points of view, find agreement where possible
Urge consensus approach - full consensus as per First Nations	Depends on topic of discussion	Suggestion: can use level-of-support scale
"Consensus means the willingness to go along with the decision either in active support of it or in not opposing it."	Group generally agrees	Add as ground rule or incorporate into rule 6
Use data to inform decisions	Chat will help eliminate sidebar conversations	"A little less zeal, please!"

SITE VISITS

Recommend site visit to McCosker property (trail issues, creek restoration)
Site visits to Wildcat Gorge, Curran, Meadows Canyon trails via Long Oak trailhead
Visit Roddy Ranch, Crockett Hills, Chupcan Concord Hills
Site visits must be inclusive to those w/disabilities

ACCURACY OF NOTES

Have implicit ground rule / understanding that notes can be inaccurate / incomplete	Comments will be summarized, not directly quoted
Remember that meetings are recorded	Notes are informative, not conclusory or definitive; don't need to argue about meaning
Meeting notes can be developed and reviewed by group	Approval of notes an item on agenda

SPEAKING TO PUBLIC / MEDIA

Add ground rule re speaking to the media - representing selves, not EBRPD	May refer media to Park District if uncomfortable
Language about media suggested in response to discussion	If media consults members, can talk to them but deliberations of group are for the group
Add "media" to ground rule on conversations outside working group	Take caution in characterizing process to public
Caution members from going to media to speak for others or promote specific interests	Here to come to internal agreement, not to externally lobby on behalf of positions

WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

GUEST SPEAKERS

Note guests can be invited to provide specific perspectives	Like idea of bringing in guests	Must be selective re. adding members; bring guests to meetings focusing on specific issues
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SPECIAL NEEDS

Non-mobility related disabilities: e.g., autism, hearing impairment ✓✓	Special Ed college prep HS - director may suggest representative	Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council
Would be good to hear from educator working with autistic children	Broad spectrum of abilities among, for instance, autistics	Include those with intellectual disabilities (beyond autism, Down's, etc.)

YOUTH

Need young people involved	Hear from those trying to bring inner city youth to parks	Inner city youth: Cycles of Change and Rich City Rides ✓
Brianna Noble - lesson program for underserved children: "Mulatto Meadows"		May be hearing from that group

HIKING AND RELATED USES

Hikers consistently underrepresented - largest category of users	At least one (more) representative from a hiking group	Trail runners
Needs for parents with children in buggies	Many members fit more than one category	John Graves: also represents dog and trail running interests
Cathy Roth - retired ER doctor, cyclist, volunteer w/Save Diablo, dog park advocate	Professional dog walkers	Commercial dog walkers: Molly Kenefick, Diane Livoti
Many young equestrians - often dependent on nearby trails		

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION / EASE OF PARTICIPATION

One person can't speak to all multicultural perspectives	Need more diversity in group, especially from groups strongly represented among users	Middle Eastern communities
Include different cultural groups, languages, trail needs ✓	For instance: defining multi-use; engaging diverse users; etc.	
Evening meetings more accessible to working individuals	4 pm has worked well as a meeting time for PAC; late in work day, doesn't impact evenings	

NEXT STEPS

SCHEDULE

Meeting in November? December? January 2021	Use Doodle poll to set dates
January is too far ahead	Early November might work well; not too much time between meetings ✓✓✓✓
Avoid losing momentum	Better to have less than 3 months rather than more
Less travel over holidays	Site visits prior to January?

TOPICS

Topic-based meetings? Agendize these subjects	Practical details such as deferred development / maintenance
Prior to specific user interest topics - need overview of where trails are working well	Plus expectations for access and limitations on healthy access
Like the idea of point/counter-point discussions	Focus site visits on specific issues

RESOURCES

Dropbox to be set up for resource sharing	For now, email Devan re. resources to include: dreiff@ebparks.org
Feel free to reach out to EBRPD	

PARKING LOT

Define types of trails and other basic definitions	Provide Sierra Club white paper
Where are multi-use purposes working well?	Include user survey data in resources - who are the users?



EBRPD Trails User Working Group Meeting #2
November 13, 2020
Meeting Focus: Hikers

TUWG

Website: <https://www.ebparks.org/about/planning/tuwg/default.htm>

WORKING GROUP: NEW MEMBERS

<p>Elena Miramar - Vision Espana</p>	<p>Gabrielle Martinez - Civicorps JVC</p> <p>Knowledge of what park will represent - hopefully diverse groups and minorities</p>	<p>Antoine Chambers - Civicorps JVC</p> <p>Representing diverse youth hikers / bikers - learning how trails can be improved</p>	<p>Kathy Roth - Dog Walkers</p> <p>Representing dog walkers on trails, interested in new acquisition planning</p>
<p>Ian Baird - Orinda Hiking Club</p> <p>Enjoy sharing trails with equestrians - no bikes on narrow trails</p>	<p>Michael Gregory - District PAC</p> <p>Want to see this effort realized, better defined, more equitable for all</p>	<p>Bob Coomber - District PAC</p> <p>Important - time to do this - Representing wheelchair hikers; looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish</p>	

REFLECTIONS ON THE PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTES

Notes should be sent out sooner so corrections can be made promptly

SHARED RESOURCES

What are criteria for documents to be posted on website?

Response: information for group reference library (e.g., data / surveys, white papers)

Ensure posted documents are compliant with WCAG accessibility rules

UPDATE ON WORKING GROUP FORMATION

MISSION (Updated)

The Working Group will work directly with Park District staff to evaluate various trail interests, constraints, and conflicts that influence the planning, design, and implementation of new natural surface trails; as well as how we can best improve park trails without compromising the safety or enjoyment of any diverse group of trail users, balanced with the District's commitment to protect natural resources.

GROUND RULES

1. Attend scheduled meetings.
2. Attend scheduled site visits.
3. Participate in meeting discussions.
4. Keep an open mind and be respectful.
5. Represent stakeholder perspectives.
6. Work together towards solutions.
7. Avoid sidebar conversations.
8. Avoid repetition.
9. Step up, step back.
10. Be a liaison to the public.
11. Staff will present WG report to the District's Operations Committee.
12. Have fun.

Add 'Be Respectful of diverse opinions' - civility to the Ground Rules - #4 covers this

MISSION / OBJECTIVES

Please send Mission Statement out in writing.

"...without compromising..." is a high bar in the mission statement considering what some participants have stated. How do we define "compromising"?

Add environmental concern to mission

Classic balancing act is recreation versus environmental stewardship.

CONSENSUS

Consensus building encourages dialogue. It clarifies areas of agreement and disagreement. It improves information used in the process. And it resolves controversial issues using structured, face-to-face (virtual) interaction among stakeholders. Consensus does not mean all participants agree completely on every part of an issue. It means that they can support the decision completely even though they might wish the decision could be slightly different. Simply put, consensus is the willingness to go along with the decision either in active support of it or in not opposing it.

Many members agree with definition	Support definition, encourage conveners to ensure that all hear from all perspectives during the conversations. Avoid any participant complaining outside of the forum that they were not consulted nor had an opportunity to weigh in on matters.	Opportunity to discuss assumptions	Create a list, discuss and build on assumptions going forward	Start with agreements
Consensus, per the definition, may be limited on major issues	Move on from fixed positions and listen to diverse perspectives	Information gathering and fact finding is truly important to this process. Agree that structure to how perspectives are presented is very important to our ability to gain consensus; should be provided in advance	Might make sense to include in future meetings an opening presentation from staff about how they are currently addressing particular issues, especially re. new trail design.	
Believe that fact finding and discussion of the actual impacts of each user group will be essential to the proper function of this group.	I think that should happen before the next scheduled meeting on Bicycles or Equestrians because user impact should be something that we all learn about together			

WORK PRODUCT

A set of issues and potential solutions for optimizing trail use for all user groups.	Is it intention to create policy that Board will votes on?	Response: no, but would appreciate recommendations to discuss with Board	Seeking guidance on specific issues	This is not a design review panel on new trails, it will be all about where the trails are built and who goes on which trails.
Would like the work product to include:	1) recommendations for designing new trails on land banked properties, 2) ideas for creative management of existing trail network	3) strategies for managing e-bikes on natural surface trails, and 4) better understanding of what the opportunities are for increased volunteer trail stewardship work	Develop a work product that is actually HELPFUL to EBRPD in their pursuit of designing new trails and allows trail development projects to run smoothly without threats of legal action.	Work product should equate to the amount of time spent by this group, i.e. 1-2 years of meetings by 50+ engaged participants should equate to a workable product
Agree: concurs with Sibley Land Use Plan	New trails of variable width included; narrowed by resource constraints	Use recommendation removed; was part impetus for this discussion	Consider options for varying permissions at different times	Must consider new park development and creation of new multiple-use narrow trails
				Would like to delve into that; represents all interests

NUMBER OF MEETINGS

MEETING #2 NOVEMBER Hikers	MEETING #3 FEBRUARY Bicyclists	MEETING #4 APRIL Equestrians	MEETING #5 JUNE Others	MEETING #6 AUGUST Summary	August topic likely will take more than one meeting
Structure to how the various user groups present their perspectives, interests and desires would be helpful.	Others = dogs!	One meeting should focus on environmental and habitat protection -	Were told it would be a two-year process	It should go on as long as useful	
Resource request: I'd love to have a discussion board that we can use in between meetings. Is that something EBRPD could provide?	We also have an email list for discussing these issues. If you'd like to join the list, or post thoughts, send to parks@twha.org	baseline studies, avoidance minimization of impacts, assessing impacts, incl significant effects, cumulative impacts	Maybe we could consider field trips to Rancho Pinole and Samuel Taylor?		

COMMENTS: SUSTAINABLE TRAILS PRESENTATION

The sustainable trails concept is designed for bicyclists. Hikers and horses are fine on legacy trails.	Conversion of legacy trails into sustainable trails is a worthy goal and one that all trail users should support.	Contrary to the prior statement, I don't know many hikers, especially those in wheelchairs, who like slogging up/down steep, rutted trails.
Legacy trails need to be left in place where multi-use is contemplated.	Agree - I don't enjoy hiking up or down 20% grades.	What fraction of legacy trails are 20% grades? Few, I bet.
Sustainable trails effort could be exciting and worthwhile. Glad to be part of this	20% sounds like an assumption	Such a grade can be seen in the part of Wildcat Canyon by Richmond. Not fun to hike.
hikers and equestrians overwhelmingly prefer single track trails	Apparently people do like steep rutted trails because in so many places people cut switchbacks and make steep straight lines where things are carefully graded. (I'm not supporting this)	The average hiker takes the trail for granted until something had gone wrong. I had never thought about how informal trails grow up when the official trail does not go where the people want to go.
Well said Sean - listening to different perspectives and finding common ground!	Dispute statement that hikers and equestrians prefer single track. Many state that in multi-use situations there needs to be room to avoid bikes.	Trail permit issuance - yes
Hope we are able to reach common ground	Understood intent was to support multiple use - were trails designed primarily for bikes? (slow-down, minimal erosion)	This is from trails packet distributed to group re. nature of sustainable trails
Can GIS Dept. provide details on slopes of existing trails? Are conversations underway with resource agencies to better define what is permissible under current requirements and what would need to be done to allow new trail construction within EBRPD lands?	Response: certain elements hold true for all trails	Certain elements constrain use of trails; many to manage use of water
Response: we are discussing this with our GIS Department. And yes, we have ongoing conversations with the resource agencies on what is permissible.	Don't intend every trail to accommodate every user	Many constraints to developing new trails

HIKERS' PERSPECTIVES

ORINDA HIKING CLUB

Prefer not to hike with bikes on narrow trails - safety concerns	Fire roads okay, but can't design narrow trails for both hikers and bikes	Equestrians are fine - can step to one side	Are there guidelines, rules & regulations, can they be applied to future parks?	Reponse: Can be, but questions of resource protection - might not be good stewardship
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OUTDOOR AFRO

In East Bay, haven't had many challenges with cyclists or off-leash dogs	Biggest complaint: facilities not maintained, worse since COVID	Want trails to work for as many users as possible
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MORRIS OLDER: HIKING COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Hikers love trails but concerns	Signage: nearby trails, trail distance, etc.	Webpage showing real-time status of facilities	Can we treat different trail widths differently?	EBRPD offers exceptional opportunities, well-maintained trails
Hikers often seemed least represented in prior processes	Many hikers concerned about biker misbehavior	Appreciate when bikers are well trained to share trails	Elements to slow bikes not a problem for bikers and appreciated by other users	Bill's Trail in Samuel P. Taylor. Reopened recently, it is not on their maps, but is accessed from DEVILS Gulch. I can share the old map which shows it.
Loose dogs on trails are an issue for hikers and equestrians	Are trails maintained equitably?	Issues often unresolved until specific funding identified	Often wait a long time	Develop new trails to be more easily maintained

GROUP MEMBER COMMENTS

Need to consult all groups, be inclusive Sierra Club involved with users	Sierra Club perspective - hikers wish to enjoy nature without disturbance, concerns for safety	Response: will bring in all perspectives	I have hiked many times with Sierra club, and the comments heard there informed my comments as well as comments from other hiking groups
Joaquin Miller Park - not EBRPD - is the Wild West with no law enforcement, and horses largely driven off the trails.	Updating mapping, ensuring that usage data is accurate is crucial	Parks information needs to be listed accurately and communicated to all	Permitting and CEQA are issues; but lots of land available
Narrow trails for all - is that new District position?	Response: not new, not entirely accurate	What we're here to clarify - do you want multi-use trails for all?	NO on multiuse trails everywhere!
The Ridge Trail between Tilden to Sibley has some stairs, no problem for horses.	Trail guideline of steps for horses is that they be 8 feet apart so all 4 of the horse's feet go on each landing before the next step	Fernandez Ranch reportedly lacks good horse trailer parking, which is why it is more attractive to other user groups	Fernandez is a great example of multiuser trail design
John Muir Land Trust is doing a GREAT job!			

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1. What are some of the goals that hikers have in using trails?
2. What are some of the issues that hikers experience and/or create on trails?
3. What do you think would improve trail user experience?

GROUP 1: Reporter Rick Rickard

Rick Rickard, Jess Brown, Emily Scholz, Scott Bartlebaugh	Big views and shade are important	Different types of hikers - those seeking serenity, groups seeking wider trails	Serenity - arriving early
Trail capacity is a challenge	insufficient bathrooms	Weekend hikers don't do their part in maintaining trails	
Re. trail etiquette: improve signage to stress this	How to get bikes further out from trailheads - hiking crowds closer to trailheads	Long loops for bikers, short loops encouraged to hikers	How can we help Sean get traction for more than 13 mi. of trails in next 10 years?

GROUP 5: Reporter Brian Holt

Mary Barnsdale, Joseph Mouzon, Michael Gregory	Create a culture of civility	Campaign similar to "poop fairy"
Track who users are	Consider alternating days/uses	Improved signage: education, how to use parks and report rule violations

GROUP 2: Reporter Austin McInerney

Austin McInerney, Gary Fitts, Norman LaForce, Civicorp Reps, Luana Espana	Goals: solitude, enjoyment of nature	Solitude: hearing the birds, contemplation, good views	Physical exercise, sometimes strenuous	Younger hikers: Seeking social media opportunities
Issues: crowding	Lack of open facilities (water fountains, bathrooms)	Extent of poison oak	Bags of dog poop	Lack of signage, park maps shown in isolation - show connectivity
Trail-sharing etiquette between different users and also between hikers	Newer trail users have a learning curve	Intimidation on trails, not sure how to report, no staff at park	Oblivious trail users using earbuds is a huge problem for equestrians, whether they're worn by bicyclists or hikers.	
Improvements: easier to read maps online	Disperse users with more trails	Educating users to wider variety of trails	All cyclists to use bells	

GROUP 6: Reporter Kim Thai

Morris Older, Jim Hanson, Simone Nageon de Lestang, Bonnie Lewkowicz	Mental and physical health	Admiring beauty and nature	Relieve stress
Social aspect	Connecting research on trail accessibility		
Issues w/informal or social trails	Trail etiquette re COVID, maintenance of amenities / lack of accessibility	Overflow at trailhead parking	Cleanliness / trail maintenance
User conflict is a primary issue - fact finding beforehand would be beneficial	Will help with bike discussion		
Maps that show updates on all trails, not just EBRPD	Transport / access to trails for differently abled	Info re accessibility	

GROUP 3: Reporter Amelia Marshall

Kathy Roth, Pam Young, Ellen Burke, Amelia Marshall	Encourage open discussion with all groups, respect all forms of recreation, want to work together harmoniously	Environmental stewardship also part of it	Need for bike recreation; should accommodate separate place to go fast
Issues: safety with fast mountain bikers	Bikes are vehicular access; existing trails not prepared	Destruction of environment through bootleg trails, soil and root damage	Crockett Hills
Mitigations: improved signage	Code of ethics for each user group; how to better respect each other	Effective way of improving trail behavior	E-bikes: create a permitting and required education process like DMV

GROUP 4: Reporter Devan Reiff

Mimi Wilson, Ian Baird, Linus Eukel	Different users side by side; concerns from older users	Further notes to be provided
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MISC. COMMENTS

Maximum group size for hiking? (Response: no)	Max group size is an issue; supposed to special events permit for more than 30	Makes no sense for hikers; District should consider	Privilege to be able to hike in EBRPD parks
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NEXT STEPS

FUTURE MEETINGS

Will there be an Evite?	Response: will explore
If you haven't filled out the survey yet, please take a few more days to--most of you have, and thanks for that.	Need info: legal ramifications for e-bikes

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the Ridge Trail Challenge that is happening this month https://ridgetrail.org/challenge/ Great way to get out on some of these multi-use trails :)	Also if you want to get out and steward some of our trails sign up for Ridge Trail Month. Spots still open :) https://ridgetrail.org/rt-month/
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REFLECTIONS ON MEETINGS

EBRPD Trails User Working Group Meeting #3
February 19, 2021
Meeting Focus: Bicyclists

TUWG Website: <https://www.ebparks.org/about/planning/tuwg/default.htm>

Narrow trails discussion important. Would like to see it as an agenda item ✓ ✓

Including a legal analysis from the District. Focus on solutions that work for all of us

Please share memo IDing critical narrow trail issues to be addressed with entire group

Shared w/entire group on 2/11 but some did not receive email with memo

Important to understand problem BEFORE moving to solutions

Plans for future trail development must be informed by past and current trail experiences and conflicts.

Remember focus is on future trails; consider how current issues influence that

Purpose of this group is to have some open-ended communication before we approach this with our hardened positions regarding potential user conflicts

Past studies have shown that it is very difficult to change the established varieties of usage of existing trails, but much easier to design neutrals for safe multi use, and gain user acceptance and cooperation

May take more than one session to discuss this

Only wide trails are safe and enjoyable for multi-use

Need a total group discussion on what we talked about in the paper

NEXT STEPS FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting: equestrian perspective

August: dog owners; start synthesis discussion

Check calendars: considering Thu. 4/22 from 10-12

Final meeting in September with synthesis

June mtg: environmental / stewardship perspectives

Some conversations will be followed up in continuing processes

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morris Older has been awarded the California Trails and Greenways' Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award

BICYCLISTS' PERSPECTIVES

PRESENTERS: Scott Bartlebaugh and Helena Gilbert-Snyder: Off-Road Cyclist's Perspective

Many differing uses among bikers but come together on common goals	Hoping to learn more about other users' perspectives	Desired outcome - better trail experiences for everybody	Wanted: more access, help more with trail maintenance	Recognize that some cyclists are disrespectful; bikes can be startling	Understand equestrian safety a significant issue
Commonality among issues with other users	Crockett Hills poor for cyclists	Range of cyclist's perspectives	Some follow rules and are respectful, are advocates and allies	Some see little change for bikers, low priority for trail quality,	public process not working, good planning not supported
Some see insufficient technically challenging trails for bikes or bike access only trails	Options for improving situation:	District trail ride and master plan	Continue educating bikers and other user groups	Look into signage to limit congestion, decrease conflicts	Trails that are designed and well-built; most not built with cyclists in mind
Need education for new trail users	Trying to make situation better	Solutions demonstrated by other land managers	John Muir, Santa Cruz, Napa County, Bill's Trail in Marin	Makeup of park users has shifted - exponential growth of youth on Mountain Bike teams	Oppty to create new generation of park stewards

GROUP MEMBER COMMENTS

Bike rules are frequently not complied with	1/3 of EBRPD's acreage is now in land-bank status? That makes our mission, focused on those trails very significant for the future	Total Land Bank property = 37,369 acres	Thumbs up to designing new, sustainable trails!	I thought the videos were really good	To the extent we can with covid, we should go out on some of the trails to see what the experience is like
Messaging in the video around horses-bikes on the trail together gave a false and misleading impression. Trail was way too narrow - cyclist should not be so close to a horse to be able to reach out and grab it!	Cyclists did not yield to the horse. They chose a horse "model" that was uncharacteristically bombproof. Is that animal for sale??	On the peninsula, due to covid and 6 foot distancing, they made a number of trails one way trails. Very safe feeling, and worth exploring as a permanent measure	Great idea. That is done in many cross-country ski areas	Lafayette Reservoir has times for bicycles on various days. It would be good to get their experience	
Bill's trail in SP Taylor State Park is worth a good look for its innovative multi-use safety features	There are also environmental mitigation measures in place on Bills Trail like closing for certain winter months to reduce erosion/impact.	Here is a link to the photos of mitigation measures on Bill 's trail that I took:			

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5sJPUVVUY7JYPaaf8>

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1. What are some of the goals that bicyclists have in using trails?
2. What are some of the issues that bicyclists experience and/or create on trails?
3. What do you think would improve trail user experience?

GROUP 1: Reporter - Scott Bartlebaugh

Some riders in group prefer wider rather than narrow roads	Some choose days/times when there will be fewer riders for less crowded experience	Uninterrupted experience more enjoyable for all users	Issues: Riders who don't respect other users, travel too fast	Riders wearing earbuds, not paying attention to surroundings	People riding up and off trail to try to create new features	Road and social trails part of this issue
Conflict due to narrow trails; invites moving at high speed	Education for all groups, particularly hikers; ensure they're aware there will be other users	Hiking has increased as well as biking, lots more families and youth	Work together in more detail on solutions	Collaborative education efforts on trails	Have direct discussions with users	

GROUP 2: Reporter - Morris Older

Most bikers want the same experiences as all: be in nature, destress and unwind	Also want physical exercise	Some want to go fast and have technical challenges (disagreed on percentage who do)	Didn't discuss current issues a great deal; some experience of user conflict	Solutions: Trails designed for multi-use from the beginning; safer	Will encourage more cooperation from users	Various strategies to eliminate conflict:	Create trails especially for bikers wanting tech challenges and publicize
Programs like Marin's Slow and Safe to sensitize users to other types of users' experience	Get together to train horses, dogs to be used to each other and other users	Bikers can use peer pressure to discourage poor behavior	HS mountain bikers well trained, have 130 page code of conduct	Deal directly with disrespectful bikers (far less than half)	Some concern re. efficacy of education vs. design	Bullying or harrasing riders may not adhere to code of conduct	Gender-based harrassment an issue

GROUP 3: Reporter - Adele Ho

A variety of experiences for bikers, from family to adrenaline junkies	Most looking for same experiences as other users - enjoyment of trails, nature, fresh air & exercise	Many bikers seeking narrow trails, tech challenges to improve skills	Bike-optimized trails would be appreciated	Close to home so families can ride there with kids	Consequences of conflict between bike and hiker or horse much greater than, say, lack of maintenance	Becomes a public health issue
On narrow trails, moving out of the way means leaving trail, ecological damage	Education: not just EB, but regionwide program and outreach	Need for narrow trails in strategic locations designed for bikes	Not all trails for all users at all times	Some kind of usage management	Dedicated trails or alternate days	

GROUP 4: Reporter - Kim Thai

Bikers want more challenging trails across park system	Want safety issues addressed	Also better connectivity of trails between parklands	Issues: Safety - constantly having to look out for other users	Risk of having to move out of way quickly, running into poison oak	Focused on solutions	Bike parks	Comprehensive trail plan
Review bike access points and overall inter-jurisdictional flow between parks	Develop plan for landbank lands based on issues with current park lands	New trails: bike only or optimized for bikes	Communication campaigns; bring education to different trail user groups	Need funding for both good environmental analysis re. where trail goes and trail construction	Some existing plans include funding for separate use trails	Tahoe Rim Trail example of good separated-use trail	Design trails for new use not just current use

GROUP 5: Reporter - Simone Nageon de Lestang

Others touched on most of group's big points	If all want narrow trails, bikers have least opportunity of any user group	Issues: trail safety; conflicts and environmental degradation of social trails	Do trail user conflict survey to have full data on actual conflicts	Solutions: develop access plans for land bank properties
Provide education in the field	Explicit, clear signage on trails; even yield signs take a moment to figure out	Clearer maps that identify trail uses	Advertise trails open to bikes	



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PARK DISTRICT

EBRPD aware of need for equitable, safe access to parkland

Transition to new General Manager, Sabrina Landreth

Staff considering pilot projects and education campaigns in various parks including Briones

TRAIL CONFLICTS

break down how people use the trails and what makes them like coming out to our parks and trails

Can you describe the issues?

District: Briones, etc: public safety action re. mountain biking

Emails from users, many equestrians throughout District

Increase in new users, many users trying to use trails at same time

Lack of appropriate warning from mountain bikers, many complaints

Much new signage and education; sent special enforcement to Briones, many citations

Thanks Captain Brede and Devan for mentioning the bike issues in Briones and elsewhere.

Is this rise in complaints due to an increase in actual conflicts on the trails or was there a call by equestrians to have people make complaints to the park district?

(As we know, Sierra Club and California Native Plant Society both put out a call to their members after the last TUWG to email the EBRPD with concerns about narrow trail use.)

There has been pent-up frustration

New user groups appearing on trails; damage, misbehavior, fireworks, etc.

District: There has been an increase in complaints during the pandemic, but the complaints have spiked since the TUWG was convened.

Not only complaints, but calls for more trails and more access.

MTB community is working with the district on implementing a bike bell station program as a component to educate and reduce conflict



TRAIL CONFLICTS (continued)

Request to define citations

Citations: district sets fine for violations; additional associated fees - can range from \$300-\$500 depending on jurisdiction

There are many conflicts; bulk of complaints from equestrian community

Enforcement based on reported incidents, have addressed many in Briones

Trail runner volunteer safety patrol alerted and educated

Question: how many citations are dismissed due to lack of information, etc.? What is actual conviction rate?

District: Tough question to answer, but this is why it's imperative to work w/operations and ASD to ID illegal trails

and to get out to provide enforcement; clear signage helps get conviction

The increase in complaints is in part due to reminders from equestrian groups to make the parks aware of any issues on the trails.

I think that with a citation that large without advertising and education programs in place has serious issues with equity,

particularly for new trail users that we should be WELCOMING to our parks

In the world of traffic engineering, we talk about the 3 "E"s.... Education, Engineering and Enforcement.... and that could apply to trails as well.

Was hiking in Shell Ridge last week. Lots of bikes on non-bike trails...

BUT there was no signage saying bikes not allowed.

The only way to know was to look at the trail map, hard to do while cycling.

For what it's worth, along the shoreline there is suddenly parking at the parks again -- apparently because schools are open?



TRAIL CONFLICTS (continued)

Can data on the citations be issued be supplied to the TUWG? Such as the offense being cited, the date, time, park?

District: Due to the increase in complaints in certain areas and the nature of the complaints, our police have been directed to take some action.

We realize that enforcement is just one part of the solution, but we perceived an unsafe situation in Briones that needed to be put in check.

Is there an increase in eBike conflicts and/or accidents?

There has been a long history of mountain bike use and user conflicts in Marin and in the Mid-Peninsula Open Space, and they have worked out many of these issues.

In my limited experience there, there is a higher public consciousness in both education (using bell, calling out) and many people calling out the rules to those who don't follow them.

(Sometimes crankily and unnecessarily IMO) Perhaps we could reach out to them for their experiences.

EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES

PARK DISTRICT FRAMING

120 miles of paved trails, 200 miles unpaved which are main focus for this group

Horseback riding allowed on 114 miles - roughly 57% (twice as much as bicycles)

Many different equestrian facilities in parks

Certain parks designated as equestrian parks

Horseback riding requires a certain trail design

Horses are large, heavy and react to danger by running - big impact on trail



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

PRESENTATION 1: Marie Grisham, Tri-Cities and California State Horsemen's Associations

Long-time horse owner and rider, state chari for trail rider's awards program

Track trail usage (by hours) throughout state, have database with info

Equestrian access to parks: can be challenging, entrances may not accommodate large trailers

Due to this, parks sometimes not as well used by equestrians as they might be

Often restricted or no parking for trailers, extra cost, lack of room to maneuver; signage lacking

Good news: designated parking being added at one park

Careful not to block cars; would appreciate same courtesy from car drivers!

Trail sharing solutions in other parks include: separate trails for equestrians and/or hikers

Shared equestrian hiker/trails that are wider with margins for riders

Marin Hills: Uphill trails for cyclists; trails designed to slow users down; no cyclists on narrow hazardous trails

Bells 4 Bikes - horses can hear from 1/4 mile or more; successful programs implemented throughout California

Bell boxes provided on trails

Joint trail user events - joint ride/hike/bike, discuss experiences; learn how to interact safely and courteously



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

PRESENTATION 2: Elizabeth Hudson, EBRPD Volunteer Mounted Patrol, Walnut Creek Open Space Advocate, San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Assn

Enforcement and Trail Safety

Equestrians' expectations on the trail: in past - safe from vehicles, startling events, safe for children and novice riders

Space for all gaits; riding solo safely; friendly encounters with other trail users; wildlife sightings, ability to enjoy nature

Present-day realities: bikes / e-bikes on ALL trails even those signed "No Bikes"

Equestrians most likely to be injured

Bikes can spook horses, appear quickly, make it unsafe; line of sight crucial

Dangerous conditions, should ride with a partner

Verbal aggression, assaultive bike riding, etc.; wildlife avoids bike areas

Increased vigilance necessary

Multi-use trails require **CONSISTENT** law enforcement, increased resources

Most bikers are courteous and safe, community provides education

But they cannot control all - why enforcement is needed

Good behavior from all includes only riding on designated trails

Horses well trained in desensitizing, trust but no horse can be trained to be 100% "bombproof"

Equestrian advocacy in Walnut Creek Open Space - 2-year process - balance between conservation and safe usage

Stakeholders agreed on new bike flow trail, standards for shared trails, processes for requests / change in trail designation, designated nature trails

Increased signage and user education, rangers have authority to cite, will block off rogue trails, restore damage

Remember, hikers have access to all trails



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

PRESENTATION 3: Amelia Marshall, EBRPD Volunteer Trail Safety Patrols

Equestrians who ride EBRPD trails surveyed on important issues

Asked what parks they ride in; mostly major equestrian parks

Majority agree: bikes should not be allowed on narrow trails with horses

Narrow trails: not safe or enjoyable for multi-use; not perceived as multi-use, become bike trails

Fire roads have historically worked well for bikes and horses to share; room for groups to pass each other

HS mountain biking coaches have encouraged illegal racing on trails

E-bikes are a new issue; some offensive behavior

Some classes of e-bikes are considered assistive devices for disabled, legal on all trails

Must ensure that non-disabled e-bike riders don't deny safe access; disabled also ride horses

Case for multi-use trails vs. case for separate trails: latter is way to go in new parks

PRESENTATION 4: Gary Fitts, Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association

All users can and must work together

Equestrians face many threats on trails; pressing concern is trail safety

Cyclists also have issues, access most immediate concern

Way forward is collaboration between user groups

With careful planning, trail system can be both safe and accessible

Solutions: sharing, separated traffic and more

Equestrians and bikers can support each other; examples of solutions provided

Are meeting and working together to propose collaborative solutions

email
join@saferriding.org

More to discuss, hope to provide more information in email group - trail design, education, etc.



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

GROUP COMMENTS

Great presentation, thank you!

Very good information in these presentations, thank you

Are any of the horse facilities accessible to people with disabilities?

What is the method that you pay for parking? Is this at specific parking areas within the equestrian parks?

Our trails are popular with users every few yards- I go for peace and quiet.

If everyone had a bell going, it would be like being in a construction zone.

I'm not bright enough to understand the triangular sign at a glance. We might think about re-doing that...

Mutiple people agree that triangular sign is confusing, often not recognized or understood

I was just speaking about this with friends - let's get some UX/UI redesign from our tech community on this sign! It is very hard to understand at a glance!

How about this for a sign: ...
.....EVERYONE
YIELD TO HORSES
BIKES YIELD TO ALL OTHER
USERS ✓✓✓✓

Maybe people don't really get "yield".....
EVERYONE SLOW OR STEP
ASIDE FOR HORSES, BIKES
STOP FOR HORSES< SLOW
FOR WALKERS

Yield sign - speak to horses helps

Given the current climate with law enforcement, I think it is important to consider POC opinions on increased law enforcement

and whether it is a solution that is desirable or would push people to feel unsafe in parks.

Marie organizes this kind of training several times a year, in Martinez, sometimes on Mt. Diablo and elsewhere. Obstacle course, sensitizing horse to this and other things.

Trial trials are a competition where riders demonstrate how well their horses have adapted to all kinds of stimuli.

Those three horses have come down to Point Isabel for Pups and Ponies meet-and-greets. Very valuable

Tri-Cities Horsemen's Bomb Proofing Playday is on May 22nd at the Radke Martinez Shoreline Arena. Spectators are welcome to attend!



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

GROUP COMMENTS

The EBRPD 2011 Narrow Trail study noted that while it is hard to change established usage on existing trails,

it is much easier to design new trails and share usage successfully and safely.

Walnut Creek defines narrow trails as less than 8 feet, and thus bikes are excluded from almost all trails.

But bikes go on all trails, because, at least in Lime Ridge, there is basically no signage indicating bikes are not allowed.

At the start of the meeting we saw a breakdown of the percentage of trails that were open to horses but are there any statistics that shows of all trail users what percentage use horses?

District: we do not have that data that I am aware of. Most of the data is observational or word of mouth from the community on where folks like to go.

Thanks. For me this seems like a very useful thing to know because for equity purposes it might help determine how many trails should be designated as only for horses.

Unfortunately, Amelia's survey is extremely unscientific, unrepresentative at best, that was conducted on her FB Page Horse Policy East Bay,

which excluded at least one member, maybe more, who dared to express a differing viewpoint.

To the moderators, I feel like the information in this survey is a great starting point but I do not believe that this survey follows proper survey design techniques

that should be implemented to get starting point data for understanding conflicts for the group. I think it could be worth it to do a real, system wide survey

In Amelia's survey, the definition of narrow trails that people voted on had been posted there weeks earlier, but was not included as part of the survey question.

District: The challenge we face is how to collect that data scientifically and accurately given the amount of trail mileage we have.

It leads me to think the best way to determine something like that would be to engage with the community and listen.

Possibly we could marshal LOTS of volunteers to do some scientific surveys? Coordinated and managed by EBRPD, of course

Equestrians still Use Bill's Trail. An important and outspoken equestrian advocate from Marin County wrote to me recently that "Bill's Trail [on Samuel P Taylor State Park] is generally considered the gold standard to which all land managers should refer when designing multi-use trails."

This is because of about 100 pinch points that narrow the trail in places, and embedded rocks protruding above the ground at turns on the trail, making it impossible to ride quickly, as shown in the photos I took there at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5sJPUVVUY7JYPaaf8>

The award winning Ponti Ridge Trail is an area with no staging area, and no nearby stables.



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

GROUP COMMENTS

Is this group's focus on unopened properties/design for new trails in areas currently not open?

Yes, focus on landbank properties or new trails in existing properties

Need clarification on what the landbank properties are

Today was full great topics. I like how everybody got to share their focus but we need more. Only five or fewer parks have been built?

I believe there is much more park usage than noted in the graph. For example, Sunol and Round Valley are heavily used by equestrians.

Six-day equestrian trail ride; all kinds of trails, only one close encounter with issues

500 equestrians on trail for multiple days w/o other incidents

Conflicts are not the dominant experience

On newly-built shared trails, both narrow and wide, for a safe and enjoyable ride, hikers and equestrians want:

Clear sight lines to see other users from afar

Pinch points, rolling dips, grade reversals to make excessive speed difficult

Grades never exceeding 10%, usually much less, to minimize gravity-fed acceleration

Education to sensitize users to the needs of other user groups

Clear signage as to what uses are allowed, and enough nearby options for bicyclists that they are not tempted to ignore that signage.

On narrow trails, occasional places to pull off to allow other users, including other equestrians

(!), to pass when going in opposite directions, or in the same direction at differing speeds

Enforcement of rules where needed.



EQUESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVES (continued)

GROUP COMMENTS

With reference to the illegal bike racing on trails encouraged by HS coaches:

The Piedmont High School situation was addressed promptly and the coach apologized for promoting this event.

This was not a sanctioned event by the NorCal High School Cycling League and was an isolated event.

E-bikes actually very rarely if ever exceed 15 miles per hour on trails.

Where they routinely exceed other bike speeds, it is on uphill stretches. Not that I love e-bikes at all.

We clocked an e-bike going 37 mph on a city street.

I would actually rather meet a motorcycle on a trail than a bike or e-bike.

You and your horse can hear the motorcycles coming and get prepared by getting off the trail if possible and turning to face the oncoming vehicle.

You can not hear an oncoming bike or e-bike!

Lafayette Reservoir has designated times for bikes.



BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1. What are some of the goals that equestrians have in using trails?
2. What are some of the issues that equestrians experience and/or create on trails?
3. What do you think would improve trail user experience?

Discussions focused on solutions (Question 3)

GROUP 1: Reporter - Scott Bartlebaugh

Planning: design items, speed slowing, pinch points, etc.

Management system with times for alternating uses

Look at flow patterns and design trails for uses

Design new trails for uses instead of just adopting what's there

Bell system is a good option

Emphasize uses in parks that would benefit those users most

Planning for trails, especially in existing parks - land use planning amendment process needs to be used

Single-use trails (bikes and horses) in addition to shared trails / designated time for uses

GROUP 2: Reporter - Helen Burke

Some disagreement re. whether trail design / management measures work

Some felt separate trails for bikes is best solution

Some feeling that bikes, equestrians and hikers on same trail don't mix

Focus on planning trails for new parks vs. looking at conflicts in existing parks

Need to look at both?

Before planning for future trails in landbank areas, need to discuss handling current trail conflicts



BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS (continued)

GROUP 3: Reporter - Sean Dougan

Equestrians seeking a safe, peaceful and stress-free experience

Need horse trail brochure like bike loop brochure

Issues: casual or untrained users unfamiliar with etiquette, self-enforcement

Bad behavior, bike use increasing

Bike use higher impact than horses - faster, more focused on what you're doing rather than looking around

Solutions: signage saying horses on trail and how to interact; same with bikes

Better locks on gates, improved fencing

Trail design standards for different uses

More trails and separate trails for bikes; horses and hikers can share

Designate sections of land within parks for certain uses rather than just trails

Web of trails complicated to enforce and manage

Mitigation or permit fees for certain uses to help with increased maintenance costs, etc.

Can some parks be entirely bike-free?



BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS (continued)

GROUP 4: Reporter - John Graves / Bonnie Lewkowicz

Think holistically about all uses when designing new trails or parks

Historically parks were built without many uses in mind

Create enough space at multi-use parks so there are trails for specific uses

Hope that people will follow rules, but designated trails will help reduce conflicts

In interim, need "best-of" list on District website for specific uses - what's best for horses, etc.

Would be especially helpful for new users

Even if a trail is open for horses, doesn't mean it's the best place to go with your horse

GROUP 5: Reporter - Simone Nageon de Lestang

Dispersion and better trail design could really help

Open more trails to allow dispersion for specific uses

Use more creative management techniques for excess use during COVID

Lack of education around right-of-way issues:

Not understanding the yield sign, not knowing how to interact with horses

Increasing proper management in new trails

Things that help multi-use such as sightlines, less than 10% grade

Building more trails, working collaboratively as a group with district



MISC. COMMENTS

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is a multi-use trail, that runs through most of our most popular East Bay Parks.

We would like to ensure continuity of this trail that connects East Bay Parks to the rest of the Bay Area as a sustainable, multi-use trail

If you want to celebrate trails as any type of user, please join us for Ridge to Bridges.

Unfortunately virtual this year but a great way for all user communities to come together and enjoy our beautiful trail system!

<https://ridgetrail.org/ridge-to-bridges-2021/>

NEXT STEPS

FUTURE MEETINGS

Presenter at meeting on dog walking will comment on new acquisitions related to dog walking

CA State Horsemen's working on trail ettiquette packet; would be happy to share

District: Adding July meeting to allow for additional user groups

Propose meeting June, July, August, Sept.

Hear from conservationists, youth, cultural affinity groups, dog walkers, disabled

Will reach out to user groups

Proposed schedule:
June 10 - conservationists and cultural affinity groups and youth

July 15? (disabled community and dog-owners)

August 5 (synthesis and solutions)

September 19: final meeting



NEXT STEPS

FUTURE MEETINGS (continued)

June 10th will not work for conservation community

Conservation community should have full meeting, equal amount of time

I'd like the conservationists to have the same time as bikes and horses.

Must resolve meeting schedule quickly; will meet soon and schedule, inform group

Perhaps the disabled community and dog walking advocates can put our heads together and get back to you (quickly) re:

whether we could adequately cover our info in a joint session



PARK DISTRICT FRAMING: Neoma Lavalle

Planning for Conservation and Recreation:

Planning Process - 4 phases - Initiation (priorities, define project, assess, input), Develop Alternatives, Refine Alternatives (input and review), Final Plan / Alternative (formal adoption/approval by District Board)

Community/Stakeholder input in Phases 1, 3; input used to develop alternatives in Phase 2

Phases 2 and 3 may be repeated to ensure that project satisfies all impacted communities

After Phase 4, moves into other departments for implementation

Parklands - 125k acres, 37k in landbank; 25.4k special conservation status w/19k in landbank (legal status only, often for mitigation, doesn't dictate how District conserves)

Conservation Instruments - E. Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan, conservation, scenic and other protective easements

Iterative process to clarify planning for conservation, consult with a variety of departments

Map of ECC HCP/NCCP Preserve Lands - ultimately 30k acres preserved; District will own majority of properties

Recreation on HCP Preserve Lands - requires Preserve Management Plan approved by agencies, guidelines in Conservation

Measure 1.5 - low intensity/impact recreation, limited off-trail use, new trail construction, bicycle use, amenities

New project being initiated: Garin to Pleasanton Ridge Regional Trail: fulfilling 2013 Master Plan priority for connecting Garin and Pleasanton Ridge - Chouinard Winery acquired, in process of initial assessment to balance dual mission: opening to public access and resource protection.

Comments:

Is this the planning process for park lands in general or specifically for land banks? (Maybe they're the same.) - She's presenting the process for all projects that are planned, in new and old parks

The 2013 Master Plan is a setup for misinformation. Past experience - e.g. McCosker - shows that the devil is in the details regarding the stakeholder input process.

- McCosker was a great example of how this process considers input

- If the process used with McCosker is repeated, we have a problem.

What is 'AWS'? - District: Alameda Whipsnake

PARK DISTRICT FRAMING: Neoma Lavalle

Comments: (continued)

Is the conservancy a county agency, a nonprofit, or...? - District: County agency; website is (<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/depart/cd/water/HCP/index.html>).

- It was formed to facilitate the transfer of properties from private owners or land trusts to the park district, without having to do the legalities de novo each time.

- Brilliant idea. This winery acquisition is great, too

Which color is the winery property? larger than the star? - District: it is the star. relatively small property but an important connection

- And the gold and light gold are other private properties?

- District: Gold and light gold are land banked. previous acquisitions

Will the District continue to operate the winery? new form of user group? - District: Tempting.

Is the map of landbank lands just East Contra Costa? District: Yes.

- And the HCP and mitigation lands are distinct? District: All ECC lands are mitigation lands, all have been acquired for those purposes, but also conservation easements on specific lands.

- Thought they'd been transferred from Mt. Diablo. - District: No, those are separate from the HCP.

Easement doesn't mention dogs. - District: two properties in Clayton Ranch Area purchased from Save Mt. Diablo as HCP was being formed. Those properties subject to HCP guidelines. Easement is separate - rest subject to HCP and dog restrictions. Conversation to be continued offline - complicated, but lands in mitigation preserve land are still subject to overall property use rules.

Obviously, restrictions vary from property to property. Of the 19,000 acres with restrictions, how many cannot be opened to the public at all? - District: very few if any. There may be one conservation easement with no public access, otherwise open. Sometimes limited to existing roads or other limitations which are communicated.

- So of the 30k acres, almost all will be open to public and about half will have some varied restrictions? - District: Yes, correct.

PRESENTATION 1: Mimi Wilson / Regional Parks Association

RPA's primary purpose since 1947 is protection of natural lands in East Bay

Board of 9 elected members - disseminate educational and scientific info to members and public, also keep an eye on District activities

2013 Master Plan seemed to imply "all trails for all users" - seemed justification for bike use in protected lands, lack of scientific research on wildlife disturbance - concern planted seeds of this committee

More discussion of trail safety concerns than concerns re conservation impacts of narrow trails and multi-use - talking today about values and stewardship - use lands as gently and respectfully as we can, enjoy natural world; trails allow all generations to do so, but by very nature are intrusions, so conservation must designate first steps

Need land study prior to planning, District must listen to all concerns

What we say today: listen all who enter, listen and respect, ensure happy trails for plant, wild and human life.

PRESENTATION 2: Norman LaForce / Sierra Club & Safe Trails, Environmental Protection (STEP)

Conservation organizations support appropriate access for recreation consistent with protecting natural world

Mountain biking access challenges user experience; conflict caused in part by desire of mountain bikers for technically challenging trails

On behalf of Sierra Club and STEP, call for a process to find common ground, create solutions - TUWG should be making recommendations to Park Board

Questions to address:

What does mountain bike community really want?

New trails must go through legal Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) process with full environmental review - does District have funds for LUPA and increased costs that will accompany new bike trails?

Stewardship must evaluate habitat areas prior to considering new trails

Idea that engineering can resolve user conflict is not a solution - 3 E's (Engineering, Education, Enforcement) don't consider the other 2 E's: environmental impact and user experience.

Goal of Sierra Club and STEP is to get a consensus on solutions to recommend to the Park Board that can work for foreseeable future, not engender continued conflict and associated resource expenditures.

PRESENTATION 2: Norman LaForce / Sierra Club & Safe Trails, Environmental Protection (STEP)

Comments

the outline bike presentation did not reflect any of what Norm claims they want

The presentations we have seen do not usually reflect the back-channel discussions interest groups are having with park district staff. - District: There are no back channel discussions with park district staff. Park District staff hear regularly from all stakeholders.

STEP should stop claiming, as has Amelia, that she or they represent Metropolitan Horseman's Association - MHA voted in 2017 to affiliate with STEP.

And the current and previous President both have denied that group affiliation, and support a collaborative approach
Morris and Gary should get the approval of the TWHAs board, who apparently have not signed off on the positions being taken here.

in fact TWHAs has authorized Gary to represent them. I am not a rep of any group per se

The biking perspective communicated that there are a range of experiences desired by mountain bikers. It is not all advanced features and extreme sports.

PRESENTATION 3: Pam Young / Golden Gate Audubon Society

Trails do automatically have an impact

Is Mountain Biking an Extreme Sport? - some derivatives are considered to be so and lack respect for natural environment.

Impacts even more profound when unauthorized trails are used

Extreme sports don't belong in East Bay parks

Tilden Nature Area - has illegal track marks on several trails - bird species decimated by impacts; have witnessed bike racing - new "no bikes" signs on trails.

Over 40 illegal mountain bike trails showing tremendous damage to trails and creek

Causes habitat fragmentation, cuts biodiversity and increase fire risk

Mountain bike night riding severely disturbs wildlife

Speed limits exceeded on South Park drive - even some mountain bikers concerned

These activities have both direct and cumulative impacts on plants, soil and wildlife. Mountain biking considered single greatest threat to wildlife habitat integrity per some biologists.

Proposed strategies: can protect high value habitats, restrict mountain biking to approved trails, required orientation and education, establish regular enforcement patrols, study impacts and exclude damaged trails, increase fines and apply proceeds to restore damaged trails, exclude repeat offenders / require permits

PRESENTATION 4: Jim Hanson / California Native Plant Society

Managing the narrow trail: what we're hearing, what we're seeing, how to manage for multiple uses? (the 2 E's)

What we're hearing: rising mountain biking, trail walking popularity (including hiking, running, dog walking, combined with equestrians)

That multi-use can be expanded with alternative uses, clear sight lines, engineering alterations - can manage multi-use on narrow trails through Engineering, Education & Enforcement

Where are the 2 E's? Park Natural Environment and Trail User Experience - different uses have differing impacts; group considers these:

Park Natural Environment: sensitive roots of trees, trail conditions, native flora, erosion - impacts and damage caused by multi-use, also illegal / unpermitted uses

Managing for trail user experience - safe and satisfying, emphasize what actual trail users have said they favor: park use rising in general, major use continues to be hikers, walkers, assisted trail users, runners and joggers, dog walkers

Mountain biking has been roughly same proportion of trail use and has access to 25% of natural surface narrow trails, with access to 88% of park trails (including fire roads, paved, unpaved) - District doing a good job of serving all users - youth would like some technical trails

User experience starting point of anything we do.

Design system-wide with evaluation of park natural resource areas. Anything we do affects both existing park and land bank areas.

A safe and satisfying trail experience doesn't include being on alert for mountain bikes

All trail types increasing in popularity - youth want technical trails which are tough to combine

In sum, in talking about Park narrow trail policies, include 2 E's from the start

Comments

Trail on right is a poorly designed trail (comment on photo showing damage on multi-use trail with mountain biking, equestrians)

I hope before TUWG wraps up, the park district can share how good trails are designed and engineered

It appears in these presentations that cycling use is heavy as well.

Crockett Hills is the only park with a significant amount of narrow trail access to bikes. The rest are very small sections with limited mileage in any one park.

erosion and 'braided' trails are the consequence of poor original design and lack of maintenance, and are present in all parks, regardless of usage

Lafayette Reservoir has timed use for bicycles- how has that experience been for EBMUD?

It is not just youth that would like more technical trails

Thank you, Jim Hanson, for your balanced perspective

GROUP COMMENTS

It's easy to blame any one user group for trail damage, but it's apparent that most trails were not originally designed as trails but as ranch roads; not designed with maintenance in mind. Results: erosion a huge issue on all trails, common in many parks as are too-steep trails. Predates mountain biking, have been gullies on trails since long before. Trail runners deliberately run in creek when trails are wet, so they won't slip in mud - deliberately ignoring impacts. Equestrians and hikers also impact trails, hikers probably most as dominant users. Key is to encourage use without causing impacts.

Made clear that extreme sports are not all that cyclists are looking for. Many like connectivity, core of experience is enjoying nature which is also part of conservation value. Presentation painted a very small segment. Also - heavy restrictions now in effect don't seem to be working. Not practical to prevent impacts just through restriction and enforcement - best solution to create trails for specific uses.

Disappointed in this round of presentations. Framing didn't provide broad understanding of conservation viewpoint but focused on blaming bikers. Also felt Norman should have addressed his editorial. Also, walkers, hikers, runners and equestrians all have impacts. Even restricted trails have seen a heavy impact. Need to consider how we become solution-oriented. Each group is learning about different negative impacts - need to frame things to work together to solve issues. Thank you, agreed. Also, these presentations were intended to get perspective of these groups. As representative and walker, hiker, as well as mountain biker, felt criticized - but last slide in Pam's presentation showed all things to consider - photos of actual sites helped us understand. As mountain biker, don't condone destroying habitat. Liked Jim's presentation that pointed out different situations and needs. Liked discussion of 2 E's. Suggest we take big map with all lands and look at what we have, where there are restrictions, connections we're trying to make, where demand is for different uses - where are opportunities, populations served, needs, opportunities and constraints as we move forward into design

GROUP COMMENTS (continued)

I think the elephant in the room is that we can have a planning process, signage, timed use, other rules, but in fact these areas are refreshingly wild and uncontrolled, so no matter what is decided there will be a population that is ignorant of or ignores the rules.

To me, this all supports that we need more trails, big-time. If everyone is squeezed onto the same limited trails, there are more conflicts and more impacts.

- This is like the old idea that if you build more freeways, there will be less density. But unless you are far from the urban centers, more trails does not seem to reduce density. A pilot program should be considered so that this could be measured.

- Building freeways was about reducing gridlock. If we have more trails, we're not going to suddenly have X times the park users.

- We have gridlock on Sundays in a number of parks, in my experience...

- Exactly. That's why user groups need ways to spread out

Is this the 2020 Trail Survey that shows the types of trail use? It is a shame that it does not show equestrian use also! <https://www.ebparks.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=33664>

increase park use because no charge at the booth. we need to keep the ticket booth operating especially during closing hours not just mornings.

We need to get the new parks open, so that the people who live there have alternatives to crowding existing parks. same is true of narrow trails. find more trails that they can ride, and there will be less impact on a few

People will continue to gravitate to their neighborhood parks. There may be a role for specialized trails to be provided, but stewardship considerations should be foremost. The park district must balance conservation and recreation.

Landscape planning and distribution of opportunities is an important consideration

We should look at how populations have grown, too. (The park district board is doing that exercise right now, looking at how Wards may need to be redrawn.)

Equestrian demand will be highest in new parks with stables nearby

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1. What assumptions do you think are important for the District to consider in developing new trails?
2. What ideas do you have for promoting conservation goals and minimizing the impacts of trail use?

GROUP 1: Reporter - Luana Espana

Group had a variety of viewpoints

Assumptions:

Understanding demand in new parks will take pressure off parks that are heavily impacted

Need for relief from overcrowding; develop trails to spread people out

Narrow trails debate re openness to bikes

In future, when developing new trails - opportunity to consider and design trails for multi-use

Planning - ensure environmentalists included from beginning

Equity is important - build new trails in areas with limited access to recreational experiences

Look at what's available nearby when developing new trails - e.g., develop equestrian trails where there are stables nearby

Look at demographic growth and shift and consider in development

Consider access for youth who ride bikes and individuals without cars - more inclusive of less-resourced communities

If bikes allowed on narrow trails in new parklands - should other trails be closed to bikes?

Other coments:

Trail work could be a requirement to participate in trail events such as races

Permitting process for certain types of events might require volunteer work rather than permit fee

Create adopt-a-trail program - users have ownership, can call groups to notify about trail conditions

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS (continued)

GROUP 2: Reporter - Mary Barnsdale

Group had a complete range of perspectives

Assumptions:

Human presence impact needs to be managed, need studies funded

Parks are for people as well as plants and wildlife

Need to look at trails in more granular fashion

Devil in details; need to balance all needs

Who makes that call? The Board does - how closely do trail planners work with stewardship? Very closely, not a competition

Needs:

Thorough evaluation, data on why trails eroding

Disagreed about need for new trails to be built

Pilots - new areas to open - maybe build out a few pilot trails and study how they work

When planners consider an area, tendency to silo the viewpoint and limit task to boundaries, but must consider where it connects and what impacts users might have on connected areas and trails. Needs to be a systemic, overall rather than siloed view of planning

GROUP 3: Reporter - Kathy Roth

Assumptions:

Main goal to preserve environment, minimize impact of new trails - some areas more sensitive than others

Providing recreation is important and valid

Land banks have connection to existing parks

Range of valid opportunities - all trails have impacts, make limitations clear

Population growth and changes to be considered

Ideas:

In trail design, consider making off-limits areas less attractive

Consider sight lines, minimize grading

Consider alternate use days - challenges, will lessen conflict but not issues

Ranch roads not ideal - may remove them but they're also important for access

Generally in agreement re. basic goals but devil is in the details

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS (continued)

GROUP 4: Reporter - Norman LaForce

Assumptions:

Parks, trails, properties are a limited resource, need to handle that in terms of user capacity or rotating park openings / closings as over-capacity is reached

Identify future trends and how to respond

Protecting wildlife values and habitat is important, connectivity of trails is important too but needs to be put in this context

Enforcement and education is an important component

Ideas:

Look at enforcement, education for protecting wildlife values

Use Marin County process model for creating more parks with more consensus building

Look at impacts in the context of having a limited resource, prioritize stewardship - identify key elements of protecting wildlife habitat

GROUP 5: Reporter - Helen Burke

Assumptions:

Multiple viewpoints need to be considered, one view shouldn't dominate

There will be competing interests and resources - District needs to emphasize communication and planning

Can't design trail for every use

Important for people to spend time in different places and learn

Will be more people using parks - there will be a learning curve

Increased use means additional development, maintenance funding

Expect the unexpected (natural disasters, etc.)

Assumption that maintaining parks properly, that management is with best intent and science

Ideas:

Start with looking at land on large map, noting environmentally sensitive areas

Portfolios of multi-use and single-use trails

Education and communication are important

District needs to do more enforcement, requires more resources but necessary

Technology can address cost-effectiveness

Rogue trails created at night - night vision cameras for evidence

Mountain biker patrols

BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS (continued)

GROUP COMMENTS

Thank you everyone for the excellent discussion. I want to note that the Bay Area Ridge Trail is pro-sustainable trails. Built to minimize and avoid resource impacts and built for all users, where it makes sense. Thank you for the excellent presentations on the development process East Bay Staff!

Recommendation that America institute draft for every citizen to be a park ranger - at least have YouTube channel for park ranger stories - will work as recruiting and retention device, create excitement - get out view on what it's like to manage parks

MISC. COMMENTS

Thanks to open minds, consensus seems reachable right now.

FUTURE MEETINGS

July 15

August 5

Final meeting: September 16 (Yom Kippur - let Devan know if rescheduling is needed)

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

All added to mailing list for Roddy Ranch planning efforts. First public meeting coming up in July, group will have received email.



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PARK DISTRICT

Third to last meeting planned - District interested in hearing specific recommendations that staff should bring forward, ideas for process improvements or anything else - please share with Brian, Devan, and/or Sean. The District does pay attention to all input, and is developing a summary. Have received many suggestions about specific parks (e.g., Briones) and considering how to implement solutions.

DISABILITY COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES

PRESENTATION: Lori Gray and Bonnie Lewkowitz, BORP

Disability is a big term, can't cover the full spectrum. Focusing on our expertise: physical and visual disabilities.

Bonnie: wheelchair user with spinal disability. Continued to use trails, have seen great improvement in the last many years but still work to do. Limited from going to back country, spontaneous choices re using trails. Have visited over 200 trails, manages a website of accessible trails for the BORP website which includes many East Bay parks. Professionally, have worked with Land Trust Alliance to create a soon-to-be-published best practices guide for land managers on accommodating people with disabilities - a free resource which she'll share when available.

Lori: has had disabilities all her life. She is totally blind, uses a wheelchair, is asthmatic, epileptic, and deals with chronic pain. Adventures and Outings Program Manager at BORP, brings people into the parks regularly. BORP a non-profit fostering independence through recreation. Her love of nature has prevailed throughout her life. Is healthiest and safest in the outdoors due to her disabilities.

Bonnie: normally asks people to raise their hands if they identify as having a disability - usually 3/4 of the room raises their hands. Per 2010 census, over 19% of non-institutionalized, 18 and older population identifies as having a serious disability. Disability is non-discriminating.

Accessibility is continually improving.

No stats about park use by those with disabilities - they are overlooked. Rarely has heard mention of the disabled in discussions of equity in parks. Forgotten majority.

ADA: civil rights law that prohibits discrimination about people with disabilities (left out of civil rights act). Inclusion doesn't mean paving nature. Includes 5 Titles, impacts the parks.

Common Barriers to Hiking: lack of physical access (trails, bathrooms, parking), lack of maintenance of accessible features (e.g. broken gate, couldn't enter - District has been very responsive to reports)

Information barrier - no: accessibility info / info in alternative formats / signage - hard to judge if a park or trail will meet their accessibility needs. May find information about a trail having braille or large-print audio information on website - info line at least includes names of parks. That's how Lori starts to figure out where to go. Can only use computer on limited basis; depends on audio. As for signage, no braille signs at trailheads and elsewhere in the parks - must use guesswork as to location. Braille signage would make a difference, reward great effort to get to parks in first place. Also no one to call to get info.

Lack of variety of trail experiences. Most offered are short loop trails but disabled want varied experiences, hard to get info.

Transportation - not included in report to Board of East Bay Parks on barriers. Transit cut back, many don't drive, and paratransit is unreliable.

Paratransit requires a park address - often hard to find, even if found may be a long way from trail, hard to get to trail and then find way back to pickup spot in a timely manner. Paratransit may not even go to certain parks at times when it's limited.

DISABILITY COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES

PRESENTATION: Lori Gray and Bonnie Lewkowitz, BORP continued

Equipment breakdown: e.g., losing a tire on trail, needing to get assistance by calling a friend and flagging down a ranger. Batteries last 5-7 miles; charging stations would be helpful.

More barriers: need for a companion / personal care attendant; weather; historical exclusion; no staff to identify with; previous bad experiences make many disabled persons reluctant to return; and issues with virtual programming as well.

Most complaints about infrastructure but there are also potential user conflicts:

- Parking - illegal use of disabled placards, no enforcement; uncontrolled dog behavior - understand it's important to be able to go out with your dog, but uncontrolled dogs can cause issues with guide dogs. Even if dogs are just approaching to be friendly, can't discern that. can't always have someone spotting for dogs.

- Speeding cyclists a problem.

- Lack of trail etiquette education: guide dog trained to be on left of handler, can be a challenge when all must move to right to make way for cyclist; helps if cyclists use bell or other warning signal. Also, many people lack experience around horses. Also, guide dogs or a person's white cane can be disturbing to the horse. Hikers must know to stop, step to side as much as possible and let the horse pass

Common mis-perceptions re accessible trails: paved or asphalt, flat, not too strenuous, disabled will always be with someone, blind person needs a guide wire to go solo, disabled prefer short distance hikes. All, including disabled, are interested in a varied experience, and disabled want the same experience everyone has - experiencing all nature around you.

Need standardized names for accessible trails. On EBRPD website, can find information by clicking on "Trail Access Information." Useful although some information can be confusing and hard to interpret, many don't know what terms mean. E.g., may state that there is an obstacle on trail but don't identify where it is located - which might make a difference in choice to visit that trail.

Key Access Features that disabled need to know about: accessible parking (with striping to designate spaces and leave room for ramp), restroom, length/width/slope of trail; surface; shade; benches; water for self and service animals - need to know, is there a place to refill?

Defining Access: advise that, rather than just calling a trail "accessible," people describe the accessible features so that individual can decide for themselves if it's accessible to them. If you don't know, don't guess.

Technology for disabled is improving, seeing new high-tech equipment in parks, some very expensive. Some parks loaning out advanced equipment. As technology changes, so do our options.

Other Power Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD) - allowed under the ADA, must be determined if it's really safe on trails but can't question whether someone is disabled

Takeaways: Disabled people want to experience parks and trails for all the same reasons as everyone else; accessibility needs vary from person to person; think inclusive design when building new trails

As technology changes, so does the ability to access trails; (fill in)

Contact: bonnie@borp.org, lori@borp.org

P.S. from Bonnie: I just looked at my notes and forgot to mention the of the 77+ parks in EBP there are only 25 of the trail profiles I gave an example of. There is room for improvement there.

DISABILITY COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES continued

GROUP COMMENTS

Comments re. Presentation

Many trail users seem unaware that they need to be respectful of hikers who are autistic, hard of hearing, or visually impaired.

BORP is AWESOME! A profoundly-disabled young woman we know benefits from their high-quality outdoor recreation programs. This is such a relief to her family members, who always seek to enrich her life experiences

Seems like ParaTransit needs a list of manufactured/GPS "addresses" supplied by the park district so that disabled hikers can be transported to the correct trailhead location.

Google has an initiative called google Plus Codes: <https://maps.google.com/pluscodes/>. They make addresses that are google-able. District:

Great suggestions, I will share with our GIS team

Some (greenish) horses do react to wheelchairs. Wheelchair users should speak, saying "Good Horse!" In a friendly tone (even if the horse is acting out).

TWHA would love to work with BORP or others on disabled-equestrian cooperation.

@Bonnie - Thank you for bringing your experience at Middle Harbor Shoreline Park to my attention. MHSP is maintained by the Port of Oakland. Please contact Ramon Dixon, MHSP Manager, rdixon@portoakland.com regarding your experience. You can let Ramona know that the Multicultural Advisory Committee referred you.

Maybe we could at least have small program where volunteers go to check out parks periodically for accessibility, and call the park if there is a problem- like to have a checklist and check the gates and bathroom doors etc for accessibility periodically.

It is improbable that a horse would be scared of a calm guide dog, but unfamiliar objects like baby strollers do scare some horses.

District: From Ordinance 38 - "a dog is considered under control when the owner or handler is aware of its conduct and when it returns to the owner or handler when called. The owner or handler may not be aware of the animal's conduct when it is out of sight.

Dogs are presumed to not be under control when:

- 1) They threaten, harass, chase or harm other animals or wildlife. This does not include play chase with other dogs.
- 2) They display threatening behavior.
- 3) They physically harm people directly or indirectly by their actions.
- 4) They run at large in leash-required areas or enter dog-prohibited areas.
- 5) They touch or jump on other park users who have not invited or engaged in interaction with the dog.
- 6) They are not within sight of the owner or handler (added 4/12).

Bonnie - what is your accessible trails website? The Ridge Trail would love to link to it on our website! Response: BORP accessible trail website: <http://www.accessnca.org>

DISABILITY COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES continued

Reactions: Excellent presentation! Enlightening and educational. Eye-opening for me. Thank you.

District: please speak quickly about your experience working with Park District. What would be more helpful to ensure these considerations are part of design and management? BORP: perhaps an advisory committee to be consulted when designing new parks / trails / other features (e.g., picnic table that couldn't be used - Caltrans design, modifications were made). Best to catch these things before they go into place, advisory committee reviewing design plans would be helpful in increasing access. ADA is lowest standard, can go beyond and above it. May provide ideas you haven't thought about. Another example: can roll up to door at Botanical Gardens but door is too heavy for one person to move. Recreation Department, naturalists have been most helpful, have participated in their trainings and done sensitivity and awareness trainings throughout parks.

Have anyone reached out to BORP re. North Point Isabel? Not really a park design project, want to ensure accessible trail and features - would like to involve BORP. Remember, also must allow for disabled employees.

District re: picnic table at Sutter. Manufacturer claims it is accessible, but it doesn't meet all requirements - this is common. This one generally met all requirements but not East Bay's requirements for eating and food prep. Working now with another manufacturer to get common-fabricated benches. Amazing amount of complex detail goes into ADA bench design - exploring what's possible. Will also talk to designer about Point Isabel project. BORP: do you get to see finished benches? District: that particular picnic table didn't come through department, so not sure what happened. BORP: must design to broadest audience possible; can't always meet everyone's needs.

Question for BORP: FWHA would love to find ways orgs could help each other. Desensitization sessions with horses? Will be in contact.

Hiking with autistic youth: a different paradigm. For example, on trails heavily used by bikers - autistics may be very focused on nature and not discern a bike approaching. This is an education / attitude issue - how to approach it? Must be discussed. One reason why wider trails are better than narrower.

BORP would love to work with everyone to help all enjoy all aspects of parks. Conversation doesn't end here.

Reminder: identifying things for consideration as solutions for new trail engineering. Also, enforcement of standards necessary.

Advisory committee - Bonnie IS an advisory committee! Hope you're involved with Roddy Ranch. (property near Black Diamond Mines, the old golf course.)

Thank goodness we have the expertise of people like Bonnie, Lori, and 4-Wheel Bob Coomber to advise the park district!

DOG-OWNERS' PERSPECTIVES

PARK DISTRICT FRAMING (Public Safety):

District allows dogs off leash in certain situations but not on paved trails. Six-foot leashes that don't go across trails. Areas with leash requirements enforced. Other requirements for off-leash: dogs under voice control / control of owners. District ensures that there are areas appropriate for dogs and access. There is a process and rules for commercial dog walkers - more restrictive rules, maximum of six dogs. Info listed on website. District meets with commercial walkers on a regular basis to refresh them on the rules, educate and ensure compliance. Question re six-foot rule: discussion about retractable leashes. Should review it - that could easily stretch across a wheelchair. District: also, those leashes can be difficult to see, especially in dusk or early dawn. Are monitoring conversation on social media.

Link to Dog information on EBRPD's website: <https://www.ebparks.org/activities/dogs/default.htm>

Comments re. Park District Framing:

District: Dog Rules are specified in section 801 of Ordinance 38 (Page 22) (Page 31-page count in .pdf)
Denial is the first step

PRESENTATION: Mary Barnsdale, PIDO and ALDOG; Kathy Roth, Share Our Trails; Emily Scholz, Valley Humane Society

Mary: Dog walking advocates collaborate well with EBRPD; community engagement and education; cleanup; meetings; document on dog walking in parks with constructive suggestions on improving experience.

Dog walking advocates very committed to training and education, provide annual education programs in parks. Brainstorming ways to make park user experience better. One result: Be a Pup Pro campaign, very successful at EB parks.

Dog advocates care about the environment, not just dog-walkers. Examples: dog walkers brought EBRPD first big beach microplastics cleanup with 110 volunteers at Albany Beach, use of static pulse screens which microplastic stick to. Just an example of how we can all work together by getting all on same page.

The mission: a culture that encourages good trail manners and responsibility (social and environmental), even better compliance and tolerance and understanding among all user groups - complements the TUWG!

Definitions and Distinctions: data showing damage from off-leash dogs is actually due to feral dogs (wild, live in packs) and free-roaming, unsupervised dogs - none of either in EBRPD. We do have off-leash dogs who are companion animals in the parks with their humans, on trails, for 60-90 minutes at a time. Some occasional problems with them but overall working well.

Why is Dog Walking in Parks Important? 1) Low barrier to entry - often how people come to parks; 2) open to all; 3) physical and mental health benefits; 4) it's what many parks users want to do - not constructive to suggest that people simply come without dogs.

Dog walking advocates prefer trails - going off-trail dangerous to dogs as well! We want a safe, fulfilling, restorative time in nature not too far from home, like everyone else.

We believe trails are a good thing: 99% of dogs stay on trails, per studies. Good for wildlife and habitat - they pull back from trails. Want to channel park users together for less crowding, more access and do what's good - build more trails.

DOG-OWNERS' PERSPECTIVES

PRESENTATION: Mary Barnsdale, PIDO and ALDOG; Kathy Roth, Share Our Trails; Emily Scholz, Valley Humane Society continued

Kathy: Dog walking and recreation in the EBRPD - would like to continue doing so. Advocate for dog-walking as recreation and exercise, important for physical and mental health, but also care deeply about the environment and restoration, involved in projects re invasive plants, etc. Showed map of EBRPD land use in context of other open space in East Bay, then added progressive historical depiction of parkland added. Credit to those who had foresight to preserve lands. Shows all EBRPD lands; lands in land bank; water district; state parks; Walnut Creek Open Space, Save Mount Diablo, John Muir Land Trust. Reviewed various lands in terms of their features and potential for allowing dogs. With all these acres, allowing dogs in part of it should be acceptable.

Map with parks, land in land banks, other open spaces. Color-coded to show whether dogs are allowed: off-leash, on-leash, no dogs, limited on-leash trail in otherwise no-dog area. Dogs not allowed on trails in state parks. EBRPD are open to dogs in undeveloped areas, undecided re. landbanks, much EBMUD and Walnut Creek, John Muir open space where dogs are allowed. SF Water District's attitude is "don't even think about it." For interest: unspoiled land for sale at headwater of Alameda Creek, unclear what's happening with it. Much activity trying to protect Empire Mines/San Creek area. Hoping Roddy Ranch will be open to dogs (exclusive of vernal pools)

Much open space with dogs allowed, much room for dogs, don't think they're the threat.

Acreage of protected space in Alameda and Contra Costa: EBRPD: 122,024 acres, other open space 113,875.

List of where dogs are not allowed in EBRPD or where they are allowed only on leash.

New Acquisitions / Landbank: almost all new acquisitions subsequent to habitat conservation plan. HCP covenant very strict per recreation; subordinate to biological goals. Limit areas and cover how to keep neighbors out, maintain fences, etc. Concerned about how dogs will be welcomed in new parks. Have no argument with features such as vernal pools where dogs don't belong. Only sizable areas that could allow off-leash dogs is area along Palomares Road.

Would like to see: dog policies in Ordinance 38 continued in existing parks and any landbank areas not covered by HCP or other conservation (dogs off-leash allowed when in control of owners); areas covered by HCP allow dogs on-leash during daylight except sensitive arease; that a recreation ombudsman or other rep be involved in the planning process at an early stage so that recreational interests are represented.

Emily: Final wrap-up - estimates that there are many people in parks walking dogs and even cats! 44% of all households in the US have a dog, and 35% a cat. Close to one in five households acquired a dog or cat since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis.

DOG-OWNERS' PERSPECTIVES continued

Comments:

That is amazing! (microplastics cleanup)

"Rancho Pinole" = 1,185-acre Fernandez Ranch, owned and operated by John Muir Land Trust, where dogs are allowed off leash, under voice control

Great maps, Kathy! Very impressive effort to compile all this information

Here are the sections that dogs are allowed on the Ridge Trail: <https://ridgetrail.org/dogs-on-trail/>

It's an overview of open space that I think many of us haven't seen before

Roddy Ranch golf course restoration and recreation planning is ongoing. There are no vernal pools in the former golf course, there are some restored in adjacent Horse Valley, but the public is restricted there. Please join the planning process if interested: <https://www.ebparks.org/about/planning/roddyranch/>

So Cute!!

Thanks for presentations. Would like to second suggestion of recreational ombudsman in planning process.

Have solutions been discovered for dog poo baggies left on trail? Cans on trails would help. Dog owners have been working on education - also use shame. Example of commercial dog owner who walks around with larger bags to collect them. Suggestion that should be more trash cans near trailheads.

Be a Pup Pro is a big part of education. Not just bagging, but removing bags (even if biodegradable!) There isn't a "poop fairy." If seen by park officers, will be addressed. Have heard justifications of why it's done, but it may negatively impact others' experiences.

Does your group do work to educate new owners who adopt a dog? Response: has been discussion of having a list of rules, park district doggie bags, etc. for new owners. Constantly educating people - would be very helpful to have education package.

Apart from Point Isabel and professional walkers, dog owners not really organized - must reach them one-by-one.

District: rules about controlling dogs are very clear. Have heard about conflict between equestrians and dog owners. Suggestions for District?

Mary: signs re. who gives way to whom are hopeless - need more clear instruction. Would like to do more "Pups and Ponies" sessions to get dogs more used to horses and vice-versa.

Mary's email: marybarnsdale@att.net.

John Muir Land Trust: Dogs chasing cattle is our greatest challenge - not acceptable. Also owners apparently training dogs to be vicious and letting them offleash to attack cattle. It's the exception, on margin but all dogs have that instinct, so something to be aware of - owners should recognize the issue. District: cattle used as fire prevention measure. Two years ago Board changed ordinance 38 - dogs can't be offleash in proximity of grazing animals (also use sheep and goats).

ASPCA in Oakland settled a suit with a horse owner who had been attacked by an adopted dog by agreeing to train dogs around horse's before adoption. Not sure how much follow through there has been over the last 10 years since then. Mary: will follow up.

Have participated in past with Partners on the Trail Dog and Horse Desensitization Program, once a month. Participants will not be the problem people. Immense range of education among dog owners - only extreme bad actors are problematic. In more urban parks, dogs trained to be aggressive are a problem, especially with off-leash dogs where the pack mentality comes into play. Horses been badly injured. Serious problems with off-leash dogs are rare - unofficial survey showed just as many issues with off-leash dogs as with cyclists but most commentary received was re. issues with cyclists, but not so much on dogs. Likely that's because the issues are primarily caused by cluelessness, lack of control or negligence, not deliberate bad behavior. Extreme behavior and habitat considerations are what is driving limits to off-leash in parks.