



**ENCINITAS
TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

MAINTENANCE

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The maintenance of the soft-surface trail segments, consistent with the trail standards, shall be the responsibility of the City's Community Services Department, while the maintenance of the hard surface path and sidewalk segments, consistent with the path and adopted City sidewalk standards, shall be the responsibility of the City's Public Works Department.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Trails Coordinator:

The City currently has a Parks Supervisor staff position assigned to trail activities which includes regular patrols of the trail system, a quarterly written evaluation of each trail, and oversight of contract maintenance personnel. Where corrective action is needed, contract personnel are dispatched to perform the necessary work including clearing of vegetation, weed control, repair of drainage or erosion problems, replacement of stolen, damaged, or obsolete signs and repair of damaged fencing. This is an excellent way to insure safe trail conditions and should continue as presently being performed.

Recreational Trail Inspection Report Form:

The City utilizes a Recreational Trail Inspection Report form (Appendix B) to document the conditions of trail segments. This form is an excellent tool and is a critical link in the process of accident prevention. It is a practical way to prevent foreseeable accidents because it prompts employees and supervisors to systematically inspect for hazardous conditions and remedy these conditions before they exist.

Encroachments:

All parties that have encroached on the designated trail should be immediately notified that removal of these obstructions is required. The encroachments pose a safety and liability risk to the City and to the encroacher, therefore their immediate correction is necessary.

Access Control:

In providing for trails, the City should seek to ensure that the rights of residents and property owners, including their peace, privacy, safety, health and property, are not jeopardized by unmanaged, inappropriate, or irresponsible public use. With the use of signage, fencing, and active trail management the City can direct access to the locations designated in this Master Plan.

Motorized Vehicles Control:

Except for authorized maintenance and emergency vehicle access needs, the trail system is for non-motorized use only. Trail entry points will be designed to discourage motorized vehicle use. Trail signage, barriers, fences, and active trail management will help restrict use by motorized vehicles.

Trail Closures:

Some trail sections may need to be temporarily closed due to hazardous conditions. These may occur when heavy rains cause trail washouts or when landslides block the use of the trail. Construction on or adjacent to the trail could also force the closure of the trail because of safety concerns. These conditions should be corrected as soon as possible and the trail reopened to use by the public. Any unsatisfactory condition and corrective action should be noted on the Recreational Trail Inspection form.

As soon as practical after heavy rains, the City shall inspect all creek crossings to determine if closure of a crossing is necessary and to conspicuously post the closure is warranted until the crossing is determined to be again safe.

When a trail must be closed due to construction, the City should advise the individuals performing the construction that the area must be posted prior to the closure with notice of the dates that the trail will be closed and advising of an alternate route. The signage should also indicate the expected date of trail re-opening. The City should work with the applicant to design an alternate route to ensure safety and convenience to trail users. Prior to reopening, City staff should inspect the trail to ensure that the trail is safe and ready for use.

Daylight Hour Trail Use:

Evening use of the trail will be prohibited. Trail signage will indicate this restriction. The evening closure serves several purposes:

1. Reduces the impact of the trail on neighboring private properties by limiting hours of use, and
2. Allows law enforcement personnel to take corrective action against violators on the trail who may have criminal intent.

Trail Brochure:

A simple brochure should be prepared and distributed to trail users. It can be distributed through tack and feed stores, bicycle stores, trail heads, staging areas and at the City of Encinitas Community Services Department. The brochure should include a trail map designating all trails by their assigned trail number, which will also appear on trail markers. Rest areas, staging areas, police stations, fire stations and hospitals should be indicated. Points of interest such as historical structures, unique vegetation, wildlife habitats and view opportunities could also be noted. This brochure should contain a map of completed and proposed sections of the system and also should include:

1. Standard trail etiquette;
2. Emergency contact phone numbers (Police, Fire, & Sheriff); and,
3. Information on how the public can help to implement the remainder of the trail system (ex: donations, public involvement, volunteer groups).

Trail Etiquette:

1. Reckless/negligent use on all trails will be prohibited. All persons shall ride or operate at a safe, controlled speed and in a responsible manner. Excessive speed and reckless/negligent operation are prohibited.
2. Control your horse or bicycle. Be alert and attentive.
3. Keep to the right of the trail.
4. Pick up litter when you find it, even if its not yours.
5. In soggy areas, try to avoid wet areas in order to diminish ruts from forming.
6. Remain only on designated trails. Respect closures and do not trespass on private property. Obey all directional and instructional signs.
7. Safety helmets are recommended for bicyclists and equestrians.
8. Yielding: Except as dictated by special conditions, bicyclists shall yield to both pedestrians and equestrians, and pedestrians shall yield to equestrians. Equestrians shall be aware and considerate of bicyclists and pedestrians.
9. Make known your approach well in advance. A friendly greeting is considerate and works well; don't startle others. Show your respect when passing others by slowing down or even stopping. Anticipate that other trail users may be around corners or in blind spots.
10. Never spook animals. All animals are startled by an unannounced approach, sudden movements, or loud noise. This can be dangerous for you, for others, and for the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you.
11. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Volunteer Management:

In many cities, volunteer organizations not only advocate for trail implementation, but also physically maintain large portions of the trail system for the City. Groups such as this are critical to the full development of the trail system and its continued maintenance. The city should also explore "trail adoption" programs, inviting service organizations to undertake patrol and maintenance of other segments. The Encinitas Trails Coalition, with assistance from the City could also organize a "trail maintenance day" where large numbers of citizens could be called into assistance for a yearly clean up of the trail system.

Trail Users:

All trails shall be designated as multi-use providing opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. No motorized vehicles except authorized trail maintenance vehicles and emergency vehicles shall be allowed on the trails. Should conflicts arise on specific trail segments in the future, the City may restrict the use on certain segments to avoid environmental degradation, conflicts with properties adjacent to the trail, or trail user conflicts.

MAINTENANCE COSTS

The following figures are estimated annual & monthly maintenance expenditures per mile of trail. The trail system at completion will comprise approximately 80 miles*.

	Cost per mile	Total Cost
Total Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs	\$ 2,600	\$ 208,000
Monthly Costs	\$ 217	\$ 17,333

*Does not include the San Elijo Lagoon trails

Trail Maintenance Comparisons

City	Encinitas	Poway	Vista	Otay
Miles of Trails	12 miles existing; 80 miles planned	61 miles	15 miles existing; 72 miles planned	25 miles
Trail Type	Natural & paved	Natural	Natural & paved	Natural
Cost per mile	\$ 2,617*	\$ 2,033	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,500
Maintenance	Contract	1 staff, 1 CCC, Adopt a trail program for minor maintenance	CCC, Adopt a trail program for minor maintenance. Most maintenance funded through assessment district	—

*Based on FY 98-99. Includes maintenance contract, equipment costs, repairs & supplies.
 Equipment & supplies \$ 11,422
 Maintenance Contract \$ 19,979
 Total: \$ 31,401

Poway & Vista CCC crews cost \$ 100/day for a 15 person crew