

Descanso Community Trails and Pathways Plan

Trails: The Community Connection

The Community Trails Master Plan will be utilized to develop a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an established public need for recreation and transportation, but will also provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, biking, and horseback riding throughout the County’s biologically diverse environments.

Community trails serve a different function than regional trails, which are focused on the provision of long linear distances. Instead, community trails are “local public facilities” in close proximity to residents that provide transportation, recreation, access, infrastructure, linkages and safe routes throughout a community.

The Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP) involves both trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. The CTMP has established two forms of non-motorized facilities called “Trails” and “Pathways” that provide passive recreational, and alternative modes of transportation.



*California Riding and Hiking Trail along
Viejas Grade Road, Descanso*

Trails are typically away from vehicular roads that are primarily recreational in nature but can also serve as an alternative mode of transportation. They are soft-surface facilities for single or multiple uses by pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists.

Pathways are a non-motorized transportation facility located within a parkway or road right of way. A riding and hiking trail located in the road right of way is considered a pathway. They are soft-surfaced

facilities intended to serve both circulation and recreation purposes. Pathways help make critical connections and are an integral part of a functional trail system.

THE NEED FOR TRAILS

The community trail needs are based on an equation established by the Trails System Assessment (TSA) in 2001, which identified a minimum baseline level of service for each community by population. The Baseline Level of Service or Trail Need is 0.8 miles of trail per 1,000 people.

The “Trail Need” is the minimum length of trail miles (baseline level of service) for each Community and Subregional Plan Area. The TSA calculations for community trail needs are as follows:

- **Trail Need** = (Community Population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)
- **2000 Trail Need** = (2000 population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)
- **2020 Trail Need** = (2020 population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)

Population statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census were used to determine the current trail needs in Descanso. Based on the census, the population of the Descanso Community Plan Area is 2,242 and there is a current need for 2 miles of community trails. In the year 2020, the population is projected to increase to 2,730 and there would be a future need for 2 miles of community trails.

For additional information about the baseline level of service and trail needs, please refer to the discussion under “**The Need for Trails**” and **Tables NT-1 and NT-2** in the CTMP.

COUNTYWIDE TRAIL GOALS AND POLICIES

The “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in the Community Trails Master Plan apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific guidelines are intended to accommodate specific community needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community specific goals and policies are not addressed, the “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in the CTMP shall apply.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Countywide trail guidelines in the Community Trails Master Plan apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific guidelines are intended to accommodate specific community needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community specific guidelines are not addressed, the Countywide “**Design and Construction Guidelines**” contained in the CTMP shall apply.

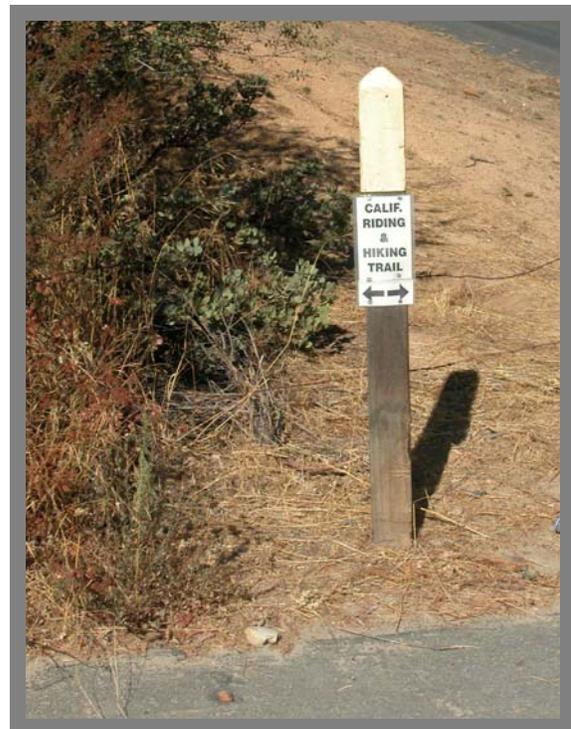
DESCANSO COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP SUMMARY

As a result of the community trails outreach process for development of the CTMP, the Descanso Community Planning Group completed several tasks, and prioritized community trails and pathways as well as their special features. Each trail and pathway was labeled and recorded producing a community trails map and index.

Proposed trails shown on trails maps contained in the Community Trail Master Plan depict corridors of general alignments. The term “general alignment” is used to describe the general location of a future trail within a designated corridor so that the specific alignment can be determined during the review and approval process when a discretionary application is submitted for a development permit for land that includes a trail corridor. The designated corridor is approximately one-quarter mile wide. A general alignment is useful because it allows the trail to be located to avoid extreme topographical conditions, sensitive habitat or other site-specific constraints.

DESCANSO COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP INDEX

The following community trails map index was completed by the Descanso Community Planning Group and will be used as a reference tool. Neighboring communities are italicized and where trail or pathway connections exist, the community trail name and number are included.



*Original California Riding and Hiking Trail
post with an improvised sign*

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Trail #: G	Name: California Riding and Hiking Trail (CRHT) Trail Status: (X) Existing () Proposed Trail Type: (X) Trail () Pathway Trail Priority: (X) 1 () 2 () 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 8.00	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) <i>Alpine Border</i> Boulder Creek Road Pathway (3) <i>Cuyamaca State Park Border</i>	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Historical Setting Special Features: Historic Regional and State Trail established in 1945. Otay Lakes, Loveland Reservoir, Cuyamaca State Park and north connections.
Trail #: 1	Name: Descanso Valley Pathway Trail Status: () Existing (X) Proposed Trail Type: () Trail (X) Pathway Trail Priority: (X) 1 () 2 () 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 4.10	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) <i>Cuyamaca State Parks Trails</i>	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Loop Special Features: Cuyamaca State Park trails and CRHT connections.
Trail #: 3	Name: Boulder Creek Road Pathway Trail Status: (X) Existing () Proposed Trail Type: () Trail (X) Pathway Trail Priority: (X) 1 () 2 () 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 0.85	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) CRHT (G)	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Special Features: CRHT connection.
Trail #: 4	Name: Cedar Creek/Eagle Road Trail Trail Status: (X) Existing () Proposed Trail Type: (X) Trail () Pathway Trail Priority: (X) 1 () 2 () 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles:	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)	Trail Priority Criteria: Special Features: Outside of the Central Mountain Region in an unrepresented area of the County.
Trail #: 5	Name: Mystery Trail Trail Status: () Existing () Proposed Trail Type: () Trail () Pathway Trail Priority: (X) 1 () 2 () 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles:	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Special Features: Cuyamaca State Park trails and CRHT connections.

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<u>Trail #:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</u>	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u>
6	Wildwood Glen Lane Pathway Trail Status: () Existing (X) Proposed Trail Type: () Trail (X) Pathway Trail Priority: (X) 1 () 2 () 3 Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2.13	Japatul Valley Road	Connectivity Setting <u>Special Features:</u> Cleveland National Forest connection. USFS gated road.