

# Pine Valley Community Trails and Pathways Plan

## *Trail: 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.



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*Pine Valley Community Pathway*

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**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.

## COMMUNITY TRAIL STATEMENT

### **Goal**

The Pine Valley Planning Group wishes to maintain the Valley's rural atmosphere. The mission of the Trails Committee is to provide a comprehensive, non-motorized, multi-use trail system that connects all parts of the community and National Forestry surrounding it. Pine Valley residents enjoy the quaint, scenic, openness and solitude of the Valley. Many people visit from other areas to pass a lazy day enjoying the fall colors, clear blue skies, hike, horseback ride and mountain bike the area trails. The County Park provides visitors an escape from the heat of lower elevations. The white winters attract visitors who enjoy the snow.

The Valley has much to offer, from Indian sites to old, now closed, mines. Centuries old oak trees and enormous pines decorate it. Wildlife abounds in and around the Valley. It is also unique in that the Cleveland National Forest surrounds the Valley itself. Pine Valley's Scove Canyon Trail, Nobel Canyon Trail and Secret Canyon Trail link the town to the National Forest trails. An outstanding variety of untouched animal habitats, creeks, rock formations, cliff faces, mountains and meadowland enrich the area. Pine Valley is a resort town. Many guests stay at the Bible

Conference Grounds, which is located on an historic site. These guests enjoy hikes of the valley. Many non-Valley residents board their horses at one of the two stables in Pine Valley. The ability to ride the trails is an escape from San Diego's urban sprawl. In Pine Valley, residents are still lucky enough to keep their horses on their own property. The community has four riding arenas for equine use. Without a network of trails, these would not be easily and safely reached.

Special events have long drawn people to the community. It is a staging area for equestrians, bike riders and hikers. Many groups, including the Back Country Horsemen, Pine Valley Mountain Riders, endurance rides, poker rides, group rides and riding clinics utilize the area. Pine Valley Days, brings in hundreds of visitors who enjoy using the trails.

Old Highway 80 runs through the south part of town and has the community's only commercial properties. Through the trails committee of the Pine Valley Planning Group, a network of trails is planned for the meadow area of the town and to the East, continuing access to Scove Canyon. Close to Pine Valley and still accessible are the nationally known Pacific Crest Trail and Nobel Canyon Trail (which originates in Pine Valley). Secret Canyon Trail (or Pine Creek Trail) also starts in Pine Valley and connect to Espinosa Trail eventually winding around to attach to other trails such as Horsethief Trail. Without a network of trails, the town would lose accessibility to forest trails as well as the town center.

One of the reasons residents chose to live in Pine Valley is its character. Open spaces are extremely important to the Valley residents. The residents enjoy outdoor activities. As properties develop, it is important to keep trails open through these areas. The increase in traffic and urbanization of the Valley is of great concern to many town residents. If developments are poorly planned, it could threaten the character of the Valley. Many streets in town are narrow and in many cases unsafe to travel on foot or bicycle. Safe off-pavement travel on pathways or trails within the community is very important to a successful trail system. Generations of residents have used long existing trails and dirt roads, before they were private properties.

A trail network will provide our residents and guests with a safe and healthy means to get around the Valley, to preserve the rural atmosphere and to protect the natural environment from unwanted trafficking.

### 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 in 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 Pine Valley. Based on the census, the population of the Pine Valley Community Plan Area is 2,329 and there is a current need for 2 miles of community trails. In the year 2020, the population is projected to increase to 2,760 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 CTMP apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific goals and policies are intended to accommodate specific needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community-specific goals and policies are not addressed, the “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in 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.

## PINE VALLEY COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP SUMMARY

As a result of the community trails outreach process for development of the CTMP, the Pine Valley 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 habit or other site-specific constraints.

## PINE VALLEY COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP INDEX

The following community trails map index was completed by the Pine Valley 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.



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*Pine Valley Trail*

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COUNTY TRAILS PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

PINE VALLEY TRAILS MAP INDEX

<b>Trail #:</b> H	<b>Name:</b> Pacific Crest Trail  <b>Trail Status:</b> (X) Existing ( ) Proposed  <b>Trail Type:</b> (X) Trail ( ) Pathway  <b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3  <b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 19.10	<b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> <i>Lake Moreno-Campo Border</i> Cleveland National Forest Trails <i>Cuyamaca State Park Border</i>	<b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Loop  <b>Special Features:</b> Regional and National Scenic Trail. Does not allow Mountain Bikes. USFS maintained.
<b>Trail #:</b> 1	<b>Name:</b> Meadow Trail  <b>Trail Status:</b> ( ) Existing (X) Proposed  <b>Trail Type:</b> (X) Trail ( ) Pathway  <b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3  <b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 2.50	<b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Old Highway 80 Pathway (4) Old Highway 80 Trail (8) Pine Creek Road Pathway (3) Pine Creek Wilderness Trail (7) North Pine Creek Staging Area Phantom Trails (6) Cleveland National Forest Trails	<b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Loop Setting  <b>Special Features:</b> Downtown Pine Valley, Noble Canyon trailhead and Cleveland National Forest trail connection. Meadow trail. Mainly crosses private property. Portion of trail not open for \$200.00 annual property leasor.
<b>Trail #:</b> 2	<b>Name:</b> East Pine Valley Trail  <b>Trail Status:</b> (X) Existing ( ) Proposed  <b>Trail Type:</b> (X) Trail ( ) Pathway  <b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3  <b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 1.00	<b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Phantom Trails (6) Cleveland National Forest Trails	<b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Safety  <b>Special Features:</b> Cleveland National Forest trail connection. Mainly crosses private property. Alternate trail route for paved roads.
<b>Trail #:</b> 3	<b>Name:</b> Pine Creek Road Pathway  <b>Trail Status:</b> (X) Existing ( ) Proposed  <b>Trail Type:</b> ( ) Trail (X) Pathway  <b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3  <b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 2.00	<b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Old Highway 80 Pathway (4) Pine Creek Wilderness Trail (7) Old Highway 80 Trail (8) Meadow Trail (1) Pigeon Flat Connector Trail (5) Phantom Trails (6) Cleveland National Forest Trails	<b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Loop Safety  <b>Special Features:</b> Pine Valley Stables, Horse Resort, Pine Creek Wilderness trailhead, and Noble Canyon trailhead and Cleveland National Forest trail connection. Narrow and dangerous paved road. Only access between two forestry trails.
<b>Trail #:</b> 4	<b>Name:</b> Old Highway 80 Pathway  <b>Trail Status:</b> ( ) Existing (X) Proposed  <b>Trail Type:</b> ( ) Trail (X) Pathway  <b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3  <b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 1.50	<b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Meadow Trail (1) Pine Creek Road Pathway (3) Pine Creek Wilderness Trail (7) Old Highway 80 Trail (8)	<b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Loop Safety  <b>Special Features:</b> Downtown Pine Valley, Library and Cleveland National Forest connection.

COUNTY TRAILS PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

PINE VALLEY TRAILS MAP INDEX

<p><b>Trail #:</b> 5</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Pigeon Flat Connector Trail</p> <p><b>Trail Status:</b> ( ) Existing (X) Proposed</p> <p><b>Trail Type:</b> (X) Trail ( ) Pathway</p> <p><b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3</p> <p><b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 0.20</p>	<p><b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Pine Creek Road Pathway (3) Cleveland National Forest Trails</p>	<p><b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity</p> <p><b>Special Features:</b> Cleveland National Forest trail connection.</p>
<p><b>Trail #:</b> 6</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Phantom Trails</p> <p><b>Trail Status:</b> (X) Existing ( ) Proposed</p> <p><b>Trail Type:</b> (X) Trail ( ) Pathway</p> <p><b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3</p> <p><b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 5.00</p>	<p><b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Rancheros Trail (2) Meadow Trail (1) Pine Creek Road Pathway (3) Cleveland National Forest Trails</p>	<p><b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Loop Setting</p> <p><b>Special Features:</b> Cleveland National Forest trail connection.</p>
<p><b>Trail #:</b> 7</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Pine Creek Wilderness Trail</p> <p><b>Trail Status:</b> (X) Existing ( ) Proposed</p> <p><b>Trail Type:</b> (X) Trail ( ) Pathway</p> <p><b>Trail Priority:</b> (X) 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3</p> <p><b>Estimated Trail Length in Miles:</b> 1.20</p>	<p><b>Connections: Trail Name (Trail #)</b> Old Highway 80 Pathway (4) Meadow Trail (1) Old Highway 80 Trail (8) Pine Creek Road Pathway (3) South Pine Creek Staging Area Cleveland National Forest Trails <i>Alpine/Secret Canyon Creek Trail (32)</i></p>	<p><b>Trail Priority Criteria:</b> Connectivity Setting</p> <p><b>Special Features:</b> Cleveland National Forest trail and Alpine connection.</p>

STAGING AREAS

- South Pine Creek, Old Highway 80 and Pine Creek Road
- North Pine Creek, Pine Creek Road and Meadow Trail