

Potrero 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.

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 Potrero. Based on the census, the population of the Potrero Community Plan Area is 886 and there is a current need for 1 mile of community trails. In the year 2020, the population is projected to increase to 2210 and there would be a future need for 1 mile 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.

POTRERO COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP SUMMARY

As a result of the community trails outreach process for development of the CTMP, the Potrero 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.

POTRERO COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP INDEX

The following community trails map index was completed by the Potrero 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.

Potrero Trails Map Index

Trail #: H	Name: Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Trail Status: (X) Existing () Proposed Trail Type: (X) Trail () Pathway Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 1.10	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) Mountain Empire Trail (4)	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Setting Special Features: Regional and National Scenic Trail
Trail #: 1	Name: Potrero Park Trail Trail Status: () Existing (X) Proposed Trail Type: (X) Trail () Pathway Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 0.25	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) Potrero County Park Staging Area Potrero County Park Trails Mason Wildlife Refuge Trails	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Special Features: Potrero County Park and Mason Wildlife Refuge connections. Staging Area
Trail #: 2	Name: Mason Wildlife Refuge Trail Trail Status: (X) Existing () Proposed Trail Type: (X) Trail () Pathway Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 0.34	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) Mason Wildlife Refuge Trails Harris Ranch Road Pathway (3)	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Special Features: Potrero Park and Mason Wildlife Refuge connections
Trail #: 3	Name: Harris Ranch Road Pathway Trail Status: () Existing (X) Proposed Trail Type: () Trail (X) Pathway Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 0.55	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) Mason Wildlife Refuge Trail (2) Mountain Empire Trail (4)	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Special Features: TCT Connection
Trail #: 4	Name: Mountain Empire Trail Trail Status: (X) Existing () Proposed Trail Type: (X) Trail () Pathway Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 3.8	Connections: Trail Name (Trail #) Harris Ranch Road Pathway (3) PCT (H)	Trail Priority Criteria: Connectivity Special Features: TCT Connection

STAGING AREA

- Potrero County Park