

# Executive Summary

## *The County Trails Program*

In September 2000, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors affirmed that non-motorized trails outside of County parkland and road rights-of-way are a legitimate and necessary form of public recreation that the County should provide.

This action was followed by a Countywide Trail System Assessment (TSA) that provided San Diego-specific trail information and created a foundation for the County Trails Program. TSA information included an analysis of trail needs, planning opportunities, implementation methods, management structures and funding.

After receiving the TSA in July 2001, the Board of Supervisors gave direction on how to structure planning documents and major trail program elements with the goal of providing regional and community trails that meet the needs of County residents.

The County Trails Program, which encompasses both regional and community trails, involves trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. Regional trails, which span long linear distances that cross multiple communities and function as a backbone for local trail networks, are retained in the Public Facilities Element of the County General Plan. This General Plan (GP) element also contains a description of the County Trails and the countywide goals and policies that apply

to all County trails. Community trails, that primarily serve local needs, are contained in this Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP), which is not included in the General Plan but will serve as an independent planning document and tool for implementing community trails.

On January 9, 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved the County Trails Goals and Policies for the purpose of including them in the Public Facilities Element. The County Trails Program has four (4) general plan goals and a series of polices providing direction intended to meet those goals. These goals and policies will guide future planning and implementation efforts for the County Trails Program.

Goals, policies and specific activities described as implementation strategies encourage communities, included in this CTMP, to maximize trail opportunities on public lands, including open space and parklands, and lands associated with habitat management and conservation plans. They also advocate responsible trail management and implementation mechanisms that encourage the participation of willing landowners.

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*On January 12, 2005, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopted the County Trails Program and the CTMP. On June 24, 2009, the first update of the CTMP was approved.*