



Murrieta Trails

Master Plan

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Welcome

Executive Summary

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The Master Plan

Plan Background

The City of Murrieta's Trails Master Plan (MTMP) is a visionary document that sets the stage for a more connected, accessible, and enjoyable trail network.

The MTMP's objective is to support the City's commitment to fostering outdoor recreational opportunities, promoting healthy lifestyles, and ensuring accessible and well-maintained trails for all residents and visitors.

The development process for the MTMP included evaluating existing plans and studies related to trail planning in the City, engaging with community members, and conducting a robust assessment of existing conditions to identify actionable recommendations for enhancing and expanding the City of Murrieta trail network. By prioritizing key recommendations, fostering community engagement, and securing diverse funding sources, Murrieta can ensure its trails continue to provide access to nature and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

The Murrieta Trails Master Plan offers an exciting opportunity to enhance the community's quality of life by creating a more connected, accessible, and enjoyable trail network. These trails will provide safe spaces for walking, biking, enjoying nature, promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering a sense of community. To ensure that this plan becomes a reality, an investment in trail maintenance staffing and/or volunteer programs, trail improvements, and new trail connections will be required.

-Call to Action, 2025 Trails Master Plan

Public Participation

The public input for this MTMP included:

2,849 views & **21** feedback comments garnered by a dedicated project website.

1,525 residents representing **492** household responses in a statistically valid, multimodal survey.

3 community workshops featuring online and paper surveys.

277 responses on online and paper surveys featured at community workshops.

14 interviews with key stakeholders such as Council Members, Commissioners, school district representatives, and community leaders.

Feedback from the community largely indicated a desire for improved trail signage, connectivity, amenities, maintenance, and expansion.



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Key Recommendations

As Murrieta continues to grow, the demand for well-maintained, accessible, and connected trails will increase. The MTMP addresses current needs while anticipating future demands, providing a comprehensive approach to trail development and management.

Informed by the existing conditions analysis and community feedback, the MTMP identifies several critical areas of focus, including the following:



Trail Connections and Additions

New Trail Connections
Introduce connections between existing trails and/or new trails.

Sidewalk Connections
Utilize sidewalks to formalize connections between nearby existing trails.

New Trail Incorporation
Incorporate trails that exist but are not formally part of Murrieta's trail network.

Future New Trails
The City's General Plan identifies a number of new trail opportunities in the Circulation Element chapter, including the Murrieta Creek Regional Trail Project, which will connect Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Temecula to form a single connected regional trail.

Seek opportunities to proactively plan for new trails as part of new residential developments.



Signage and Wayfinding

Implementation of Uniform Signage
Standardize signage across all trails to ensure consistency and improve user navigation.

Wayfinding Enhancements
Install clear directional signs at key points along the trails to help users easily find their way. This includes trailhead signage, roadway crossing signs, trail directional signage, trail mile markers, and on-street trail guide signs.



Trail Classification and Design Standards

Trail Classification
Adopt a trail classification system to easily identify the various types of trails present in Murrieta's trail network.

Trail User Classification
Adopt a trail user classification system to easily identify which trail user types are recommended for each trail. User types should be continually monitored and adjusted as the City sees fit.



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Key Recommendations (Cont.)



Trail Amenities

Trailhead Amenities

Include trail signage including a trail map, information and rules, a QR code to an online trail map, and dog waste stations.

Staging Area Amenities

Provide additional amenities at major trail access points including adequate parking, bike racks, restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, benches, and shade structures.

On-Trail Amenities

Provide trail directional signage and mileage markers along the trail to help with trail navigation. Other amenities could include benches, picnic tables, dog waste stations, and/or educational information signage.



Trail Maintenance

Routine Maintenance Programs

Establish ongoing maintenance schedules to address issues such as erosion, trail uplift from tree roots, and miscellaneous repairs. Trail maintenance can also help users navigate the trail.

Identify future staff resources needed to effectively service maintenance of trails.

Adopt-A-Trail Program or Murrieta Fix It App

Encourage community involvement in maintaining trails through an adopt-a-trail initiative or through the Murrieta Fix It App.

Develop and utilize volunteer program assigned to individual trails for trail maintenance.



Traffic Calming and Improved Visibility

Enhanced Crossing Safety

Implement high visibility marked crosswalks and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at key trail-roadway intersections.

Speed Reduction Measures

Lower speed limits on roads adjacent to trailheads and crossings to improve safety for trail users.



Mapping and Data Management

Comprehensive Trail Mapping

Develop and regularly update a detailed map of the trail network, including new connections and amenities. Develop marketing campaign to publicize trail maps and trail information.

GIS Data

Management

Utilize GIS technology to manage trail data, ensuring accurate and accessible information for

Conclusion

The implementation of the MTMP will result in an interconnected trail network designed to enhance the user experience and provide easy access to the natural environment. By following the strategic recommendations outlined in this plan, the City of Murrieta will promote outdoor recreation, support healthy lifestyles, and ensure that the trails remain a valuable asset for current and future generations.



Section One

Introduction

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Introduction to the Master Plan

The City of Murrieta is formalizing their commitment to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for its residents and visitors by creating their Murrieta Trails Master Plan (MTMP). Murrieta recognizes that its parks, trails, and natural areas are a critical part of what shapes the quality of life for citizens of the City. The City's robust existing trail network provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the natural environment that Murrieta has to offer.

Trail Benefits

Implementing a comprehensive trail system in the City of Murrieta brings numerous benefits, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. These benefits include:

- Promoting learning and appreciation of the natural environment

- Improving physical and mental health
- Building community identity and connections
- Boosting the local economy
- Encouraging use of non-motorized transportation
- Providing access to recreation and fun!

The multifaceted benefits—ranging from health and environmental sustainability to economic growth and community building—underscore the importance of the MTMP. By investing in this initiative, Murrieta can ensure a healthier, greener, and more vibrant future for its residents and visitors.

City of Murrieta Trails Master Plan Approach

The MTMP addresses the critical aspects of the City of Murrieta's trail network, focusing on

identifying needs and providing actionable recommendations for enhancement. The objective is to support the City's commitment to fostering outdoor recreational opportunities, promoting healthy lifestyles, and ensuring accessible and well-maintained trails for all residents and visitors. To meet these objectives, the Master Plan emphasizes the following key elements:

Build on existing plans and studies

The MTMP will build on the City's existing planning documents and studies which define the goals and plans for future growth of the trail network.

Clarify classifications and design features

Provide more detailed classifications of trails for different settings and users and define applicable design features to create a successful and cohesive trail network.





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Provide a robust public participation process

The MTMP will incorporate the feedback gathered from community members to ensure the trail network reflects the needs and wants of the community.

Prepare a realistic Implementation Plan

The implementation section of the MTMP will include strategies and resources for getting trail enhancements funded and built, and for operating and maintaining the trail network over the long term.

Review of Existing Plans and Studies

Several important planning documents and studies that have provided guidance for trail development in the City are summarized below to provide context on the history of Murrieta's trail network.

- Capital Improvement Program Budget
- Park Amenity Listing
- City Parks and Trails Map
- Trails Guide (2006)
- Murrieta Creek Regional Trail (MCRT) Plan
- Murrieta's Interim Trail (MCRT)
- City's General Plan – Section 5: Circulation Element
- City's General Plan – Section 9: Recreation & Open Space Element

- Economic Development Strategic Plan/Demographics
- Economic Development Explore-Murrieta-Facts
- City "Funtier" Brochure

Capital Improvement Program Budget

At the time of this report, the Fiscal Years 2024/2025 through 2028/2029 was the most recently available Capital Improvement Plan published by the City. There is over \$12.7 million in projected funding for parks, recreation facility, and trails projects. There is also approximately \$52.8 million, \$12.8 million in planned CIP projects, in identified parks, recreation facility, and trails projects that remain unfunded.

Park Amenity Listing

The City Parks Amenity Listing is a reference document of each of the public parks in the City of Murrieta, detailing the address/location, acres, and presence of any amenities. The City of Murrieta encompasses approximately 4,000 acres of trails, open space, streetscape, and parkland, including 53 parks and a number of natural areas. Parks range in

size from the 0.4-acre Rosewood Neighborhood Park to the 45-acre Los Alamos Hills Sports Park. There are a variety of amenities at each location, including:

- Amphitheaters
- Barbecues
- Ball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Bike Paths
- Walking Trails
- Catch & Release Ponds
- Community Centers
- Concession Stands
- Dog Parks
- Football Fields
- Frisbee Golf
- Horseshoe Pits
- Mature Trees
- Open Grass Areas
- Parking Lots
- Par Exercise Courses
- Picnic Tables
- Park Benches
- Restroom / Port-O-Lets
- Shelters
- Soccer Fields
- Swimming Pool
- Tennis Courts
- Tot Lot / Playground Equipment
- Volleyball Court

City Parks and Trails Map

The Parks Brochure is a map of all trails and parks within the City of Murrieta. The current map/brochure posted on the City website includes sixteen (16) trails, and provides the trail distance and ground type (native soil, decomposed

The Murrieta Creek Regional Trail will create a multi-use trail alongside Murrieta Creek that connects Temecula to Lake Elsinore, and the cities between.

granite, asphalt, concrete). Trails Guide

The Murrieta Trails Guide, published in 2006, provides a map of all the trail locations in the City, as well as a detailed description of each trail. The descriptions provide pertinent details related to the trail head location, level of difficulty, trail type, trail use, and length.

Murrieta Creek Regional Trail (MCRT) Plan

The Murrieta Creek Regional Trail (MCRT) Plan was prepared in 2014 and provides conceptual alignment analysis and recommendations for the MCRT. The intent of the MCRT project is to develop a "city-to-city" trail that creates a multi-use trail alongside Murrieta Creek that connects Temecula in the south to Lake Elsinore in the north, and the cities between. The MCRT Plan provides 20 recommendations for the City of Murrieta, related to trail alignment & design, trailhead and access point development, and bridges and road crossings. Additionally, there is a general recommendation for the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore to continuously work collaboratively and continue to identify and explore opportunities to connect the MCRT to other existing and future-planned trail networks.

Murrieta's Interim Trail (MCRT)

Following the preparation of the MCRT Plan, interim maps were prepared of the Murrieta Creek Trail. When the maps were originally prepared in 2015, there were approximately 3 miles of trail routes on-street and off-street mapped in the City of Murrieta. The trail connects the Murrieta Equestrian Park and the Copper Canyon Park. There are seven (7) street crossings along the route.

City's General Plan - Section 5: Circulation Element

The Circulation Element of the Murrieta General Plan 2035 represents the City's overall transportation plan to accommodate the movement of people and goods within and through the City. It establishes goals and policies to achieve a balanced transportation system that adequately serves the growth and development anticipated in the Land Use Element. The transportation plan consists not only of the physical transportation system itself, such as streets, highways, bicycle routes, trails, and sidewalks, but also the various modes of transportation, such as cars, rail, buses, trucks, bicycles, and walking. The bicycle, pedestrian, and trails system is a



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key priority of the General Plan. Several policies relate to the planning of the regional trails system, specifically CIR-8.1 to CIR-8.15. These include:

- CIR-8.12 - Pursue funding or grant opportunities to plan, construct, and maintain pedestrian bicycle, and multi-use trails.
- CIR-8.13 - Maintain a map or maps of current bikeways and multi-use trails, and make the map(s) available to the public.

City's General Plan - Section 9: Recreation & Open Space Element

The Recreation & Open Space Element of the Murrieta General Plan 2035 represents the City's overall intention to prioritize the following community concerns:

- Protect the natural beauty of the mountains, hills, and waterways.
- Provide abundant parks and facilities for recreational activities and cultural amenities.
- Provide ample activities for all ages of youth, and jobs for teens.

Recreation planning is guided by the City of Murrieta Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks Master Plan). The Parks Master Plan provides information about Murrieta's parks and recreation

facilities. It also includes a needs assessment and gap analysis, recommendations for meeting current and future needs, and a financial implementation plan. The City has adopted a standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. As of June 2009, the City had a deficit of 34 acres according to this standard; and if no new parkland is added, there will be a deficit of approximately 200 acres at buildout (assuming a population of 133,261). Additional acreage is required to accommodate recreation facilities such as sports fields and courts that meet the population's demands. The Parks Master Plan estimated that 240.3 acres of parkland would be needed for a population of 120,000 to meet identified needs for recreational facilities, in addition to what is needed to meet the parkland standard.

Economic Development Strategic Plan/ Demographics

The City of Murrieta Economic Development Strategic Plan was published in October of 2018. At the time it was published, the City of Murrieta had a population of 113,541, which made it the largest city in southwest Riverside County. Income is higher than the county average, with average household income for the City coming in at \$99,600

with projected income growth forecasted at 2.4% over the next five years. The City's average household size was 3.2 and a median age of 34. Residents in the City of Murrieta are highly educated when compared to the surrounding region with 29% having a bachelor's degree or higher and 92.2 % having at least a high school diploma.

Economic Development Explore-Murrieta-Facts

The City of Murrieta Economic Development Department is committed to continue to have a qualified workforce that attracts, retains, and expands industries, and enhances the quality of life for residents in the City of Murrieta. A Murrieta Facts Sheet is posted on the City website, providing several facts and figures related to the vibrancy of Murrieta. The City of Murrieta lies 90 miles north of the U.S. – Mexico Port of Entry of Tijuana, Mexico, and is 90 Miles east from the busiest U.S Seaport, the Port of Los Angeles. Within 75 miles are five (5) international airports (Ontario, San Diego, Orange County, Palm Springs and Los Angeles), offering a strong economy built on diversification, small business vitality and quality of life. The Murrieta Innovation Center is currently home to seven medical technology startups including the region's first genomics laboratory aptly named Murrieta Genomics.



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City “Funtier” Brochure

The City of Murrieta publishes a Family “Funtier” Brochure, which looks to provide the details as to why Murrieta is the “home of family entertainment.”

For example, the brochure explains:

➤ **“With over 1,350 acres of trails, open space and natural areas, the City of Murrieta is an unparalleled park paradise. Murrieta’s 52* public parks offer the ideal place for family activities, sports and experiences. From the quaint to the sprawling, Murrieta’s scenic and well-maintained parks are primed for everything from family picnics and leisurely strolls to competitive youth sporting events and tournaments.”**

**As of September 2024, the City has 53 parks.*

Document Organization

This introduction gives an overview of the MTMP, the benefits of trails, and a review of existing plans and studies related to the City’s trail network.

Section 2: Community Voice

covers the MTMP public participation process and results.

Section 3: Needs Assessment

details the robust existing conditions assessment including:

Trail Classifications

Discussion of the observed categories of existing trails.

Existing Trail Descriptions

Detailed descriptions of each trail within the City, noting key features and amenities.



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Field Review and Maintenance Opportunities

Insights from field inspections highlighting areas requiring maintenance, repair, or upgrades to ensure safety and usability.

Trail Usage Analysis

An analysis of current trail usage patterns, identifying popular trails, peak usage times, and user demographics to inform future planning.

Section 4: Recommendations

provides a detailed discussion of the recommendations developed by the consultant team. It includes:

Proposed Trail Connections and Additions

Strategic suggestions for new trails and trail connections to

enhance the network, improve accessibility, and create a more cohesive trail network.

General Trail Recommendations

An assortment of recommendations aimed at improving overall trail quality and user experience. Implementation: Identification of relative planning level costs and time to implement the identified recommendations.

Funding

An exploration of potential funding sources, including grants, partnerships, and community initiatives, to support the implementation of the recommendations.

Appendix A

provides summaries of the community outreach.

Appendix B

provides a map of the City of Murrieta trail network.

Appendix C

provides individual trail cut-sheets featuring a map of each trail accompanied by trail amenities and essential information.

Appendix D

provides trail usage charts discerned from the trail usage data collection processes.

Appendix E

provides a map of the planned and recommended future trail connections.

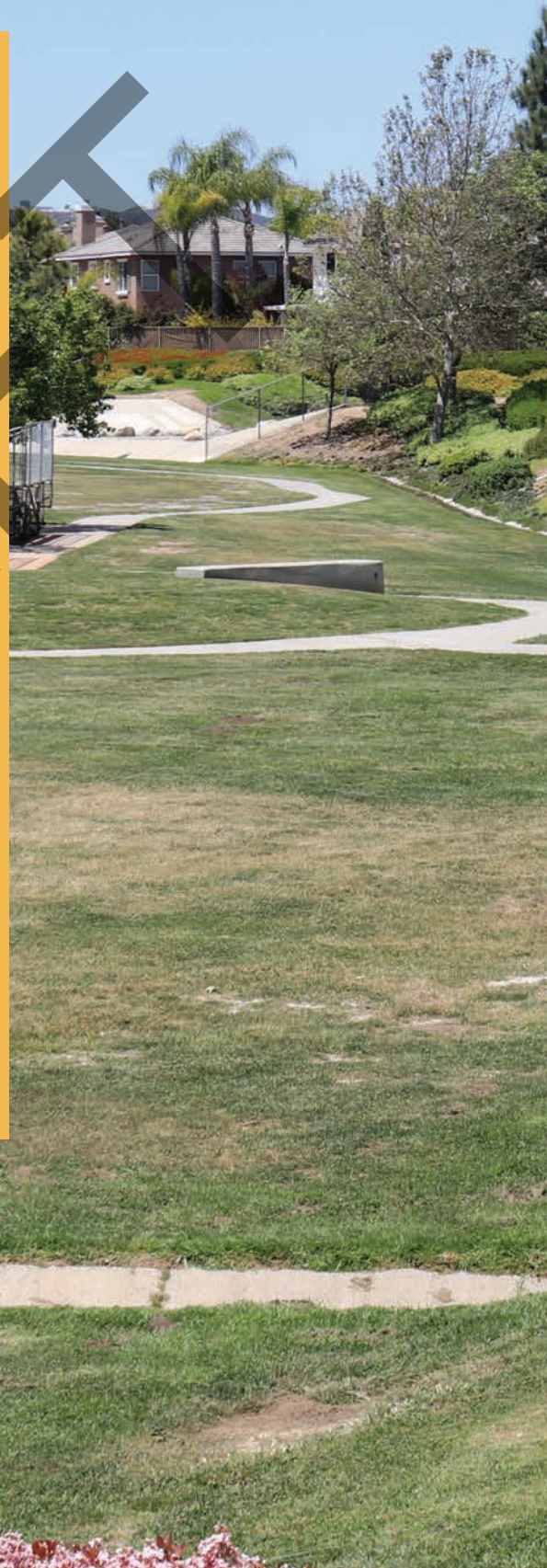
Appendix F

provides a map of the planned Murrieta Creek Regional Trail Project.

Section Two

Community Voice

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Community Voice

The community outreach campaign developed for the Trails Master Plan utilized multiple methods of information sharing and data collection including an online and paper feedback survey, one-on-one stakeholder interviews, a statistically valid multimodal survey, and three (3) community workshop online and paper surveys. Throughout the process, project updates and summary results were posted to the project website. This website enabled community members to review updates and provide immediate feedback at any point in time. This resource enabled anyone in the community to have a voice in the process, regardless of when and where meetings were held. The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is to ensure that the MTMP is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and trail usage patterns of Murrieta residents. Community Outreach Summaries are provided in **Appendix A**.



Workshop 1
Source: RJM Design Group



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Feedback Survey Summary

A project website was developed to keep the community informed around the clock, launching to the public on February 6, 2024. Throughout the project's duration, regular updates and surveys were published on the website. The site garnered a total of 2,849 views, averaging 20 views per day. A total of 21 feedback comments were received during this period.

The following is a summary of the most frequently recorded responses:

Improve trail connectivity

Improving connectivity will make it easier for people to access and navigate the trail system. Creating a comprehensive trail system that connects all existing trails will improve accessibility and allow residents to fully enjoy the natural beauty of the area. Connect trails between parks, neighborhoods, and schools: This is important because it will provide a safe route for children to ride their bikes between their neighborhood and their school, reducing traffic congestion and improving safety.

Incorporate signage and educational aspects

Adding identification markers for native plants, animals, and topography, as well as providing information about landmarks and historical places, will enhance the educational value of the trails and provide a more enriching experience for visitors.

Build new trails

Murrieta Creek Trail and Vineyard Trail were both mentioned as well as general requests for more trails for walking and running.

Enhance safety of trails

Providing safe, off-road trails for hiking, running, and biking will promote outdoor physical activity and improve the overall well-being of the community. This includes separate bike lanes and trails that are separate from roads to ensure the safety of cyclists. Repairing cracked asphalt and better trail maintenance was also mentioned.



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Stakeholder Interviews

The following summarizes the results of the fourteen (14) stakeholder interviews conducted as a part of the public outreach effort to assist in the preparation of the MTMP. Stakeholder interviews were conducted between January 22 and March 8, 2024. Community stakeholders included City Council Members, Commissioners, school district representatives, and community leaders. Stakeholders were emailed a questionnaire related to the MTMP. They were asked to fill out the questionnaire, then later schedule a video conference interview to discuss their responses in more detail. The following is a summary of their responses to each of the questions.

What are the most important issues in Murrieta related to the trails currently provided?

- Signage
- Update trails map
- Connected trails
- Trail maintenance

What is one trail feature or trail amenity you would most like to see added or improved in Murrieta to meet the needs of the community?

- Signage
- Connected trails
- Trail information on difficulty and amenities

What is one program, class, or activity you would most like to see added or improved in the Murrieta trail system to meet the needs of the community?

- Hiking class or program
- Market and promote location of trails
- Nature trail walks

What are the most important trail features or trail amenities for residents in the future?

- Signage
- Connectivity
- Maintenance
- Dog waste stations
- Separate walking and biking paths
- Trail safety

How can the Community Services Department improve in providing trails to community residents?

- Advertising and marketing of trails
- Connecting trails



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Multimodal Community Survey

The statistically valid, multimodal survey consisting of 492 households was administered between March 11 and March 18, 2024. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish languages.

➤ **Throughout the community outreach process, 52% of residents mentioned hiking and walking as their main activity or reason for using a trail.**



Highlights from the multimodal survey include:

When residents are looking for information about City trails, parks, recreation facilities, programs and services, **44%** get information from the City's website, **27%** from online or Google searches, **12%** from social media, and **9%** from friends and family.

60% are satisfied with the network of trails in Murrieta.

What is one trail feature or trail amenity you would most like to see added or improved in Murrieta to meet the needs of the community? (in alphabetical order)

- Improve maps, signage, markers
- Improve safety
- Improve trail network and connectivity
- Provide dog waste stations and more trash cans
- Provide more bike trails
- Provide more hiking and walking trails
- Provide more trail information



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Community Workshops

Community Workshop #1

Workshop #1 commenced on February 15, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Alderwood Park Clubhouse. Following the February 15 in-person meeting, a commencement video of the workshop #1 presentation was made available online on the project website for those who could not attend in person. The workshop #1 survey was available online and paper copies were available at the City's recreation facilities. The survey was open for two weeks until February 29, 2024. After the February 29 survey close date, all surveys from the in-person meeting (individual and group sheets), online surveys, and paper surveys were combined and summarized. A total of one-hundred and four (104) surveys were completed. The following responses to the survey questions are listed in order of frequency.

Are you currently using the City's trails? If so, how are you using the Murrieta trails?

- Walking and hiking
- Biking
- Running
- Dog walking
- Other (equestrian or do not use trails)

How satisfied are you with the maintenance and overall condition of the trails?

- Satisfied with some suggestions for improvement
- Dissatisfied with maintenance quality
- Neutral/no opinion
- Satisfied with the need for more trails
- Satisfied with specific trail mentioned

Are there any barriers or challenges that prevent you from using trails more often?

- Trail condition and maintenance
- Accessibility and knowledge of trails
- Connectivity and length of trails
- Desired features and amenities
- Safety and Security

How can the Community Services Department improve in providing trails to community residents?

- Trail access, expansion, design, and amenities
- Urban planning, development, conservation, and trail preservation
- Community engagement, promotion, awareness, outreach, and advertising
- Information and accessibility
- Trail maintenance and environmental protection



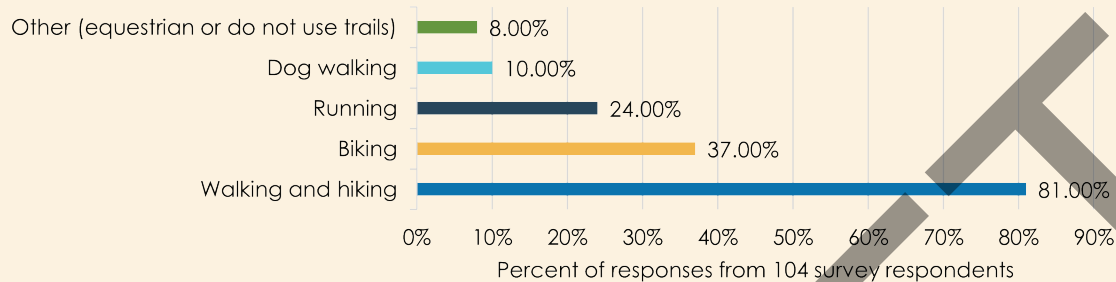
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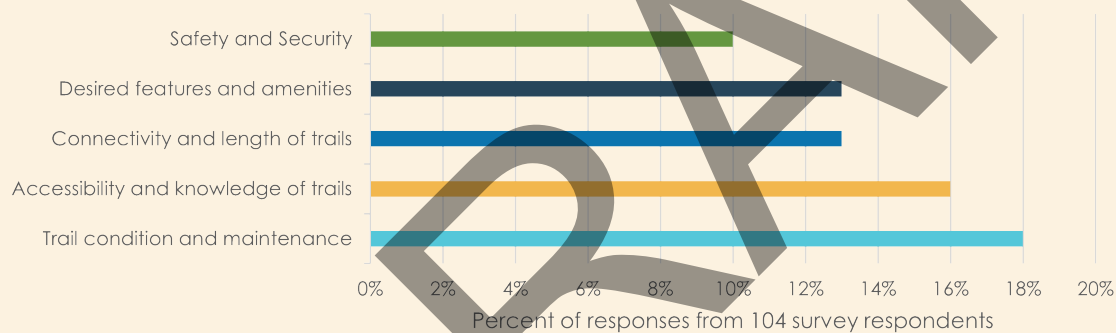
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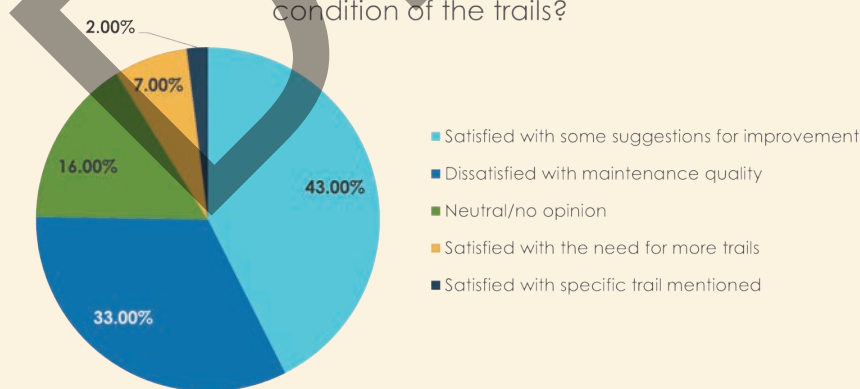
Are you currently using the City's trails? If so, how are you using the Murrieta trails?



Are there any barriers or challenges that prevent you from using trails more often?



How satisfied are you with the maintenance and overall condition of the trails?



Select Results of Workshop 1 Survey Charted



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Community Workshops

Community Workshop #2

Workshop #2 commenced on March 28, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Alderwood Park Clubhouse. Following the March 28 meeting, a commencement video of the workshop #2 presentation was made available online on the project website for those who could not attend in person. The workshop #2 survey was available online and paper copies were available at the City's recreation facilities. The survey was open for over two weeks until April 14, 2024. After the April 14 survey close date, all surveys from the in-person meeting, online surveys, and paper surveys were combined. A total of seventy-seven (77) surveys were completed. The following responses to the survey questions are listed in order of frequency.

What is the name of the trail most often used or visited?

- California Oaks Trail
- Cole Canyon Trail
- Las Brisas Trail

What do you like about this trail?

- Aesthetic appreciation
- Accessibility
- Recreational value
- Safety and cleanliness
- Wildlife and nature

What facilities or amenities do you find most valuable on the City's existing trails?

- Accessibility
- Basic amenities
- Safety features
- Environmental features
- Trail maintenance

Are there facilities or amenities you believe are missing, lacking, or could be improved on the city's trails system?

- Environmental conservation and maintenance
- Trail amenities
- Trail connectivity
- Trail information and signage
- Safety and accessibility



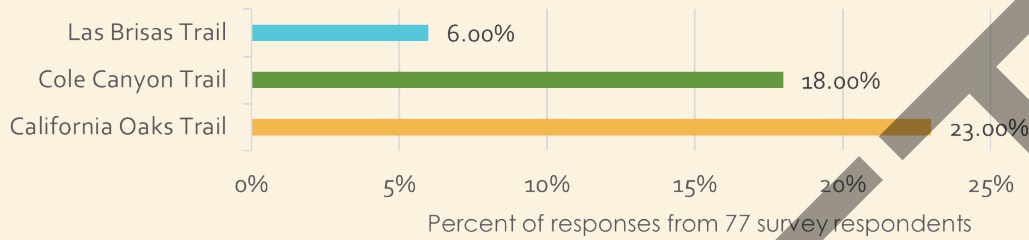
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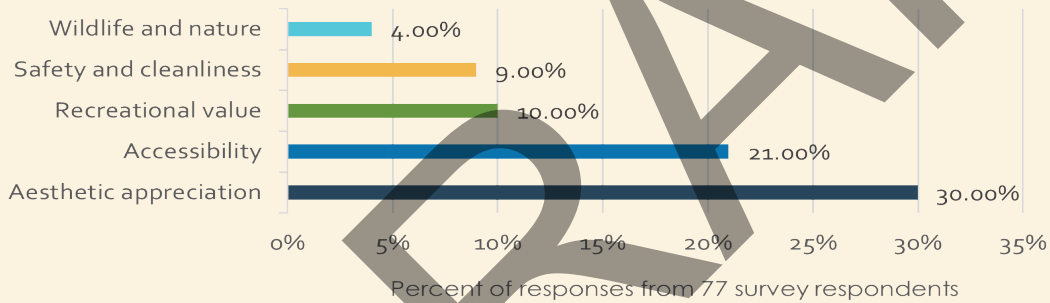
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What is the name of the trail most often used or visited?



What do you like about this trail?



Select Results of Workshop 2 Survey Charted



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Community Workshops

Community Workshop #3

Workshop #3 commenced on April 24, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Murrieta Senior Center. Following the April 24 in-person meeting, a commencement video of the workshop #3 presentation was made available online on the project website for those who could not attend in person. The workshop #3 survey was available online and paper copies were available at the City's recreation facilities. The survey was open for three weeks until May 15, 2024. After the May 15 survey close date, all surveys from the in-person meeting, online surveys, and paper surveys were combined and summarized. A total of ninety-six (96) surveys were completed. The survey asked participants to rank the trail needs identified through the community outreach effort, with 1 being the most important and 9 being the least important. Participants were also given the chance to write in an answer if it was not listed.

The results were:

- 1** Add More Hiking and Walking Trails (including Murrieta Creek Trail, Greer Ranch trails, and Vineyard Trail)
- 2** Connect the Existing Trails (including improve trail network and connectivity)
- 3** Environmental Protection (including preserve natural settings, protect wildlife, preserve creeks, protect and preserve open land, trees & ponds)
- 4** Bike-Friendly Trails (including more bike trails, improve bike trails, provide mountain bike trails, improve bikeway network, trails for eBikes)
- 5** Trail Maintenance (including trail conditions and maintenance, clean trails, long-term trail maintenance, flatter trails, multi-use decomposed granite surface, native plantings, trail repairs)
- 6** Provide Trail Amenities (including dog waste stations, drinking fountains, benches, trash cans, parking, restrooms, features for children)
- 7** Safety and Access (including improved safety, trail safety, trail accessibility, trail safety features, ADA trail access, no motorized vehicles)
- 8** Signage (including kiosk, trail markers, difficulty level, type of trail, trail rules, plants, animals)
- 9** Promote/Advertise Trails (including provide more trail information, community outreach, trail awareness, city trails map)

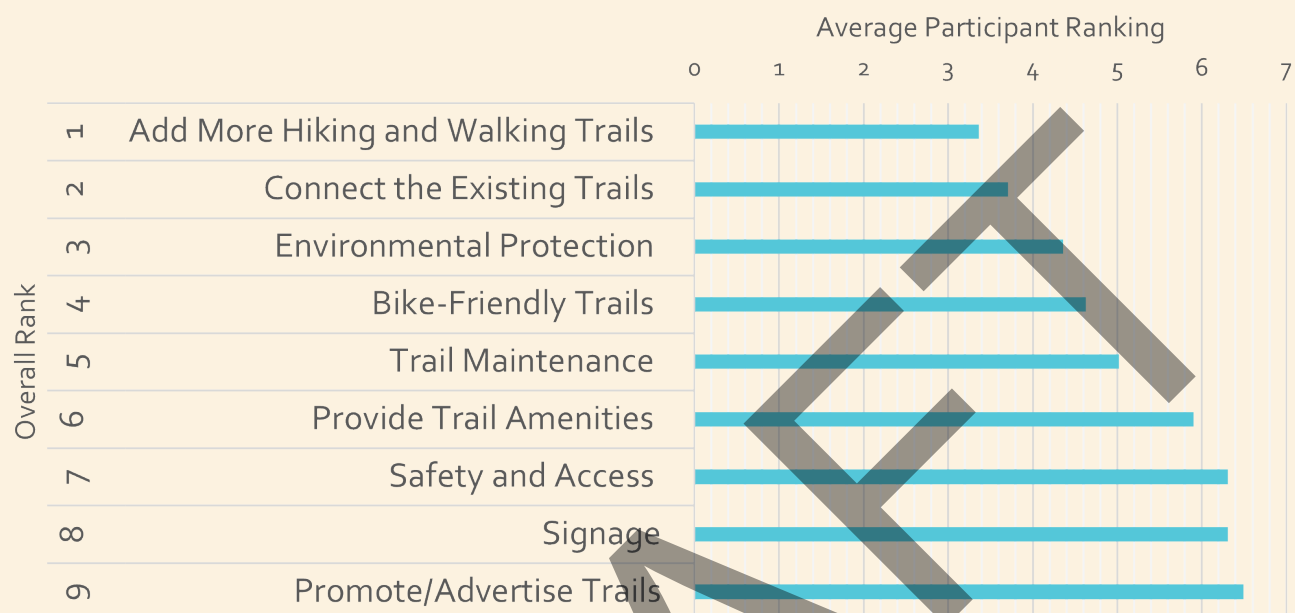


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Overall Priority Ranking with Average Participant Response Charted

Section Three

Needs Assessment

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Existing Conditions

This analysis was conducted to document each of the City trail's general characteristics including surface material, surface condition, general width, description and location of access points/trailheads, parking availability and parking conditions at trail access points, and identification of where trails cross a roadway accompanied by crossing design characteristics. Data was collected first through an aerial mapping review using Google Earth and Google Streetview. This review provided a foundation for understanding City of Murrieta's trail characteristics which was then validated through field work. A map of the City of Murrieta trail network is provided in **Appendix B**.

Trail Classification

The City of Murrieta offers a diverse array of recreational opportunities, including fitness routes, trails, bike lanes, and parks. For the purposes of this document, "trail" refers to a broad range of facilities dedicated to non-motorized travel. Presently, City of Murrieta features nineteen (19) trails that accommodate users of all modes and abilities. Using the best practices implemented by other cities, the consultant team has been developing a published classification system for the City's trails, as one is not currently in place. This system categorizes trails into five distinct types, further divided into unpaved Open Space Trails and paved Mobility Trails.

While some trails may occasionally have a mix of two trail types, this classification system utilizes the most prominent trail type found on each trail.

Trail types found in the City's trails include:

- Type 1 - Nature Trail
- Type 2 - Recreational Trail
- Type 3 - Wide Dirt Trail or Utility Roadbed
- Type 4 - Greenbelt Concrete Path
- Type 5 - Paved Multi-use Trail: Asphalt or Concrete

The following is a detailed description of each trail type found in City of Murrieta.



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Open Space Trails (Unpaved)

Type 1 Nature Trail 2-12 feet wide

Typically located in “back-country” natural open spaces, these trails are at least 2 feet wide and surfaced with locally sourced natural materials, usually a mix of soil and finely to coarsely broken rock. These trails often feature steep inclines, making them ideal for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Examples of this trail type within the trail network include Cole Canyon Trail, Toulon Trail, Warm Springs Trail, Falcon's View Trail, and the Rancho Los Alamos Trail System.



Toulon Trail



Warm Springs Trail



Falcon's View Trail



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*Lincoln Ranch Trail*

Open Space Trails (Unpaved)

Type 2 **Recreational Trail** **8-14 feet wide**

Similar to Type 1 trails, Type 2 trails offer a wider and typically less strenuous path. These trails have a minimum width of 8 feet and are surfaced with either local, naturally occurring materials, or decomposed granite. Designed to accommodate a broader range of users, including children and e-bikers, Type 2 trails are the most common trail type in the City of Murrieta. Examples of this trail type within the trail network include California Oaks Trail, Lincoln Ranch Trail, Los Alamos Hills Trail, Murrieta Oaks Trail, and Sycamore Ranch Trail.

*Los Alamos Trail**Sycamore Ranch Trail*



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Open Space Trails (Unpaved)

Type 3 **Wide Dirt Trail or Utility Roadbed** **20-30 feet wide**

Type 3 trails are primarily designed to provide maintenance workers access to utility infrastructure, but they can also be enjoyed by trail users. These trails typically feature a decomposed granite surface and are at least 25 feet wide; however, the loose gravel surface makes them less suitable for strollers or bikes with medium to thin tires. The only Type 3 trail in the City of Murrieta is Mapleton Trail East.



Mapleton Trail East



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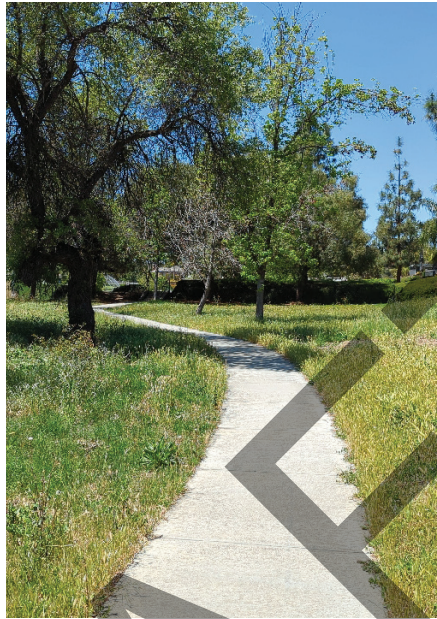
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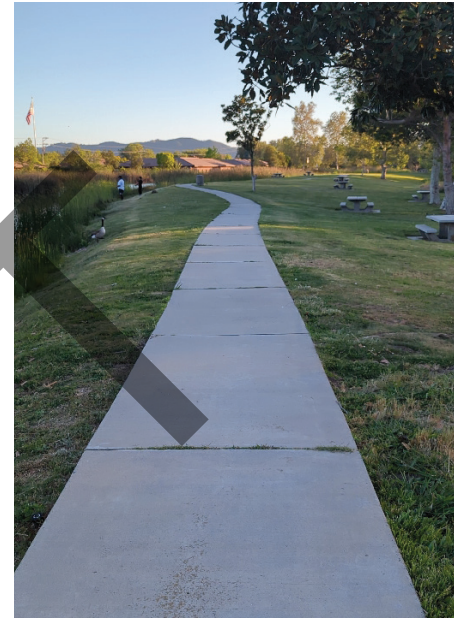
Mobility Trails (Paved)

Type 4 Greenbelt Concrete Path 5-8 feet wide

Typically, these trails are located in neighborhood greenways and offer gentle slopes that are suitable for trail users of all ages and abilities. These trails look similar to sidewalks but meander through greenspaces and are excellent for families or those requiring mobility devices. Mapleton Trail West and Pond Park Trail are the only Type 4 trails currently offered in the City of Murrieta



Mapleton Trail West



Pond Park Trail



Mapleton Trail West



Rancho Acacias Trail



Las Brisas Trail

Mobility Trails (Paved)

Type 5 Paved Multi-use Trail: Asphalt or Concrete 8-14 feet wide

This multi-use trail type is at least 8 feet wide, providing enough space for trail users to pass others safely. This type of facility can be utilized by many types of bikes as well as walkers/joggers, families with children of all ages, and people requiring mobility devices. Generally considered easy, these trails offer gentle slopes through parks and green spaces. Las Brisas Trail, Rail Ranch Trail and Rancho Acacias Trail are the only three Type 5 trails currently offered in the City of Murrieta.



Rancho Acacias Trail



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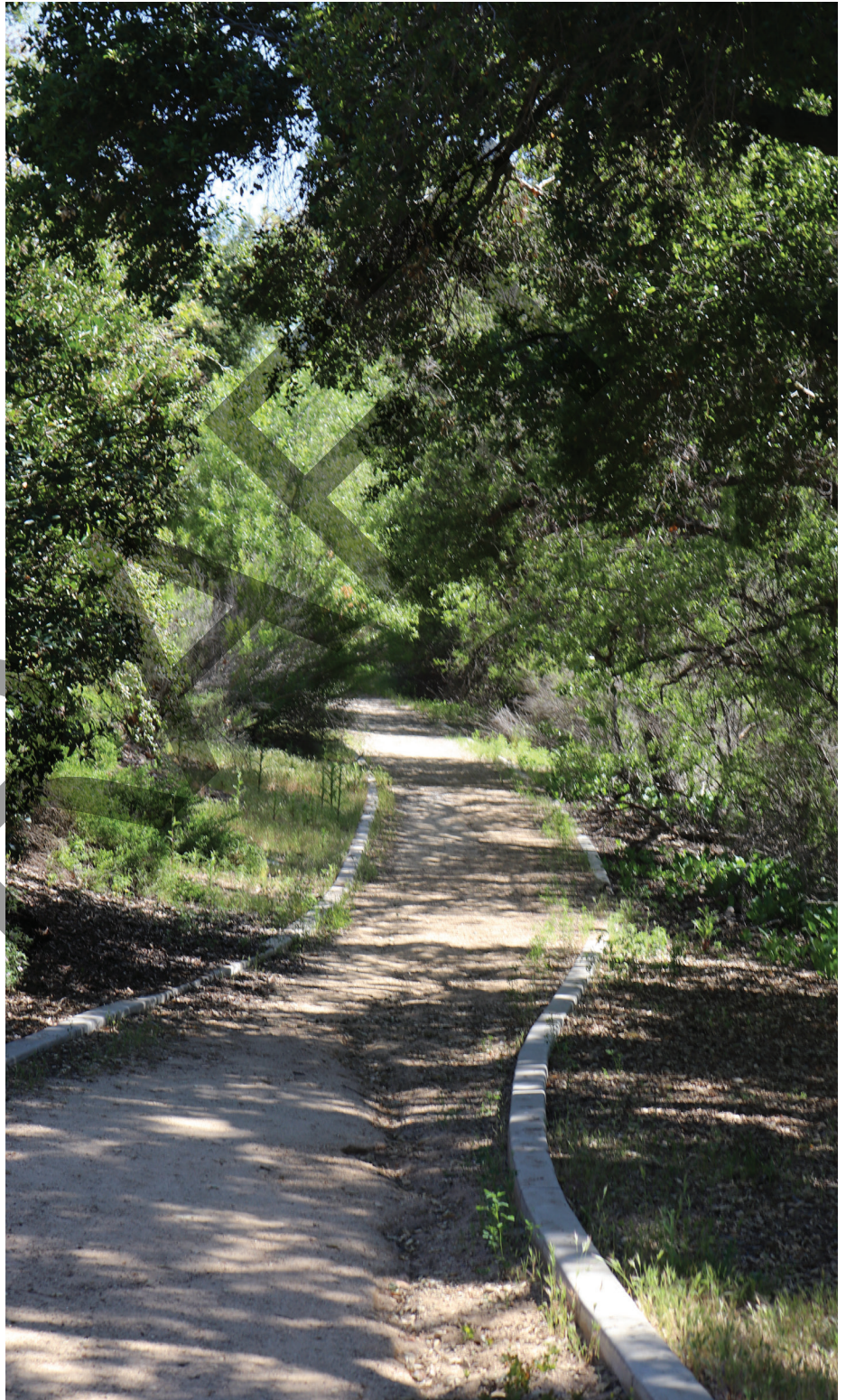
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Existing Trails Descriptions

As stated previously, the City of Murrieta currently provides nineteen (19) different trails. Below is a description of each trail including the location, trail user types, trail material, trail width, length, the trail type, and the difficulty rating. **Appendix C** provides individual trail cut-sheets featuring a map of each trail accompanied by essential trail amenities and information.



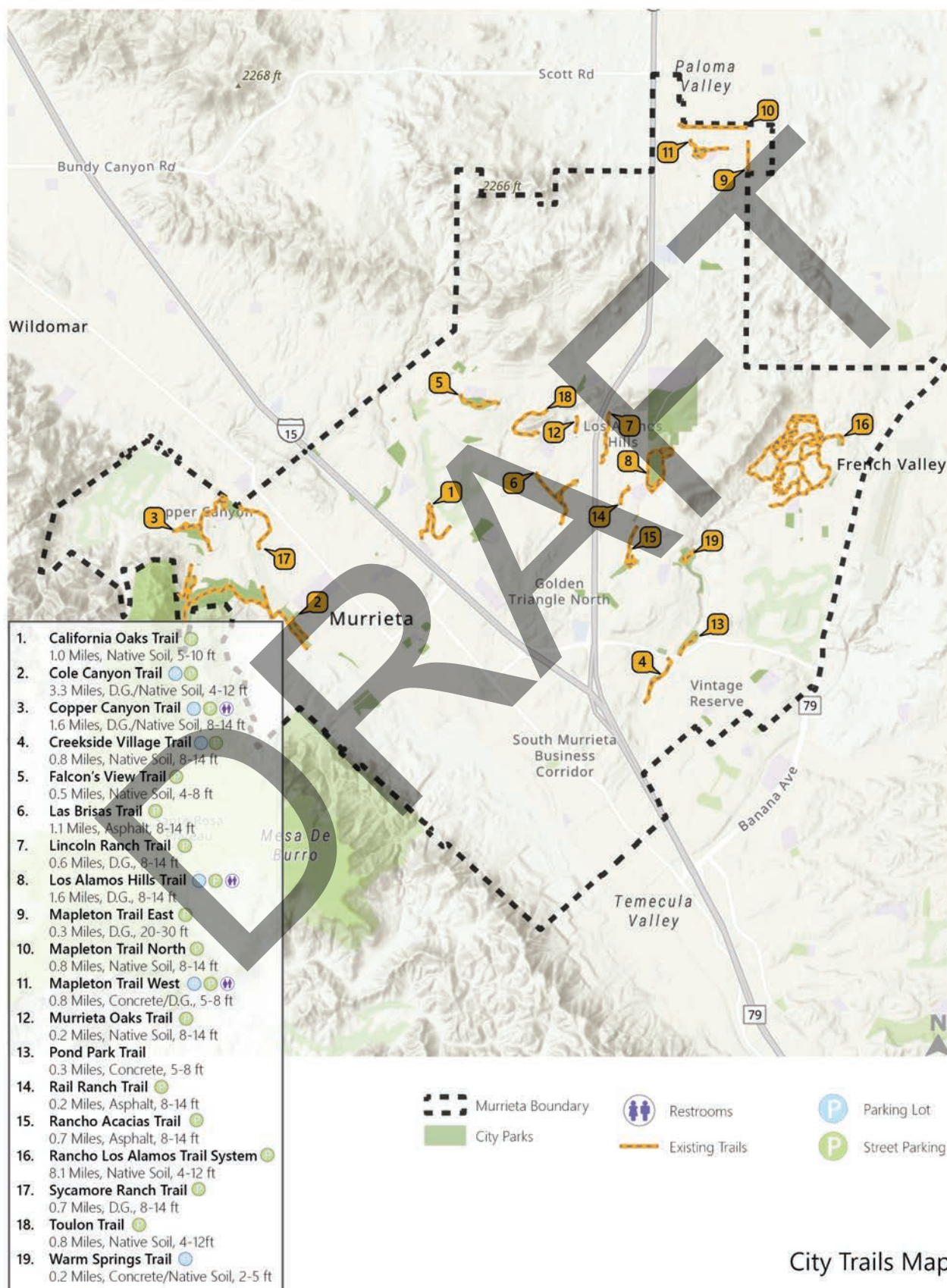


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TRAIL 1

California Oaks Trail

Uses

Walking/Jogging, Biking

Trail Material

Native Soil

Trail Width

5-10 feet

Length

1 mile

Trail Type

Type 2

Difficulty



California Oaks Trail is located in central Murrieta just north of Interstate 15. This trail comprises two legs with access points on Jackson Avenue and Monroe Avenue. The trail is family-friendly and serves a variety of users. The two legs of this trail are connected by sidewalk on Jackson Ave to create a 1.0 mile loop trail. Trail has limited amenities available to users.





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TRAIL 2

Cole Canyon Trail

Uses

Walking/Jogging, Biking, Horseback Riding

Trail Material

Decomposed Granite/ Native Soil

Trail Width

4-12 feet

Length

3.3 miles

Trail Type

Type 1

Difficulty



Cole Canyon Trail is located in west Murrieta between Clinton Keith Road, Calle Del Oso Oro, and Washington Avenue, this trail features multiple paths branching off the main trail linking to various neighborhoods. The trail contains segments with obstacles and uneven terrain along with segments that are flat and open. Street parking is provided on Oak Bluff Lane, Single Oak Way, Vineyard Parkway, and Madeira Lane. A parking lot is provided off Hayes Avenue just south of Semillon Lane*. The trail provides access to the Santa Rosa Plateau which is not part of the City of Murrieta trail network.

*At Sykes Ranch Park





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TRAIL 3

Copper Canyon Trail

Uses

Walking/Jogging

Trail Material

Decomposed Granite/ Native Soil

Trail Width

8-14 feet

Length

1.56 miles

Trail Type

Type 2

Difficulty



Copper Canyon Trail is located in west Murrieta near Cole Canyon Elementary School. The trail has multiple access points with a mixture of on-street and off-street parking. Dedicated off-street parking lots are located at Lower Copper Canyon Park. A portion of the trail is identified as a fitness route and the entirety of the trail is family-friendly and serves a variety of users. Use of this trail does require a roadway crossing at the mid-block of Via Moreno. Restrooms and other amenities are provided at the Lower Copper Canyon Park trailhead.





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TRAIL 4

Creekside Village Trail

Uses

Walking/Jogging, Biking, Family-Friendly

Trail Material

Native Soil

Trail Width

8-12 feet

Length

.85 mile

Trail Type

Type 2

Difficulty



The Creekside Village Trail is located in the southeast part of Murrieta, south of Pond Park Trail. This trail consists of two trailheads; one is located on Murrieta Hot Springs Road and another is in the Creekside Village Neighborhood by the Creekside Village Green Park. There are a few designated parking spaces for Creekside Village Green Park and on-street parking within 500 feet. The entire trail is family-friendly, but no amenities are provided for trail users.





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TRAIL 5

Falcon's View Trail

Uses

Walking/Jogging, Biking

Trail Material

Native Soil

Trail Width

4-8 feet

Length

0.51 miles

Trail Type

Type 1

Difficulty



Falcon's View Trail is located in the northwest portion of Murrieta. The trail contains segments with obstacles and uneven terrain. The trail is surrounded by residential neighborhoods with Tovashal Elementary School directly to the north. On-street parking is only provided along the 5 Tribes Trail roadway which provides access to the middle trailhead. Parking for the other two trailheads is more than 500 feet away. As a strenuous trail, users of this trail may be limited. No amenities are provided to trail users.

