

# FOLSOM AREA STATE PARKS ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PUBLIC MEETING #1

### WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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- Date:** October 26, 2021 | 6:00-7:45pm
- State Parks Staff Present:** Jason Spann, Associate Landscape Architect; Jim Micheaels, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist; Rich Preston, Folsom Sector Superintendent; Barry Smith, District Superintendent; Noelle Breitenbach, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist; Devin Smartwood, Interpreter II
- Consultant Staff Present:** Janet Chang, Isby Fleischmann, Isabelle Minn, Ricardo Pozos, Giselle Vandrick
- Community Participants:** At least 62 (62 devices logged in, some may have had multiple participants)
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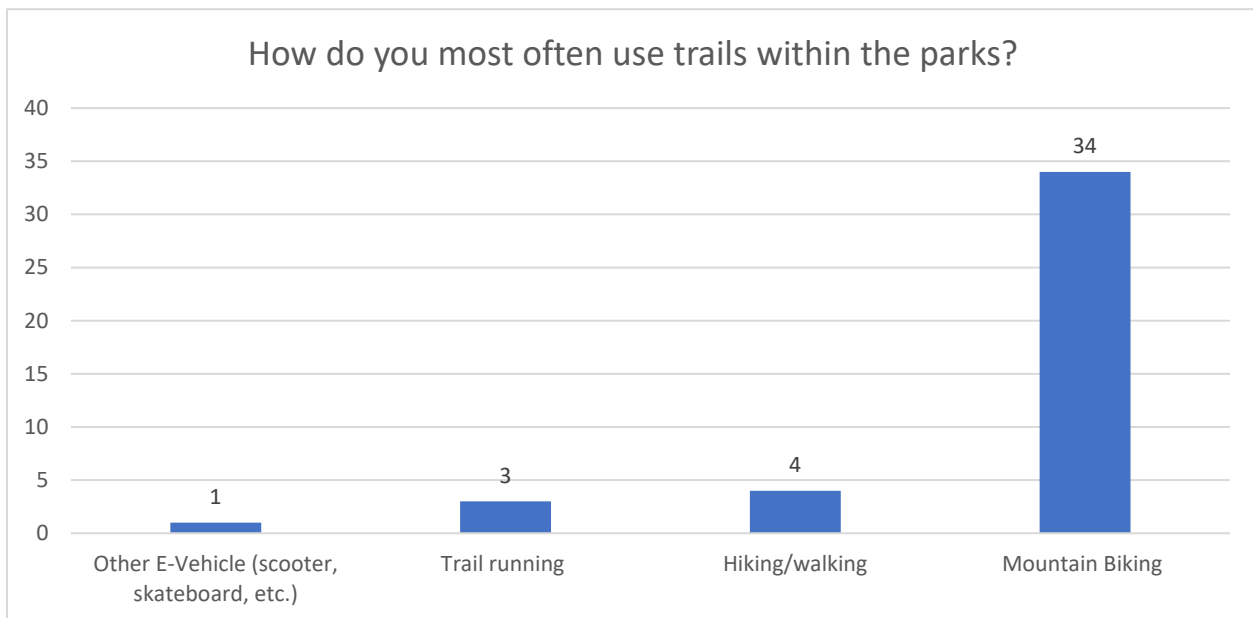
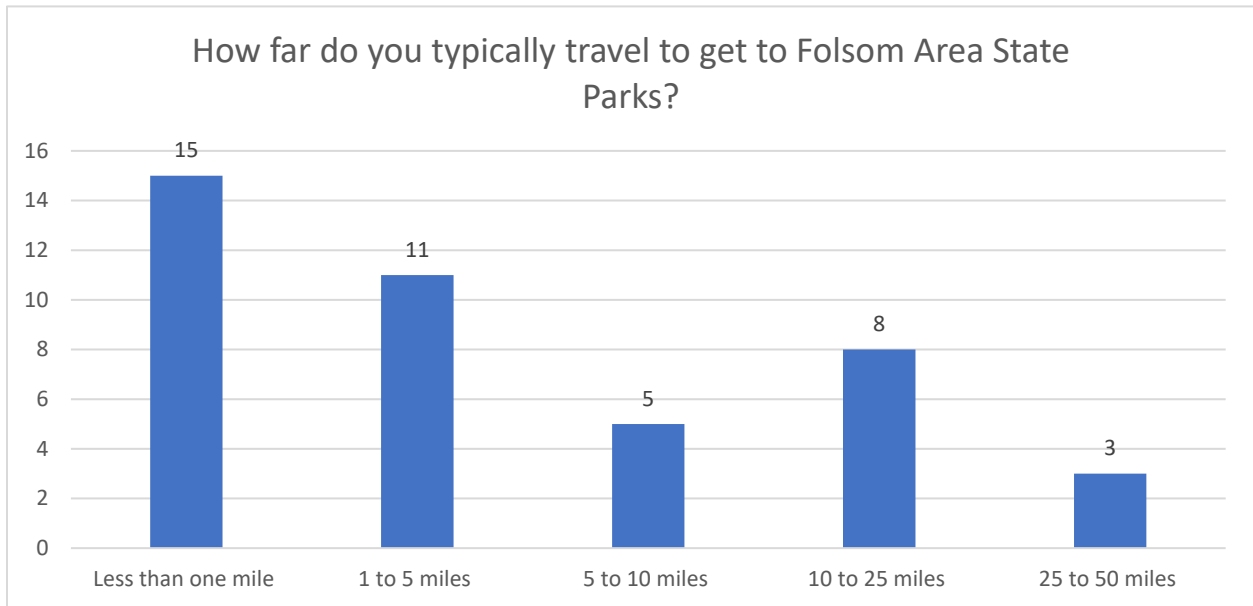
The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) conducted this public meeting to inform the community about the Folsom Area State Parks Road and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) project, and to solicit community input to inform the next phase of the RTMP and learn about what is most important to community members. The meeting was held virtually over a Zoom webinar platform as a health precaution measure related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). 110 individuals pre-registered for the meeting and at least 62 individuals attended the virtual public meeting (62 devices logged into the meeting; some may have had multiple participants).

Several themes emerged through the input received through questions, comments, and participation in polls, including participants highly valued the trail experiences offered within the parks yet also have concerns particularly related to maintenance, trail use conflicts (challenges related to different user types on various trails), and wayfinding, and the need for additional trail types or opportunities. Furthermore, participants expressed eagerness for efficient planning an implementation, including completion of change-in-use processes.

A summary of the meeting is provided below, and a recording of the meeting is available on the [RTMP project website](#).

## Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was initiated with an overview of the agenda and meeting purpose as well as instructions for using zoom webinar tools, specifically how participants could use to participate in meeting discussions. Rich Preston, California State Parks, introduced the project team and shared introductory remarks, including his excitement over the work being done to complete the Road and Trails Management Plan. Isabelle Minn, representing California State Parks' consultant, PlaceWorks, invited participants to share information about themselves and their relationship to Folsom Area State Parks by completing a two-question poll. Based on the results of the polls, most participants reside less than 10 miles from the Parks and identify mountain biking as their primary trail use. The results of the poll are provided below.



## Presentation

The project team presented background information and context on Folsom Area State Parks and the Road and Trail Management Plan. Question and answer sessions were conducted following the planning process overview and presentation of change-in-use process, as well as at the end of the meeting. The presentation included:

- **Project Background and Context.** Rich Preston and Jim Michaels of California State Parks provided an introduction to Folsom Area State Parks and an overview of the trail-related goals and guidelines in the 2010 Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) and Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP) General Plan and Resource Management Plan. Following this, State Parks explained the purpose of RTMPs and discussed why one is being prepared for Folsom Area State Parks. Work that has already been completed towards the RTMP was summarized.
- **Planning Process Overview.** Isby Fleischmann, PlaceWorks, provided an overview of the planning process and schedule, emphasizing opportunities for engagement. A summary of public concerns and suggestions received since 2013 was also shared as an important input to the current planning process.
- **Change-in-use Process Overview and Status of Requests.** Jason Spann and Jim Michaels, California State Parks, described California State Parks' change-in-use process as well as a description of specific change-in-use requests for Folsom Area State Parks and their evaluation status.
- **Interactive Poll: Share Your Experiences and Priorities.** Participants were asked to participate in interactive polling activity (using Mentimeter tools) to share their thoughts, experiences, and vision for Folsom Area State Parks. Outcomes are discussed below.

## Questions & Answers

During the presentation, meeting participants were able to submit questions to the project team via the Zoom platform's Q&A tool. The project team responded to most of the questions received during the three Q&A sessions distributed throughout the presentation. The first session focused on the planning process and project background, the second focused on the Change-in-use process, and the third solicited general input and questions on the project. Questions collected during the meeting and the project team's responses are provided below, including responses to questions that were not answered during the meeting.

### Q&A Session 1. Planning Process

- Hi folks, what was the sample size again on the poll earlier? I think you mentioned number of participants early in the presentation, but I missed that.
  - » Answer: There are over 60 participants in the meeting during the poll, and 42 submitted responses.
- Would you please tell us why we had to choose just one activity in the poll? It was the same in the survey. My family engages in multiple activities on Folsom Lake trails.
  - » Answer: The purpose of the poll during the meeting was to provide an icebreaker and introduction to the participants. The online survey allows respondents to choose up to three choices in regard to how they use Folsom Area State Park trails.

- Why does this trails plan require full NEPA/CEQA? Isn't it part of another plan that covers this?
  - » Answer: The RTMP is a distinct plan, so it does require distinct environmental documents. The RTMP will tier to the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that the department prepared for the change-in-use process. Due to this tiering we anticipate that an Initial Study (IS) will result in a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative declaration (ND) for CEQA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for NEPA.
- When does the online survey close?
  - » Answer: The survey will be open for four months and close on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We will send out announcements before the survey closes.
- Will the introductory slides be available to the public?
  - » Answer: Yes, the presentation used during the meeting will be made available on the [RTMP project website](#).
- Does the RTMP address the Pioneer Express Trail from Granite Bay north to Auburn State Rec Area?
  - » Answer: Yes.
- In regard to the pop-up events, no event is scheduled that focuses on people who specifically use the dirt trails. With the significant number of trail running and trail riding events, it seems one of those would have been great opportunities?
  - » Answer: Several pop-up events did include running/trail events. State Parks attended two trail running events to gather input from dirt trail running users: Granite Bay Trails and Ales and Folsom Blues Half-Marathon. Additionally, State Parks attended the Electricity Fair and Peddlers Fair to engage with a broader user group.
- How about brown's ravine to salmon falls?
  - » Answer: Yes, this trail will be addressed in the RTMP. However, as explained in the meeting presentation, the Change-in-Use proposal and evaluation for this trail is proceeding as a stand-alone project.
- Will this new survey date supersede the input that was gathered in 2013/2014?
  - » Answer: The new data will not supersede 2013/2014 data, but trends/changes may be analyzed where there are parallel questions.
- If we want to invite a rep to an event for your pop up outreach who should we contact?
  - » Answer: Additional events have not been scheduled but any would be posted on the project webpage. You can contact the project team using [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov)
- I would encourage State Parks to do a pop-up event at the Salmon Falls/Sweetwater/SFART trailheads on some sunny Saturday or Sunday mornings.
  - » Answer: Thank you for the suggestion! This will be considered.

## Q&A Session 2. Change-in-use / Proposals

- How about restricting equestrian users to specific trails? Horses do immense damage to existing trails (just take a look today/tomorrow) and consistently leave manure in the middle of trails...seemingly without any effort to remove it.
  - » Answer: There are a couple trails where equestrians are currently prohibited, such as the Darrington Trail. This is the type of input that people can submit to State Parks and we will consider is for the RTMP. The RTMP will look at the sustainability of all trails, including equestrian trails.
- Does the RTMP address the time of use for trails? For example, after a big storm like the one we had, should we try and educate folks to avoid using the trails to prevent major damage?
  - » Answer: The RTMP will address time of use, and State Parks is always open to additional efforts to educate when folks should and shouldn't use trails. We do limit the use of trails after large events and significant rains, so we do have some of this in practice already.
- It is great to have a long term plan. However, there are ongoing trail maintenance needs that get neglected. The result is significant erosion. Is there a way to fast-track the trail maintenance effort to prevent further damage?
  - » Answer: This is a question of having the staff to do this work. The district has just created a District Trail Crew of about five (5) people. Alongside the RTMP, this may help us get this work done faster. We're looking to the future, and that future includes having the people and the tools to implement the RTMP. We hope that in the future we can have volunteers to help improve conditions of trails. Additionally, we don't need to wait for the RTMP to do trail repair and maintenance. We're building capacity to do trail work in house. There is some work being done, but capacity does play a role.
- Question, maybe for Jason, I presume there will be an EIS/EIR for the entire RTMP that covers the entire plan, including the CIU proposals discussed therein. I would think that EIS/EIR could cover future proposed trails and trail work, or at least could be used as a programmatic EIS/EIR. Is that the general idea at this point?
  - » Answer: The RTMP will be tiering off the General Plan, which was an EIR. We don't anticipate the RTMP will require an EIR; it will more likely be a Negative Declaration. This will cover maintenance activities on trails (reconstruction, re-engineering of existing trails), as long as all of the standard project conditions identified in the RTMP CEQA document are met. For new trails or new facilities, they can be recommended in the RTMP but will need project-specific CEQA prior to implementation.
- What is the change-in-use for Browns Ravine?
  - » Answer: This will be discussed in another meeting specifically for Browns Ravine in December 2021 or January 2022. A CIU request to add bikes to the Browns Ravine to Old Salmon Trail in 2014.. As explained in the meeting presentation, the District is proceeding with completing the evaluation for the proposed CIU for the Browns Ravine to Old Salmon Falls Trail as a stand-alone project. A public meeting will be held in December or January to gather input on this CIU proposal. Following the public meeting and other public input, the

District Superintendent will make a final decision on the Browns Ravine to Old Salmon Falls Trail CIU and whether or not to add bikes as an allowed use of this trail.

- What's the status of the proposed trail to connect Negro Bar with the American River Canyon community of Folsom (off Greenback Lane)?
  - » Answer: There was a project proposal with the City of Folsom as there was interest in a right of entry permit for a sign in the area. As part of that, State Parks worked with City to improve a user-created trail in that location. We have some preliminary project plans, but the City moved the sign elsewhere and the trail proposal didn't move forward at that time. We are currently working on a section of the Pioneer Express Trail in the same area, but improvements to the user-created trail remains a proposal.
- With respect to the 7-point evaluation; what are the assumptions used when looking at compatibility between user groups?
  - » Answer: It's difficult to make assumptions about user groups as folks have different skill levels and attitudes. So, we try not to make assumptions about user groups and instead look at physical aspects of trails in order to determine whether it's compatible for different user groups. This includes trying to make more objective decisions around things like sight lines and trail widths.
- Has there been evaluation to see what users represent the majority of the tax revenue base used to maintain the trails? Also what types of users contribute most to the local economy through their trail use activity?
  - » Answer: This is not a part of the RTMP. State Parks has not done a recreational economic study like this and we are not aware of any plans to do so. While we aren't against a study like this, it is not currently in the works.
- Would the Cal state parks consider adopt a trail? Trail maintenance by qualified volunteer groups has been block repeatedly over years, while the quality of trails suffer, and become expensive to correct. Will this plan create a clear pathway for qualified volunteer organizations to help with the backlog of trail maintenance?
  - » Answer: We do have an Adopt a Trail program for paved trails that is administered by FOLFAN. There are plans to add a few more miles of trails and we have talked about expanding the program and including unpaved trails, but this requires finding a partner that can assist us with managing that Adopt a Trail program. We have heard a lot of interest in utilizing volunteers more than we currently do to help complete trail maintenance. Certainly the RTMP can be a vehicle to provide a framework on making this more possible. We know there are many skilled and willing people who want to help, so this is something we can explore and develop in the RTMP. We do not need to wait for the RTMP in order for the District to utilize volunteers for trail maintenance. With the new District Trail Crew we will have better capacity to utilize volunteers.
- With technology evolving so fast (e.g. latest electric vehicles) Is there an "out-of-cycle" process for CIU or does one have to wait the next decade when the next RTMP get initiated for an opportunity to request changes?

- » Answer: If there's significant change that occurs that's different than what we're looking at now, then we'd be open to another change-in-use request after the RTMP. If conditions haven't changed much since the initial evaluation, then we don't think we will rehash the same evaluations. Still, there could be reasons that we would do another change-in-use process if there is some significant change.

### Q&A Session 3.

- Regarding system and non-system trails— are these currently mapped, and, if so, where can this be accessed?
  - » Answer: Many of the non-system trails have been mapped and are being looked at as part of the RTMP. However, the maps on the project website do not include non-system trails. We've mapped around 50 miles of non-system trails, and there are whole systems of non-system trails, too, such as between Browns Ravine and Morman Island Cove. We're considering many non-system trails in the RTMP, but not all. Consideration includes making decisions on which trails to keep, adopt, re-align, or eliminate.
- So likely no new trails in plan to avoid EIR/NEPA? Or can new trails or reroutes be suggested in RTMP?
  - » Answer: The RTMP can and likely will propose new trail and trailhead opportunities, but in order to implement them, they will likely require site specific CEQA.
- How does the definition of "Recreation Area" affect how the land is purposed and trails are evaluated?
  - » Answer: State Parks system includes many different classifications. Folsom Lake State Recreation Area's classification as a State Recreation Area allows for more recreation-intensive endeavors to occur compared to a State Park classification. This makes a difference in what we can provide in terms of active recreation opportunities.
- Drainage often erodes trails. Does Folsom Lake State park have crew or volunteers that can install culverts to cross trails?
  - » Answer: Our trail crew can install culverts and other drainage features on trails.
- What stakeholder organizations are you engaging with to seek input? Ones I think of off-hand are FOLFAN, ARC, ARPF, FATRAK, etc?
  - » Answer: The organizations listed are represented on our contact list, and some groups are those we engage with already on various trail issues (not just the RTMP). We want to engage all these groups and make sure their voices are heard in the RTMP. If anyone isn't on the contact list or their group isn't on the contact list, let us know and we can add you. You can also register to be on the mailing list on the project website.
- Boating access needs repair too. Will the plan improve boating access and water trail?
  - » Answer: This has been discussed recently. The way they're thinking about it now is that non-motorized boat access and water trail opportunities could be considered in the plan. We are not looking at motorized boating facilities as this doesn't typically fall under a RTMP, but we are open to considering water trails with non-motorized boats and watercrafts.

- Are there plans to connect Folsom Point to the Johnny Cash trail? (Sorry, if you covered this already.)
  - » Answer: Rich mentioned a couple trail proposals that are in our General Plan, including a trailhead facility at Dike 7 and the potential for a Class 1 trail from Dike 7 to Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam. If we develop a trailhead at Dike 7 (which is right where Johnny Cash Trail bridge crosses the Folsom Crossing Road) and/or a Class 1 Trail between Dike 7 and Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam, we'd definitely be working with the City to connect to the Johnny Cash Trail.
  
- Regarding Jim's response on volunteer trail maintenance... what would need to be evaluated/studied with respect to volunteer maintenance on trails in the RTMP? Or how would that be decided? Prior to the development of the FLSRA Trail Crew (which is great), volunteer work was already being done on almost all trails regardless of use designation.
  - » Answer: State Parks didn't mean to imply that we need to wait for RTMP to work with volunteers. There may be ideas on working with volunteers that come out of the plan. We can engage with volunteers at any time, just a matter of staff and resources. We hope our trail crew will help in greater capacity to work with volunteers.
  
- Can we not sell all of the water this coming year?
  - » Answer: State Parks does not manage or have any control over the water in the lake. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manages Folsom Reservoir water.
  
- How is "Trail user conflict" defined? I have not experienced "conflict" on the trail as "conflict" is defined. I've only had "surprises" but never "conflict".
  - » Answer: Trail safety relates to the potential impacts that another user might have on somebody else, not necessarily the user themselves. While we do care about the safety of each user, each user uses the Parks knowing the risk involved in what they're doing. In terms of change-in-use and compatibility, we're more interested in looking at the impacts that one user might have on another.
  
- Is the goal for a multiple use trail around the whole of Folsom Lake be in RTMP?
  - » Answer: Yes, this is something that will be considered in the RTMP, it is also included as an item the Folsom General Plan.
  
- If a certain user type trail can't be agreed upon, can a parallel trail be considered so everyone can enjoy the Folsom SRA?
  - » Answer: The RTMP can consider new trails, whether they are parallel or not. If folks have thoughts about this, we welcome their input and the planning team will consider it.
  
- With all the different kinds of personal vehicles/mobility devices out there, does one particular type of vehicle need to be explicitly listed as allowed on trails or would that vehicle effectively be allowed as long as it meets the same requirements/restrictions as an already allowed personal vehicle (For example, new personal mobility device that meets the same classification as a class 1 e-bike)
  - » Answer: Per CCR4360, trails are pedestrian only unless otherwise allowed. So, there needs to be official designation to allow a use other than pedestrian. These usually come out in



the form of superintendent district order. For e-bikes, you need sticker that identifies your bike as class 1, 2, or 3. If a trail allows them, then they need to meet this criterion. Otherwise, they are not allowed. We have our trails posted order for Folsom and we currently permit Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on paved trails and Class 1 trails on non-paved trails where other bicycles are already permitted. With regard to other e-devices, unless it is an approved mobility device meeting the departments Other Power driven Mobility Device policy, we do not permit any other types of e-devices on our trails.

- Thank you FLSRA Staff and consultants. My phone won't work with the on site challenge... any other options?
  - » Answer: The online survey asks the same questions as the challenge, but doesn't have on-site notifications when you go through the park.

## Additional Questions

The following list includes questions and comments the project team was unable to answer during the meeting. The project team reviewed these questions after the meeting and provided answers below after the meeting.

- What year do you anticipate that change-in-use proposals will realistically actually occur, where a previously prohibited user may now use a trail? Specifically, how about the actual change use for the Browns Ravine Trail?
  - » The determination of when trails, if approved for CIU in the RTMP, would allow previously prohibited uses would be dictated on department, and public prioritization, availability of funding necessary for needed design and management modifications and time necessary for project specific CEQA and permitting.
  - » As explained in the meeting presentation, the district is proceeding with completing the evaluation for the proposed CIU for the Browns Ravine to Old Salmon Falls Trail as a stand-alone project. A public meeting will be held in December or January to gather input on this CIU proposal. Following the public meeting and other public input, the District Superintendent will make a final decision on the Browns Ravine to Old Salmon Falls Trail CIU and whether or not to add bikes as an allowed use of this trail and set a tentative schedule for project implementation.
- What is the initial recommendation for Browns to Salmon Falls?
  - » Refer to previous response.
- Will the initial determinations (recently completed) regarding CIU for multi-use trails be reported out today? If not today when will these initial reports be publicly available?
  - » Answer provided during other discussion/responses to questions. The determinations were not reported out at this meeting. CIU Recommendations, other than Brown's Ravine Trail, will be released to the public as part of the Public Draft release expected this Spring. Brown's Ravine Trail CIU recommendation is expected to occur between December 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

- Thank you for getting this process going again. Where do user made trails fit into the RTMP, and who will decide what user made trails are adopted into the system, and which will be bulldozed or restored? Will the public have input?
  - » Answer provided for related question: Many of the non-system trails have been mapped and are being looked at as part of the RTMP. However, the maps on the project website do not include non-system trails. We've mapped around 50 miles of non-system trails, and there are whole systems of non-system trails, too, such as between Browns Ravine and Morman Island Cove. We're considering many non-system trails in the RTMP, but not all. Consideration includes making decisions on which trails to keep, adopt, re-align, or eliminate. The public will have input on these decisions through the planning process.
- Are mountain bike features such as flow trails, jumps, and ladders in play or too extreme for a state facility?
  - » Answer (added following the meeting): No. While State Recreation Areas do not currently have these features, they can be considered as part of the RTMP.
- The trail to Santiago Spain is a world destination. Could a Trail to Sacramento with camping along the American River from Auburn to Sacramento be added to the plan?
  - » Answer (added following the meeting): Trail camps within the Folsom SRA trail system could be considered as part of this plan. Sacramento County Parks owns and maintains the portion of the trail paralleling the American River from Sacramento to Hazel Avenue.
- Why is the trail from Peninsula Campground to Wild Goose Flat not maintained. This would complete the trail system completely around the lake.
  - » Answer: The trail from the Peninsula Campground to Wild Goose Flat is a non-system trail. State Parks maintains system trails, but not non-system trails. At one time there was an environmental campground at Wild Goose Flat, but that facility no longer exists. The Folsom Lake SRA General Plan does include goals and guidelines to develop a trail between the Peninsula and the Olmstead Loop within ASRA, which would re-establish a trail between the Peninsula and Wild Goose Flat. This trail proposal is one that will be further explored and articulated in the RTMP.

## Additional Comments

- I don't agree with any restrictions. it should be available to all users
- It's really just one place where 3 popular trails come pretty close together..
- I agree Goose Flat needs to be re-established... but there is still a considerable and challenging gap between Goose Flat and Cool. But the vision for a full ~80 mile multi-use dirt trail around the lake (as noted by FLSRA in the 2013 General Plan) should be pursued and not just talked about.
- Agree on need for trails on the north side of the Peninsula. Agree with Clint C. on the need to empower volunteers to get ahead of maintenance.
- I want to advocate for the Folsom Point to Johnny Cash trail connection. The gravel road along the lake ends abruptly, with public access to both sides of a non-sensical razor wire fence near the JC bridge. This seems like an easy need to meet to keep bicyclists and pedestrians off the busy East Natoma St. to otherwise meet the through-connection.

- Thanks for your feedback!
- Thank you all for your time in answering all these questions. This went much smoother than prior in-person meetings. Appreciate all the work!
- Good job, folks! Thanks.
- State Parks Staff.....Thank you for your time and especially answering the questions that all of us had.
- thanks for such a great meeting experience
- thanks!

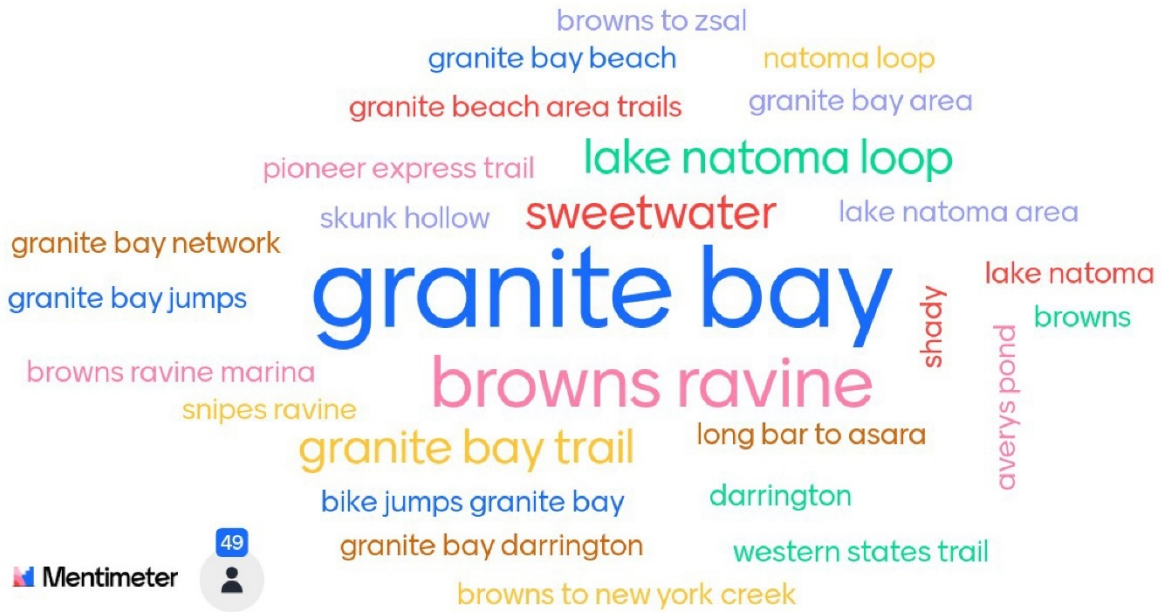
## **Interactive Poll: Experiences and Priorities**

Participants were asked to respond to four questions related to their experiences in and priorities for Folsom Area State Parks. The results of the poll are summarized below, and the specific outcomes are provided in graphics that follow.

The first two polls were open ended questions and the outcomes were displayed as word clouds. Within the word clouds, larger phrases represent more submissions of a phrase and smaller phrases representing fewer submissions of a phrase. As illustrated by the first word cloud, when asked to identify their favorite trail or area many attendees identified Granite Bay and Browns Ravine yet there are many areas/trails valued by participants. The second word cloud illustrates that when asked to choose one word or phrase to describe the parks, many attendees positively described Folsom Area State Parks yet many others describe challenges and/or issues associated with the trail system including maintenance needs, wayfinding/signage issues, and user conflicts.

The third and fourth poll were multiple choice questions and outcomes were displayed as bar charts. Participants were invited to provide “other” responses via the chat function. The third poll asked participants to identify issues or concerns, and a majority of attendees noted a lack of desired trail types or features causing a less enjoyable parks experience. When asked what additional features or opportunities they would like to see through the last poll, adding more trails and mountain bike technical challenges were the most popular selections.

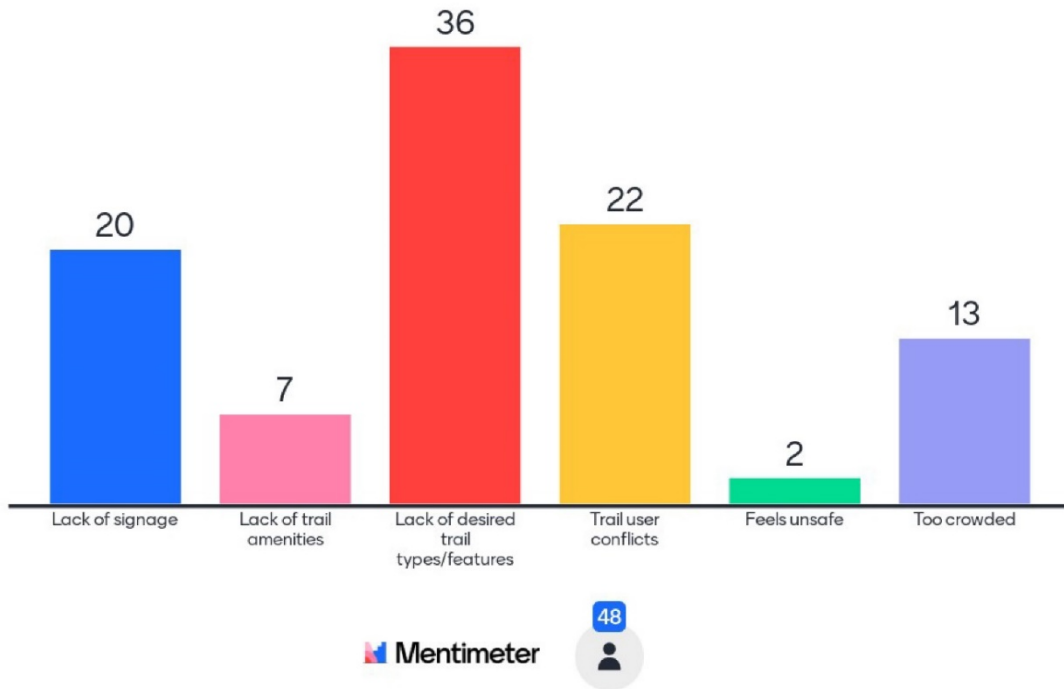
## What is your favorite trail or area in Folsom Area State Parks?



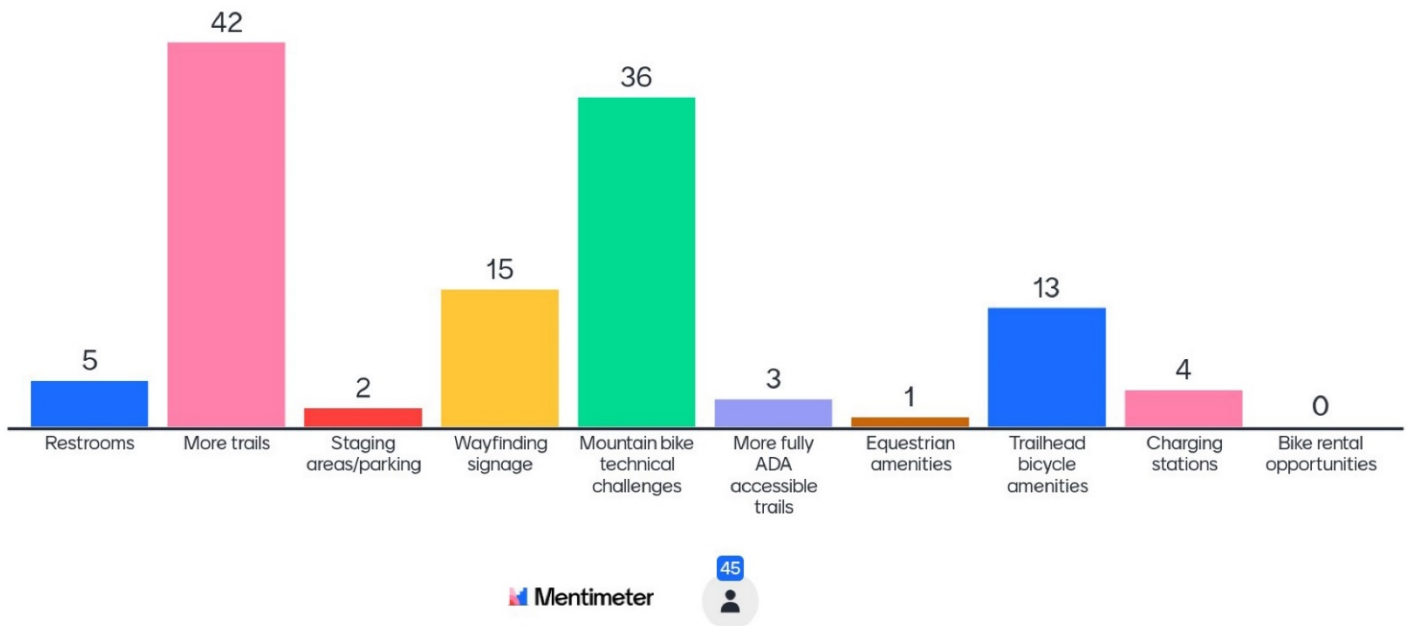
## Share one word or phrase to describe Folsom Area State Parks' trails



**Are there issues or concerns that make your trail use less enjoyable and/or keep you from using the trails? (choose top3)**



**Are there additional road and trail features or opportunities that are not currently offered that you would like to see? (choose top 3)**



## **Conclusions and Next Steps**

The meeting concluded with the Project Team thanking participants for attending the meeting and emphasizing how critical public input is to the planning process. Participants were reminded of the opportunities to engage in the planning process by participating in the Trail Use Survey or OuterSpatial Challenge, joining the RTMP mailing list, visiting the RTMP website, attending the second public meeting, or reaching out to State Parks with any thoughts or concerns. For those interested in learning how to download the OuterSpatial app and join the Folsom Area State Parks on-site challenge, the project team welcomed participants to remain in the meeting for a brief tutorial.