

FACT SHEET

**AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA
ROAD AND TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

May 2018

A Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) will be prepared for Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA). The need for an RTMP has been clearly established by significant public input regarding trail management topics being received during the ASRA General Plan/Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP) outreach process. ASRA has over 150 miles of system (authorized) routes and many miles of non-system (user-created) routes.

To inform the RTMP, the GP/RMP will contain broad goals and guidelines, which may include recommendations for:

- Major trail connections and extensions, such as the Auburn to Cool Trail river crossing
- Select trailhead improvement locations
- Additional river access opportunities
- Types of road and trail improvements that may reduce environmental impacts
- Road improvements and access changes
- Off-highway vehicle use

Purpose

The purpose of a RTMP is to provide specific and detailed management direction for roads and trails to help guide the operation, maintenance and development of the park unit road and trail system. When it is funded, the RTMP will:

- identify specific improvements and other changes to park unit road and trail route alignments
- determine whether to retain and accept, eliminate, rebuild or re-align specific non-system trails
- identify specific improvements to trailheads and trailhead facilities
- make recommendations on change-in-use designations for specific road and trail routes
- prioritize maintenance needs
- identify methods to reduce potential environmental impacts of road and trail construction, maintenance and use

As an example, the completed RTMP for Mount Diablo State Park can be found at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28159.

Field Inventory

The first stage of the process is to inventory the road and trail system, including documenting the types of permitted uses and the features and conditions of each road and trail. This stage has been completed at ASRA. Documents to describe and illustrate these inventories will be posted on the web page www.parks.ca.gov/PLANASRA when they are available. This information will be used to evaluate road and trail conditions and potential environmental effects.

Public Input

Part of the RTMP process is to gather input from stakeholders and the public. Thousands of comments have been received during the ASRA GP/RMP process thus far, which will be carefully considered. Additional public involvement may occur in several ways, including:

- An onsite survey of trail users assists in characterizing trail use patterns and gathering input from trail users on their experiences and ways that trails could be improved. This expensive and time-consuming survey, if it is determined to be necessary, will be implemented in different locations and seasons.
- Focus group meetings with a variety of stakeholders interested in the ASRA road and trail system will help trail planners to better understand the broader interests and perspectives of:
 - Hikers and runners
 - Equestrians
 - Mountain bike riders
 - Road cycling and paved trail users
 - Trail event organizers
 - Park neighbors and community groups
- Coordination with local, state and federal agencies on topics such as:
 - fire management, including location of fire breaks
 - resource management, including reducing the spread of invasive species and reducing historic and pre-historic resources impacts
 - utility and emergency access, including bridge engineering to handle heavy equipment
 - adjacent roads and trails planning, including El Dorado and Placer County trail systems

Analysis and Recommendations

The trail planning team will analyze all the data and prepare draft recommendations. A public workshop will be held to receive comments on these recommendations. After all public, stakeholder and agency input has been considered, a Draft RTMP is prepared.

Environmental Review and Approval

The Draft ASRA RTMP will then undergo environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Approval of the Final RTMP is the responsibility of the District Superintendent. Implementation of the recommendations will occur over time, as funding becomes available.

Existing Trail Use Rules and Policies

Existing ASRA trail descriptions can be found at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1345. Routes are designated for specific uses through a Superintendent’s Order, which is currently being updated. Unofficial trail guides published by others that generally reflect these descriptions are available at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1345.

The Other Power Driven Mobility Device Policy for persons with mobility difficulties can be found at <https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21944/files/Use%20of%20OPDMDs%20in%20California%20State%20Parks%20v2.pdf>

Change-in-Use Designations

Proposed changes to the use designations for road and trail routes, such as designating bicycle or equestrian use, will be addressed through California State Park’s Change-in-Use evaluation process described in the Statewide Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for Roads and Trails Change-in-Use. Detailed information on this process is available at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28461.

~ end ~