



County of Los Angeles Trails

The Multiple Approaches to Multi-Use Trails

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Special Trails Projects



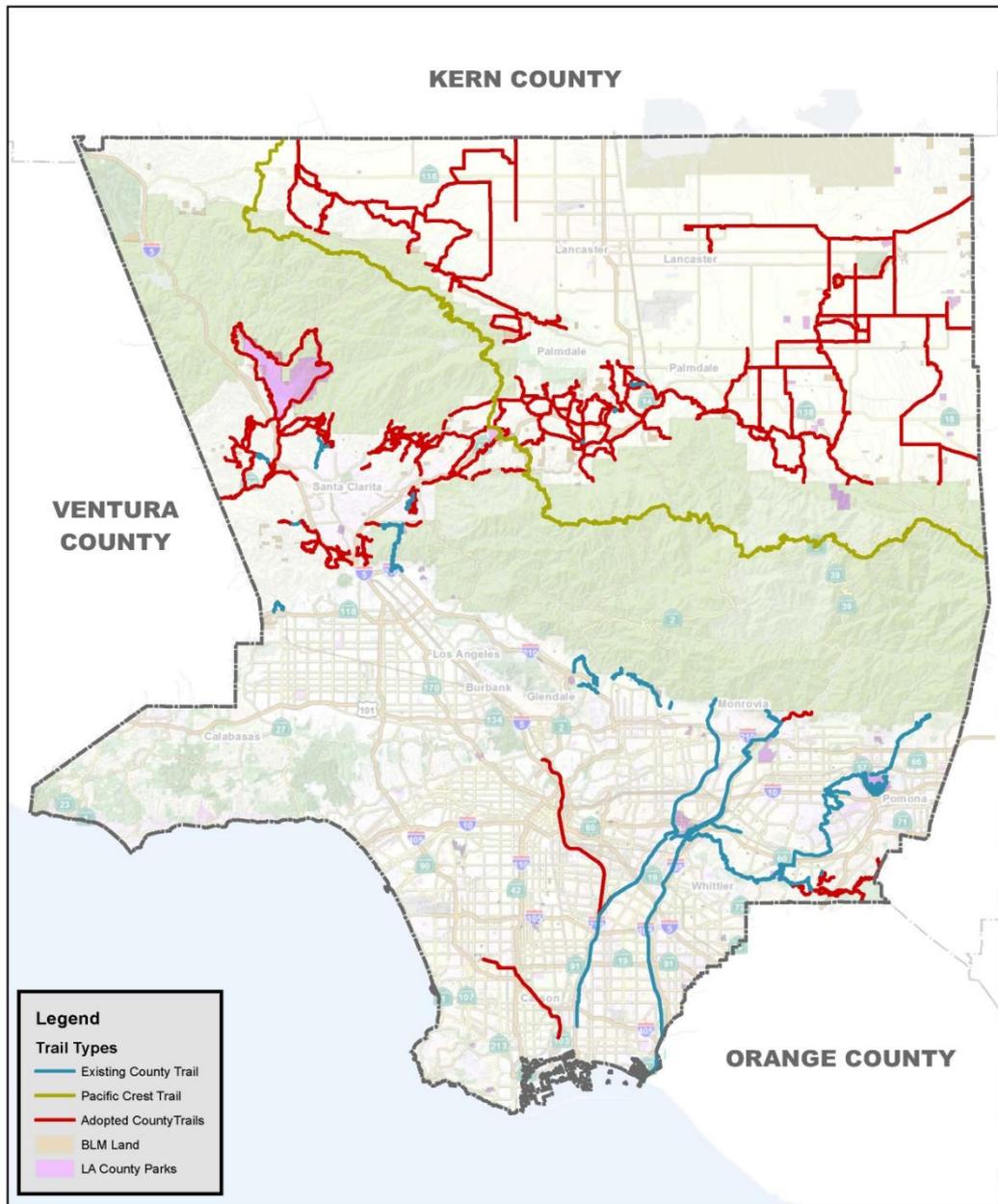
Mission

Provide a system of multi-use (equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking) trails for a diverse group of public users throughout the County that connect local, state, and federal trail systems and link recreational areas to residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial areas.



Background

- Los Angeles County (LACO) has been planning trails since 1950s.
- LACO Trail Policy – all County trails are multi-use
- Multi-use
 - Equestrian
 - Hiking
 - Mountain Biking
- Focus on recreation
 - Trails are recreational *facilities*





Multi-Use Conflicts

- User Conflicts
 - Equestrians/Hikers vs Mountain Bikers
 - Real conflict vs *perceived* conflict
 - Documented or anecdotal?
 - User group generalizations
- Conflict versus safety
 - Designing for safety may not eliminate conflict
- Differences in jurisdictional trail policies
 - City of Los Angeles: Hiking and Equestrians only
 - Pacific Crest Trail (USFS)



Overview of Tools to Address Multi-Use

- Trail Suitability and Constructability Analysis
 - Is a site suitable for a new trail?
 - Is it a historically used trail?
 - What are the site constraints?
- Los Angeles County Trails Manual
 - Applies to all new trails under the jurisdiction of LA County
 - Sets *guidelines* for planning, design and construction of trails within unincorporated LA County
- Local trail users
 - Engage local trail users to get background on trail use in a particular area
- Technical Advisors/Stakeholders
 - National Park Service
 - CA State Parks



Canyon Trail

Dual → Multi-Use

- 1.85 mile internal park trail within the Placerita Canyon Natural Area
 - Connected Los Piñetos Trail to the Natural Area parking lot
- Allowed uses: hiking and equestrian
 - Unofficial policy prohibiting mountain bike use in Natural Areas
- Wrong signage installed – 2007
 - Multi-use signs instead of dual-use signs
- Signage corrected – 2011
 - No mountain bikes
 - Petition to allow mountain bikes – 2011
 - Trail Use Change Survey – 2012
 - Add a third use (mountain biking) to the Canyon Trail



Canyon Trail

Dual → Multi-Use

- Trail use change survey results:
 - Canyon Trail can support a third use with
 - Safety improvements
 - Signage
 - Completion of deferred maintenance
 - Sustainability measures (i.e. bridges, turnpikes, minor reroutes)
- Deferred maintenance, safety improvements and signage installed prior to allowing mountain bikes on the trail
- Sustainability measures to be address on an ongoing basis as funding allows
 - Bridges
 - Trail segment reroutes
 - Revegetation of user created trails



Canyon Trail

Dual → Multi-Use





Canyon Trail

Dual → Multi-Use





Canyon Trail

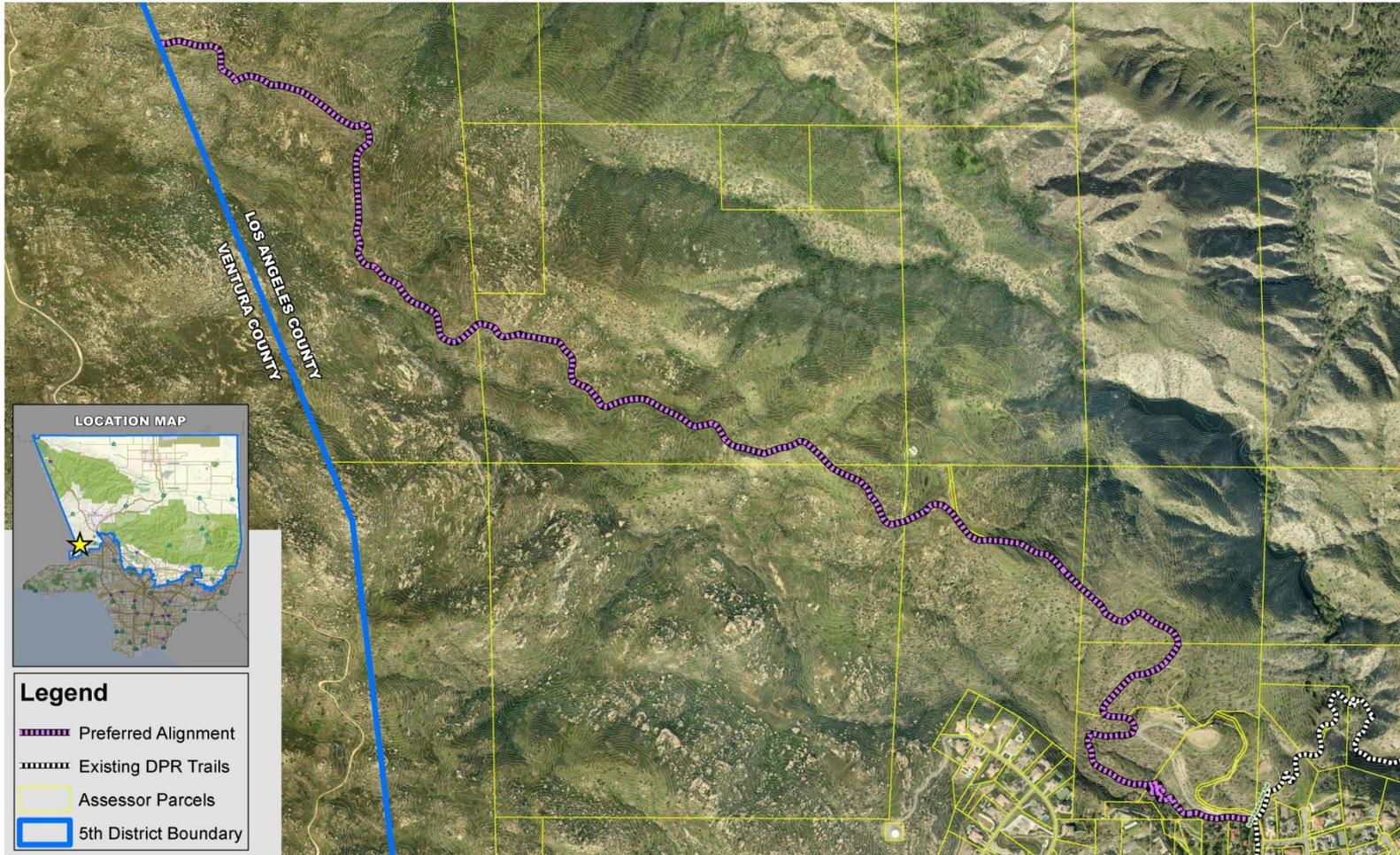
Lessons Learned

- Pay Attention!
- Be transparent
- Stay objective, but understand each user group perspective
- Understand the difference between perceived conflict and actual conflict
- Engage all of the user groups

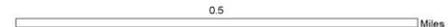


Johnson Motorway

New Multi-use



PROPOSED JOHNSON MOTORWAY TRAIL
County of Los Angeles | Department of Parks & Recreation



Date: 05/01/2013
Map Prepared By: PL/AM/0102_21
Scale: 1:6 County, Street/Map
Printer: LAC Assessor 2011
Planner: Thomas Swafford (all rights reserved)
Trails: DPR (tentative)



Johnson Motorway

New Multi-use

- Will connect NW San Fernando Valley to Ventura County
- Approximately 3 miles
- Historic trail over the Santa Susana Pass
- Mostly equestrian and hiking uses
- Challenges include:
 - Terrain limits alignment options
 - Private property between existing Santa Susana Pass Trail and historic motorway
 - Property owners not willing to sell easements or want legal access to develop landlocked parcels in trade for easement



Johnson Motorway

New Multi-use

Current Status:

- Negotiating with property owners to purchase easements along preferred route
- Work with a property owner to realign an existing easement
- Engaging local trail users to obtain history regarding trail use issues in the area