

California Trails and Greenways Conference- May 2013

Design & Management Strategies for Multi-
Use Trails Panel



Santa Clara County Parks



Department Mission / Vision

- **Mission** is to provide, protect and preserve Regional Parklands for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.
- **Vision:** Create a growing and diverse system of regional parks, trails, and open spaces of Countywide significance that connects people with the natural environment, offers visitor experiences that renew the human spirit, and balances recreation opportunities with resource protection.

1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan

- **Vision:** Quality trail plan that demonstrates intelligent foresight and presents a mental image of trail route patterns consistent with the future growth & development of Santa Clara County.
- SCC General Plan Vision: A necklace of parks, where recreational trails link regional park lands.

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Definition of Multi-Use

- County-wide Trails MP did not define Multi-Use (Shared-Use) Trails
- 2007 Sanborn Trails MP defined Multi-Use as trails serving hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers as proposed in the 1995 County wide trails Master Plan.



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Key Multi-Use Conflicts / Challenges

- User Safety / Recreational Experience
 - Technical mountain bike vs. general use trails
 - Enjoyable experience
- Protecting Natural Resources
- Trail-users with dogs as a user group
- Multi-Jurisdictions

2011 Survey (Calero Trails Master Plan)

- 60.5% did not encounter conflicts with other trail users
- 39.5% stated they encountered a conflict
- 61.5% of the respondents that reported that they encountered a conflict were equestrian

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Policy / Management Strategies to address challenges

- Outreach / programming, partnerships & volunteer
- BOS approved General Plan policies related to acquisition, design, construction & management of regional trails
- 1999 Uniform Inter-Jurisdictional Use, Design & Management Guidelines for multi-use trails within unincorporated areas.
- Clear signage

HIKERS & RUNNERS

- ◆ Always yield to equestrians. If you are running **slow down or stop**. Horses can get spooked when a runner approaches too fast. Talk to the rider, this helps calm a horse.
- ◆ Be alert. Always be aware of approaching bikes or horses and pass carefully.
- ◆ Don't block the trail. Groups should always allow space on one side of the trail for others to pass. When taking a rest, step off to the side of the trail.
- ◆ Keep at least one ear open. For safety and for communicating with others, wear only one ear bud when listening to devices.

SHARING THE TRAILS

Guidelines and Etiquette for Shared-Use Trails

Santa Clara County Park Trails Hotline: Dial (408) 355-2200, opt. 7

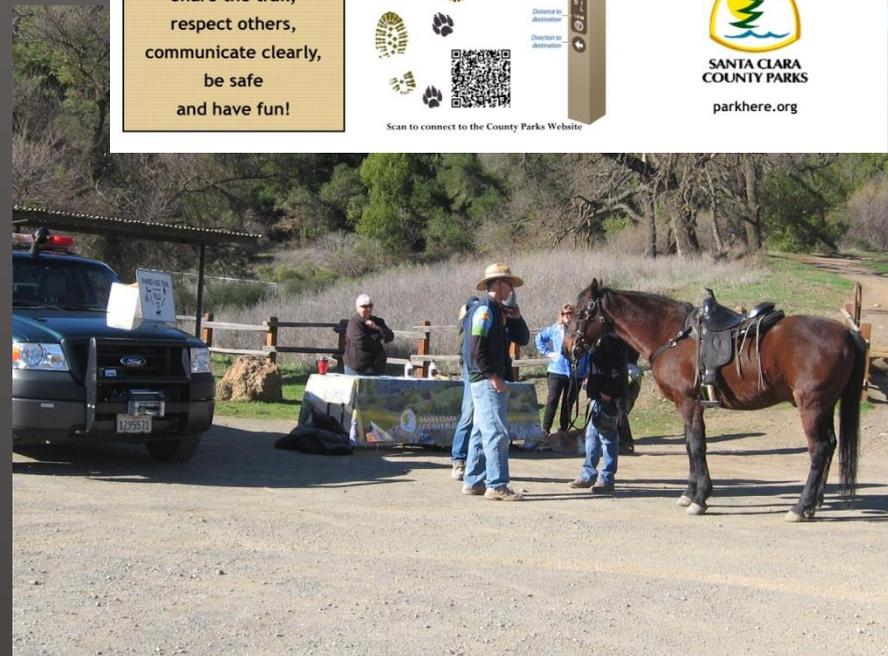
Select the appropriate park from the menu of options for current trail conditions:

- 1 = Mt. Madonna/Uvas
- 2 = Coyote Lake/Harvey Bear
- 3 = Anderson/South Coyote Creek
- 4 = Hellyer/Santa Teresa/North Coyote Creek
- 5 = Calera/Almaden Quicksilver
- 6 = Joseph D. Grant/Ed Levin/Penitencia Creek
- 7 = Sanborn/Stevens Creek/Upper Stevens Creek
- 8 = Yasona/Lexington/Villa Montalvo
- 9 = Motorcycle Park

Share the trail, respect others, communicate clearly, be safe and have fun!

Scan to connect to the County Parks Website

parkhere.org

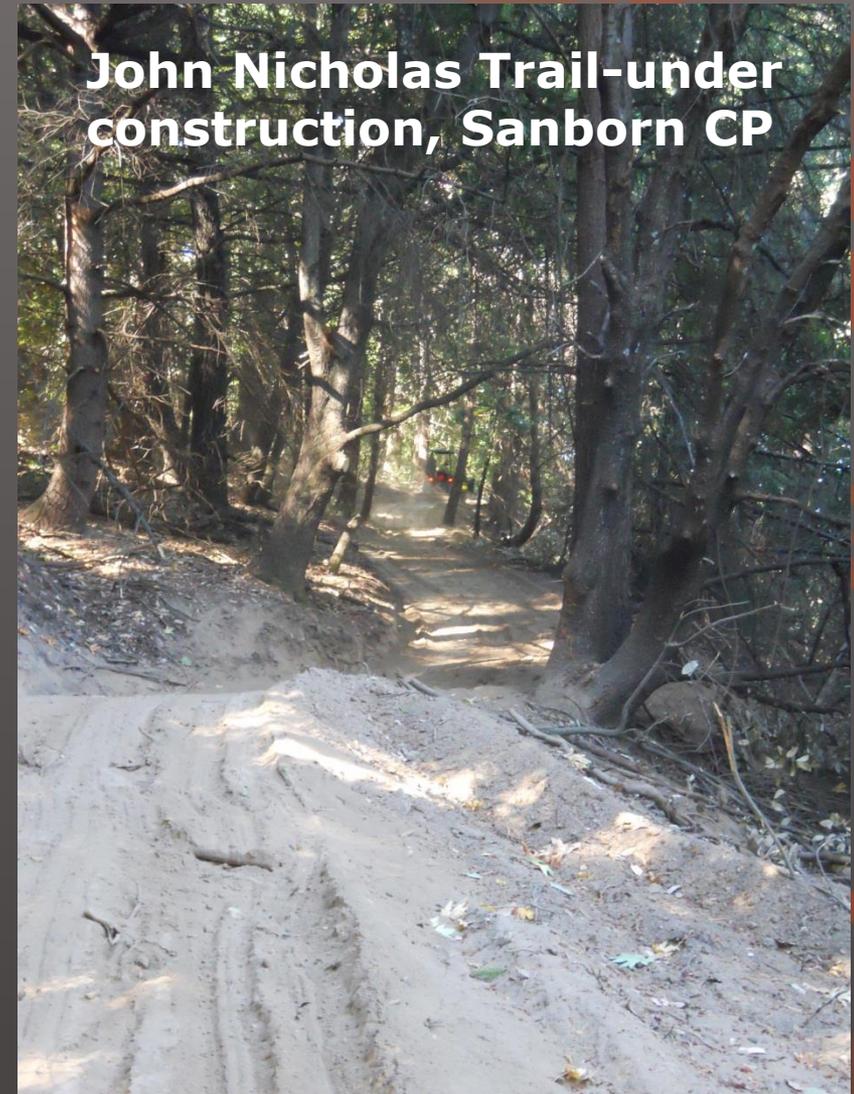


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Design Strategies

- "serpentine" trails
- reverse grade rolling dips (natural drainages, "ramped" trees)
- reverse grade at intersections
- sight lines
 - shaded-fuel break / vista pruning, "visual" obstacles
- 6-foot bench constructed trail tread (re-veg to user defined width)



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Projects:

- Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park
- Sanborn County Park-John Nicholas



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