

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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Policy:

The regional trail program is an integral component of the Regional Park and Open-Space District as defined by Board of Supervisors Policy J-2, Category 5. Community trails are recognized for their importance in the County trail network system but are the responsibility of local jurisdictions.

1. TRAIL FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and charges for trail activities will be considered annually by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District Advisory Commission (DAC) in accordance with Policy J-5 and in conformance with Government Code 54001. Fees collected from Ordinance 659, Development Mitigation, shall be distributed at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors as part of the annual District budget or through direct allocation authorized by the Board. No more than 20% of the funds allocated for each trail project can be used for administrative expenses and/or project management.

2. USE OF EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Where desirable and practical, regional trails shall use public right-of-ways such as flood control channels, levees, roadway corridors, and public utility corridors. Where traffic conditions and roadway functions indicate, priority shall be given to separate right-of-ways. Primary consideration shall be given to public safety and to protect the County of Riverside, County Board of Supervisors, Regional Park and Open-Space District and its Board of Directors, agents and employees against claims for injury and/or property damage arising from/out of the use of trails. The District shall provide Hold Harmless and Indemnification agreements to requesting public agencies.

3. REGIONAL TRAIL PLANNING

The District and other County departments shall coordinate planning efforts to identify and recognize regional trail alignments in the advanced planning stage of development and transportation planning. District shall provide trail planning services to coordinate quarterly meetings with County departments, including the Risk Management division of Human Resources, to review new projects and changes to the regional plan. The adopted regional trail system shall be incorporated into the Comprehensive General Plan of Riverside County and into the County's Geographic Information System for general information and planning purposes. Where inconsistent with the Comprehensive General Plan of Riverside County, an amendment will be initiated to accomplish conformance.

4. USE OF TRAILS IN SENSITIVE CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL AREAS

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Where possible, regional trails will avoid sensitive biological areas; trails along water courses or channels will be located outside of the 25-year floodplain, where feasible. Trails in open-space reserves and wildlife corridors will be aligned to avoid plant, wildlife and cultural resource impacts and will require any of the following singularly or in combinations: directional signs, fencing and interpretive information to minimize or avoid impacts to the area. The use of firebreaks is encouraged.

5. ADOPT-A-TRAIL

The District shall prepare a volunteer plan and work with individuals, groups, and corporate sponsors to implement a volunteer trail maintenance program. Regional trail alignments and park trails will be available for adoption at the option of the District. Minimal recognition will be the placement of a sign at the trail head or access point.

6. USE OF VOLUNTEERS

The District will train volunteers to help in trail maintenance and trail patrol according to the adopted volunteer plan. Volunteers will be asked to assist in County-sponsored trail rides, special events fund raising, and other trail-related activities.

Workers compensation benefits will not be provided for volunteers.

7. SIGNS

The adopted District Sign Manual (January 1994) will be used to establish a consistent method of sign placement and language. Informational and directional signs will be placed at staging areas and access points. Trail markers will be placed and mapped following a field evaluation of individual trail segments. Signs shall be designed and installed in a way that is sensitive to the surrounding environment and to prevent injury and/or property damage to the public, volunteers, and employees.

8. REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

The District shall create in cooperation with Risk Management Division of the Human Resources Department and adopt a classification system for various types of trails based on their location and anticipated use. The standard for repair and level of maintenance will be associated with each individual trail type, dependent upon its terrain, use and location. Reasonable effort will be made to eliminate trail hazards in a timely manner. Signs and notices may be posted if hazards are severe and, if necessary, trail closure may be required until corrective measures can be completed.

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9. TRAIL ACCEPTANCE

The District will review proposed development projects transmitted by the Planning Department for impacts to the Regional Trail System. If a project crosses or is next to a planned regional trail alignment, the District may request that the project be conditioned to dedication of a regional trail easement ranging from 14' (minimum) to 20' (maximum) or as defined by District. Dedication of such easement may be accepted and conveyed to the District. When the easement is accepted, it will then be conveyed to the District and the District will be lead agency for development and maintenance of the recreation trail. Trails that are developed or funded as part of a Specific Plan may be accepted for maintenance into the County-maintained trail system, if they provide for linkage into the regional system, possess special conditions, available funding, and warrant early acceptance as determined by the General Manager.

The District shall work with the Planning Department to ensure that the conditions are met and shall notify Risk Management when trails are accepted.

10. TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY

Where possible, the District will design and build trails that are accessible to individuals with all levels of ability. Standards established by the State of California Access to Parks Guidelines (1993) will be followed. A goal of 10% of the trail system has been set for wheelchair-accessible trails within the District. In appropriate conditions, every effort will be made to construct new trail heads and renovate existing trails and facilities for accessibility.

11. TRAIL HEAD STANDARDS

The District shall create and adopt standards for Trail Head/Staging Area development. A minimum acreage and list of amenities based on location, type of trail, and anticipated use will be considered in these standards. Where possible, the District shall work with local agencies or groups for development and maintenance of facilities.

Reference:

Minute Order 3.18 of 10/25/94

Minute Order 3.38 of 6/19/01 (**Amended Sec. 9**)

Minute Order 3.4 of 12/18/07