TRINIDAD CITY HALL
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Steve Ladwig, Mayor
Gabriel Adams, City Clerk

Posted: Friday, May 22, 2020

NOTICE AND CALL OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE

TRINIDAD TRAILS COMMITTEE

The Trinidad City Council Trails Advisory Committee will meet on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM

By Video/Audio Conference, hosted on the Cisco Webex Platform

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be held via videoconference, and will be hosted on the ***Cisco Webex Platform****. Learn more about Webex here: https://www.webex.com/*

PUBLIC COMMENT*: Public comment may be submitted via email in advance of the meeting, or accepted in an orderly process during the conference. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to provide a written statement, please deliver your comment to 409 Trinity Street, Trinidad CA, by 2:00pm, Thursday, April 30, 2020. Email to azetter@trinidad.ca.gov Comments will be accepted during the meeting, and included in the public record.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: *The meeting link and participant code is located on the calendar page of the City Website: https://trinidad.ca.gov/calendar Click on the appropriate date to access all the information.*

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *04/30/2020*

III. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

IV. STAFF/COUNCIL REPORTS

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion/Action: Review Draft Trails Policy Before Submitting to Planning Commission.

VII. REQUEST FOR FUTURE ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Angela Zetter
Trinidad Administrative Assistant

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD TRAILS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020 VIA WEBEX

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (5:00 pm)

Committee Members Present: Davies, Kelly, Morehead, Kenny
Alternate Committee Members Present: Laos
Committee/Alternate Members Absent: West, Brown, Myers, Clayburn
City Staff: Zetter

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 17, 2019
(Laos/Kenny) moved to approve the December 17, 2019 minutes as amended. ***Passed (5-0).*** **Passed unanimously.**

Update the *Call to Order* section, as member names were missing.

III. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Written comments received from T. Pease (Greater Trinidad Area) and J. Beaupre (Trinidad). *Included in public comment section of the relevant agenda item.*

IV. STAFF/COUNCIL REPORTS

City Council member and Committee Chair Davies briefly discussed the current City COVID-19 trail closures. Davies also relayed that alternate committee member and council member West attended a virtual meeting on Tuesday with Green Diamond, regarding their plans to log areas near the Strawberry Rock trail.

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion/Decision: Review Trails Policy and Consider Forwarding to Planning Commission for Review.

Updates made:

- Changed "This policy draws upon…Trinidad General *Plans*" to "This policy draws upon…Trinidad General *Plan*." (page 4)
- Changed "There is a narrow unimproved right-of-way from Underwood Avenue *between two fences* that proceeds…" to "There is a narrow unimproved right-of-way from Underwood Avenue *next to one fence* that proceeds..." (page 5)
- Changed "The trail, which *is generally unimproved*, proceeds downhill…" to "The trail, which is *a gravel road*, proceeds downhill…" (page 6)
- Added "The trails are also shared by local entities such as TCLT, CA State Parks, and private landowner easements." (page 8 – *Relationships with Private Landowners*)

- Removed "(see *attached* Maintenance Schedule attached below)" as it is an unnecessary duplicate. (page 11)
- Changed "Each major trailhead *will* have informational…" to "Each major trailhead *may* have informational" (page 12)
- Moved section *Staging Areas* to the section regarding signage. (page 15)
- Changed "*Park* hours are dawn to dusk – *year round*" to "*Parking* hours are dawn to dusk – *year-round*." (page 15)
- Changed "*In the event that* avoidance of a cultural resource…shall be proposed" to "*If* avoidance of a cultural resource…shall be proposed" (page 16)
- Changed "The City *will* establish…trail maintenance" to "The City *shall* establish…trail maintenance." (page 16)
- Updated semicolon to a period "Inspect the trail regularly for *hazards.*" (page 18)
- Changed "The bluff may be…curved *surface* or it may be step-like in section" to "The bluff may be…curved *surface,* or it may be step-like in section." (page 19)
- Changed "Mass wasting is a type of erosion, and it *is capable of making*…to the side of a mountain" to "Mass wasting is a type of erosion, and it *can make*…to the side of a mountain." (page 19)

Accepted Suggestions

- Include a reference section to list background documents that are relevant to the policy. (page 4)
- Include a few sentences about how the Committee came to consider composing a policy document. For example: It came from the Committee developing monitoring photo documents for all trails and developing specific trail project recommendations, including a City approved trails policy to follow in the future.
- Include the *2018 Recommendations to the City Council* in the Purpose section, and attach the document in the appendix.
- Removing categories of the trails, and instead only listing the name of the trails.
- Only use the legally proper names of the trails.
- Edit the section on the Trinidad Head Trail, as there is no longer Coast Guard housing. (Kenny will make the edits)
- Update the Trinidad Head Trail description to include the legally correct location of the trailhead, which is the foot trail. (Kenny will make the edits.)
- Removing definitions that are repetitive in the footnotes.
- Including a section on trail closures, specifically noting that the City has authority to do so. (Currently no formal process exists)
- Merging the sub-section *Maintenance Procedures and Frequencies* with the section *Annual Baseline Inventory, Maintenance Reporting, and Monitoring Schedule*. (page 10 and 11)

Additional Review

Kenny will be reviewing *Types of Trail Signs* (page 12) and *Signage Guidelines* (page 13) as they appear to be repetitive. There may be a possible merging of the sections.

The Committee discussed a possible merging of sections D & E. Kelly will review.

General Comments

Morehead stated there are areas in the trail descriptions that can be easily clarified. Laos stated she reviewed Committee members' Kenny and Morehead edits and agreed with the changes.

Morehead requested adding a maintenance table, but in the form of a paragraph or as bullet points in a maintenance section, if it isn't already. Kelly advised that the Committee already agreed to remove the maintenance table at a past meeting. Morehead stressed that it does not need to include a specific schedule, but instead only a list of tasks. Kelly suggested adding a sample schedule in the appendix. Laos cautioned against tying down the policy to a specific list or schedule, but instead have tasks be included in an implementation plan, as it can be more easily changed.

Morehead suggested adding the Committee's monitoring report template in the appendix. Laos advised that a list of maintenance items is already included in the draft on page 10.

Morehead suggested expanding on the explanation that funding has been established in the annual City budget. Laos and Davies advised that trail funding is included in the annual budget.

Laos will review and make updates where necessary to the *Cultural Resources Conservation Policies* section to ensure the proper protocols and explanation regarding ground disturbance is noted.

Morehead recommended using digital formats, such as an app for phones that will provide information regarding the trails, such as what Committee member Brown suggested at a past meeting. He added that including online options to share maps or adding a trails program on the City website could be beneficial.

He also suggested adding information regarding partnerships and collaborative efforts in the document. Laos recommended not including specific partnerships.

Additionally, Morehead stated that the Committee should recommend assessing the development of public educational/interpretative kiosks located at (to be determined) strategic trail locations. He noted it has been discussed at the collaborative level with multi-agency partners in the CA Coastal National Monument working group.

Kelly discussed using the trail descriptions from the General Plan, as they are high-level statements, and yet are not extremely detailed. Morehead opined that the detail currently used in the draft Trails Policy should remain. The Committee agreed to keep the detail. Laos and Kelly discussed that it should be more descriptive, less directional, as the signage will provide the directional information. Kenny will make updates.

Committee members discussed why the procedural information was taken out of the draft policy.

Public Comment
J. Beaupre (Trinidad) provided input on the draft Trails Policy via written comment.

2. <u>Discussion/Decision to Direct the Trails Committee to Evaluate Covid-19 Related Trail Closures.</u>

Committee Chair Davies advised there are multiple trail closure signs throughout the City. Furthermore, he noted he was told the Van Wycke trail is closed due to COVID-19, and also due to additional safety issues. The Committee discussed the California Coastal Commission's *Coastal Access Restrictions and Closures Due to COVID-19* press release provided by Committee member Kelly. The press release mentioned that while there are coastal permit requirements that need to be

met to close access, the Executive Director may exercise his discretion to waive said requirements. However, the press release also stated that local governments should strongly consider maintaining access to such public spaces where recreational users are practicing safe social distancing.

Davies stated that he is not in favor of the closure of the Van Wycke trail, and noted that the trail has been closed long prior to the shelter-in-place order. He referenced that a CDP (Coastal Development Permit) was never applied for. Additionally, he added that a CDP needs to be applied for the change in parking at the bluff on Edwards Street. Davies advised he is in favor of closing trails if they are too narrow, and if there is no line of sight that gives trail users the ability to see that they need to step aside to allow for passing. He is not in favor of the Van Wycke trail being closed because there is plenty of room for people to pass other users. Kenny echoed Davies sentiment. Kelly advised that while making rules for safety is good, they are only useful if they are enforced.

Kenny advised she met with Public Works staff to survey the Parker Creek trail. It was discussed with PW that there is enough room to clear it to have 6 feet of space for social distancing. Kenny added that part of what is happening is learning a new habit, so it should be recognized that there is a learning curve, thus it is not fair to close all the trails. Kenny advised that PW staff was in agreement about reopening the trails, as long as there is enough room for social distancing and signage added to promote new social distancing norms.

Kenny added that the Van Wycke trail closure is not just a soft trail closure, due to the barrier currently placed. She noted that the physical barrier that was placed was done without CCC approval. Kelly advised she is in favor of closing the Van Wycke trail for safety reasons, not due to COVID-19. Davies added that a few years ago there was a sign placed advising the public to use at their own risk.

Kenny discussed the Axel Lindgren trail, advising that while the trail is tight, there are places that an individual can step off to the side and added that there is line of sight. Laos stated she is in support of adding signage that lists the protocols, and also having a possible statement about using the trail at your own risk. Furthermore, Laos added that if the City is going to close a trail, there needs to be a set standard of why it is being closed, and that standard needs to be continually met as long as the trail remains closed. Laos stated this would limit the City's liability, as enforcement is lacking. She also advised that the City needs to ensure they are following the proper legal procedures/requirements, for example with the Van Wycke trail. The City needs to get back into compliance.

Morehead stated the Committee is not experienced enough to make an influential decision to close or keep trails open. He stated the recommendation should be up to the Planning Commission.

Davies mentioned that a recommendation is necessary because decisions are being made without any type of discussion. He is in favor of developing a protocol.

Public Comment
T. Pease (Greater Trinidad Area) discussed his opposition to the addition of the orange plastic fencing across a portion the Van Wycke Trail via written comment.

Motion (Davies/Kenny) to recommend that there be a formal policy established and followed before any trail is closed. The following are specific to a COVID-19 safety protocol, which are as follows: perform brushing, ensuring line of sight, and having signage notifying users of masks requirements when social distancing cannot be met. Passed (5-0). Passed unanimously.

Morehead added that he wants to see a recommendation be made that a formal policy be established and followed before any trail is closed. Laos discussed a crisis protocol.

VII. REQUEST FOR FUTURE ITEMS

Discuss non-City of Trinidad trails.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm. Next meeting scheduled for May 27, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Angela Zetter
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Tom Davies
Council Member

Draft

DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOLLOWS WITH: 21 PAGES

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1. Discussion/Action: Review Draft Trails Policy Before Submitting to Planning Commission for Review.

Trinidad Trails Policy

City of Trinidad, California

Draft 5/22/2020

Trinidad Trail Advisory Committee:

Tom Davies, City Council Representative and Committee Chair; Cheryl Kelly, Planning Commission; Gail Kenny, Citizen Representative; Shirley Laos, Government Affairs Coordinator, Trinidad Rancheria; Zach Brown, Tribal Council Vice Chairman, Trinidad Rancheria; Frankie Myers, Yurok Tribal Council Vice Chairman; Rosie Clayburn, Yurok Tribal THPO/Repatriation & Collections Coordinator; Ben Morehead, Trinidad Coastal Land Trust; Jack West, City Council Representative and Committee Vice-Chair

Special thanks to the Environmental Science and Management Senior Planning Practicum team (N. Braziel, A. Brown, G. Olin, and A. White) from HSU for compiling the draft trails policy for the City of Trinidad in Spring 2019

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A. INTRODUCTION

Background

The City of Trinidad's[1] unique location on the coast with panoramic vistas and beautiful beaches makes its trail system a treasured asset for residents and visitors alike. Trails provide access[2] to natural and culturally significant areas for recreation, scientific study, and to better understand our relationship with nature. Trails enhance public health and provide a vital medium for community cohesion. They also serve to bolster the local economy by attracting people to the area. Some of the trails in the City of Trinidad also provide a means of use[3] for alternative transportation.

The City of Trinidad maintains eight trails that are referred to by their general location on Trinidad Head, State Beach Trails, Harbor Area Trails, and the Old Home Beach Trails.

The City holds discretionary power to authorize, limit, or otherwise restrict uses and to adopt rules and policies as it deems necessary to protect users, preserve natural and cultural resources associated with the trails system, and uphold the rights of neighboring stakeholders, including private property owners, tribes, and local and state governments.

Any additions, restrictions, or amendments to this public access policy must adhere to public input procedures and all substantive public comments may be considered under provisions in the Brown Act (CA Government Code § 54950 – 54963). A formal decision to amend this public access policy or to permanently or periodically close any trail will be posted at City Hall and on the City's public website.

Any new public access designations will be consistent with historical use, capacity of existing infrastructure, and consideration of cultural and natural resources.

Purpose

In the City of Trinidad's General Plan and City Goals for 2018-2019, the City Council requested the development of a comprehensive Trinidad Trails Plan. In 2017, the City Council chartered a Trinidad Trails Committee to advise the City Council, City Staff, and the Planning Commission on matters relating to trails within the City's regulatory overview.

This policy draws upon many resources and documents including the current and draft Trinidad General Plan. The policy will be adaptable to meet future general plan revisions.

Description of Trinidad Trails

Trinidad Head Trail:

The trailhead begins at the foot of Trinidad Head from the south side of the beach parking area. The trail goes up steps then continues on a road. The trail follows the road

to an overlook point where it turns up towards a gravel road just before a gate. The trail continues up to a granite cross. Just west of the cross is a trail that goes around the south side of the head and loops back down to the first bend in the paved road. Benches are available along this route. The trail, about one mile in length, has an elevation gain of about 300 feet.

State Park/ Marine Lab Trail:

The trailhead begins at the paved parking lot adjacent to the Humboldt State University Telonicher Marine Laboratory on Ewing Street. Traveling north there is a paved road for 200 feet. From there the trail proceeds along the paved road north, past the Underwood Avenue Trail, eventually leading to the State Park picnic area. Proceeding south from the Marine Lab the trail follows Edwards Street leading to Trinidad State Beach, Trinidad Head, and the harbor. From various secondary trail access points proceeding west, one can reach the Trinidad State Beach on State Park property within City limits.

Underwood Avenue Trail:

The trailhead begins on Underwood Avenue, where parking is available on the street. There is a narrow unimproved right-of-way from Underwood Avenue paralleling a fence that proceeds west to the State Park Trail.

Harbor Trail:

The trailhead begins near the corner of Trinity Street and Edwards Street, where parking is available along Edward's Street. Traveling west, it veers off Edwards Street at the Historical Marker and traverses down Van Wycke Street to Galindo Street. Additional parking is available off Galindo Street. The trail extends south to the bluff's edge and then down a stairway to Launcher Beach, the harbor area, fishing pier, and Trinidad Head.

Axel Lindgren Memorial Trail:

This trail has been designated the primary access to Old Home Beach. The trailhead begins just west of Trinity Street and Edwards Street where parking is available. This steep trail follows the bluff down to Old Home Beach. Stairs, cable steps, and benches are along the trail. The bottom of the trail is prone to washouts by winter waves. Caution should be used. Secondary trail access to the bluff is available 900 feet to the southeast on the Parker Creek Trail.

Old Wagon Road Trail:

The trailhead begins at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and Wagner Street. Parking is available on Edwards Street. From Wagner Street the trail can be accessed through a driveway access between the first and second houses on the ocean side. It proceeds easterly until it meets up with the Parker Creek Trail and the Groth Lane Trail, all of which

lead to Old Home Beach. Notes: no parking is available on Wagner Street per the 1994 Settlement Agreement. This trail is for daylight use only and excludes dogs.

Parker Creek Trail:

The trailhead begins at the intersection of View Avenue and Parker Creek Road, which is parallel to Main Street behind Murphy's Market. Parking is available along View Avenue. This trail begins off Parker Creek Road down a gravel roadway between fenced properties. At the end of this roadway, the trail enters a vegetated area, then turns left and descends a series of steps to join the Groth Lane Trail at their base. This trail provides access to Old Home Beach. No parking is available on Parker Creek Road.

Groth Lane Trail:

The trailhead begins on the west side of Scenic Drive just north of the Lanford Road intersection. No designated parking is available adjacent to the trailhead or on Scenic Drive. The trail is a gravel road that proceeds downhill where it meets up with the Parker Creek Trail after it crosses Parker Creek. This trail provides another way to get to Old Home Beach.

B. PUBLIC ACCESS

The City recognizes the importance of maintaining public access to the Trinidad trails system within City limits and along the coastline. The City seeks to:

Encourage trail usage for education, exercise and enjoyment.

Provide opportunities for a broad range of trail users to connect with nature, experience wilderness, and observe natural beaches.

Promote lawful trail use, reduce impacts to natural resources, and minimize disturbance to neighbors.

Trail Use

Right of way and rules of use are established for the safety of trail users and to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment near trails and neighboring landowner's property.

Allowable uses, rules for access and right of way, and conventional trail etiquette:

- Public access is granted to all pedestrians.[4]
- Disabled trail users, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S. Code § 12101), will be accommodated to the extent that existing infrastructure, landscape qualities, and budgetary constraints allow.

- Trail users must stay on system trails. Off-trail use of non-system trails (sometimes referred to as "social trails"[5]) by pedestrians is prohibited.
- Trinidad Head hikers are subject to the Trinidad Municipal Code Chapter 12.12, Trinidad Head.
- Trails are considered public grounds and therefore subject to Trinidad Municipal Code Chapter 12.18, Public Grounds.
- Dogs and their owners are subject to the Trinidad Municipal Code Title 6, Animals. Pets other than dogs are not permitted on trails. Dogs must be on leashes no longer than 6 feet in length. Owners must remove their dog's droppings.
- Camping in and around the Trinidad Trails System is prohibited.
- Trail permitted uses are subject to zoning as outlined in the Trinidad Municipal Code Title 17, Zoning - "Principle permitted uses" and "Uses permitted with a use permit".
- The use of bicycles on pedestrian trails is prohibited.
- Activities not specifically mentioned in this trail policy may be prohibited.
- No trails are currently ADA accessible.

Safety

Trinidad recognizes visitor safety as a priority when designating and managing the trail system. Trail uses that compromise the safety of trail visitors are prohibited**.** The City shall consider visitor safety when designing, designating, maintaining, and managing any trail.

Trail user safety:

- The City of Trinidad may temporarily close or re-route trails, at its sole discretion, for biological or management purposes.
- Hazardous substances, as defined in the Trinidad Municipal Code, Title 8: Health and Safety, are not allowed on trails.
- Trails are subject to the Trinidad Municipal Code Title 9, Public Peace, Morals, and Welfare. This section includes an outline of expectations for public decency, alcohol, weapons, and so forth.
- Any part of a trail that is also deemed a street is subject to the Trinidad Municipal Code Title 10, Vehicles and Traffic.

- The City will establish a list of trail-use rules to ensure safety as well as promote compliance, enhance user enjoyment, and protect natural and cultural resources. Trail rules will be disseminated to homeowners, published on the City's website, and/or posted at informational kiosks.

- Trails shall be maintained in a manner which ensures emergency personnel (police, fire, the Coast Guard) have access to the trail. Emergency access for safety, security, or maintenance purposes is based on an established protocol between the parks, fire, and police departments. The initial responding party will notify the other emergency departments as soon as possible, as needed.

- Trail names and corresponding GPS coordinates are effective in assisting fire and safety personnel in locating trail users who may need assistance in emergencies. Trail identifications are also useful for City staff and Public Works to locate specific trail maintenance/improvement areas that have the potential to impact safety.

- Trail Identification Signs[6] at each trailhead may be mapped by the City's GIS staff to correspond with GPS coordinates. These integrated points can then be shared with appropriate first responders (i.e, CalFire, Humboldt County Sheriff Department, US Coast Guard).

Expansion and Connectivity

These policies refer to expanding the existing trail system or connecting to trails managed by other entities. In doing so, conserving existing natural and cultural resources is a priority.

- The City will work to preserve existing trail routes designated for public use on the Trinidad Trails System maps and expand the public trail network for all user groups where appropriate.

- Trinidad will seek to coordinate trail expansion with local and regional trail systems (California Coastal Trail and State Parks) where possible.

Relationships with Private Landowners

Current and future easements and access agreements shall respect the rights of the landowner while also maintaining safety and public access.

- Trinidad shall strive to coordinate trail design and maintenance with the owners and managers of adjoining lands including but not limited to private landowners, Trinidad Rancheria, California State Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

- Management decisions and restoration/maintenance actions specific to the Wagner Street Trail shall respect the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Release by and between John Frame, the City of Trinidad, the California Coastal Commission, and the California Coastal Conservancy.

- The trails are also shared by local entities such as TCLT, CA State Parks, and private landowner easements.

C. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

As trail stewards, the City is responsible for ensuring the viability of trails long into the future. Trails in the City of Trinidad require maintenance to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources and to keep trails in a safe and accessible condition. The following policies establish a monitoring and maintenance schedule and designate the personnel and resources necessary to perform routine inspections and maintenance activities. The preferred outcome will be to proactively detect and resolve trail infrastructure issues.

The responsibility for trail maintenance should be clearly delineated when trail is created or adopted. Project maintenance should be done by professionals or skilled trail workers.

Annual Baseline Inventory, Maintenance Reporting, and Monitoring Schedule

- The City will establish baseline trail conditions using the Trinidad Trail Monitoring Report to prioritize maintenance, leverage resources and staff, account for areas of increased risk/liability, and determine if improvements from previous maintenance work was effective. Maintenance requirements for the year will be identified. The report will also determine the activities which require permits, specifically for construction projects.

- A routine maintenance schedule detailing necessary modifications/improvements on trails and trailheads should be adopted to minimize degradation from use, erosion, natural disturbances, and vegetation growth. The tasks outlined in the schedule should be achievable over the course of one calendar year and work around staff and budgetary limitations.

Maintenance and Operations Activities

Maintenance encompasses a range of routine and remedial tasks, including:

- Trail surface maintenance. Periodic maintenance includes filling and grading depressions in the trail tread[7], removing edge berms, and re-reconditioning drainage features such as drainage dips. Maintaining the surface of accessible trails will be a priority.

- Erosion control. Work will be needed to manage hillslope runoff coming on to the trail system and to implement various slope stabilization measures.

- Vegetation management. Clearing fallen branches, limbs, and trees is important, especially after storms. Taking measures to remove invasive species is a priority to protect native habitats and species. Trail brushing may be performed annually beginning in the late spring to allow access to entire trail. This work should be performed during the months of May and June, except where sensitive species or habitats indicate

otherwise. Springtime is when birds begin nesting and this will need to be taken into account by the City before creating disturbances.

- Remedial maintenance. Responding to vandalism (ex: graffiti), litter clean-up, repairing short cuts, sign repair/replacement, and decommissioning informal/social trails.
- Operations. Opening and closing gates, waste disposal, and implementing temporary warnings and/or closures.

New[8] trail infrastructure additions and other management or restoration projects, are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and may be subject to the Coastal Zone Management Act. Any project located within the Coastal Zone must address Design Review and View Protection findings of the Trinidad Zoning Ordinance.

Maintenance Frequency and Scheduling

Maintenance Schedule	
Maintenance Activity	**Estimated Frequency**
Trail surface maintenance and erosion control	Annually
Routine vegetation inspection and management (incl weed control, pruning, etc)	Monthly (Apr-Oct), Bi-monthly (Nov-Mar)
Routine trail clean-up and maintenance (trash, graffiti, refill dog waste bags, etc)	Weekly
Remedial maintenance (remove fallen trees, sign repair, pothole filling, fence/step repair, etc)	As Needed

Maintenance Crew Safety

Maintenance will be performed by the City Department of Public Works and in special circumstances when authorized by the City, by volunteer groups and organizations. To augment maintenance duties, the City may collaborate with volunteer groups and agencies. The City will, for example, consider having a Trail Stewards Program with regularly scheduled meetings and events. Prior to beginning any trail construction or maintenance project, employees shall be provided training covering proper construction and/or maintenance techniques.

Staff should:

- Wear appropriate PPE (Personal Protection Equipment): proper headgear, gloves, boots, eye protection, and/or knee guards.
- Protect against noxious plants and animals by wearing gloves, long sleeves, long pants, boots and a face shield if necessary.
- Avoid accidents by using tools safely, being alert to hazardous footing, and staying focused on the task.
- Not work during inclement weather: strong winds, heavy rain or lightning.
- Know accident reporting procedures.

D. SIGNAGE AND KIOSKS

Trail signage provides the information necessary to enhance trail user safety and enjoyment, promote the use of trails, provide cultural and historical background, and to protect the surrounding environment." Signage is intended to provide necessary information without diminishing the aesthetics of the natural setting. Signs should be clear, consistent, and attractive, and developed to reach a range of audiences including first-time users, repeat users, and special users. Special users include people with decreased visual abilities, children, and people with accessibility needs.

Guidelines for sign design, placement, and maintenance can be found in the following City documents and can be accessed at City Hall:

- Sign Inventory and Assessment (Carson Welte, n.d.): locations and maintenance priorities.
- California Coastal Trail Signage Project (2010): description, geographic coordinates, photos, comments, placement, insignia size, fastener type.
- Primary and Secondary Trails to Indian Beach (2009 Staff Report): staff recommendations and conditions of approval
- Draft Sign Concept Document: design elements & preferred materials.

Types of Trail Signs:

- Obvious but unobtrusive signage should be used to (1) describe regulations for use and traffic control, (2) warn of hazards, and (3) provide navigational and interpretive information. Signs should be constructed of highly durable materials that will require minimal maintenance in the expected conditions of sun, temperature, and precipitation. Signs should be located outside of the tread width.

  Regulatory Signs at each trailhead and major access points will describe (at a minimum): (1) Allowable uses; (2) Right-of-way rules and trail etiquette (e.g. no camping, hours of operation) (3) Legal jurisdiction and enforcement authority.

Warning: Signs warning of general hazards (weather, lack of services, emergency contacts, etc.) will be placed at each trailhead. Signs warning of unusual hazards along the trail will be placed at a height of 4' or greater and will be easily readable.

Information: Each major trailhead may have informational signage including a trail map, trail distances, and level of difficulty. There may also be more extensive signs or displays describing the natural and other features likely to be encountered. Trail junctions may have signs indicating the destinations and mileage in each direction. Mile markers and interpretive signs along the trail will be unobtrusive and placed outside the cleared path area. Signage will be sufficient that users can navigate the trail without a map

Interpretive: Interpretive signs enhance the trail experience by providing information about the history and culture of the area. Such exhibits may discuss local ecology, people, environmental issues and other educational information. Educational signage may be placed at scenic view areas or in relation to specific elements being interpreted. They may take on many forms including textual messages, plaques, markers, panels, and demonstrations. Kiosks provide visitors with information to orient themselves, learn about trail conditions and opportunities, trail regulations, hours of operation, local events such as activities programmed for the City. Kiosks should be readily identifiable by trail users as informational contact stations and provide elements such as bulletin boards, regional trail maps, rules and regulations and accessibility advisories.

The Trinidad Municipal Code can be used to make the necessary finding to approve signage projects, Sections 17.60.040-050 and 17.72.040.

E. INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES

Trail Maps

Maps and trail guides should be made available to the public to increase awareness of existing public trails.

Fences, Railings, and Trail Stabilization

- Fences will be constructed only if required (1) for safety, (2) by landowner stipulation, (3) for restraining people from leaving the trail, or (4) for keeping motor vehicles off the trail.
- Railings for trails will be used only where a drop-off occurs that needs safety protection or to control access.
- Trail Stabilization: When a trail is built in steep terrain or on a steep cross slope[9], wood log retaining walls, rock or log trail buttresses or wood trail steps will be installed as necessary to maintain trail stability and prevent erosion.

- Trails are subject to Trinidad Municipal Code Chapter 15.16, Grading (City of Trinidad, 2012).

Parking and Staging Areas

Signage may direct visitors to accessible parking.

- Park hours are dawn to dusk – year-around.
- No overnight parking allowed.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited except in roadways, parking areas designated for motorized vehicles, as needed for public safety purposes, or by permit.
- No vehicle may be parked on City property between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am

Staging areas, as appropriate, will be provided at major trail system access points. Staging areas may include the following: shade trees or shade structures, seating areas, bicycle racks, water fountains, interpretive and directional signage, trash receptacles, pet waste stations, and restrooms.

Trash Receptacles and Pet Waste Stations

Where feasible and appropriate the city will install Trash Receptacles and Pet Waste Stations.

Natural Resources Conservation Policies

- The City will design, build, and manage trails in a sustainable manner by incorporating design measures that protect vegetation, preserve habitats, and minimize erosion.
- The City will prohibit trail uses that compromise the protection of natural resources and strive to protect and enhance the habitats of native plants and animals.
- Trail maintenance and repair activities shall be performed in accordance with best practice and following restrictions set forth by the California Coastal Commission, the Tsurai Management Plan, and court rulings.
- Trails will be located adequate distance from streams to protect riparian and aquatic habitat and wildlife corridors. Trails may occasionally diverge close to the top of the bank to provide visual access and opportunities for interpretive displays on the environmental sensitivity of creek habitats.
- Riparian Zones[10]. Riparian vegetation within 100 feet of major coastal streams will be protected. The major coastal streams in the City are Mill Creek, McConnahas Creek, and Parker Creek. Structures and activities will be sited outside the riparian protection zone whenever possible. If not possible, areas that must be disturbed will be kept to a minimum and be replanted with appropriate vegetation.
- The City will partner with public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and landowners in regional and countywide efforts to inventory special status species

(endangered, threatened) and to develop regional habitat conservation plans that protect special status species, wildlife corridors, ecosystems, and biodiversity.
- The presence of rare plants will be considered in the development of any trails.

Cultural Resources Conservation Policies

- Areas of high-value cultural and historic resources will be protected from disturbance and adverse impact.
- Where possible, new trails will be routed away from high-value cultural and historic resources whenever possible and feasible. Trinidad may permanently decommission a trail in order to protect high-value cultural and historic resources.
- Trinidad shall accommodate remnants of non-native species (such as orchards) when they contribute to an understanding of historic and cultural landscapes.
- Review under Public Resources Code 5024 is required to identify any significant cultural resources within the area of potential effect for a proposed project. If avoidance of a cultural resource is not practicable, mitigation measures to decrease the effects of a conversion project to less than significant shall be proposed. Construction and cultural monitoring shall take place to decrease the potential for effects to cultural resources in areas of moderate to high sensitivity during construction.

The City will consult the Tsurai Management Plan when conducting maintenance in or near the 12-acre Tsurai Study Area (TSA).

E. PUBLIC OUTREACH

The City will promote collaboration among Trinidad citizens, tribal entities, public land management agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners to implement the Trinidad Trails System and regional trail systems.

The City will hold a public hearing, once per year, to report upon the state of trails and to establish goals for future maintenance and special projects.

F. FUNDING

The City will keep a line item in the annual budget for trail maintenance. The City shall develop a long-term funding plan in order to supply materials, tools, equipment, signs, waste disposal, and staff time to perform maintenance and coordinate volunteers. Additional funding (i.e. grants, private donations, etc.) will be sought to support trail system functions such as trail repair, maintenance and development.

The City shall keep trail maintenance records in order to accurately determine the cost of annual maintenance. The Trails Committee, in cooperation with Public Works, will assess the necessary amount of funding for annual repair and maintenance of trails for recommendation to the City Council.

G. PERMITTING AND LIABILITY

The City of Trinidad will inventory hazards; assessing environmental and construction mitigation to minimize risks to trail users.

Insurance and Indemnity Policies

Liability

All trails are "Use at Own Risk". Postings and trail information signs will clearly state that users use the trail at their own risk. Under the California Recreational Use Statute, Appendix II, landowners and trail owners are immune from liability for injuries arising from trail use.

Scheduled periodic trail inspection and maintenance is conducted, to discover and correct any problem areas.

Government code and minimization of liability.

"GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV, TITLE 1. GENERAL [100 - 7914], DIVISION 3.6. CLAIMS AND ACTIONS AGAINST PUBLIC ENTITIES AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES [810 - 998.3], PART 2. LIABILITY OF PUBLIC ENTITIES AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES [814 - 895.8], CHAPTER 2. Dangerous Conditions of Public Property [830 - 840.6], ARTICLE 1. General [830 - 831.8], 831.4.

> "A public entity, public employee, or a grantor of a public easement to a public entity for any of the following purposes, is not liable for an injury caused by a condition of:
>
> (a) Any unpaved road which provides access to fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, riding, including animal and all types of vehicular riding, water sports, recreational or scenic areas and which is not a (1) City street or highway or (2) county, state or federal highway or (3) public street or highway of a joint highway district, boulevard district, bridge and highway district or similar district formed for the improvement or building of public streets or highways.
>
> (b) Any trail used for the above purposes.
>
> (c) Any paved trail, walkway, path, or sidewalk on an easement of way which has been granted to a public entity, which easement provides access to any unimproved property, so long as such public entity shall reasonably attempt to provide adequate warnings of the existence of any condition of the paved trail, walkway, path, or sidewalk which constitutes a hazard to health or safety. Warnings required by this subdivision shall only be required where pathways are paved, and such requirement shall not be construed to be a standard of care for any unpaved pathways or roads. *(Amended by Stats. 1979, Ch. 1010.)"*

Address Permitting, Liability, Restrictions, and Oversight

To minimize liability, it is critical to adhere to established standards in trail design, signage, and maintenance. California State Statute 831.4 provides for substantial immunity to public agencies that construct and operate trails in accordance with widely accepted standards or guidelines, such as the California State Parks Trail Design and Maintenance Guidelines. Measures listed to minimize liability include:

- Post trail regulations and provide enforcement.
- Post warning signs for known hazards that are not easily identified
- Keep accurate routine maintenance records.
- Inspect the trail regularly for hazards.
- Evaluate and address hazards and maintenance problems reported by trail users with appropriate measures as soon as possible.
- Ensure that there are adequate emergency access points to the trail along its entire corridor.

Liability for Volunteers

To address liability for maintenance activities performed by individual volunteers or volunteer groups and organizations, the City will establish a liability release form protocol.

Collaborating with the Humboldt Trails Council is the most effective means of providing the City with indemnity from loss or other financial burden. Otherwise, the City will produce and distribute liability release forms prior to any maintenance activities. Maintenance or restoration activities performed without informing appropriate City staff is prohibited.

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

The following words or phrases, whenever used in this document shall be construed as defined in this section unless from the context a different meaning is intended or unless a different meaning is specifically defined and more particularly directed to the use of such words or phrases.

Useful definitions for trail planning and design include the following:

"Bluff" means a scarp or steep face of rock, decomposed rock, sediment, or soil resulting from erosion, faulting, folding, or excavation of the land mass. The bluff may be simple planar or curved surface or it may be step-like in sections. For the purposes of this title, "bluff" is limited to those features having vertical relief of 10 feet or more. "Bluff edge" is the upper termination of a bluff. When the top edge of the bluff is rounded away from the face of the bluff as a result of erosional processes related to the presence of the steep bluff face, the edge shall be defined as that point nearest the bluff beyond which the downward gradient of the land surface increases more or less continuously until it reaches the general gradient of the bluff. In a case where there is a step-like feature at the top of the bluff face, the landward edge of the topmost riser shall be taken to the bluff edge. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

"dbh" means the diameter at breast height of a tree as computed by a licensed forester. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

"Emergency" means a sudden, unexpected occurrence demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services. [Ord. 84-180 § 6, 1984]

"Feasible" means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

"General plan" means the Trinidad General Plan, as amended, including the seismic safety, public safety, noise and scenic highway elements adopted in 1975 and the following elements adopted in 1976: land use (including sections on existing land use, commercial development, and visitor accommodations), circulation, housing, open space and conservation (including sections on unstable slopes, soil characteristics, water resources, and biological resources), recreation, public services and community design. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

"Mass wasting" which is sometimes called mass movement or slope movement, is defined as the large movement of rock, soil and debris downward due to the force of gravity. In other words, the earth's outer crust is being 'wasted' away on a 'massive' scale and falling to lower elevations. Mass wasting is a type of erosion, and it can make big changes to the side of a mountain. These changes can happen suddenly, as in one minute the rock is there and the next it is gone, or it can happen more slowly over time. You might think of this process as a landslide, and this term is

sometimes used interchangeably with mass wasting. However, the term landslide is a bit limiting and does not allow for a description of the many different triggers and types of erosion that can happen on this large of a scale.

"Person" means any individual, public, or private corporation, political subdivision, partnership, firm, trust, or estate or any other legal entity whatsoever which is recognized in law as the subject of rights or duties. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

"Structure" means anything constructed, the use of which requires permanent location on the ground, or attachment to something having a permanent location on the ground. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

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[1] "Trinidad" or "the City" are used interchangeably to refer to the City of Trinidad.

[2] "Accessibility" or "Access" refers to access and use of trails by people with disabilities. Humboldt County is subject to Title II (State and Local Government Programs and Services) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a federal civil rights law passed in 1990. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and required state and local governments to provide equal access for all community members to participate in or benefit from government-sponsored programs and services. The trail system for the City of Trinidad will be developed to provide equal access for people with disabilities when feasible.

[3] "Use" means the purpose for which either land or water or a structure thereon is designed, arranged, or intended, or for which it is, or may be, occupied or maintained. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]

[4] "Pedestrian", for all intents and purposes, means any person afoot.

[5] "Social trails": A social trail is an informal, non-designated trail between two locations. Social trails often result in trampling stresses to sensitive vegetation types.

[6] "Sign" means any message, word, symbol, design, picture or visual medium which is intended to draw attention to a product, service, business, person, institution, or location and is placed or painted on the ground, or on any tree, wall, fence, rock, structure or thing whatsoever and placed thereon whether indoor or outdoor, so as to be visible from off premises, exclusive of legal notices, safety and directional signs posted by public agencies. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979

[7] "Trail Tread" means the surface of the trail upon which users travel

[8] "New" means any use established, building or structure constructed, development undertaken, or lot created after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979

[9] "Cross slope" means the slope of the trail tread from edge to edge perpendicular to the direction of travel

[10] "Zone" means a portion of the territory of the City within which certain uniform regulations and requirements or combinations thereof apply under the provisions of these regulations. [Ord. 166 Appx. A, 1979]