



County of San Diego, Department of Parks & Recreation

Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Public Access Plan Summary & Public Workshop Results

Introduction

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) vision is a parks and recreation system that is the pride of San Diego County. The mission of DPR is to enhance the quality of life in San Diego County by providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences and preserving significant natural resources. To further this mission, DPR is preparing a Public Access Plan to help guide future use within the Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Preserve (Preserve) including a balance between recreational trail use and protection of sensitive natural resources.

The intent of the Public Access Plan is to develop sustainable public access opportunities that provide an enjoyable experience for all, continue to provide unique mountain biking opportunities while maintaining multi-use trails, and provide recreational appeal while conserving resources and educating visitors. The plan provides an examination of opportunities and constraints relevant to existing and potential trails and roads, considered adjacent conditions and proposed trails that affect public access within the Preserve, evaluates alternatives for improvements to the trail network and outlines recommendations for the comprehensive Preserve.

Public Involvement

The public has been involved throughout the Public Access Plan development process. Stakeholder engagement has occurred with several user groups including the Friends of Goodan Ranch, Goodan Ranch JPA, San Diego Mountain Biking Association, San Diego Trails Alliance, adjacent land owners, the wildlife agencies and others. Outreach has occurred through stakeholder meetings, site visits and public meetings and workshops.

On January 24th, 2018 DPR hosted the first of several public meetings on the proposed Public Access Plan at the Lakeside Community Center and it was attended by approximately 80 people. The workshop began with a brief presentation giving an overview of the public access plan, goals & objectives, the trail planning process, opportunities and constraints, draft recommendations and public input opportunities, which was followed by an open house poster board session. The open house contained five stations highlighting various aspects of the project including regional context, trail siting constraints, proposed trail mapping, trail experiences, and an interactive Google Earth station. The public had opportunity to provide general written comments at each station and via comment cards, and identify their top 3 priorities for the project. Materials from the January 24th meeting are available on our website at <http://www.sdparks.org>.

A second public meeting is anticipated Spring 2019. A final public meeting is anticipated Fall 2019.

If you would like to be added to the project contact list, please e-mail Melanie Tylke, Land Use Environmental Planner at Melanie.Tylke@sdcounty.ca.gov with the title: *Sycamore PAP Interest List*.



Public Comments on the Draft Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Public Access Plan

A summary of comments received from all public outreach to date is shown below. These public comments and environmental constraints will help inform the final Public Access Plan.

Proposed Trail System:
A variety of connections were desired including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional connectivity through the Trans County Trail and connections to Foster Truck Trail• Alternative connections to Santee, if MCAS discontinues Stowe Trail Permit• Additional options from urban areas of Santee Several different types and trail designs were desired including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loop trails• Single-track trails• Multi-use trails wide enough for safe equestrian use and pull outs• Narrower trails allowing technical [mountain biking] sections• Rerouting and reducing steep grades Martha's Grove Trail Comment Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep the current alignment (technicality)• Realign the trail (sustainability)• Retain one-directional status Mountain Bike User Comment Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request for trails of different difficulties, from beginner to challenging• A variety of additional trails were requested by self-identified as mountain bikers Equestrian User Comment Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requested increased accessibility and safety along Sycamore Canyon Rd to Goodan staging• Water stations were requested for horses and other animals
Environmental Constraints:
Environmental groups expressed concern that the proposed trail system is too extensive; new proposed trails and connections could impact critical resources and wildlife corridors. Concern with illegal night time use and negative impacts to wildlife were also raised.
General Comments:
Many people requested the trail mapping differentiate between trail types including roads, single track or double track, as well as allowed user groups (pedestrian, equestrian, multi-use, etc.).

Next Steps

The information and public comments received during the first steps of this process will help inform revisions to the Public Access Plan. Various trail alternatives will be analyzed through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and will be presented at the next public meeting. Final trail alignments will be selected based results of the environmental analysis and other factors as outlined in the final Public Access Plan document. The Final Public Access Plan and trail network will be presented at a final public meeting and will be implemented in a phased approach depending on available funding and resources.