

Town of Oro Valley
Parks and Recreation Department

Trails Plan Implementation

Biannual Report
January 2010



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Trail Plan Implementation **Biannual Report 2008-2009**

I. Summary

In November 2002, the Trails Task Force presented the *Oro Valley Trails Task Force Report* to the Town Council. Included in the Report was an inventory of trails within Town boundaries, including their ownership status, physical conditions, and other characteristics. In addition to the trails inventory, the Report also included the Trail System Action Plan that suggested activities and deadlines to achieve system objectives. Since that time, many of these Action Plan activities have been completed, as well as other tasks that relate to the Trail System Plan.

II. Completed Projects

A. Securing Trails – During the development review process, some developers have established non-motorized public recreation easements on their property. These easements in most cases contained trails that are listed in the Task Force Report, but are not built. In several cases, a developer has dedicated a future trail easement to the Town for trails which are not part of the initial Trails Task Force Report. As future development occurs, it is anticipated that the Town and its residents will gain access to many more of the trails in the plan, as well as having access to newly established trails.

B. Public outreach - The Oro Valley Trails System Map and the Naranja Town Site Trails Map were distributed to the Oro Valley Library, Town Hall, Rancho Vistoso Activities Centers, as well as to interested residents. Copies of the Map were also distributed at state and local trails events to interested governmental officials and trail advocates. In addition, information about Oro Valley's trails system was also distributed at regional events, such as the El Tour de Tucson and the Clean Air Fest and Earth Day celebrations.

C. Adopt A Trail Program - Based upon the Adopt A Roadway Program for the Town, the Adopt A Trail program was developed in 2003 and implemented in 2004. The Adopt A Trail brochure was distributed throughout Oro Valley and at regional events to inform the public about the program. The Adopt A Trail program information was also included in the Parks and Recreation Department's monthly email distribution to patrons and other interested residents. The Program gives residents to clean and maintain the trails within Oro Valley. At this time, only the

trails where the Town holds an easement are eligible for adoption.

D. National Trails Day – The Town of Oro Valley participated in National Trails Day in June 2008 and June 2009 by conducting a moonlight hike. Information about National Trails Day and the hikes were distributed on the Town's Web site, and through notices in the *Northwest Explorer* and the Town's *Vista* publication. In 2008, 78 residents and visitors participated in the hike; in 2009, there were 81 participants. Planning is underway for the next National Trails Day event to be held in June 2010.

E. Trail Signage Committee – In 2009, Parks and Recreation staff (including the Multimodal Planner), participated in a Trail Signage Design committee. The committee, chaired by PRAB member John Scheuring and comprised of residents and volunteer experts working in conjunction with a graphics artist, designed both large and small interpretive signs. These signs will be placed along the CDO River Park, James D. Kriegh Park, and West Lambert Lane Park. It is anticipated that they will be installed in the early spring of 2010.

F. The Cañada del Oro Linear Park – Phase I between La Cañada and First Avenue along the CDO Wash was opened in October 2008. This project will be funded by Transportation Enhancement Grant money from ADOT, as well as 1997 Pima County bond money. This 2.7 mile section features three bridges, as well as landscaping and other pedestrian amenities. It has been reported that the Park has received heavy use since it was opened to the public.

G. Regional Cooperation/Education - The Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Coordinator participated in several regional projects in 2008 and 2009, including the update of the Eastern Pima County Trails Master Plan, and the Tortolita Mountain Park Master Plan.

III. Ongoing Projects

A. A Transportation Enhancement Grant proposal was submitted to PAG (Pima Association of Governments) in June 2009 to extend the Cañada del Oro Linear Park path. The application was to construct the section of path from First Avenue to Steam Pump Village. This section of path will connect the segment under design (from La Cañada Drive to First Avenue) by the Town, with the section from Steam Pump Village to Oracle Road that was built by developers. This project was chosen to be funded in the amount of \$500,000; the majority of the rest of the cost of the project (approximately \$873,000) will be provided by Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) matching funds. A small

amount of funds (approximately \$25,000) will still need to be provided by the Town as per ADOT requirements. This section of the CDO Linear Park will enable the entire park to be completed, from La Cañada Drive to Oracle Road.

B. Revision of the Eastern Pima County Trails Master Plan - a complete revision of the Pima County Trails Plan has been completed. This revision included revisiting all current and future trails that were identified in the 1996 plan, as well as identifying potential new routes and/or connections. The revision also included an updated set of guidelines, goals, and trail standards. It will be presented to the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the Tucson City Council in early 2010 for adoption. Following that action, jurisdictions will also be asked to adopt the revised plan.

IV. Future Projects

In addition to implementing the remainder of the items on the Trail Task Force's Action Plan, the following activities will take place in 2010-2011:

A. Funding sources - Grant funding will be sought in 2010-2011 for a number of projects, including funding to place signs throughout the entire Oro Valley Trail system, in order to make a more user-friendly experience. Consistent signs are especially needed in wash areas where the trail tread can be difficult to follow.

B. Nominations to the Arizona State Trails System – Nominations for Oro Valley trail inclusion into the State Trails System will be made again in 2010-2011. In addition to the Task Force's recommendations to obtain inclusion of the entire Oro Valley Trail System into the State System, the trails accepted into the State System are eligible for Heritage Fund Trails grant funds. Although it is anticipated that Heritage Grant Funding will be unavailable in the next few years due to state budgetary concerns, it is important to nominate these trails into the system so they will be eligible when funding is restored to the program.

C. Expansion of trail system - In 2010-2011, emphasis will again be placed on resolving the issues in the Trail Report, including public access to several trails. By working in cooperation with property owners, as well as developers, the goal of continuous trails in Oro Valley for residents and visitors will begin to be realized. In addition, the Multimodal Planner will continue to work with other jurisdictions and entities in providing a region-wide trail system.

D. Oro Valley Town Trails Ordinance – It has been proposed by regional trails advocates, that the Town of Oro Valley adopt a Trails Ordinance in the future. Such an ordinance would reflect the Town’s commitment to the trails system, and would require the development and protection of all the trails located within the Town that are listed in the Oro Valley Trails Task Force Report, or in the Eastern Pima County Trails System Master Plan. Staff will be again be evaluating the possibility of such an ordinance in the future.

E. Public outreach - Raising awareness of the Oro Valley Trail System, to both the residents as well as the regional community, is also a high priority for 2010-2011.

V. Action Plan Revisions

The original Oro Valley Trails Task Force Report was accepted by Town Council in November 2002, and has been updated on a biannual basis since that time. With the growth experienced by the Town since 2002, it is recommended that a complete update of the Town’s Trails Report be completed in 2017, or sooner, if the expected large-scale annexations occur in the near future.

VI. Conclusion

The Town of Oro Valley’s Trails Task Force Report of 2002 laid a very detailed foundation for the Trail System, providing an overview of the system and an Action Plan to establish and implement a continuous trail network for all users. In 2010-2011, the emphasis will be on accomplishing the remainder of the Action Items, including public outreach and building partnerships to build awareness of the Trail System and its benefits to Oro Valley and its residents.

Maps

Exhibit A: Revised Trail Map

Other

Exhibit B: Revised Action Plan

EXHIBIT A – REVISED ORO VALLEY TRAILS MAP

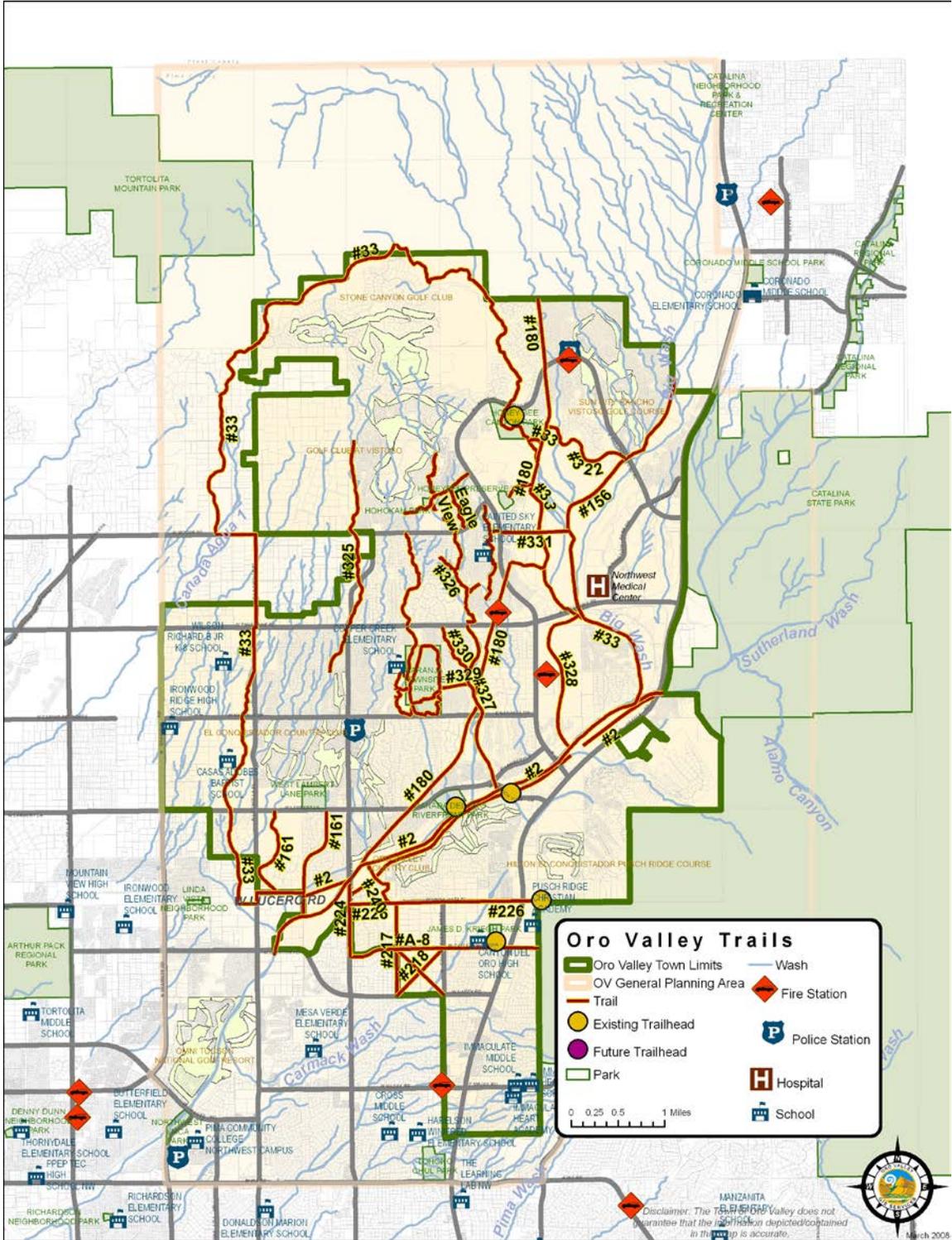


EXHIBIT B

Oro Valley Trail System Annual Action Plan - Revised 2010-2011

The Oro Valley Trail System requires a strong level of commitment, coordination and consistent action. The following Action Plan has been revised based on accomplishments and task prioritization for 2008-2009.

What	Who	When
Nominate entire trail system to the State Trails System.	Multimodal Planner	Completed Phase I (6 trails) and ongoing
Secure a resolution from Town Council clarifying the Town's commitment to the trail system.	Parks & Recreation	Fall 2010
Contact landowner for Big Wash trail system to prepare a recreation easement allowing public access on all trails identified on the revised 2001 Oro Valley Trail System Map.	Planning & Zoning	Ongoing by parcel
Apply for grant funding to develop Trail System Sign and Interpretive Plan.	Multimodal Planner	Summer 2010
Secure Honey Bee Park for public access.	Town Council	Ongoing
Add a trail page to the Town's web site.	Multimodal Planner	Completed/Ongoing
Adopt recreation ordinances and subdivision codes supporting trails.	Planning & Zoning	Ongoing
Contact Coronado National Forest about a trailhead at the end of Calle Concordia.	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing
Coordinate trail right-of-way projects with Oro Valley Public Works Department, Bike and Pedestrian and Multi-use Trail Plans.	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing
Request Pima County Parks & Recreation Department assistance with trail linkages outside Oro Valley.	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing
Attend Arizona State Parks Grant Workshop.	Multimodal Planner	Completed
Identify landowners for all High Opportunity Trails.	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing
Meet with Homeowners Associations (HOAs) having segments of the trail system that crosses their property.	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing
Update Oro Valley Trails Report	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing
Create partnerships with other interested groups to explore other funding opportunities	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing

Sponsor and/or conduct workshops for residents and staff on trail building, repair, and other issues	Multimodal Planner	Winter 2010
Examine existing and future trails using the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) to standardize trail measurements and features; and to provide a link from national trails databases	Multimodal Planner	Fall 2010
Create public information program to market the Oro Valley Trails to residents and outside groups	Multimodal Planner	Ongoing