

Class 5: Parks, Recreation and Trails

Community Academy
October 21, 2025

Rosalyn Epting, Parks & Recreation Director



Town of Oro Valley

Tonight's Presentation

- ▶ Overview of Parks & Recreation Department Divisions
- ▶ Board (PRAB), Commission (HPC), & Advisory Groups
- ▶ Current & Upcoming Projects
- ▶ Upcoming Events



Mission: Inspire Connection Through Recreation

Connecting people to people, people to community, and people to nature!

- Administration
- Aquatics
- Community and Recreation Center
- Recreation and Culture
- Parks Management
- Golf



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Administration

- Staff Located in the Community & Recreation Center
- Oversee Parks & Recreation Department Operations
- Develop & Maintain Partnerships
- Grant Research & Applications
- Manage Golf Contract
- Department Liaison for Major Projects
- Manage the Scholarship Program
- Ramada Rentals
- Community & Recreation Center Meeting Room Rentals
- Staff Liaison to Groups
 - Board, Commission, & Advisory Groups
 - Men's Golf Association
 - OV Children's Museum
 - Archeology Southwest – Easement holder for Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve
 - HOA's



Parks Management

- Maintain 651 Acres at 25 Properties

- Parks

- 7 Baseball/Softball Fields
 - 8 Multi-Use Fields
 - Restrooms
 - 3 Playgrounds
 - 4 Dog Parks
 - 1 Skate Park
 - 1 Pump Track
 - 8 Pickleball Courts
 - 1 Tennis Court
 - 1 Basketball Court

- Trails/Trailheads

- Facility Landscaping



- Event Set Up
- Manage Tree & Bench Donation Projects
- Recently Completed Projects
 - Expanding the Lawn at Steam Pump Ranch
 - Lighting @ Steam Pump Ranch
 - Planting Trees Annually
 - Shade @ Naranja Archery Range
 - ADA Shooting Line @ Naranja Archery Range
 - ADA Connector Sidewalk @ Steam Pump Ranch
- Upcoming Projects
 - Shade @ Naranja Park
 - Invasive Species Pulls

Recreation & Culture

- Staff Located at Steam Pump Ranch
- Camps
- Outdoor Recreation Programming
- Archery Range & Memberships
- Rentals (Fields & SPR)
- Heirloom Farmer's Market Agreement
- Senior Programs



Major & Minor Community Events

- 4th of July
- HalLOVeen Spooktacular
- Bark in the Park
- Celebrate OV
- Movies at the Ranch
- Friday Night Concerts
- Hot Cocoa 5K
- Roundup at the Ranch 5K
- Hiking Series



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Aquatics – Oro Valley Aquatic Center



- Southern Arizona's Premier Competition-Level Facility
- Competition Pool & Recreation Pool
- Water Slide
- Splash Pad
 - Aquatic Center
 - Naranja Park
- Membership Based
- Hosts Multiple Swim Meets Each Year
- Programs



Community & Recreation Center

- Memberships
 - Classic
 - Premium
 - Insurance Based Memberships
- Fitness Center
- Outdoor Pool
- Tennis & Pickleball Courts
 - 15 Tennis Courts @ CRC
 - 16 Tennis Courts @ Pusch Ridge
 - 10 Pickleball Courts @ CRC
- Host Tennis & Pickleball Tournaments
- Manage the Tennis Contract with El Conquistador Tennis



- Manage Department Social Media
- Rentals
 - Pickleball Courts
 - 2 Meeting Rooms
- Programs
 - Fitness Classes
 - Pickleball Leagues
 - School Break Camps
 - Contractual Classes
 - Free Outdoor Community Movie Events
 - SnOV

Golf

- Contract with Troon
- 45-Holes of Golf
 - El Conquistador 36-Holes
 - Pusch Ridge 9-Holes
- Golf Memberships
- Overlook Restaurant
- Coordinate with Parks & Rec Team
- Pusch Ridge – Disc Golf in Summer

El Conquistador - 36 hole	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
	Actual	Actual	Actual
Rounds	82,988	89,625	98,224

Pusch Ridge - 9 Hole	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25
	Actual	Actual	Actual
Rounds	16,359	19,819	20,737



Board, Commission, Advisory Groups

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (1 vacancy)
- Historic Preservation Commission (1 vacancy)
- Oro Valley Historical Society
- Community & Recreation Center Advisory Group
- Power User Group (field usage)



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Current & Upcoming Projects

- Pusch Ridge Shaded Seating Area **COMPLETE**
- Naranja Park Archery Range Shade **COMPLETE**
- Shade @ Naranja Park
- Golf Course Pump Station Replacement
- Exterior Restroom & Artificial Turf @ CRC
- Resurface Parking Lot @ CRC
- VTNP Desert Ecosystem Restoration Project
- Tree Master Plan
- Trails Master Plan - OV Trails Connect



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Naranja Park Expansion Map



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Please Join Us...



- ▶ **Friday Night Concerts @ Steam Pump Ranch**
 - ▶ Friday, October 24, 7-9:30pm
 - ▶ Friday, November 7, 6-8:30pm
- ▶ **HallOVeEn Spooktacular**
 - ▶ Saturday, October 25, 5-8pm, JDK Park
- ▶ **Second Saturdays @ Steam Pump Ranch**
 - ▶ Saturday, November 8, 9am-1pm
- ▶ **Movie on the Lawn**
 - ▶ Saturday, December 6, 6pm, CRC
- ▶ **SnOV**
 - ▶ Thursday, December 18, 5-8pm, CRC
- ▶ **Hot Cocoa 5K 2026**
 - ▶ Thursday, January 1, 9am-2pm



Let's Take a Break

Part 2: OV Trails Connect



Town of Oro Valley

OV Trails Connect: Planning for Future Trails and Paths

Kyle Packer, Senior Planner



Town of Oro Valley

Tonight's Presentation



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- ▶ What is OV Trails Connect?
- ▶ Community voices shaping the plan
- ▶ Draft Vision and Guiding Principles
- ▶ Current step and opportunities to get involved



OV Trails Connect Areas of Focus



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- ▶ **Unpaved** natural trails, examples include:
 - ▶ Big Wash
 - ▶ Panorama Trails
(formerly West Lambert Lane Park)
 - ▶ Honey Bee Canyon Park
- ▶ **Paved** multi-use paths, examples include:
 - ▶ The Loop
 - ▶ Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve
 - ▶ Paved paths along and separate from roadways, such as:
 - ▶ Tangerine Road
 - ▶ La Cañada Drive
 - ▶ Naranja Drive



Unpaved Trails



The Loop in Oro Valley



Path at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve

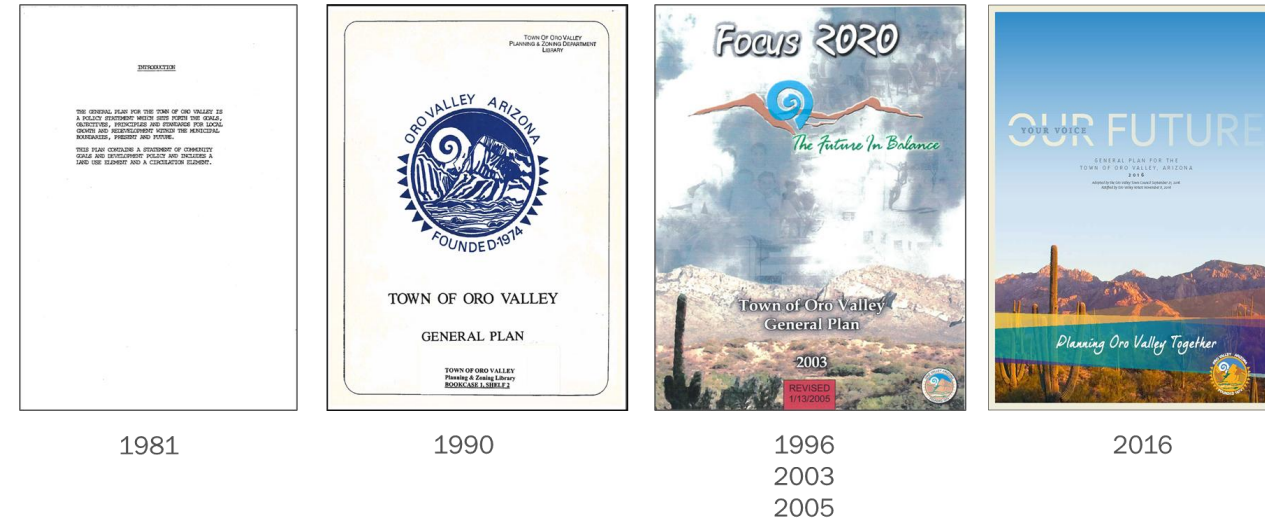


MUPs along and separate from roadways

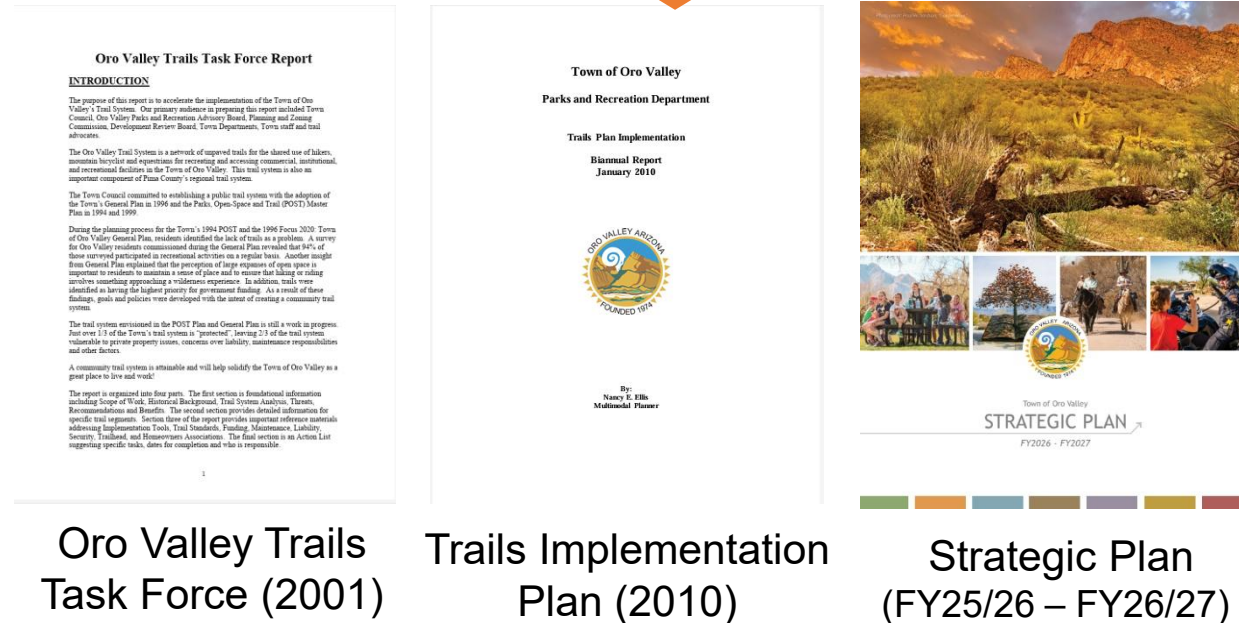
Background and Importance

- ▶ Outdoor recreation spaces are a long-standing core value for Oro Valley.
 - ▶ 74% of residents think OV should be known as an outdoor and recreational community (OV's Path Forward)
- ▶ The Town's trail system has been a focus area for residents in various planning efforts.
 - ▶ Last trail planning effort was in 2010.
 - ▶ Population and trail usage has grown since then.
- ▶ Town Council Strategic Leadership Plan (FY 25/26) specifically identified creating a “Trails Plan” as an action item.

10-Year Action Plans



Resident Approved Action Items



Process



Town of Oro Valley



Phase 1:

Preparing for Launch
January – February

- Reviewed existing conditions and plans
- Inventoried trails and multi-use paths, key connections and destinations
- Identified legal access to trails
- Created the Community Engagement Plan
- Designed a website and survey



Phase 2:

Listening to the Community
February – June

- Campaign to encourage all residents, users, regional and local stakeholders to participate.
 - Publications
 - Events and meetings
 - Roadway signs
 - Online survey
 - Interactive website
- Progress report to PRAB
- Discussions with Council



Phase 3:

Bringing It All Together
Current Step

- Draft vision and guiding principles
- Maps of existing and potential trails and multi-use paths.
- Implementation actions and funding opportunities.
- 30%, 60%, and 90% drafts of the plan.
- Progress reports to PRAB and Town Council.
- Engagement with the community and regional stakeholder groups.



Phase 4:

Community Review
January – March 2026

- Review of the draft plan by the community, PRAB and Town Council.
- Town Council adoption of OV Trails Connect.

Community Engagement

Coordinating with Regional Partners



Town of Oro Valley

- ▶ Ensure connectivity with regional trail system
- ▶ Identify best practices and standards for maintenance and operations
- ▶ Establish peer-network to share information

OV Trails Connect Regional Advisory Group

Arizona Department of Transportation

Arizona State Land Department

Arizona State Parks – Trails Program

Catalina State Park

USFS Coronado National Forest

City of Tucson

Golder Ranch Fire District

Pima County

Pinal County

Sun Corridor Trail

Town of Marana

Hearing from residents and users



Town of Oro Valley

Trail Stakeholder Group:

- ▶ Community involvement is at center of project phases.
- ▶ Members of Trails Stakeholder Group represents residents, businesses, and community organizations.
 - ▶ Participation is open to all throughout the project.
- ▶ Share ideas, concerns, and opportunities.
- ▶ Help craft vision, guiding principles, and actions.
- ▶ Review plan at key milestones, provide recommendations and actions items.

Oro Valley Trails Stakeholder Group

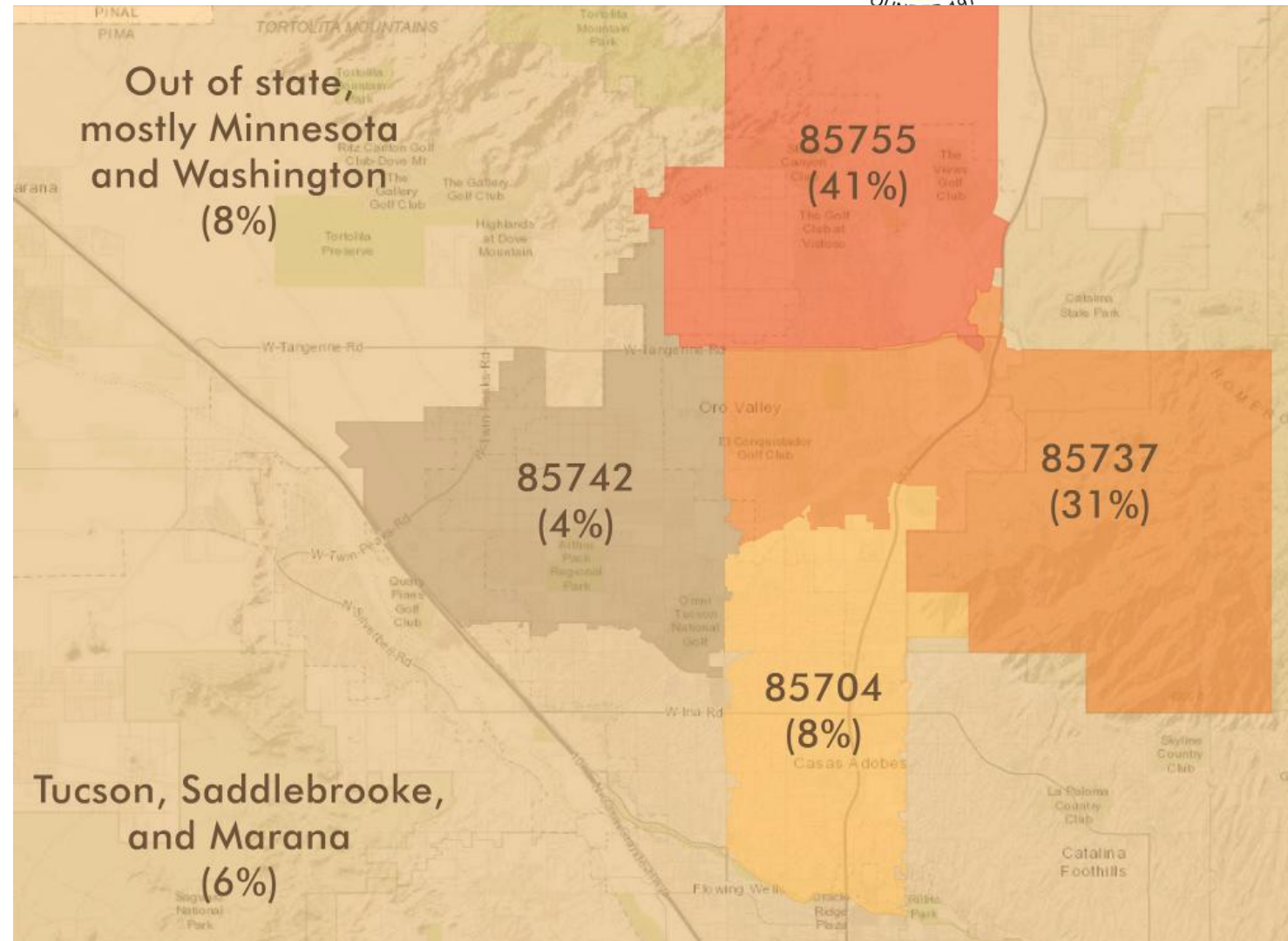
Oro Valley Residents
Arizona Horse Council
Arizona Trail Association
Back Country Horsemen
County Line Riders of Catalina
Friends of Catalina State Park
Mountain Bike Association of Arizona
Oro Valley Boarding and Stable Businesses
Oro Valley Hiking and Bike Businesses
Oro Valley Homeowner Associations
Oro Valley Interscholastic Mountain Bike Club
Oro Valley Resort and Hotel Businesses
Oro Valley Roadrunners (Youth Running Club)
Pima Trails Association
Santa Cruz Heritage Project
Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists
Southern Arizona Hiking Club
Sun City Oro Valley Hiking Club
Tucson Off-road Cyclists and Activists
Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve

Community Engagement



Town of Oro Valley

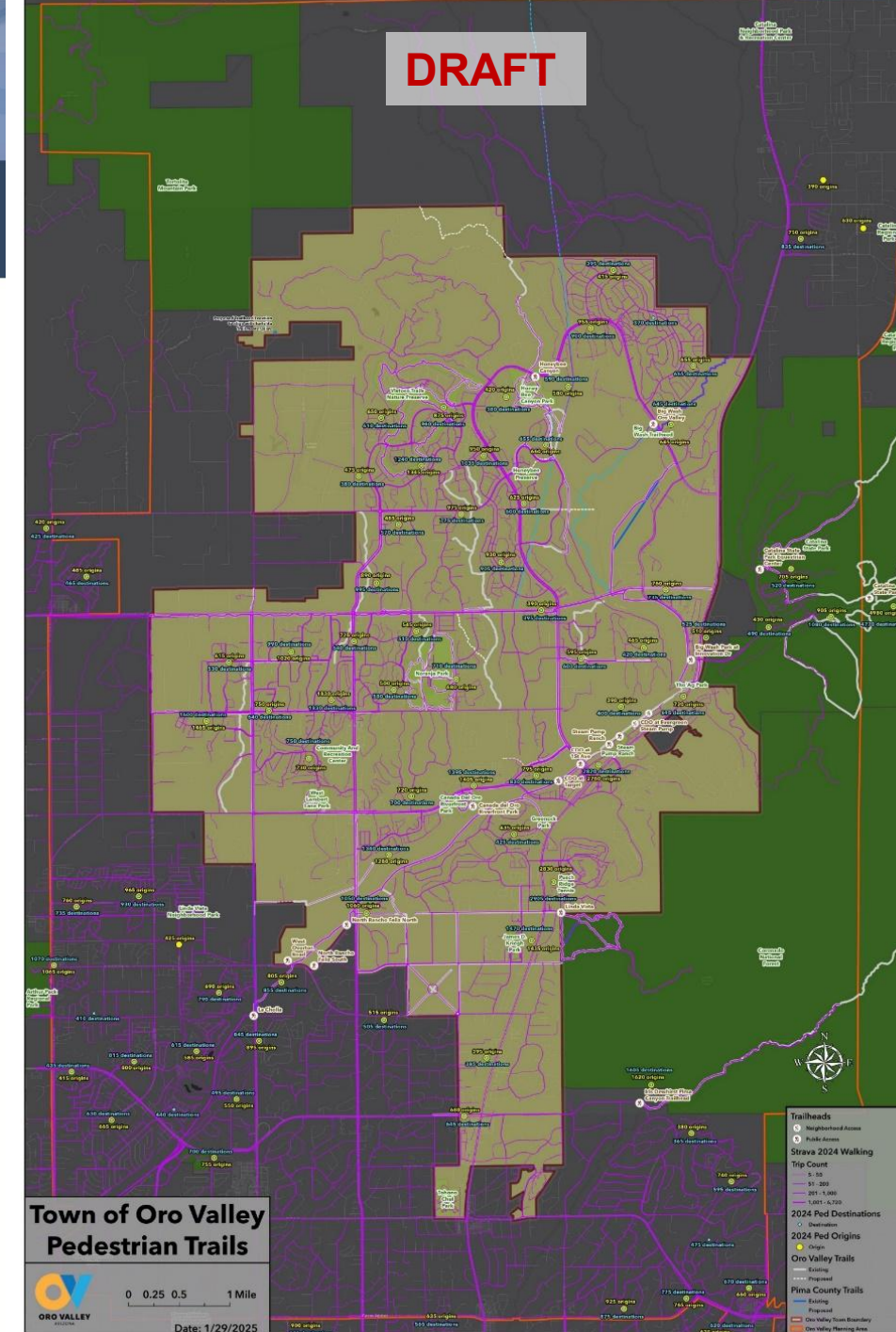
- ▶ Online Survey
 - ▶ 735 Responses
 - ▶ 75% over the age of 55 (the median age of OV residents)
 - ▶ 95% full or part-time residents
 - ▶ 77% full time
- ▶ 5 Trailside Chats
 - ▶ Over 700 comments
- ▶ Town Youth Advisory Council Meeting
 - ▶ 136 comments
- ▶ 2 Trails Stakeholder Group Meeting
 - ▶ 138 comments
- ▶ All were incorporated into the Public Outreach Summary, which directly led to the Vision and Guiding Principles!



Key Takeaways – Pedestrian

- ▶ Pedestrian trips reported by Strava users.
- ▶ Walking, hiking, running

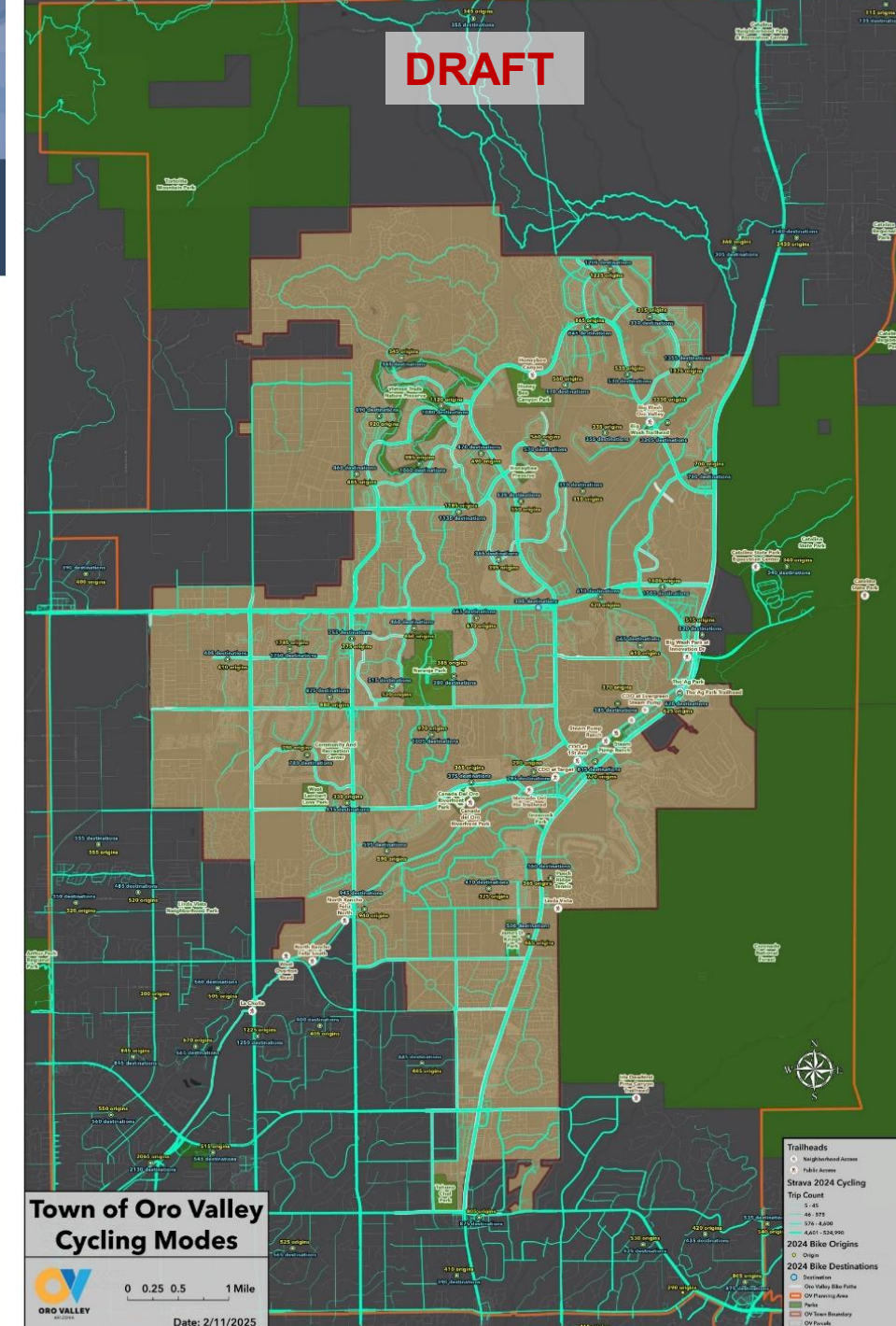
Top Areas in Oro Valley Pedestrians	Approximate Total Trips by Area in 2024
The Loop	15,375
Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve	5,680
MUP along Rancho Vistoso Blvd.	5,065
MUP along Naranja Drive	4,455
Naranja Park Area	2,913
Big Wash Trail	2,610



Key Takeaways – Cycling

- ▶ Cycling trips reported by Strava users.
- ▶ Road bikes and off-road mountain bikes

Top Areas in Oro Valley Cycling	Approximate Total Trips by Area in 2024
Big Wash Trail	10,715
The Loop	8,835
Vistoso Trails Preserve	6,055
MUP along Tangerine Road	5,380
MUP along Rancho Vistoso Blvd.	4,810
Naranja Park Area	2,720



Community Voices Shaping the Plan



Town of Oro Valley

Vision Statement:

*Oro Valley residents **value a comprehensive and inviting trails and paths network that brings users of all abilities into the beautiful desert environment.** Through thoughtful planning and design, the network is **increasingly safe, interconnected, maintained, and accessible for all abilities.** The trail and path routes **provide transport to destinations, outdoor recreation, social interaction, physical and mental well-being, and a deeper connection to nature for generations.***

Defining Themes and Guiding Principles



Town of Oro Valley



**Reinvest in
Existing Assets**



**Enhance Community
Connectivity**



**Grow a Safe and
Accessible Network**



**Improve Signage
and Wayfinding**



Reinvest in Existing Assets



Town of Oro Valley

What the Community Said:

“Big Wash Trailhead needs some sort of restroom facility for the number of people using it”

85%

Of participants said trails and multi-use paths were “important or very important” to them

252



Participants said they would personally be willing to volunteer or contribute financially to support the Town’s trails

“Trail repairs need to be done correctly and need to be smooth. Right now there are repairs that have added more bumps!”

“A general challenge for our trails system is funding and budget allocation.”

✔ Perform preventative upkeep and regular maintenance was the #1 participant priority across all trail and multi-use path categories



Reinvest in Existing Assets



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Provide amenities to support a broad spectrum of users:

- Add restroom facilities and drinking fountains to highest use and appropriate trailheads
- Add bicycle racks and support amenities like bike repair stations to highest use and appropriate trailheads
- Add benches and points of respite along appropriate trails and paved paths
- Increase shade opportunities where appropriate to encourage year-round use
- Attract complementary businesses (e.g., cafes) near paved path routes
- Encourage provision of cellular/Wi-Fi coverage along all paved path routes

Maintain high-quality trails and paved paths:

- Assess trail and multi-use path surface conditions and prioritize improvement and repairs such as pavement cracks
- Implement a preventive maintenance schedule
- Implement a program to routinely monitor trail and multi-use path conditions and upkeep
- Coordinate trail maintenance on Pima County land within Oro Valley

Ensure resources and funding are available to maintain and improve trails and paved paths:

- Support consistent funding to provide for maintenance and incremental improvements and expansion
- Seek federal, state, and regional grants and partnerships
- Formalize and promote a formal volunteer program to help maintain trails
- Create a volunteer program to clean and report issues
- Partner with businesses and external groups for maintenance, monitoring, and fundraising opportunities
- Create and market the ability to provide donations for site furnishings and amenities like benches, etc.



Enhance Community Connectivity



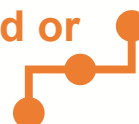
Town of Oro Valley

What The Community Said:

“Provide more clear points of access with sufficient parking at trailheads.”



Over **40%** of participants rated multi-use path connectivity as “**not good or terrible**”



The most utilized trails were those close to home.

Participants said trails within walking distance of home were the most important.

“The only trick is getting on the trails, there are a lot of makeshift entry points.”



Lack of connectivity to places of interest discourages the use of multi-use paths

✔️ **Connectivity to other trails, multi-use paths, and places of interest were the #2 and #3 participant priorities across all trail and multi-use path categories**

✔️ **Insufficient parking at trailheads is the #1 barrier for unpaved trail users**





Enhance Community Connectivity



Town of Oro Valley

Provide increased opportunities for local and regional connectivity:

- Prioritize connections to trails and paths from neighborhoods
- Ensure connections to trails, schools, parks, and places of interest (e.g., cafes, restaurants, shopping, resorts)
- Plan connections between existing trails and paths
- Engage with local (homeowners association [HOA]), regional, state, and federal landowners to identify and create an interconnected network

Uphold the scenic beauty and natural environment as a top priority:

- Maintain scenic views along major trail corridors
- Ensure development along trail and paved path corridors that conserves scenic views and the adjacent trail environment with appropriate buffer areas
- Educate trail and paved path users on their surroundings and the natural habitat
- Identify wildlife corridors and natural washes to prioritize sensitive placement of new unpaved trails and paved path alignments within open space conservation areas
- Provide and maintain trash receptacles in appropriate locations
- Provide wildlife sign notice to users when entering habitat areas
- Identify and address unauthorized trails, especially in areas with significant habitat or cultural resources





Grow a Safe and Accessible Network



Town of Oro Valley

What The Community Said:

“How trails are and will be funded is critical to this plan. As user numbers go up, there needs to be security measures in place.”



Personal safety was reported as a deterrent from utilizing trails

Surface conditions is a top deterrent for utilizing unpaved trails



“Add new natural trails where easements exist and via securing additional easements where possible to expand the trail network.”

“The trails saved me during COVID. They are amazing and I hope we keep adding more trails to the system.”

- ✔ Inadequate access for a person with ADA accessibility needs was a top barrier for unpaved trails
- ✔ Paved multi-use paths separate from roadways was ranked as “very important”



Grow a Safe and Accessible Network



Town of Oro Valley

Secure new trails for all users of all abilities:

- Identify and implement Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible parking and unpaved trail looks at key trailheads
- Engage with Arizona State Land Department in coordination with Pinal County, Pima County, and Town of Marana to identify and secure formal trail easements in the Arroyo Grande area, prioritizing existing high-use trail corridors in the Big Wash, Honeybee Canyon, Edwin Road, and Badlands areas
- Coordinate with and assist Pima County to expand County trails to create more opportunities for regional connectivity
- Prioritize adding trails where easements already exist and secure pending easements

Ensure a safe trails and paved paths network and educate users on trail and path etiquette:

- Improve safety and etiquette through design, policies, standards, and rules, including the use of e-bikes
- Ensure rules address the safety of the diverse spectrum of users
- Clearly communicate policies, rules, safety caution areas, and etiquette through signage
- Investigate how Town and Pima County should enforce adopted rules through programs such as a volunteer bike patrol
- Facilitate emergency response efforts by adding locational mile markers
- Suggest Town should host an annual campaign to educate residents and promote trail and path etiquette, leash laws, safe speeds, etc.
- Consider lighting in isolated, high-traffic paved path areas in a sensitive manner to conserve dark skies
- Seek provision of cellular coverage along all paved path routes



Grow a Safe and Accessible Network



Town of Oro Valley

Ensure accessible parking and access to trails and paved paths:

- Establish clear points of access and associate signage to trails
- Coordinate with Pima County, other government agencies, and private landowners as appropriate to ensure sufficient parking at designated trailheads
- Ensure ADA accessibility at key trailheads and all paved paths
- Ensure adequate parking for equestrian use where applicable
- Work with businesses and shopping center owners to enable parking adjacent to paved paths
- Acknowledge that e-bikes increase accessibility for all ages and abilities and pedal-assist e-bikes should be accommodated accordingly





Improve Signage and Wayfinding



Town of Oro Valley

What The Community Said:

“For visitors and people that do not live in Rancho Vistoso, we need better wayfinding.”

Over
67%



of participants use apps or devices to track their outdoor activities. A digital map would be a viable option for most users

Over
54%



Of participants rated wayfinding signage at Vistoso Trails Nature Preserve as “not good or terrible”

“I would like the Town to identify areas where it’s intended to enter the Loop. I would also like to see increased signage, trailheads, and signs deterring users from taking their dogs off-leash.”

- ✔ There isn’t a clear published map of trails, specifically when it comes to unpaved trails and how to access or navigate them
- ✔ Clear wayfinding signage and surface markings were consistently rated as “important and very important” across all trail and multi-use path types



Improve Signage and Wayfinding



Town of Oro Valley

Sign and clearly designate trailheads and paved path access:

- Ensure signage lends itself to the clear designation and formalization of trails
- Add wayfinding signage and surface markings to assist in trail and paved path navigation
- Balance need for signage with desire to maintain natural environment setting
- Add signage that clearly delineates policies, rules, safety caution areas, and etiquette
- Signage design should be clean, concise, and oriented toward a first-time visitor or resident user

Provide a variety of map resources for all users:

- Provide map resources for all users
- Provide electronic map files for download into popular apps
- Map amenities, slopes, surface types, and difficulty level for user reference
- Erect ground-mounted maps at key trailheads and other heavy-use areas
- Increase access to digital maps by providing QR codes on signage
- Promote trail and path network information and digital maps by reaching out to area businesses and resorts
- Integrate maps with networks beyond Oro Valley limits in concert with adjacent regional, state, and federal jurisdictions



Trails and Path Maps



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Your help is needed!

There are four maps at the back of the room showing existing and potential trails and paths. Using the markers, let us know:

- If any existing trails or paths are missing
- Areas where additional connections are needed

Stations at the back of the room:

1

Multi-use paths

2

Trails

3

Vistoso
Trails Nature
Preserve

4

The Loop

Next Steps and Ways to Get Involved!



Town of Oro Valley

- ▶ 60% draft discussions with PRAB and the Town Council
- ▶ Meetings with stakeholders, residents, and user groups:
 - ▶ Regional Advisory Group meeting
 - ▶ Join the Trails Stakeholder Group



Stay connected by visiting www.OVTrailsConnect.com
Questions or comments? Contact OVTrailsConnect@orovalleyaz.gov