

Draft City of Carlsbad Trails Master Plan
General Plan Amendment (GPA 2017-0001)
December 2018

The proposed General Plan Amendment is to amend the following segments of the City of Carlsbad's Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element:

- **General Plan Section 4.6 – Trails and Greenway System**

Additional background information is included in this section; outdated information is deleted; and the Trails Master Plan is included by reference.

- **General Plan Figure 4-4 – Existing and Planned Future Recreational Trails**

The Figure is proposed to be deleted as Figure 5.1 depicting existing and proposed trails in the Trails Master Plan will supersede this Figure.

- **General Plan Table 4-8 – Existing Trails**

The table is proposed to be deleted as this information will be changing as new trails are constructed.

- **General Plan Policy 4-P.40 – Trails and Greenways**

This policy is proposed to be deleted and replaced with wording to update the Trails Master Plan as necessary.

- **General Plan Policy 4-P.41 - Trails and Greenways**

This policy is proposed to be added to implement the projects recommended in the Trails Master Plan.

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As part of the draft City of Carlsbad Trails Master Plan, the following sections of the Carlsbad General Plan are proposed to be amended.

General Plan Section 4.6 is proposed to be amended as follows:

4.6 Trails and Greenway System

Trails and greenways offer community benefits as places for exercise and solitude, and also play a key role in physically connecting the community and creating a network of open spaces. The City of Carlsbad has been working for many years to develop and implement a comprehensive trails system. Beginning in 1990, residents recognized the natural beauty of the many open space areas and the city's three large lagoons as desirable recreational and outdoor education opportunities. Over the years, several important planning documents consistently provided guidance during growth of the city to ensure that the unique natural resources were protected and yet available for enjoyment by residents and visitors to the City.

In 1990, a Trails Feasibility Study laid the groundwork for planning trails in the city. The city's Open Space and Conservation Resource Management Plan (1992) expanded upon the study and provided conceptual trail alignments used to plan the city's trail network; this plan continues to be consulted for improvements to the city's trail network. In 2001, the City Council approved the Citywide Trails Program Report, which outlined the future vision and immediate steps to be taken to implement what was commonly referred to as the Citywide Trails Plan. In 2019, the City Council approved the City of Carlsbad Trails Master Plan. The Trails Master Plan builds on the city's previous trails planning efforts and provides a comprehensive planning document that guides development and maintenance of the city's trail system.

~~Currently there are approximately 38 miles of unpaved recreational trails located in a variety of open space areas of the city; current plans call for another 23 miles to be built in the future. Existing trails are listed in Table 4-8, and existing and planned future recreational trails are indicated on Figure 4-4.~~

Carlsbad community members who participated in the Envision Carlsbad Phase 1 visioning process indicated that a major challenge to trails development and maintenance is the proper design and designation of trails by user group. Community members indicated that different user groups (walkers, bicyclists, equestrians) have different trail needs and that the network should provide different kinds of resources for each group. An important consideration for future trails development will be connectivity between off-road trails and major on-road pedestrian and bicycle routes, such that future improvements in the trail system also contribute to linkages between important sites (beaches, lagoons, schools, and others).

General Plan Figure 4-4: Existing Trails and Planned Future Recreational Trails is proposed to be deleted and other existing figures and references in the General Plan shall be renumbered accordingly.

General Plan Table 4-8: Existing Trails is proposed to be deleted and other existing tables and references in the General Plan shall be renumbered accordingly.

General Plan Policy 4-P.40 is proposed to be deleted and replaced as follows:

~~4-P.40 Prepare a comprehensive Trails Master Plan update, that expands the existing and planned 61-mile trail system, with the following objectives:~~

- ~~• Connectivity between off-road trails and major on-road pedestrian and bicycle routes, such that future improvements in the trail system also contribute to linkages between important sites (beaches, lagoons, schools, commercial centers, master planned communities, and others)~~
- ~~• Design and designate trails as multi-use to be accessible for all user groups, including walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians (as land use policy allows). Ensure that the network provides an appropriate amount of resources for each trail type or user group~~
- ~~• Greenway and trail linkages from major recreational/open space areas to other land use areas or activities, including, but not limited to, residential neighborhoods, places of employment, parks, schools, libraries, and viewpoints~~
- ~~• Linkages/multi-use trails connecting businesses and residential neighborhoods to the beaches~~

~~4-P.40 Update the City of Carlsbad Trails Master Plan as necessary to reflect changes in needs, opportunities and priorities.~~

General Plan Policy 4-P.41 is proposed to be added as follows and the other existing policies in the General Plan shall be renumbered accordingly:

4-P.41 Implement the projects recommended in the City of Carlsbad Trails Master Plan through the city's capital improvement program, private development conditions and other appropriate mechanisms.