

First develop concise trail safety and courtesy guidelines, beginning with guidelines for the Placerville to Missouri Flat segment. Avoid enlarging the project and thus slowing the development of trail guidelines.

Once trail guidelines are approved, publicize trail guidelines using low-cost methods (paper printing for flyers, posting at kiosks, and perhaps an easily updatable webpage). After an initial field test (about one year), review and correct trail guidelines as needed, then invest in more permanent signage, and any other needed higher-priced trail guidelines dissemination.

The process should include:

- Consideration of all County trails, such as the Northside School Bike Trail, SMUD Trail, and El Dorado County's Class I facilities in the South Lake Tahoe area in developing trail guidelines.
- Coordination with the City of Placerville, especially regarding the El Dorado Trail.
- Coordination with other agencies that have responsibility for local trails, such as CSDs (Community Service Districts), BLM (Bureau of Land Management), Forest Service, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and schools whose students commute to school on trails for clarity and consistency.
- Forwarding draft guidelines to El Dorado County's Parks and Recreation Commission for their approval; input from other County Departments such as law enforcement may be needed.

Periodic review of trail guidelines, perhaps every five years, besides responding when issues arise, is recommended.

Questions

Regarding signage, do we ultimately plan to retain the current signage on the El Dorado Trail?



Current sign post to which several signs are attached.
Photo courtesy of Michael Kenison.

Do we plan to replace the current signs with new signs? Various signage strategies have been suggested, for example, all signs can include all guidelines, or some signs including a single guideline can be placed at key locations for ease of reading and to emphasize a particular guideline where needed.

Is our aim information that encourages voluntary compliance, or is our aim legal enforceability?

Related Issues

Although the following issues appear to be beyond the scope of the current project of developing trail guidelines, they are related and should be noted as they may impact trail guidelines development and implementation, or may need to be addressed as separate projects.

- Wayfinding for trail users.
- Emergency response information. (Get clarification of issue from Bob Smart.)
- Since posts can be a safety hazard, the type and locations of sign posts must be considered.
- Posts that used to support “No trespassing” signs may now be available for other signs.
- Broader issues encountered in some trail rules that may more appropriately be addressed as general park policies, or as legal issues for the County.
 - ADA Part 35 Title II and the use of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD) by individuals with mobility disabilities.

(Sacramento County example at <http://www.msa2.saccounty.net/parks/Pages/ADAPart35TitleIIIInformation.aspx> .

- Trail rules that we referenced included things such as prohibitions of glass containers, smoking, camping, camp fires, alcohol, and firearms that might better be addressed as part of the overall park policy, rather than as trail specific guidelines.

Note, a more extensive version of trail guidelines may ultimately be needed for educational, enforcement, or legal purposes. Issues not yet addressed include:

- Lighting and reflectors for pre-dawn or after-dark use.

Resources and References

IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association Rules) Rules of the Trail



IMBA developed the "Rules of the Trail" to promote responsible and courteous conduct on shared-use trails. Keep in mind that conventions for yielding and passing may vary in different locations, or with traffic conditions.

- 1. Ride Open Trails:** Respect trail and road closures — ask a land manager for clarification if you are uncertain about the status of a trail. Do not trespass on private land. Obtain permits or other authorization as required. Be aware that bicycles are not permitted in areas protected as state or federal Wilderness.
- 2. Leave No Trace:** Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
- 3. Control Your Bicycle:** Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations, and ride within your limits.

4. **Yield Appropriately:** Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you're coming — a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Try to anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Bicyclists should yield to other non-motorized trail users, unless the trail is clearly signed for bike-only travel. Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic. In general, strive to make each pass a safe and courteous one.
5. **Never Scare Animals:** Animals are easily startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement or a loud noise. Give animals enough room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses, use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wildlife are serious offenses.
6. **Plan Ahead:** Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding and prepare accordingly. Strive to be self-sufficient: keep your equipment in good repair and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

Where rail is in place suggest adding - **7. Watch for trains.**

County of Sacramento Regional Parks Bike Trail Rules and Regulations <http://www.msa2.saccounty.net/parks/Pages/BikeTrailRulesandRegulations.aspx>

Sacramento County Park Regulations <http://www.msa2.saccounty.net/parks/Documents/Sacramento%20County%20Parks%20Ordinances.pdf>

Rules of the road to ease the way along the parkway

There are times of day and days of the week when the American River Parkway teems with traffic, not all of it friendly to you or the child with you. For a safe adventure:

- Walk, ride or otherwise recreate in groups.
- Runners and walkers should keep to the left shoulder of the bike trail, always facing oncoming traffic.
- Parents with small children in strollers and those with inexperienced kids on bikes need to be aware that adult cyclists often exceed the 15 mph speed limit.
- Cyclists should stay in lanes and not ride shoulder-to-shoulder. That leaves no room to pass.
- Don't draft behind other cyclists who pass you unless you ask for permission.
- Large groups of fast cyclists can be intimidating to pedestrians.
- Just as on the slopes, those moving the fastest have the greater responsibility for those ahead of them.
- Wearing headphones might be your style, but you won't hear fast-moving cyclists coming up behind you. Use common sense.
- Dogs must be leashed on leashes no longer than 6 feet. Extend-leashes could trip and injure a cyclist and, in the process, injure your dog.

Sources: Parkway rules, and observations by two frequent users on The Bee staff, cyclist Blair Anthony Robertson and runner Rick Kushmar.

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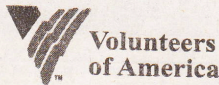
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Courtesy of Eileen Crim

Welcome to the El Dorado Trail

This multi-use trail has become a great resource to Placerville and El Dorado County. Locals and visitors alike stroll a mile or ten on its paved and unpaved surfaces. Families might be seen on foot, bikes, horses or roller blades. We welcome all!

Trail Rules

Safety, Courtesy and Common Sense are the most important rules...

- GENERAL**
- Obey all traffic and safety signs.
- Move to the side of the trail when stopping.
- Walkers and runners should stay on the left side of the trail.
- Horses have the right of way. If necessary, stop downhill of horses.
- Stay on the trail and off of private property. Our trail neighbors are supportive of the trail and we want to respect their privacy.

BICYCLISTS

- Bicyclists should approach horses slowly, and pass with good clearance.
- Travel only at speeds which are safe and appropriate for trail conditions.
- Decrease speed in congested areas, when visibility is limited, and around curves.
- Bicyclists should stay to the right side of the trail except when passing.
- Give an audible warning ("on your left, on your right") before passing.
- Bicyclists should ride single file.

PET OWNERS

- Keep pets on a short leash and under control at all times. Keep pets on the shoulder of the trail.
- Please use the doggie bags provided at trail entrances to clean up after your pet.



The Past, Present and Future of the El Dorado Trail

PAST

In 1986, planning began for the future of the Michigan California Lumber Company railroad right-of-way. Katy Peek was the first to advocate for a rails to trails conversion. At that time the group that would become Trails Now, under the guidance of Mary Elliott, began working for the development of a trail. In 1989, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved purchase of the right of way for a multi-use trail.

Construction of the El Dorado Trail was begun in the fall of 1992, with a grand opening held in December of 1992. In 1997, the trail was extended to Mosquito Road; it was about 2.5 miles long. In October 2000, the ribbon cutting was held for the Hwy. 50 over crossing and the eastward extension of the trail.

PRESENT

Today, trail users enjoy 3.1 miles of paved trail and 3.4 miles of unpaved trail.

FUTURE

The members of Trails Now continue to work with city, county and state officials to extend the trail to the east and to the west to and through Placerville. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors have approved a plan to extend the trail to the Sacramento County line.

TRAILS NOW

This brochure is provided by Trails Now.

Trails Now is a group of local trail supporters who work cooperatively with the city and county of behalf of the El Dorado Trail. We advocate, publicize and strategize on behalf of the trail. In 1998, at the urging of a local trail supporter, who offered matching funds up to \$10,000, we raised over \$21,000 to be used for upkeep and maintenance of the Trail. We welcome your support.

For information on joining Trails Now or to make a contribution, contact Eileen Crim at (530) 644-2736.

To download a copy of this brochure or for more information, check out our website at eldoradotrail.org

The El Dorado Trail

a "grass routes" experience



Built and maintained by The City of Placerville and El Dorado County, with support from Trails Now



Photo from South Lake Tahoe area - photo courtesy of Nadine Petty



Photo from American River Parkway - photo courtesy of Stanley Price



Photo from American River Parkway - photo courtesy of Stanley Price



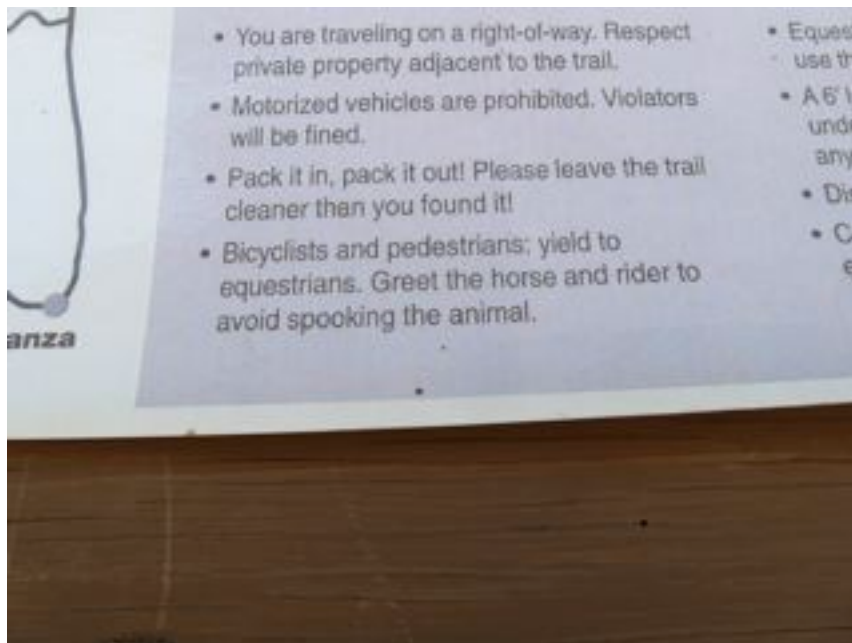
Photo from American River Parkway - photo courtesy of Stanley Price



Rail trail in Klamath Falls, Oregon - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Rail trail in Klamath Falls, Oregon - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Rail trail in Klamath Falls, Oregon - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Rail trail in Klamath Falls, Oregon - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Trail in Monterey, California - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Trail in Monterey, California - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Trail in Monterey, California - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Trail in Monterey, California - photo courtesy of Lindell Price



Folsom Lake State Recreation Area - photo courtesy of Jackie Neau



Folsom trail pavement marking - photo courtesy of Jackie Neau

Tammany Trace Rules <http://www.tammanytrace.org/rules.shtml> (Courtesy of Lynn Murray)

From Kauai (County of) Parks & Rec. (Courtesy of Lynn Murray) COASTAL PATH UPDATE 10-21-2009

The Coast Pedestrian/Bike Path is now open from the Lihi in Kapa`a to Kuna Bay. We would like to pass on the following information. With the safety of the path users in mind, we would like to please ask everyone to obey all county laws regarding the use of the pedestrian/bike path. The pedestrian/bike path and the area surrounding it are considered a county park. All laws governing our parks apply to all sections of the path whether the section is officially open or closed. Signs have been installed at the trailheads and access points to the pathway and more will follow.

A portion of the Coast Pedestrian/Bike Path has been designated for an eighteen (18) month trial period to allow dogs on leash. This portion is from the Lihi in Kapa`a to south of the picnic shelter closest to the Kealia Bridge. There is a red line painted on the path designating the northern end of the designated dog portion.

The following are some of the laws governing the use of the designated dog portion of the path during the eighteen (18) month trial period.

Any dog handler with a dog utilizing the shared use path portion designated to allow dogs must:

- **Be in command and control of dog at all times.**
- **Have no more than two (2) dogs under his control.**
- **Immediately remove his dog if it exhibits aggressive behavior.**
- **Visibly carry the necessary instruments required for the removal and disposal of dog feces.**
- **Pick up and dispose of any and all feces left by the dog.**
- **have the dog wear at all times a valid current dog license tag that is clearly and visibly attached to the dog's collar.**
- **Have the dog on a leash that is no more that six (6) feet in length at all times. Retractable leashes shall not be allowed.**

The following are some of the laws governing the use of the path:

- **No Animals Are Allowed (from the north end of the designated portion to Kuna Bay and the portion of the path located at Lydgate Park).**
- **No Motorized Vehicles Are Allowed.**
- **No Camping Along the Path**
- **No Open Fires Allowed.**

If you are issued a citation for any violations of our Parks Ordinances, you will be required to appear in court and can be penalized up to **five hundred (\$500.00) for each violation.**

Bicyclists using the shared use path are required to stop at all posted Stop signs posted at all path crossing.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable experience while using the path, Aloha.

American Trails webinar, “Interpretive Panels for Trails” \$45 may be useful in the future. See <http://www.atfiles.org/store/shop/telling-a-better-story-best-practices-for-developing-interpretive-panels-for-trails/> (*Not yet referenced, but may be helpful for next steps.*)

“A-EXAMPLES OF TRAIL RULES.pdf” that Vickie Sanders has posted to the Trails Advisory Committee agenda on the County website at <http://eldorado.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1050626&GUID=5789D864-14A5-4FCB-90CC-BE8931FF18C7&Options=&Search=>

City of Folsom Bike Map (Reference suggested by Jackie Neau)

http://www.folsom.ca.us/depts/parks_n_recreation/bike_trails/bike_map.asp