

Twentynine Palms Community Trails Working Groups

April 29, 30, May 6, 9, 2009

Fieldtrip Notes

Based on the work group meetings and key issues, site conditions and routes of interest, each work group conducted a fieldtrip to gather more information and assess potential recommendations. The following is a summary of the comments generated during the fieldtrips.

Pedestrians (May 9, 2009)

- Where there are possible shared trails (like along levees) a tread wider than 2-feet for pedestrians may be better
- Make a connection between the wash to Bucklin Park downtown
- Currently the City does not have an historic preservation program. There used to be plaques on historic sites but most are now gone. Could the historic society resurrect the program?
- Connect high school from Mesquite Springs Rd. & Wild Cat Way north to Two Mile Road and then east to Luckie Park. Safe Routes to Schools funding.
- Plaza will be redesigned in near future and could be included as a destination
- National Park Drive from the highway to park headquarters. Potentially use the median and connect to Oasis Trail
- Connect Luckie Park to downtown
- Separate users on hills/slopes for safety
- Need a sidewalk from the new traffic light to Stater Bros.
- Consider routes off of major streets
- Enhance sidewalk corridors that connect to schools

Equestrians (April 30, 2009)

- If there's a buffer area separating trail uses (especially between bikes and equestrians), a berm rather than a fence or vegetation would be preferable from the equestrian users' perspectives
- In a shared use corridor with separate trail treads, it would be best to have the equestrian tread located furthest from the edge of the wash
- Just east of Sherman Hoyt Ave. on Joe Davis Dr., the tributary wash provides another trail opportunity that could connect to the main wash
- At Amboy and Utah Trail on the southwest corner is Water District property that could be used as an access/staging point for the Campbell Hill area. The washes converge and go under Amboy just east of Utah Trail and then continues out to Bagdad Road as a maintained levee.
- Area around Bullion Ave. and Fairview Dr. south of Raymond Dr. is an example of where roads and rights-of-way are being closed/gated by private land owners
- At Mesquite Springs Rd. and Raymond Dr. the wash can be accessed and it connects to Joshua Tree National Park (but there are no existing maintained levees)

- If signaled intersections are going to be used for trail crossings, add crosswalk buttons higher up so equestrian users can access them
- Baseline Rd. east of Utah Trail is Mad Dog alluvial fan and a loose wash network. The wash connects to Campbell Hill.
- Gold Park Road connects all of the way to Interstate 10. It connects to Twentynine Palms near Morning Dr. and Bedouin
- Off of Highway, Singing Sands also connects to Campbell Hill

Cyclists (April 29, 2009)

- Quality of construction and repairs on some existing Class I bike paths (Two Mile Road) is poor. A priority would be to repair existing paths before building any new ones
- Would be good to develop pocket parks along trails
- Opportunities exist to tie biking to tourism, especially biking in the national park
- Connect trails to hotels for tourism
- Bridge crossings for bikes would be helpful rather than grade crossings. Some bridges have spiral ramps that you could ride on
- Color-coding of trails like they have in Palm Springs is a good example.
- Amenities that would be helpful include information, interpretive/points of interest information, signs and information about amenities (i.e. "next water 1 mile"), bandanas with trail information that could be given away/sold, etc.
- Mountain bikes in the foothills area/south of town would be best area because surfaces not as soft
- Trail along main wash would probably need to be along the north levee because there are fewer tributaries that would need to be crossed
- Where Ocotillo crosses the main wash: ramp the trail up to the top of the road so oncoming vehicles can see trail users. Trail could loop up to Two Mile Road along Ocotillo
- Around Donnell Hill, using the wash would be a good alternative to the highway
- For new traffic light, need connectors/reroutes between wash and the light
- Sullivan Road corridor is an opportunity
- New traffic light at Encelia is another opportunity
- Knott Sky Park could be used for trail staging for bikes and pedestrians/hikers, but it probably would not be feasible for equestrian staging
- A new 20-acre park next to Theatre 29 at Adobe could also be a good opportunity for staging and connecting to trails
- Need to make sure some trail standards are in place before development occurs along Sullivan and opportunities are lost
- Concern that if dedicated bike paths/trails are created, bikes will no longer be allowed to ride in the roads

OHV (May 6, 2009)

- Gold Park is accessed via wash
- Currently camping occurs at Gold Park and Copper Mountain

- East side of Copper Mountain is more likely to be accessed by locals...most local riding occurs on the east side. Out-of-town users mostly use the west side of the mountain
- Sugar Bowl is an “accepted” riding area, but unofficial. Need to clarify status
- Gold Park area: access is off of Morning Dr. & Sahara intersection. Wilshire is another access point.