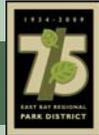




Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park Land Use Plan Update



TYLER RANCH ACQUISITION ADDS RESOURCE & RECREATION VALUE TO PARKS

2009 PARK SURVEY RESULTS ON TRAIL USE AT PLEASANTON RIDGE REGIONAL PARK TALLIED

On October 20th, East Bay Regional Park District Board members voted to complete the acquisition of the 1,476-acre Tyler Ranch, adjacent to Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. This property acquisition was facilitated by a substantial donation provided by the Priem Family Foundation along with several other key funders.



The addition of this final remaining portion of the Tyler Ranch, a 3.5-mile-long property along Sunol Ridge with sweeping vistas of the South Bay and East Bay, will add significant acreage to Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park providing new resource conservation and recreation opportunities, while taking the District's land holdings over the 100,000-acre mark.

Reaching 100,000 acres is especially appropriate in the year of the District's 75th anniversary. It carries forward the vision of the District's founders, whose goal was to preserve as much as possible of the East Bay's beautiful wildlands for future generations.



The East Bay Regional Park District is continuing with the development of the Land Use Plan for Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The vision for the park is to provide recreational and educational opportunities appropriate for this East Bay Regional Park, while rehabilitating, protecting and responding to the unique natural and cultural resources. Goals for the plan include developing a trail system that accommodates multiple types of uses, is safe, convenient and makes appropriate connections between origins and destinations. This is an important long-range planning process for the entire park that will:

- Evaluate the park's existing resources and facilities;
- Document legal agreements and restrictions related to use of the park; and
- Provide recommendations for managing and conserving resources, and for future recreation uses and service facilities.

Beginning in May, and extending through August 2009, the District sought public input from Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park visitors on how they use the park now and what facilities and programs they would like to see in the future. A sampling of 433 responses to a trail use questionnaire was collected during various morning, afternoon and evening weekdays and weekends. Similar information was also gathered from 62 community members at the June 29th public scoping meeting held at Amador High School. If you participated in one of these surveys the District would like to thank you for your participation; the information that you provided will be very helpful as we prepare a conceptual park plan for public review.

Following is a summary of some of the responses to the questionnaire reflecting current park use and suggested changes that people would like to see incorporated into the Park Land Use Plan. We will consider this information carefully as we develop conceptual plans for the future of the park taking into account public safety, resource regulatory requirements and District policies. If you would like to see the entire survey, refer to <http://www.ebparcs.org>.

Once we have developed conceptual access and trail concept plans we will hold public on-site workshops to gather public comments. For information on staying involved in the Land Use Planning process refer to the last page of this newsletter.

TIMELINE OF PLANNING PROCESS AT A GLANCE

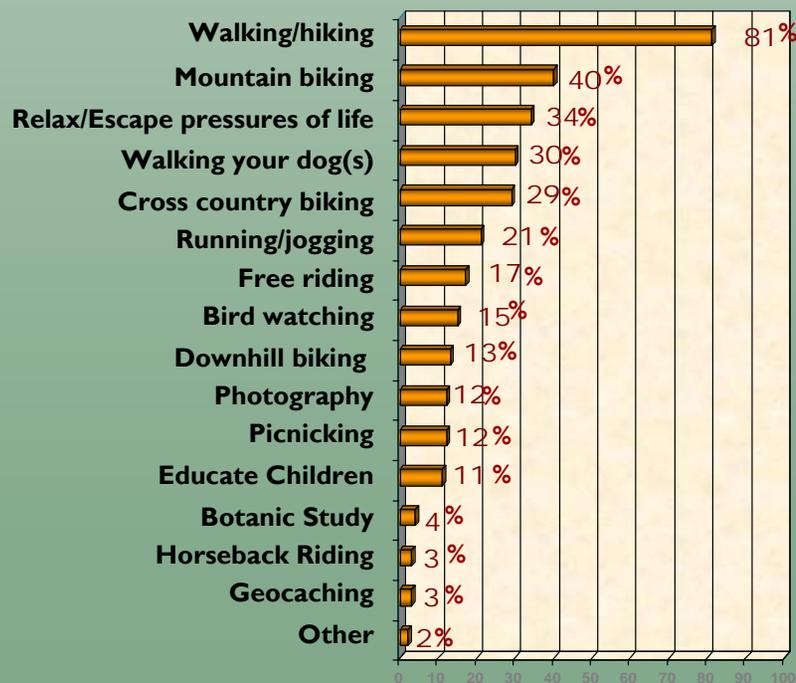
<p>Spring-Early Summer 2009 DATA COLLECTION</p> <p>Public Meeting #1 Scoping Session</p>	<p>Summer-Fall-Winter 2009 ACCESS & TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Trail User Survey</p>	<p>Spring 2010 ACCESS & TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW</p> <p>Public On-site Workshops Series</p>	<p>Spring 2010 ACCESS & TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN PRESENTATION</p> <p>Public Meeting #2 Recommendations</p>	<p>Spring - Summer 2010 LUP & CEQA PREPARATION</p> <p>Prepare Draft Land Use Plan & CEQA Document</p>	<p>Fall 2010 PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD</p> <p>Public Meeting #3 Present Draft Plan & CEQA Document</p>	<p>Winter 2010 PLAN ADOPTION</p> <p>Board Presentation-Adoption</p>
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2009 Trail User Survey Results of EBRPD Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

PRIMARY USES

The primary purposes for visiting Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park are shown below.



PARK VISITATION

- Nearly all of the people visiting the park arrive by private motor vehicle (89%) or bicycle (6%) either by themselves (29%) or with 2-3 companions or family members (53%).
- A majority of visitors visit the park routinely with 30% using the park a couple times a week and 26% using the park weekly.
- A significant majority (56%) of trail users frequent the Park on weekdays and weekends. Most (76%) of trail users visit the park in the morning hours (from dawn to noon); a notable percentage (42%) use the trails in the afternoon (noon to 5 p.m.), while 27% visit the parks in the evening hours (5 to 9 p.m.). (Note: These %'s do NOT add up to 100%, because many people frequent regional parks and trails more than once during a typical day or vary the times that they visit the park).
- Visitors typically visit the park for 1-4 hours (90%) on a year-round basis traveling on trails for 1-5 miles (51%), up to 5-10 miles (31%), with an additional 17% traveling more than 10 miles.

PARK VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Male 66%
Female 34%

Age

15& Under 3%
15 to 25 12%
26 to 35 9%
36 to 45 26%
46 to 55 34%
56 to 65 11%
66 to 75 3%
76 or older 1%

Ethnicity

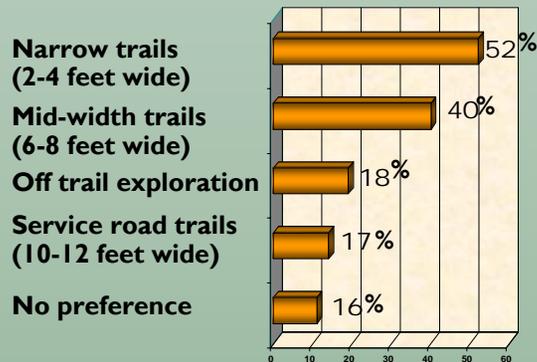
Caucasian 77%
Asian 13%
Hispanic/Latino 7%
African American/Black <1%
Native American <1%
Other 2%
Declined to State 1%

(**Note:** Numbers do NOT add up to 100%) due to rounding the numbers and the fact that some respondents declined to state this information)



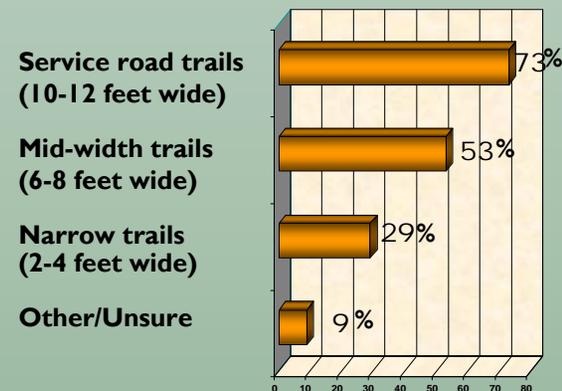
PREFERRED TRAIL CHARACTERISTICS & USE PATTERNS

When asked the preferences of the following types of trail experiences respondents answered as follows.

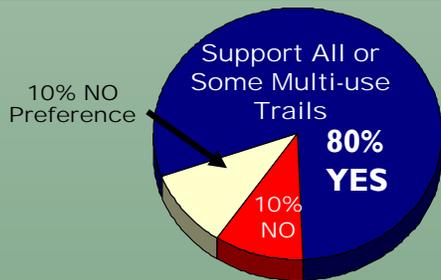


(Note: Respondents were asked to list ALL that apply; therefore, this table does NOT add up to 100%)

Of the following three trail types, responses for designating these trails for multi-use were as follows.



(Note: As respondents were asked to list ALL that apply this table does NOT add up to 100%)

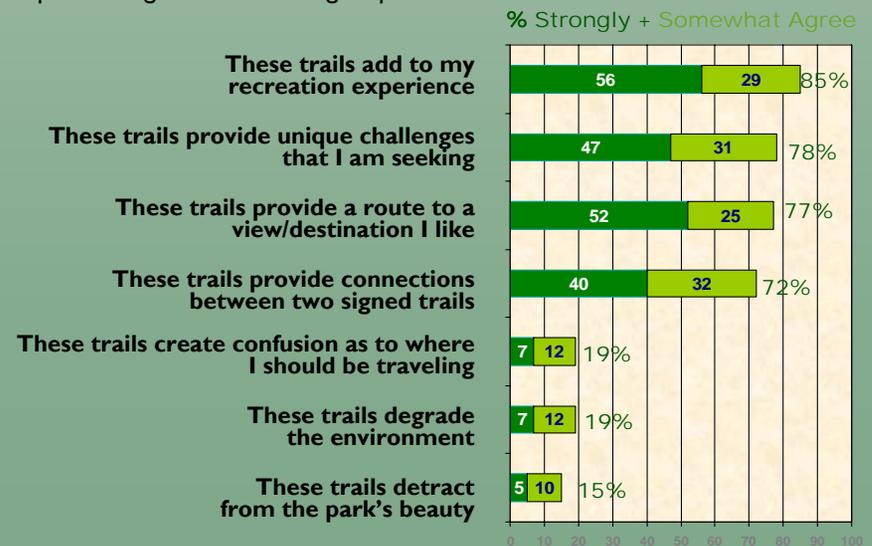


When questioned as to whether ALL or at least SOME of the trails in this regional park should be designated as multi-use thus, designated for some combination of mountain biking, jogging, horseback riding, and dog walking, a majority of the respondents answered affirmatively.

Of those respondents that thought that at least some of the trails at Pleasanton Ridge should be designated as multi-use, 82% said hiking should be included as a multi-use activity followed by off-road bicycling (74%), dog walking (72%)[with 56% of respondents supporting allowing dogs OFF LEASH and UNDER VOICE CONTROL] and horseback riding (48%).

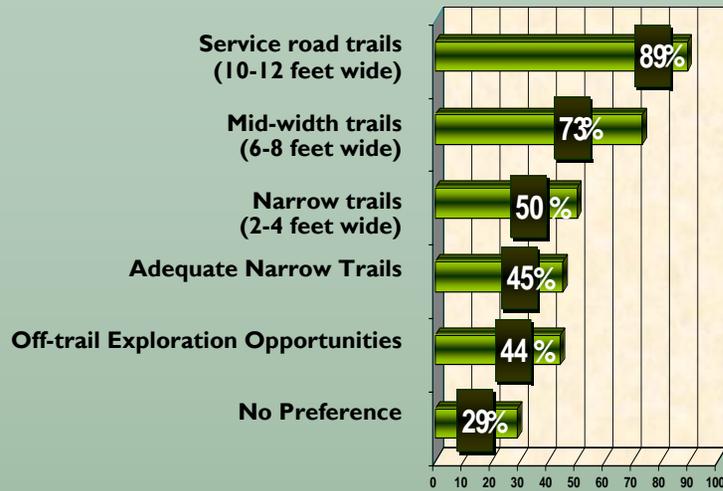
And when asked if the visitor had experienced any incidences or conflicts involving other trail users or trail conditions that detracted from their experience, such that they do not use certain trails within the regional park 80% said No and 19% said Yes.

When asked to rate "volunteer" or unofficial narrow trails in the park, respondents gave the following responses.



SATISFACTION WITH EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM

When asked whether EBRPD has enough of the following trail types to meet their recreational needs respondents gave the following responses.



FEATURES LIKED BEST & LEAST ABOUT THE PARK

Visitors were asked a range of questions to determine their level of satisfaction with all areas of service provided at the park. The survey indicated that 86% of the respondents were either very or generally satisfied with the existing Park system trails. Overall likes and dislikes are shown below.

Features like **BEST** (Listed by 3% or more)

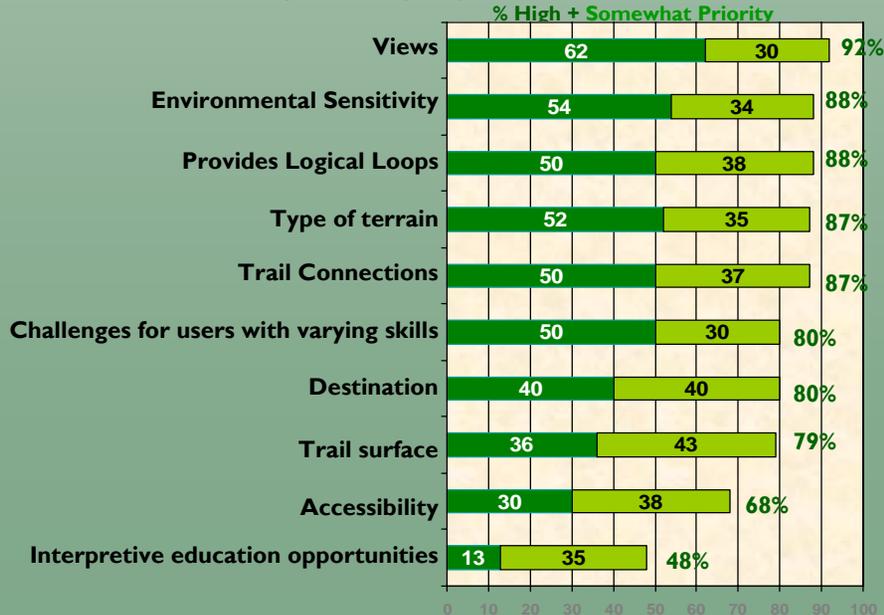
Views/Scenery	26%
Close	19%
Good trails	11%
Quiet/peaceful	6%
Access	6%
Challenge	5%
Clean/well maintained	5%
Nature	5%
Nature	5%
Misc.	6%
Note: Misc. included mention of: not crowded, open space, dog friendly, hiking, variety	

Features like **LEAST** (Listed by 3% or more)

No single tracks for bikes	19%
Animal droppings	6%
Better regulations	3%
No drinking water	3%
Loose gravel/erosion	3%
Parking	3%
Note: Other items mentioned included poison oak, bugs/flies, etc., cattle gates, signage, restrooms, dusty & dry, dogs off leash, parking, no shade, loose gravel/erosion, too crowded, trash cans, maintenance	

PREFERRED CRITERIA FOR ENHANCEMENTS

Visitors were also asked what criteria should be used to decide if a trail should be included in the EBRPD Trail System. They responded as follows.



ADDITIONAL FACILITIES DESIRED

High on the list of priorities were various trail experiences, back country camping, preservation of natural areas and interpretation of heritage sites. Built features such as interpretive centers and playgrounds rated low as priorities.

Hiking/jogging trails	51%
Back country camping	49%
Interpretation of heritage sites	37%
Picnic shelters/areas	36%
Single track mountain bike trails	31%
Organized trail events (e.g. endurance rides/runs)	29%
Natural areas/nature preserve with limited or no public access	23%
Orienteering classes/events	21%
Horse trails	20%
Geocaching	14%
Archery	14%
Youth group camping	13%
Recreation programs	11%
Interpretive center	9%
Children's play area	8%
Sand volleyball courts	7%
Other	4%



STAYING INVOLVED & CONNECTED

Your continued input is critical to the Land Use Planning Process. There are several easy ways for you to participate:

Get on the e-mail mailing list: We are interested in your ideas. Letters sent to: plan_pleasantonridge@ebparks.org will be reviewed regularly and your ideas will be considered throughout the planning process. While we may not respond to individual emails, we will post summaries of community ideas and concerns and report on the general progress of the planning process periodically through group e-mail messages.

Visit our website: Information pertaining to the planning process can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.ebparks.org>

Attend public planning workshops & presentations:

We will host a series of public workshops during the development of the Land Use Plan. Notices for these meetings will be posted on our website, at the Park and distributed to people on our e-mail and postal mailing lists.

Volunteer Opportunities: The District has many opportunities for volunteering. Information about our volunteer program can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.ebparks.org>

