EBRPD Trails User Working Group Meeting #3
February 19, 2021
Meeting Focus: Bicyclists

TUWG Website: https://www ebparks.org/about/planning/tuwg/default.htm

REFLECTIONS ON MEETINGS

Narrow trails discussion important. Would like to see it as an agenda item.
Including a legal analysis from the District. Focus on solutions that work for all of us.

Please share memo IDing critical narrow trail issues to be addressed with entire group.
Shared w/entire group on 2/11 but some did not receive email with memo.

Important to understand problem BEFORE moving to solutions.
Plans for future trail development must be informed by past and current trail experiences and conflicts.

Remember focus is on future trails; consider how current issues influence that.
Purpose of this group is to have some open-ended communication before we approach this with our hardened positions regarding potential user conflicts.

Pest studies have shown that it is very difficult to change the established varieties of usage of existing trails, but much easier to design neutrals for safe multi-use, and gain user acceptance and cooperation.

Only wide trails are safe and enjoyable for multi-use.

May take more than one session to discuss this.
Need a total group discussion on what we talked about in the paper.

NEXT STEPS

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting: equestrian perspective.
Check calendars: considering Thu. 4/22 from 10-12.
Final meeting in September with synthesis.

June mtg: environmental / stewardship perspectives.
Some conversations will be followed up in continuing processes.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morris Oldier has been awarded the California Trails and Greenways’ Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award.
### BICYCLISTS' PERSPECTIVES

**PRESENTERS:** Scott Bartlebaugh and Helena Gilbert-Snyder: Off-Road Cyclist's Perspective

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<tr>
<th>Many differing uses among bikers but come together on common goals</th>
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<td>Trying to make situation better</td>
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<td>Solutions demonstrated by other land managers</td>
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### GROUP MEMBER COMMENTS

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**Messaging:**
- In the video around horses bikes on the trail together gave a false and misleading impression. Trail was way too narrow - cyclist should not be so close to a horse to be able to reach out and grab it.
- Cyclists did not yield to the horse. They chose a horse “route” that was uncharacteristically bombproof. Is that animal for sale? Six.
- On the peninsula, due to COVID and 6 foot distancing, they made a number of trails one way trails. Very safe feeling, and worth exploring as a permanent measure.
- Great idea. That is done in many cross-country ski areas.
- Lafayette Reservoir has times for bicycles on various days. It would be good to get their experience.

**Bill’s Trail in SP Taylor State Park is worth a good look for its innovative multi-use safety features.**

**There are also environmental mitigation measures in place on Bill’s Trail like closing for certain winter months to reduce erosion/impact.**

**Here is a link to the photos of mitigation measures on Bill’s trail that I took:**

https://photos.app.goo.gl/5sJPUVY7jYPaaf8
BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS
1. What are some of the goals that bicyclists have in using trails?
2. What are some of the issues that bicyclists experience and/or create on trails?
3. What do you think would improve trail user experience?

GROUP 1: Reporter - Scott Bartlebaugh

- Some riders in group prefer wider rather than narrow roads
- Some choose days/times when there will be fewer riders for less crowded experience
- Uninterrupted experience more enjoyable for all users
- Issues: Riders who don't respect other users, travel too fast
- Riders wearing earbuds, not paying attention to surroundings
- People riding up and off trail to try to create new features
- Road and social trails part of this issue
- Conflict due to narrow trails; invites moving at high speed
- Education for all groups, particularly hikers; ensure they're aware there will be other users
- Hiking has increased as well as biking, lots more families and youth
- Work together in more detail on solutions
- Collaborative education efforts on trails
- Have direct discussions with users

GROUP 2: Reporter - Morris Older

- Most bikers want the same experiences as all: be in nature, destress and unwind
- Also want physical exercise
- Some want to go fast and have technical challenges (disagreed on percentage who do)
- Didn't discuss current issues a great deal; some experience of user conflict
- Solutions: Trails designed for multi-use from the beginning; safer
- Will encourage more cooperation from users
- Various strategies to eliminate conflict:
- Create trails especially for bikers wanting tech challenges and publicize
- Programs like Marin's Slow and Safe to sensitize users to other types of users' experience
- Get together to train horses, dogs to be used to each other and other users
- Bikers can use peer pressure to discourage poor behavior
- HS mountain bikers well trained, have 130 page code of conduct
- Deal directly with disrespectful bikers (far less than half)
- Some concern re. efficacy of education vs. design
- Bullying or harrassing riders may not adhere to code of conduct
- Gender-based harassment an issue
### GROUP 3: Reporter - Adele Ho

- A variety of experiences for bikers, from family to adrenaline junkies
- Most looking for same experiences as other users - enjoyment of trails, nature, fresh air & exercise
- Many bikers seeking narrow trails, tech challenges to improve skills
- Bike-optimized trails would be appreciated
- Close to home so families can ride there with kids
- Consequences of conflict between bike and hiker or horse much greater than, say, lack of maintenance
- Becomes a public health issue
- On narrow trails, moving out of the way means leaving trail, ecological damage
- Education: not just EB, but regionwide program and outreach
- Need for narrow trails in strategic locations designed for bikes
- Not all trails for all users at all times
- Some kind of usage management
- Dedicated trails or alternate days

### GROUP 4: Reporter - Kim Thai

- Bikers want more challenging trails across park system
- Want safety issues addressed
- Also better connectivity of trails between parklands
- Issues: Safety - constantly having to look out for other users
- Risk of having to move out of way quickly, running into poison oak
- Focused on solutions
- Bike parks
- Comprehensive trail plan
- Review bike access points and overall inter-jurisdictional flow between parks
- Develop plan for landbank lands based on issues with current park lands
- New trails; bike only or optimized for bikes
- Communication campaigns; bring education to different trail user groups
- Need funding for both good environmental analysis re. where trail goes and trail construction
- Some existing plans include funding for separate use trails
- Tahoe Rim Trail example of good separated-use trail
- Design trails for new use not just current use

### GROUP 5: Reporter - Simone Nageon de Lestang

- Others touched on most of group’s big points
- If all want narrow trails, bikers have least opportunity of any user group
- Issues: trail safety, conflicts and environmental degradation of social trails
- Do trail user conflict survey to have full data on actual conflicts
- Solutions: develop access plans for land bank properties
- Provide education in the field
- Explicit, clear signage on trails; even yield signs take a moment to figure out
- Clearer maps that identify trail uses
- Advertise trails open to bikes