

Executive Summary

Over the last several decades, the Santa Rosa Valley has developed into a rural residential community with a significant equestrian component. During this time, a network of informal and formal equestrian trails has been established and developed. In addition, many of the residential properties in the valley include facilities such as barns and arenas to support horse ownership. And in 2012 the County opened the long-planned Santa Rosa Valley Park, which features equestrian riding facilities, including a training area.

Many of the early residential subdivisions included dedicated trails easements that have created a large portion of the current trail system in the Santa Rosa Valley. In addition, there are a number of informal equestrian trails that are used by riders, who also utilize public and private street surfaces and shoulders to travel throughout the valley. While this system of trails currently serves the residents and visitors well, the system is somewhat disconnected and inconsistent, and there is no long-range plan for its future development, operation and maintenance. To preserve existing multi-use trails in the face of new development and to establish new trail connections in the Santa Rosa Valley, local residents collaborated in 2004 to form a nonprofit organization, Santa Rosa Valley Trails, Inc. (SRVTI). In 2013, the SRVTI began working in cooperation with the County of Ventura to prepare this Trail Master Plan to establish a valley-wide trail system, adopt design and operating guidelines, and establish maintenance and funding policies.

This Trail Master Plan includes an assessment of existing conditions in the Santa Rosa Valley's trail system, guidelines for the design of trail improvements, a preliminary/conceptual development plan and cost estimates for trail improvements, and operation and maintenance guidelines. This trail system is herein defined as inclusive of both equestrian routes and bikeways, and both off-street and on-street facilities. The Trail Master Plan, as shown in Figure 14, has been designed for consistency with the Ventura County General Plan and the Ventura Countywide Bicycle Master Plan.

This Trail Master Plan incorporates the County's long-standing policy that new trails and facilities will not be developed unless funding for their proper construction and long-term maintenance has been identified. The trail system within the Santa Rosa Valley is unique in that a non-governmental entity, SRVTI, exists for the sole purpose of supporting, developing and maintaining trail facilities. Thus, while the County does not currently have the funding set-aside for the development and maintenance of new trail facilities, the facilities outlined in this Trail Master Plan may potentially be realized under the auspices of SRVTI. Regardless of the entity that may be responsible for the development and maintenance of trail segments, the Trail Master Plan is intended to ensure that future trails are developed and managed in a consistent manner and in keeping with established County design guidelines.

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
PL15-0095

Exhibit 2 - Santa Rosa Valley Trail
Master Plan - Executive Summary