

*We are a welcoming, active and business-friendly rural
foothill community built on California's rich gold rush history*



City Manager's Report

March 11, 2025, City Council Meeting

**Prepared by: M. Cleve Morris, City Manager; Police Chief Joe Wren; Denis Nishihara,
Director of Community Services**

Item #: 12.1

Subject: Receive and File Report on Trail Maintenance and Security.

Recommendation: Review report and make any further recommendations for consideration and research.

Purpose: To provide information to the Council on proposed programs to increase maintenance and security on the El Dorado Trail.

Strategic Plan Strategy: Health & Public Safety

1. Strategy – Expand and Improve Public Facilities and Recreation Programs.
 - a. Continue to monitor and maintain all City Buildings and develop detailed maintenance plans for City facilities.
 - c. Develop additional volunteer programs to beautify the City such as adopt a trail/garden program.

Background: At the City Council Meeting on January 14, 2025, the Council asked staff to return with a report regarding Trail Maintenance and Security. Since that time, several actions have taken place to improve both Maintenance and Security. The discussion below outlines those items and how they should improve these areas.

Discussion: As noted above, staff was asked to look into two areas related to the El Dorado trail to better maintain the asset and make it more inviting to both residents and visitors.

1. Maintenance: Attached is a draft “Adopt a Trail Program” prepared by Denis Nishihara, Director of Community Services. The program sets out guidelines and plans for individual volunteers, businesses or associations to adopt an area of the trail to assist with maintenance and to help monitor the trail. Specific role of volunteers will be as follows

ROLE OF TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazers, i.e. cleanup volunteers and/or groups, play a vital role in maintaining the safety, cleanliness, and sustainability of adopted trails. Their key responsibilities include:

- a. Litter Removal – Collect and properly dispose of trash, recyclables, and debris along the trail.
- b. Basic Maintenance – Clear small branches, rake leaves, and safely remove

obstacles that may hinder trail access.

c. Reporting Issues – Notify the managing organization of major trail damage, erosion, vandalism, or hazardous conditions.

d. Following Safety Guidelines – Use provided tools responsibly, wear appropriate gear, and work safely in designated areas.

e. Commitment & Reporting – Conduct cleanups at agreed intervals (e.g., monthly/quarterly) and log completed work.

The above items will not replace the work that staff does. Staff will still perform maintenance on going as necessary. The work of the volunteers will supplement staff work. In addition, staff has recently deployed Growlersburg to assist with more major vegetation management, including falling and cutting up of dead trees.

The Cannabis Community Benefit Committee has expressed interest in funding the Trailer for the Adopt a Trailer program if Council expresses approval for the program. The funding recommendation will be brought to the City Council in April.

2. Security: Staff recently convened to explore strategies for enhancing security along our trails. The Police Department's Command Staff has conducted two patrols during the last 90 days on the Mosquito to Jaquier trail, engaging with trail users to discuss their experiences with safety. Interestingly, feedback from those interactions indicated that users did not express any concerns regarding trail security. This positive sentiment is further substantiated by a review of service call statistics from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, which revealed no incidents of violent crime and only a few minor reports of criminal activity.

Nonetheless, we recognize that there is a perceived concern regarding security on our trails. In response, the Police Department has committed to scheduling trail patrols no less than three times per week, contingent on calls for service. This proactive approach is commonly employed in areas experiencing increased recreation activities.

Additionally, we believe that the implementation of the Adopt a Trail Program will foster a greater sense of community involvement and stewardship among trail users, particularly during evenings and weekends, thereby enhancing security.

To further support safe and responsible trail usage, staff is developing signage that will provide important information encouraging users to remain on designated trails, prohibiting camping, and offering guidance to prevent vandalism and other illegal activities. We appreciate the community's ongoing engagement and feedback as we work together to maintain a secure and enjoyable trail experience for everyone.

Options:

1. Receive and File the report.
2. Receive and File the report with recommended changes.
3. Receive and File the report and request additional information from staff.

Environmental:

This program does not qualify as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and therefore no Environmental Statement is necessary.

Cost: There is no cost associated with this report at this time. If the Adopt a Trail program is implemented there will be a cost for equipment to start the program. Costs for Police patrols are expected to be absorbed in the Department Budget.

Budget Impact: None at this time..



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager



Chief Joe Wren



Denis Nishihara, Director of Community Svcs.

Attachments:

Att. A: Draft Adopt a Trail Program