

MEMORANDUM -----

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

DATE: November 9, 2015

TO: Joe Hertlein, Chair, Parks Commission
Brian Contreras, Parks Commission
Ken Husby, Parks Commission
Roger Soell, Parks Commission
Ruben Zurita, Parks Commission

FROM: Mark Mariscal, Director of Parks

SUBJECT: **Toro Park – Expansion of Bike Riding on Trails, including the possibility of charging an annual fee for bike riders within Toro Park**

Toro Park has many trails within the park. They are assigned as follows: a) hiking only, b) hiking and biking only, c) equestrian only, d) multi use.

The Parks Department has been approached by many different park users that have suggested different ways to monitor and possibly generate revenue from park users. One approach might be the consideration of expanding the ability of bike riders to go on trails that currently are off limits. For discussion purposes, there are already bike riders utilizing unauthorized trails and enforcement has been challenging.

Staff has also heard from many bike riders and other park users that a fee for bike riding could possibly generate revenue that could be used to help maintain the trails. Although there are already organizations that provide volunteer labor to help maintain trails annually, there are materials and supplies that are needed that cannot always be donated to these organizations or the Parks Department. The possibility of the fee may help to offset some of these expenses.

Recommendations

Staff recommends the following:

- 1) Direct staff to hold at least two community meetings to discuss the expansion of bike riding within Toro Park.
- 2) Direct staff to consider an annual fee for the use bikes in Toro Park and set an appropriate fee.
- 3) Direct staff to report back in the March or April 2016 meeting of the Commission.