

# MONTEREY COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Carl P. Holm, AICP, Director



LAND USE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES | PARKS

1441 Schilling Place, South 2nd Floor  
Salinas, California 93901-4527

(831)755-4800

[www.co.monterey.ca.us/rma](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/rma)

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 6, 2018  
**To:** Parks Commission  
**From:** John Akeman, Park Planning Manager  
**Subject:** TORO TRAILS TASK FORCE

The role of the Task Force is summarized as addressing the issues, opportunities and constraints associated with the trail system at Toro Park. The group will consider solutions to improve the trails, and develop a Trails Master Plan.

As the Commission is aware, Toro Park has an evolving network of old and new trails and the goal is to realign the trails to lessen impacts to the environment and develop a more sustainable trail system.

The Task Force is working preparing a detailed inventory of the trail segments that have not been authorized or accurately shown on the (2009) trails map that's currently in use. There are both immediate and long term needs to reduce the damage caused by unauthorized or unplanned trails and work to restore the natural, cultural and recreational resources. Staff consults the Task Force to help identify and prioritize immediate needs while the plan is being developed. Part of the process is to better understand and address user conflicts associated with the Toro Park trails.

The Task Force has begun work on the following:

- Review the established trail route inventory and start field work to verify or “truth” the trails by adding any routes to the working map that may have been missed, inform existing site conditions, surface issues slope, cross slope and whether there are any impacts that require attention or mitigation.
- Help identify more information about the Toro Park trail users.
- Help develop a trail signage program – similar to the one done for the nearby Fort Ord County and BLM trails. Signage would include directional signs, rules/regulations and interpretive signs.
- Help establish a trail volunteer group – both trail workers to help improve and maintain trails and trail users or ambassadors to the trails providing relevant information, trail etiquette and appropriate use as opposed to enforcement.

The Toro Trails Task Force has held four meetings plus multiple field trips since early August. To date, the Task Force has performed research of information and material and taken various field trips held to see items of interest, such as:

- Field trips have been held to see different trail segments, with different issues and opportunities
- Review and update the trail inventory sheet is underway and additional data is being documented
- Work to define the decisions that the group will need to make and then determine what data or information is needed to make an informed decision (to expand a trail or to minimize a trail)
- Look into obtaining tools and equipment (GPS, smart-level)
- Bring CSUMB Interns on board to assist with project

The Task Force has formed into sub-committees or working groups to allow members to focus on areas of interest and expertise and be able to work on a task or project outside of the regular meeting, then bring the item back to the group for full consideration. This seems like a good approach to making the best use of everyone's time and to get more work done. The following work groups were formed:

- Administrative - deed research, contracts, agreements
- Trail Inventory – criteria
- Environmental, Watershed, Native Plants
- GIS mapping
- Trail volunteer program
- Grants – research, administrative
- Public Outreach – volunteer program once established

It is anticipated that the Task Force will have a draft outline for a plan completed by late spring, early summer. Monthly updates will continue to take place to keep the commission informed of the project.