



CHAPTER 2 PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 STATE PARKS RTMP PLANNING PROCESS

Developing an RTMP is a dynamic process that involves considerable collaboration between State Parks, stakeholder groups, surrounding local jurisdictions, resource and regulatory agencies, and the public.

This RTMP has been prepared in accordance with State Parks Trails Policy, which calls for a public planning process that strives to meet the recreational, educational, and interpretive needs of diverse trail users by developing trails consistent with the unit classification, general plan directives, cultural and natural resource protection, public safety, accessibility, user compatibility, and other legal and policy mandates. State Parks' RTMP planning process involves the following major steps:

1. **Develop the Project Team:** The project team consists of multi-disciplinary staff from the sector, district, headquarters, and consultant team as needed (see Appendix 9).
2. **Inventory and Mapping:** A road and trail inventory was conducted and base maps with associated attributes were created. In addition, the planning team collected information on sensitive resources and physical conditions and prepared a trail suitability analysis to identify the relative suitability of different portions of park in supporting sustainable trails. This inventory and assessment process provided an objective and consistent method for determining road and trail infrastructural problems and associated solutions.
3. **Public and Stakeholder Input:** Input was gathered from park users and other stakeholders. This includes information on issues pertinent to road and trail use and sustainability. A community feedback survey, public meetings, online activities, and pop-up events were conducted to solicit input from a diverse range of trail users to allow the public to assist in identifying needs, suggesting routes, and environmental protection.
4. **Evaluate and Synthesize Data:** Data was collated, compared, and assessed. Key issues were identified, including trail sustainability, safety, adequate infrastructure, connectivity, land use compatibility, and user conflicts. Various road and trail management opportunities were considered as part of the opportunities and constraints analysis.

5. **Development of Recommendations:** To develop plan recommendations, the planning team considered public input, accessibility needs, natural and cultural resource management concerns, and trail linkages within and outside the park. Many of the opportunities are carried over as the plan recommendations. Recommendations for the plan include changes in allowed uses, new routes, rerouted trails, decommissioning of unsustainable routes, and new or alterations to facilities.
6. **Administrative Draft RTMP:** An internal draft of the preferred plan was developed for review and deliberation by State Parks staff after gathering public input.
7. **Public Draft RTMP:** Following internal State Parks review and refinements of the Administrative Draft, a Public Draft RTMP was developed for public review and comment.

The project team shared the Public Draft RTMP for public review and hosted a public meeting to solicit comments related to the plan.
8. **Proposed Draft RTMP and Environmental Document:** The Proposed Draft RTMP will be developed as a revised version of the Public Draft RTMP that considers public comments on the Public Draft RTMP and includes the appropriate draft environmental document as required by CEQA.
9. **Public Review of Proposed Draft RTMP and Environmental Document:** Public comments will be solicited again through the required environmental review process. State Parks staff receive and evaluate public comments and respond as appropriate per CEQA guidelines. The Proposed Draft RTMP may be modified, as necessary, to address public comments or concerns.
10. **Final RTMP and Environmental Document:** The Final RTMP and associated environmental document will be completed, including changes resulting from public comments, and the RTMP is recommended for adoption.



Outreach consisted of community feedback through surveys, public meetings, online activities, and pop-up events.



2.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the public engagement efforts was to provide an overview of the RTMP, share analysis completed to date, present potential strategies under consideration, and provide local communities, residents, stakeholders, interested parties, and other agencies with opportunities to become actively involved in developing the RTMP. These efforts aimed to engage the public through a variety of interactive formats that encouraged meaningful input on key issues related to the park’s road and trail system.

To ensure broad participation, outreach included both in-person and online opportunities for individuals to review project materials and provide feedback. This approach allowed individuals to engage at their own pace, whether by attending events or participating in similar feedback exercises through the online platform.

During the RTMP process, coordination and consultation with California Native American tribes occurred, consistent with State Parks policy and the requirements of CEQA. Figure 2-1 depicts the TASP RTMP public engagement process.

Community engagement during the RTMP process focused on the following goals:

- Share the vision, purpose, goals, and benefits of creating an RTMP.
- Involve interested and affected stakeholders in identifying needs, priorities, and values related to the RTMP.
- Create an effective and meaningful engagement process where all members of the community and key stakeholders, including those that are often underrepresented groups, can participate.
- Build shared commitment and support from decision makers, the public, and stakeholders.
- Provide transparency in the methodologies and approaches for technical analysis that support the RTMP process.

Figure 2-1 TASP RTMP Public Engagement Process



Outreach Phases

Public engagement for the RTMP was structured into four phases. Each phase of the process highlights opportunities to provide input and feedback at key milestones to maximize the participation of the public and stakeholders. The various outreach activities that occurred during each of the four phases for the RTMP are described below:

- **Phase 1:** Announce planning process and solicit information regarding existing uses, opportunities, and constraints.
 - Distribute postcards at appropriate nearby locations; and post signage appropriate locations to notify the public of the planning process
 - Release of project introductory eblast, web page, and StoryMap
 - Project web page updates, email blasts, and social media
 - Release of trail use survey
 - Public Meeting #1: RTMP Scoping to identify opportunities and gather public input on what they would like to see at the park.
 - Pop-up Event #1
- **Phase 2:** Obtain feedback on Public Review Draft RTMP
 - Web page and StoryMap updates, email blasts, and social media
 - Release Draft RTMP for public review
 - Pop-up Event #2
 - Public Meeting #2: Feedback on Draft RTMP
 - Respond to public comments/questions
- **Phase 3:** Complete environmental review
 - Web page and StoryMap updates, email blasts, and social media
 - CEQA notices
- Formal public review period for Proposed RTMP and environmental document and respond to comments/questions
- Public Meeting #3: Comments on environmental document
- **Phase 4:** Complete Final RTMP
 - Web page and StoryMap updates, email blasts, and social media
 - Release Final RTMP

Public Outreach Activities

The public has been invited to provide input by attending public meetings, taking a community feedback survey, and providing feedback at various pop-up events. The following is a summary of the key outreach activities that occurred throughout development of the RTMP during which the public was engaged and provided feedback. Results and input received from the Spring 2025 trail user survey and Pop-up Event #1 are included in Appendix 1. Results and input received from Public Meeting #1 and the associated public comment period are also included in Appendix 1.

Project-Specific Webpage

During the initial stages of the RTMP, the project team developed a project-specific webpage at www.parks.ca.gov/TASPRTMP that provided interested parties the ability to sign up for the email notification list, view project documents, and find contact information to send comments and suggestions. The project web page also included a link to an ArcGIS StoryMap that provides detailed background information for the project.

A supplemental Social Pinpoint website at <https://ascent.mysocialpinpoint.com/trione-annadel-state-park-RTMP> was also created to host community engagement exercises and provide summaries of feedback received.



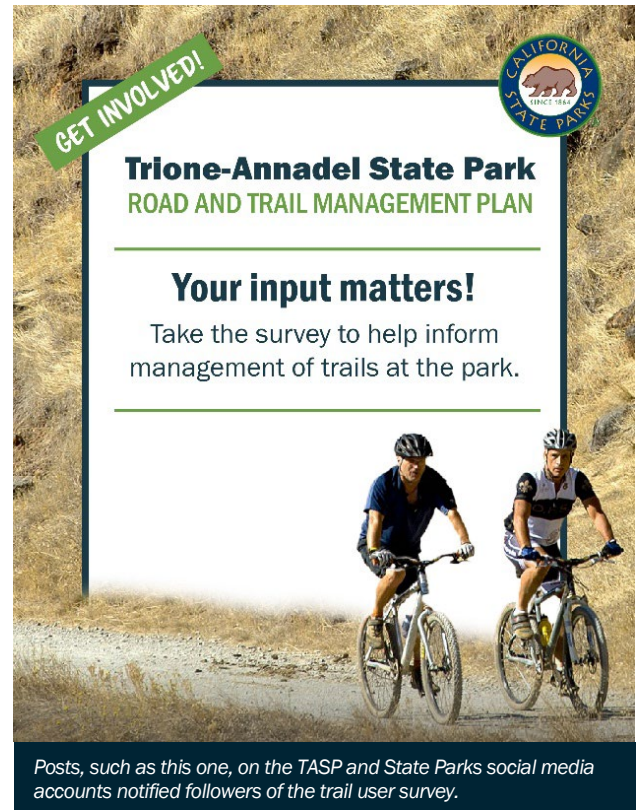
Outreach Signage and Notifications

At the beginning of the RTMP process, the project team prepared and distributed information signs and flyers announcing the initiation of the RTMP and project webpage throughout the park at entry locations, park facilities, trailheads, and other access points to notify users of upcoming events and outreach opportunities. These informational signs also directed users to the project web page for more information to inform the public of the planning and environmental review process. Signs included a QR code to connect participants to the project webpage.

Postcards and Email Blasts

To kick off the project notification, the project team created a postcard in English and Spanish that contained a QR code and project webpage. These postcards were distributed at the pop-up event, posted on bulletin boards, and distributed at local events. The postcard contained a brief project summary and a link to the project website for more information. These postcards were used to direct the public and interested stakeholders to the project website to participate in a community feedback survey, provide feedback, and view project materials.

Emails were sent to the project contact list announcing opportunities to participate in the survey and other engagement activities. The project contact list included approximately 275 email addresses for nonprofit organizations, private stakeholders, neighboring property owners, and various user groups. People desiring to be included in communications for the RTMP could sign up for the contact list throughout the RTMP process.



Social Media

During the RTMP process, the project team posted project information and noticed various outreach events using the State Parks Bay Area District Instagram and Facebook accounts, encouraging the public to attend the public meetings, participate in trail user survey and visit the project webpage.

Trail User Survey

An online trail user survey was conducted at the beginning of the RTMP to gather information from the public on their current trail uses and identify issues that can be addressed in the RTMP, such as improvements to trail access, desired locations and types of trailhead amenities and facilities, desired changes in use, and desired trail improvements. The online survey was made available during the initial outreach phase from April 25 to May 27, 2025. A total of 958 responses were received that represented the views of a cross-section of park visitors. Demographic information was also collected through an optional survey located on the project webpage.

Key findings show that 46 percent of respondents live within five miles of the park and visit on a weekly basis. Mountain biking was the most common activity (43 percent), followed by hiking and walking (31 percent), with most users visiting in groups of two to four. Top concerns included the lack of user-specific trail features (24 percent) and poor road and trail conditions (22 percent). Open-ended feedback revealed consistent themes, including a strong interest in incorporating existing non-system routes, concerns about trail maintenance, user group conflicts and safety, insufficient amenities, poor signage, and a desire for more varied trail experiences. These insights helped inform the RTMP. The results of the survey are included in Appendix 1 of this document.

Pop-Up Events

To reach potential visitors that may not be aware of the planning process or those who do not visit TASP regularly, the project team planned for and attended pop-up events held at the Santa Rosa Original Farmers Market located at Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in April 2025, and early 2026. Project team members distributed postcards that contained links to the project webpage and encouraged members of the public to participate in the trail user survey and review the Draft RTMP. State Parks recorded 88 visitors to the booth at the pop-up event. Public feedback from the event highlighted concerns about trail etiquette. Attendees also expressed a desire for improved signage and wayfinding.



In-person public engagement efforts included public meetings and pop-up events.



Public Meetings

The planning process included three public meetings to provide the community and stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about and share input on the RTMP. Input received at the public meetings helped guide and inform the RTMP. Public Meeting #1 focused on understanding issues and existing conditions; and Public Meeting #2 provided an opportunity to review and give feedback on the Public Draft RTMP. The third public meeting provides an opportunity to review a revised version of the RTMP and comment on the environmental review. Below is a summary of the public meetings conducted thus far. A full summary of responses received from participants is provided in Appendix 1.

Public Meeting #1

On June 17, 2025, State Parks held an in-person public meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building to introduce the RTMP. The meeting included a welcome station, a pre-recorded presentation, and an open house format where attendees could explore maps and topic boards, interact with State Parks and consultant staff, and provide input through a variety of hands-on exercises. The event aimed to share the planning process, review completed analysis, and potential RTMP strategies and collect public feedback on key issues.

To promote broader participation, an online comment period was held from June 17 to July 15,

2025, through an interactive web platform. This digital version of the public meeting mirrored the in-person activities, allowing users to review materials and submit feedback at their own pace. The online engagement provided an accessible option for those unable to attend the in-person event, ensuring the public had multiple ways to contribute input on the RTMP planning process.



State Parks staff talked with attendees at several different stations at Public Meeting #1.



State Parks trails staff conducted field evaluations of the non-system routes in summer and fall 2025.

2.3 NON-SYSTEM ROUTE EVALUATIONS

State Parks staff conducted evaluations of the existing non-system routes within TASP with the purpose of gaining an overall understanding of use levels, experience, and sustainability for each route. The evaluation informed whether non-system routes could be a candidate for future adoption into the road and trail system or better suited for future removal and restoration to a natural condition. Evaluations occurred throughout summer and fall 2025 and included a preliminary office evaluation of all non-system routes, including reviewing factors such as trail connectivity, impacts to known resources, drainage, and tree canopy. The preliminary evaluations were followed by field evaluations that considered:

- Whether the route contains excessive safety issues, such as blind curves and drops, that would not be easily correctable with maintenance or modifications.
- Whether the route generally displays sustainable design characteristics, such as a

contouring curvilinear alignment, full bench tread, appropriately durable tread material, minimal “fall line” alignment, dips in and out of drainages, and good drainage.

- Whether the route is redundant to other non-system routes with superior experience, circulation, connectivity, or sustainability.

Each non-system route was categorized as either suitable for adoption as a system road or trail with no modifications, suitable for inclusion as a system road or trail with modifications, or not suitable as a system road or trail. Routes that are not suitable for inclusion should be restored to natural conditions. Non-system routes suitable for future inclusion into the system could be adopted if they support achieving recommendations in this RTMP. A further explanation of the non-system route evaluation process, as well as determinations, are viewable in Appendix 6.



2.4 CHANGE-IN-USE EVALUATIONS

State Parks implements a change-in-use evaluation process to facilitate consistency in the review of requested road and trail use designation changes. This process assesses proposals that would add or remove allowed recreational uses from existing system roads and trails. The evaluation identifies changes that best accommodate accessibility and recreational trail users that are appropriate for each road or trail through a transparent and objective decision-making process, while aligning with State Parks Trail Policy and avoiding major environmental impacts.

A Change-in-Use Evaluation Form is used to assess existing conditions and compatibility between the park classification and trail uses, as well as effects on circulation, safety, sustainability, and natural and cultural resources. It also assesses operation and maintenance costs associated with changing use designations.

Recommendations based on the Change-in-Use Evaluation results typically fall into one of the following categories: conditional approval that includes design modifications or repairs, conditional approval that includes management options, approval, disapproval, or being put on hold. Once a new trail use is allowed or use is

removed, trails or sections in which a change-in-use has been approved are subject to an adaptive use management strategy to monitor and address unexpected impacts from a change-in-use, guide management or design changes to protect biological resources, ensure trail safety, and maintain sustainability. For additional information regarding the Change-in Use process please visit https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28461.

2.5 PLAN CONSISTENCY

Recommendations in this RTMP are consistent with Public Resources Code Section 5019.53, which provides directive for the purpose of improvements in a state park. In addition, this RTMP is consistent with the unit classification as a state park and following policies established in other approved departmental documents. The following documents were also consulted in the development of the plan:

- Trione-Annadel State Park Wildfire Management Plan (2021)
- Sonoma County General Plan (2008)
- City of Santa Rosa Active Transportation Plan (2025)
- City of Santa Rosa Draft General Plan (2025)
- Sonoma County Active Transportation Plan (2025)



Development of RTMP considered consistency with local and state parks planning documents.

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