MARIN WATER

Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study

April 16, 2024

Agenda

➢ Planning Process Overview

➢ Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study

➢ Strategic Opportunities

    ➢ Stewardship

    ➢ Visitor Outreach

    ➢ Facilities, Plans and Policies

    ➢ Adaptive Management

➢ Pilot Program Framework

➢ Next Steps

Planning Process

- Board Policy 7
  - "Adaptive visitor management"
- E-Bike Community Advisory Committee
  - Evaluate watershed visitation holistically
- Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study
  - Initial Scoping Meeting
  - 6 Public Workshops
  - 2 Watershed Site Visits
  - Watershed Visitor Census Survey Update
  - Eco-counter, Strava, and Streetlight Data Analysis
  - 8 Watershed Committee Updates

Planning Objective

Evaluate current patterns of watershed visitation while collecting community input on current conditions and future desired conditions.

Consider opportunities for continuing to support safe, inclusive access with an emphasis on protecting the watershed's unique biodiversity, habitat, and water quality.
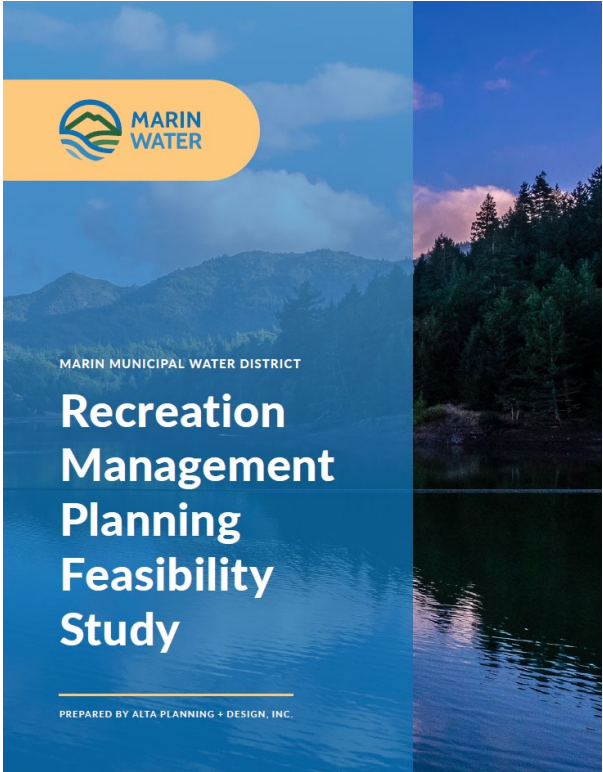
Planning Process

Drinking Water Reg's + MMWD Policies

Literature Review

One Tam Collaboration

Community Engagement

Data inputs inform →

Public Workshops & Data

- Areas of Interest, Issues, + Desired Conditions
- Visitor Census Survey + Biological Considerations
- Stewardship Programs
- Visitor Management
- Watershed Facilities
- Adaptive Management

MARIN WATER

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study

PREPARED BY ALTA PLANNING + DESIGN, INC.

Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study Outline

Introduction
- Planning Process
- Background
- Goals
- Environmental Setting and Biodiversity

Watershed Setting
- Existing Policies & Regulations
- Roads & Trails

Visitor Census Survey
- Summary of Visitor survey
- Data collection process
- Visitor Data

Public Engagement Summary
- Overview of workshops
- Workshop Summaries
- Community input

Strategic Opportunities
- Stewardship
- Visitor Outreach
- Watershed Facilities, Plans, and Policies
- Adaptive Management

https://www.marinwater.org/WatershedRecPlan

Section 5: Strategic Opportunities

Strategic Opportunity 1: Stewardship

Strategic Opportunity 2: Visitor Outreach Services

Strategic Opportunity 3: Watershed Facilities, Policies, and Plans

Strategic Opportunity 4: Adaptive Management

Strategic Opportunity 1: Stewardship

OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Trail and Habitat Volunteer Program	Quarterly trail maintenance events to advance priority stewardship projects. Continue regular Watershed habitat restoration volunteer events.	6 months
Trail Ambassador Volunteer Training	Host annual trail maintenance training to help increase volunteer and staff trail building/maintenance capacity.	Annual event
One Tam Watershed Stewardship Events for Under-served Communities	Outreach to under-served communities to facilitate targeted stewardship events on the Watershed as part of One Tam collaboration and program offerings.	6–18 months
Wildlife Docent and Ambassador Program Offerings	Maintain frog and turtle docent programs. Add seasonal guided hikes to program offerings to help educate the community about the Watershed biodiversity and natural resources.	6–12 months
Natural Resource Interpretation	Ranger Trainees and new Rangers complete certified interpretive guide program.	6–18 months
Update Priority List of Non-System Trail Decommissioning and Restoration Projects	As part of an update to the RTMP, pair social trail decommissioning with new trail alignments or improvements to ensure a net environmental benefit.	6–36 months

Strategic Opportunity 2: Visitor Outreach Services

OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Watershed Signage	Continue signage updates and prioritize updates to kiosks to highlight biodiversity and water resources.	12–18 months
Watershed Visitor Map Updates	Develop a geo-referenced visitor map that's available online to support visitors' use of system trails.	12–18 months
Ranger and Natural Resources Interpretive Hikes	Host quarterly Ranger and Naturalist hikes, and guided tours to help connect the community to Watershed resources and projects.	Quarterly events
Self-Guided Natural Resources Interpretation	Create nature-based self-guided tours and outreach materials to help educate the community about the Watershed's biodiversity, water resources, wildfire issues, and the impacts of climate change here.	6–18 months

Strategic Opportunity 3: Watershed Facilities, Policies, and Plans

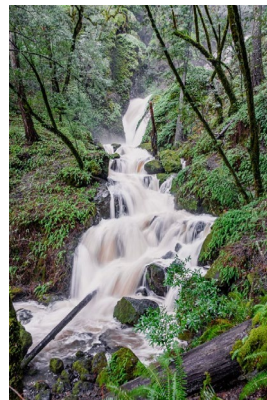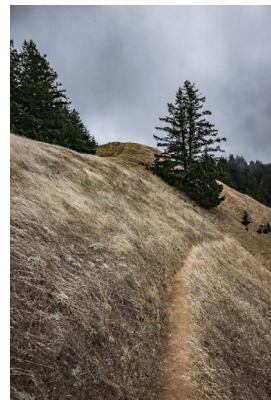| OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Library Pass Program and Low-Income Parking Pass Discount	Maintain library parking pass system. Provide reduced parking fee for Marin Water customers who qualify for the District's low-income programs.	6 months
Slow Zones	Expand slow zones in priority locations to support safe trail conditions and sharing.	6–18 months
Pilot Study for Multi-Use and Bike Access	• Consider pilot study to evaluate bike access and trail sharing techniques in targeted areas. • Evaluate e-bike Class I pilot program for limited term period.	6–12 months
Update to RTMP with Consideration for Visitor Experience and Stewardship	Begin update to 2005 RTMP to balance natural resource protection and visitor experience. Evaluate bike trail designation as part of trail classification system. Integrate modern trail standards and building techniques to guide operations and maintenance.	12–36 months

Strategic Opportunity 3: Watershed Facilities, Policies, and Plans

OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
Watershed Accessibility	• Develop list of priority projects to support visitor access. • Update Other Power-Driven Mobility Device Policy to include e-bikes.	6–12 months
Outdoor Visitor Amenities	Evaluate opportunities for water fountains, restroom improvements, better trash collection, bike racks, bike fix-it stations, outdoor educational facility, horse troughs, benches, and road and trail infrastructure that can protect natural resources and support visitors.	12-24 months
Watershed Project Zoning	Integrate zoning framework into the RTMP update to guide implementation of priority trail and road projects as well as Project Restore efforts. Framework will be structured around the following components: • Biological resources • Visitation patterns • Abiotic (physical) conditions	12–36 months

Strategic Opportunity 4: Adaptive Management

OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
10-Year Visitor Service Updates	Update the understanding of visitors to inform management of recreation of the District.	Once every 10 years beginning in 2033
Early Detection Rapid Response Invasive Plant Management Along Roads and Trails	Monthly independent and small-group habitat restoration opportunities which focus on invasive species control.	6–18 months

Pilot Programs

- Pilot study for multi-use trails and bike access for a single-track experience may include:
  - Directional trail sharing
  - Days of the week
  - Strategic connections and loops
  - Gather information to inform CEQA review
- Pilot study for E-Bike Class 1
  - Formalize E-bike Class 1 pilot study for up to a three year period
  - Gather information to inform CEQA review

Pilot Program Screening Framework

Screening Considerations for Multi-Use Trails

Biological Resources:

- Review of sensitive plant species and habitats

- Survey for sensitive habitats and wildlife along trail

- Identify stewardship opportunities that would support trial sharing pilot program (volunteer maintenance, avoidance, invasive plant surveys, etc.)

Current Patterns of Trail Visitation:

- Frequency of trail visitors

- Peak usage times

- Assessment of trail sharing opportunities

Pilot Program Screening Framework

Safety Considerations:

- Terrain difficulty and terrain

- Accident and enforcement history

- Trail hazards

- Consider areas where slow zones should be established along pilot program trail alignment

Abiotic Conditions:

- Soil erosion risk

- Water quality

- Trail width and tread

- Geologic setting

Pilot Program Screening Framework

Enforceability & Compliance:

- Signage: Pilot program and trail regulations
- Regulatory framework
- Enforcement resources and approach
- Stakeholder cooperation and engagement

Next Step in Planning Process

2005 Roads and Trails Plan focused on maintenance of roads and trails to protect water quality and the environment. Didn't consider trail visitors and how they use the system of roads and trails.

➢ Update RTMP with Stewardship and Visitor Experience Considerations

- Integrate visitor management strategies
- Review and update trail classification system
- Project Restore
  - Prioritize non-system trail decommissioning and restoration efforts
  - Align access improvements with targeted non-system closures
- Watershed Trail Project Zoning Framework to guide trail improvement and decommissioning projects
- Incorporate modern trail maintenance best management practices
- Scope program based on District's capacity to complete in a 10 year time-frame

Next Steps

June 20th
Watershed Committee to review pilot program

Helen Mark Trail Bridge