



# Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study

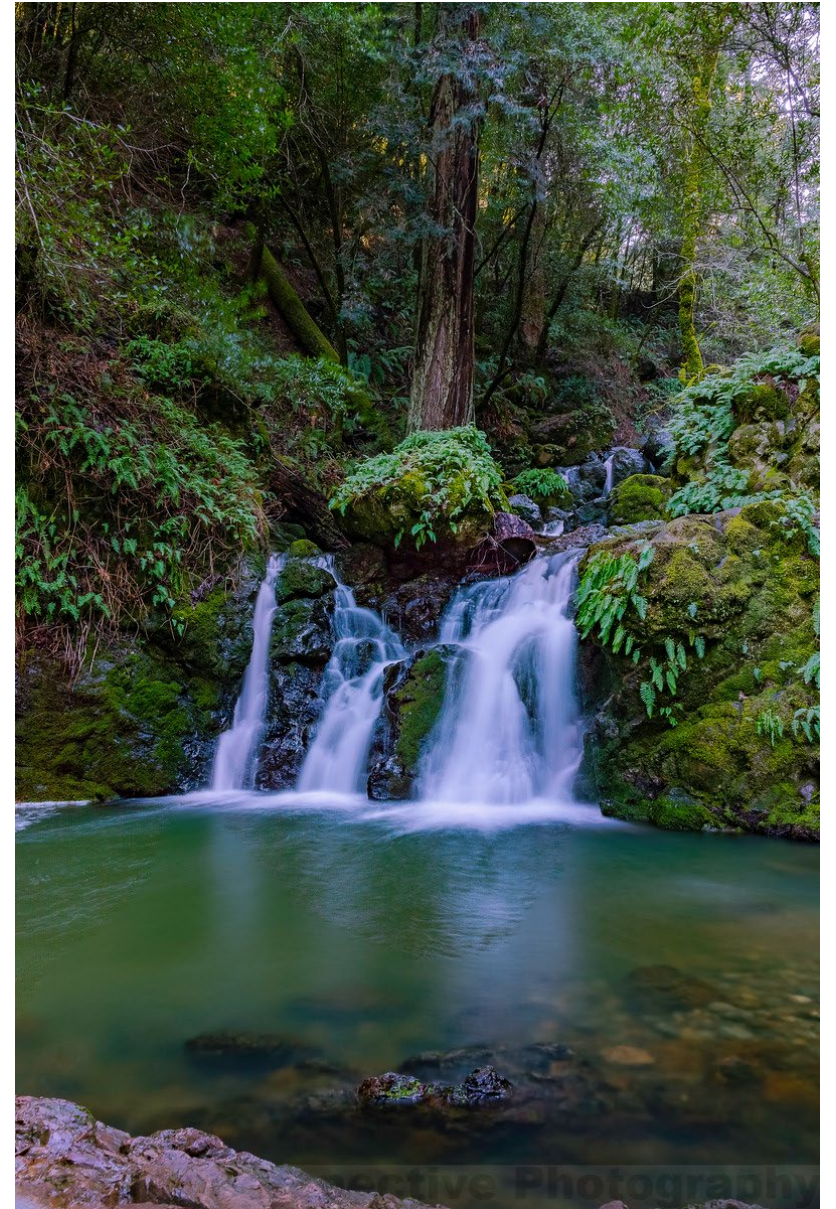
February 29, 2024





# Agenda

- **Planning Process Overview**
- **Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study**
- **Strategic Opportunities**
  - **Stewardship**
  - **Visitor Outreach**
  - **Facilities, Plans and Policies**
  - **Adaptive Management**









# Planning Process

- Board Policy 7
  - “Adaptive visitor management”
- E-Bike Community Advisory Committee
  - Evaluate watershed visitation holistically
- Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study
  - 2 Initial Scoping Meetings
  - 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.



# 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



# Section 1: Introduction

- Overview of planning process
- Discussion of goals
- Watershed and District background



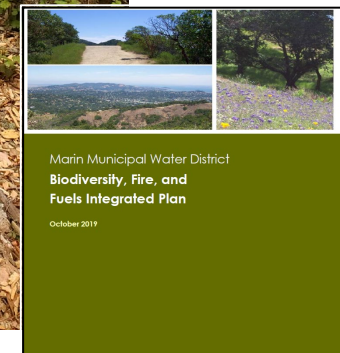
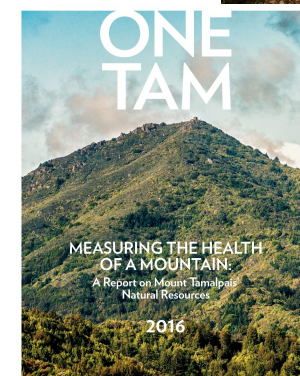
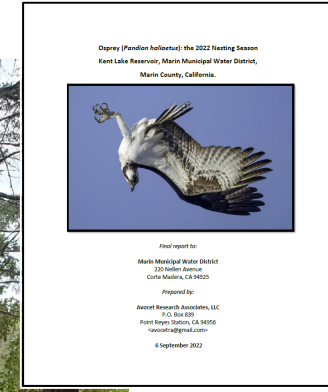
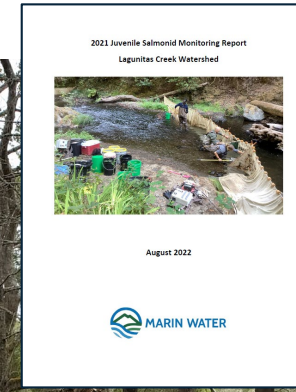
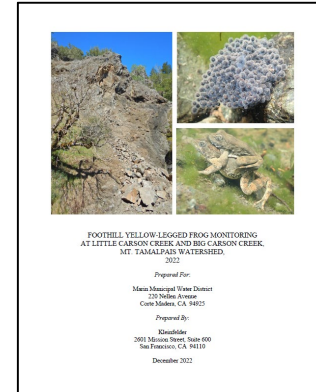
# Feasibility Study Goals

- **Goal #1** – Protect water quality, and steward natural resources to support biodiversity
- **Goal #2** – Strengthen and expand community-based stewardship opportunities to care for the mountain's natural and recreational resources
- **Goal #3** – Maintain a sustainable network of roads and trails that support visitors and a variety of recreational uses
- **Goal #4** – Adaptively manage recreation to increase equitable access and respond to changing environmental conditions and visitor needs



# Environmental Setting

- Current Baseline Information
  - Vegetation
  - Wildlife
  - Geology and Soils
- Planning and Management Background Information



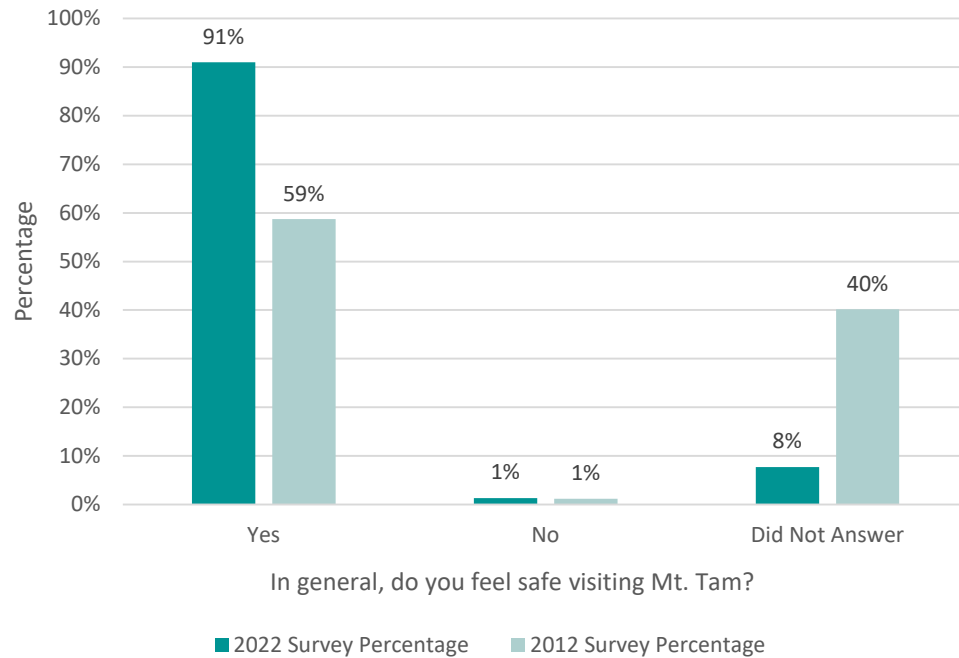
## Section 2: Watershed Setting

- Watershed existing roads and trails network
- Ongoing Visitor Management
- Review of existing stewardship programs

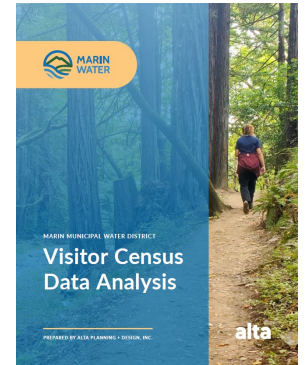




# Section 3: Watershed Visitor Census Survey



Fire Road Conditions	2022 Survey	
	Count	Percentage
Great	468	44%
Good	424	40%
Fair	48	5%
Poor	14	1%
Didn't Answer	109	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>100%</b>



Trail Conditions	2022 Survey		2012 Survey	
	Count	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Great	472	44%	531	43%
Good	452	43%	583	47%
Fair	36	3%	55	4%
Poor	12	1%	9	1%
Didn't Answer	91	9%	59	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interactions with other visitors	2022 Survey		2012 Survey	
	Count	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Great	403	38%	389	32%
Good	487	46%	635	52%
Fair	68	6%	57	5%
Poor	12	1%	18	1%
Didn't Answer	93	9%	128	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Section 4: Community Workshops

- Initial Scoping Phase
- Introduction to planning process and discussion of current and desired future conditions
- Watershed Site Visit 1
- Watershed census survey data collection overview
- Watershed Stewardship
- Visitor facilities & Panel Discussion
- Watershed Site Visit 2
- Census Survey Data and Adaptive Management
- Opportunities

## Community Workshops, Engagement Activities, Public Meetings

### Past Engagement Activities

Date	Forum	Meeting Materials
June 15, 2023 Beginning at 1:30 p.m.	Watershed Committee Meeting – Agenda Item #2: Watershed Recreation Management Plan Update	• Meeting agenda and details
April 12, 2023 5-7 p.m.	Community Workshop #6 Watershed Recreation Management Plan Outcomes and public input	• Meeting agenda and details
Feb. 8, 2023 5-7 p.m.	Community Workshop #5 Watershed census survey data, best management practices and adaptive management	• Details and agenda
Nov. 9, 2022 2 – 3:30 p.m.	Watershed Site Visit Roads, trails and Azalea Hill Project	• Details and agenda
Oct. 12, 2022 5 – 7 p.m.	Community Workshop #4 Watershed facilities, visitor management, and public input	• Details and agenda • Workshop Video Recording Part 1 • Workshop Video Recording Part 2
Sept. 14, 2022 5 – 7 p.m.	Community Workshop #3 (In-person at Lake Lagunitas) Stewardship, partnership and outreach programs, and public input	• Details and agenda
Ongoing August to October 2022	Watershed Data Collection Survey In-person and online survey collection	-----
July 13, 2022 5 – 7 p.m.	Community Workshop #2 Watershed census survey update, data collection process, and public input	• Agenda and Presentation Documents • Workshop Video Recording
July 6, 2022 2 – 3:30 p.m.	Watershed Site Visit Ranger and Naturalist hike; meet at the Lake Lagunitas Parking Lot (parking day passes will be provided)	• Details and agenda
June 8, 2022 5 – 7 p.m.	Community Workshop #1 Introduction to project, review of scope of work, objectives, and public input	• Agenda and Presentation Documents • Workshop Video Recording

<https://www.marinwater.org/WatershedRecPlan>



# Engagement Summary

Feedback helped guide the Strategic Opportunities. Important areas of interest include:

- A desire to experience Mt. Tam in a variety of ways
- Increased stewardship opportunities to support ongoing efforts
- Exploring how trails and roads can be improved to support various visitor groups



# 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**





# Section 5: Strategic Opportunities

## Strategic Opportunity 1: Stewardship

- Sustaining habitat restoration and trail volunteer opportunities
- Trail ambassador volunteer trainings
- One Tam watershed stewardship events for underserved communities
- Wildlife docent programs
- Natural resource interpretation training for Ranger Trainees
- Prioritization of non-system trail decommissioning and restoration as part of update to Roads and Trails Plan

# Trail Stewardship

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- Monthly trail volunteer opportunities
  - Engage local non-profits and community members
  - Increase trail maintenance activities on the watershed
  - Align volunteer events around pilot programs
- Annual trail ambassador volunteer trainings
  - Build volunteer trail stewardship capacity
  - Improve seasonal staffs trail maintenance skills
  - Provide youth teams with trail stewardship training opportunities
- Sustain watershed volunteer habitat restoration offerings





# Natural Resource Stewardship & Interpretation

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- One Tam watershed stewardship events for underserved communities
  - One Tam collaboration to expand watershed offerings
- Wildlife docent programs
  - Yellow legged frog docent program
  - Turtle observers
  - Wildlife picture index events
- Natural resource interpretation training for Ranger Trainees
  - Enhance visitor outreach through education activities with focus on natural resources interpretation



# Section 5: Strategic Opportunities

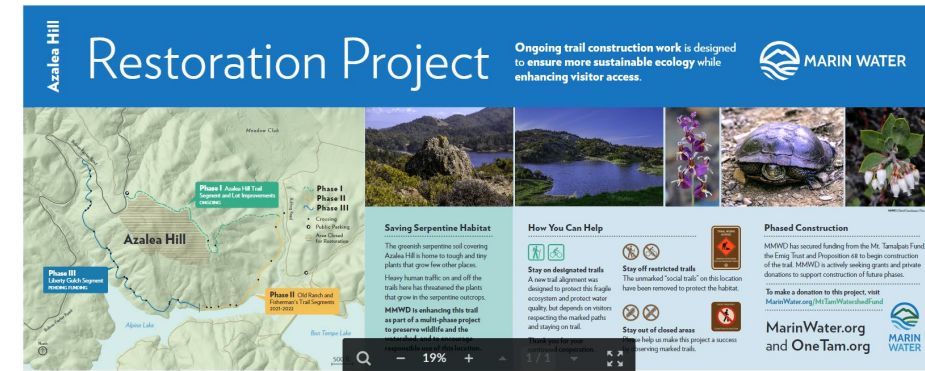
## Strategic Opportunity 2: Visitor Outreach Services

- Watershed kiosk signage updates with water supply and natural resource messaging
- Watershed visitor map update with offline GPS capabilities
- Ranger and natural resources interpretation quarterly events
- Self-guided natural resource interpretation offerings



# Visitor Outreach Services

- Watershed kiosk signage updates with water supply and natural resource messaging
  - Enhance watershed signage through story telling and natural resources interpretation
  - Engaging content that connects visitor to the source of their drinking water
  - Raise awareness about Mt. Tam Fund for voluntary donations to the watershed
- Watershed visitor map update with offline GPS capabilities
  - Improve navigation for visitors and reduce calls for services relating to lost hikers
  - Kiosks maps with suggested routes based on skill



# Section 5: Strategic Opportunities

## Strategic Opportunity 3: Watershed Facilities, Policies, and Plans

- Library watershed parking pass program and low income parking pass discounts
- Slow Zone updates at strategic locations
- Pilot study for multi-use trails and bike access in targeted areas to test various trail sharing strategies
- Pilot study for E-Bike access
- Roads and Trails Plan update with review of trail classifications
- Watershed Trail Project Zoning framework
- Evaluation of watershed accessibility priorities including Other Power Driven Mobility Policy



# Watershed Facilities

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- Watershed Parking
  - Library watershed parking pass program
  - Evaluate low-income parking pass discount program
  - Bike parking in picnic areas and fix it stations
- Slow Zone updates at strategic locations
  - Improve slow zone signage
  - Expand slow zone corridors
  - Maintain Slow and Say Hello support and watershed events
- Accessibility
  - Identify accessibility opportunities to improve access
  - Update Other Power Driven Mobility Device Policy to include E-bikes

# Pilot Programs

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- Pilot study for multi-use trails and bike access for a single-track experience
  - 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 a 3-year period for E-bike Class 1 access
  - Gather information to inform CEQA review

# Watershed Facilities

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



# Section 5: Strategic Opportunities

## Strategic Opportunity 4: Adaptive Management

- Complete Visitor Census Survey every 10 years
- Contribute biological monitoring data and staff expertise to One Tam Peak Health Report updates
- Expand Roads and Trails Early Detection Rapid Response for invasive plant management along roads and trails

# Next Steps

**February 29<sup>th</sup>**

Present Draft Recreation  
Management Plan Feasibility  
Study

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Review Strategic Opportunities  
and Next Steps



