



**MARIN  
WATER**

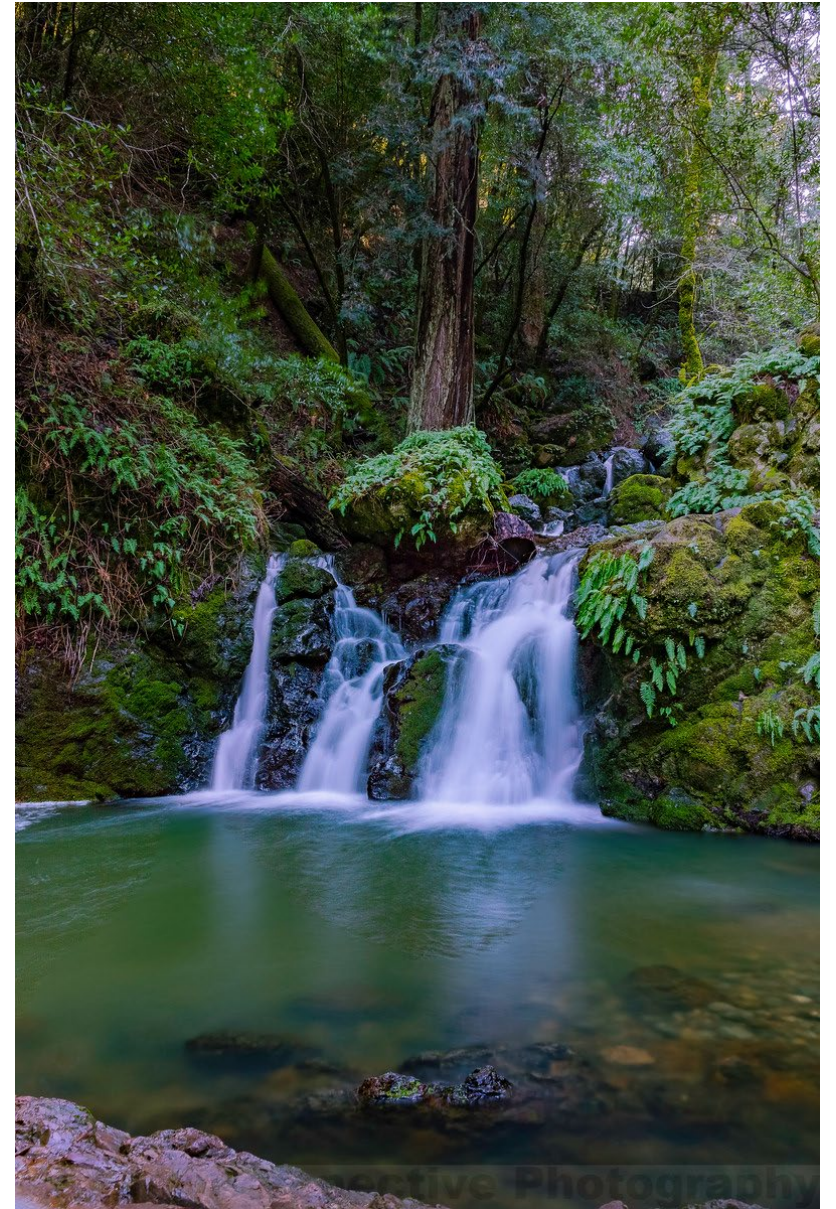
# **Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study**

**March 21, 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
  - 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.



# 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 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 RTMP



# 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



# 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



# 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

# 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 Class I 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

# 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider pilot study to evaluate bike access and trail sharing techniques in targeted areas.</li> <li>• Evaluate e-bike Class I pilot program for limited term period.</li> </ul>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop list of priority projects to support visitor access.</li><li>• Update Other Power-Driven Mobility Device Policy to include e-bikes.</li></ul>	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	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biological resources</li><li>• Visitation patterns</li><li>• Abiotic (physical) conditions</li></ul>	12-36 months

# 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
  - Single use trail
  - 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

# Watershed Facilities

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- Update Roads and Trails Plan with Stewardship and Visitor Experience Considerations
  - 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



# 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

