



COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN (CTMP) ROUTE STUDY

Both existing and proposed trail and pathway locations in San Diego County cross a myriad of terrain, land uses, climate and vegetation zones as well as private and public property, all of which will impact new trail development or improvements.

In general, there are several suggested steps, which will be considered in determining the location of new trails or trail systems. The **first step** is to examine the most recent topographic maps and aerial photos of the area to identify significant landforms, drainage patterns, existing trails or dirt roads, and vegetation. The **next step**, for which there is no substitute, is to walk the area for reconnaissance purposes and to apply established trail guidelines. The reconnaissance process will include a systematic study of the area that will identify and evaluate proposed and alternative trail routes. The **final selection** of the best possible route will attempt to meet the established objective for that trail or trail system. The application of established trail design guidelines and the design and locational criteria (Appendix G of the CTMP) will avoid potential environmental impacts and will help minimize future trail operation and maintenance problems.

When an application for a discretionary development permit is submitted for land that includes a trail corridor, the specific location of a proposed trail within the trail corridor would be determined based on a "route study". The route study could be as simple as the developer meeting with County staff and agreeing to a specific trail alignment. However, depending on site conditions or based on the steps described above, a more detailed study may be required. The proposed alignment would be incorporated into the development plans that include the site plan, grading and improvement plans. Below is an outline of what information may be included in a more detailed route study for a development project:

1. Natural Features
2. Opportunities and Constraints
3. (based on other technical studies prepared by applicant for overall project, including biological and cultural, soils and topography)
4. On-site and/or off-site existing or future connections
5. Alternative Trail Routes
6. Recommended Trail Route
 - a. Consistency with CTMP
 - b. Consistency with CTMP Design Guidelines
 - c. ADA Access (if appropriate)
7. Trail Cross-sections