

## SULTAN CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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**ITEM NO:** Subcommittee - 1

**DATE:** August 26, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Joint Equestrian/Pedestrian Trails in Osprey Park

**CONTACT PERSON:** Deborah Knight, City Administrator

**ISSUE:**

The issue before the council subcommittee is to consider a proposal by the equestrian community to allow joint equestrian/pedestrian use of trails within Osprey Park.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Review the provided information. Consider bringing the issue to the full city council at the September 9, 2010 meeting. Provide direction to staff.

**SUMMARY:**

At the May 27, 2010 council meeting, Alyssa Stenchever spoke during the public comment period and requested the city council change the ordinance that prohibits horses in city parks. Ms. Stenchever represents the equestrian groups in Sultan that have been riding on the trails in Osprey Park for years.

In 1979 the City passed an ordinance to prohibit horses in the park. Signs were posted and but no one had problems with the horses until recently when the city received complaints. When the trails became part of the park, the horses were no longer allowed. Ms. Stenchever asked the council to direct staff to work with equestrian community to provide trails for horses.

At the city council's direction, city staff have been working with Ms. Stenchever and a group of Sky Valley equestrians to review the trail system within Osprey Park and determine if there was an opportunity for joint equestrian/pedestrian use.

The first order of business was to "map" the trail system in Osprey park. The equestrian group completed the trail mapping expertise in June.

Approximately 10 members of the equestrian community attended the Park Planning open forum on Tuesday June 29th from 4:30 to 7:30 pm.

Ms. Stenchever met with Councilmember Jeffrey Beeler, Chief Brand and Public Works Director, Connie Dunn to review the equestrian's proposed trail system.

City staff have contacted Ms. Stenchever to attend the council subcommittee and share the equestrian community's shared trail proposal.

The question for the council subcommittee is whether to forward the proposal to designate some trails within Osprey Park as shared trails.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The city's 2008 Revised Comprehensive Plan includes policies that support developing equestrian trails in Sultan. The 20-year capital facilities plan identifies future equestrian trails. The question for the council subcommittee is whether equestrian trails are a level-of-service the council wants to provide within the city's park system or as a separate trail system at some future date.

Alyssa Stenchever has taken the time to review the existing trails in Osprey Park. She has identified trails that could be jointly used by pedestrians and equestrians. This could be a medium to long-term solution for accommodating equestrian riders until specific trails are built for horses.

Most of the staff research conducted on shared equestrian/pedestrian trails<sup>1</sup> indicate that shared or joint use trails hosting multi-users are common if there is sufficient trail width.

In the context of trail systems, the concept of sharing means:

- Tolerance of others who wish to use the trails in a reasonable but different manner,
- Respect for the values of other users, and
- Demonstration of support for uses other than that of your own interest group.

Trail design guidelines recommend a vertical clearance of 10-12 feet and a corridor clearance of 5-6 feet (one lane). Several of the trails within Osprey Park meet these design guidelines

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Potential impacts include additional trail maintenance; bridges designed for creek crossings and water quality; signage and enforcement of park rules. Currently, trail maintenance is jointly managed by city staff and volunteers. One opportunity is to invite equestrian users to maintain the shared trails. This would create another user group and base of volunteers for Sultan parks.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nttp.net/resources/horse/index.html>

The city council will consider adding 2 part-time park employees in 2011. With additional staff dedicated to parks there will be additional resources to maintain the system of trails within Osprey Park.

The city council should also consider investing in specific shared use and directional signs to ensure that park users are clear about purpose and use of specific trails.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Review the provided information. Consider bringing the issue to the full city council at the September 9, 2010 meeting. Provide direction to staff.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A – Equestrian trail designs

B – Proposed shared trail system provided at the meeting by Alyssa Stenchever.

# On-Trail Signage

- Clearly mark trails that are open *and closed* to equestrians!
- Mile markers
- Trail colors, names and numbers
- Trail courtesy reminders
- *Other trail users*



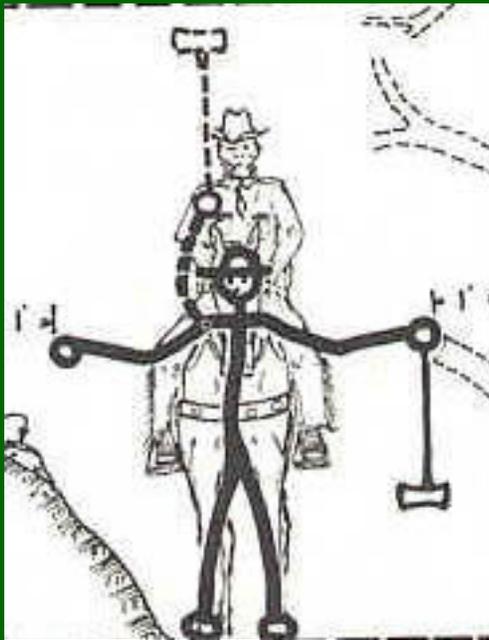
# On-Trail Signage



# Fair warning!



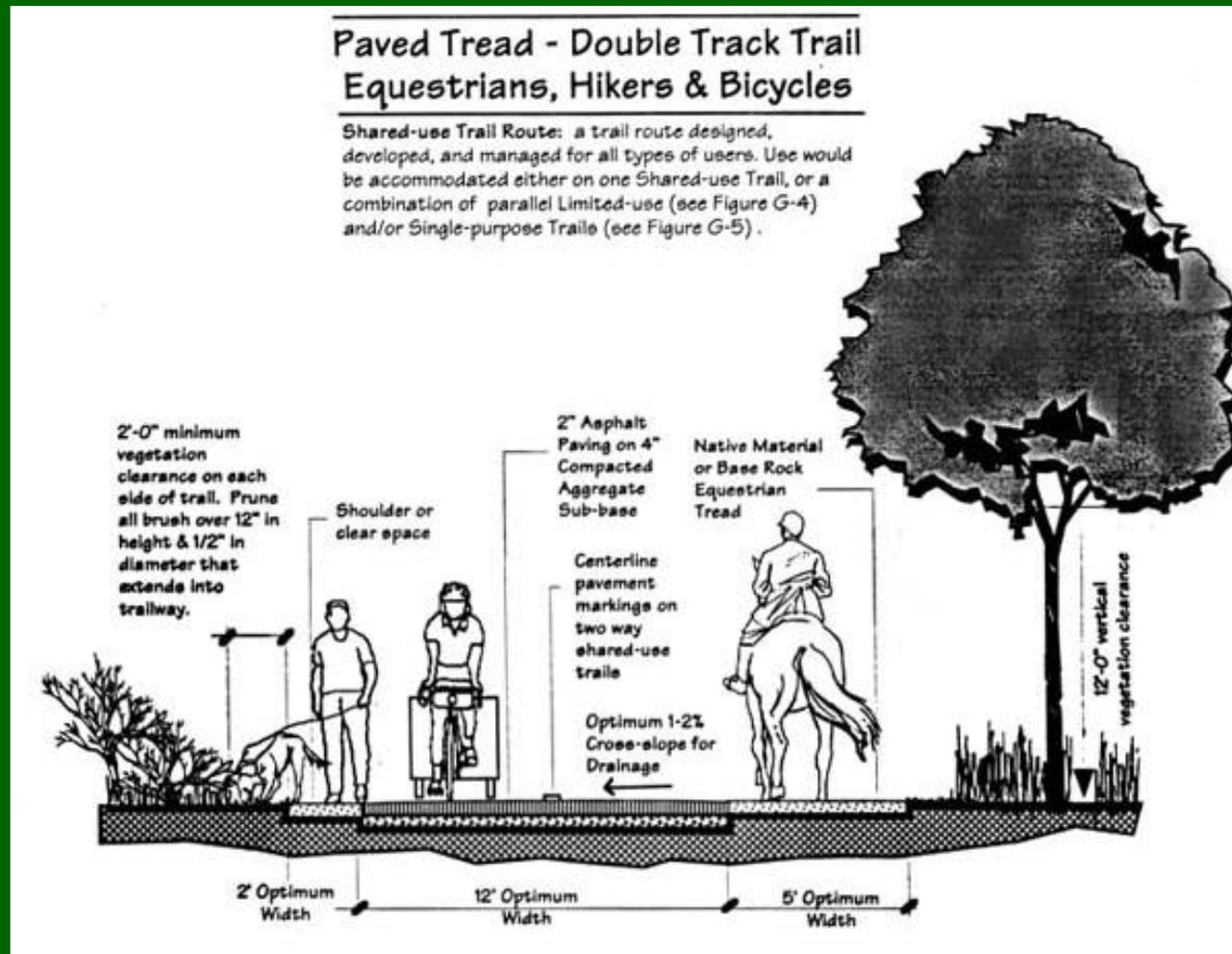
# Trail Design Guidelines



- Vertical Clearance:  
10 – 12 feet
- Corridor Clearance:  
5 – 6 feet (one lane)
- Tread Width:  
18 – 30 inches (one lane)

Drawing courtesy Equestrian Trails, Inc.

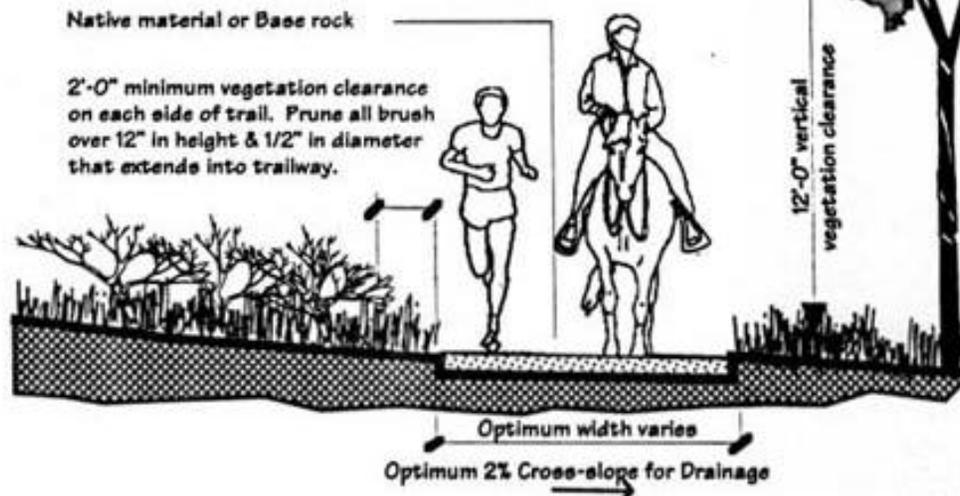
# Ideal Shared-use Corridor



# Natural Tread Shared-Use

## Shared-use Trails Natural Tread -Double Track Trail Equestrians, Hikers & Bicycles

*Shared-use Trail Route: a trail route designed, developed, and managed for all types of users. Use would be accommodated either on one Shared-use Trail, or a combination of parallel Limited-use (see Figure G-4) and/or Single-purpose Trails (see Figure G-5).*

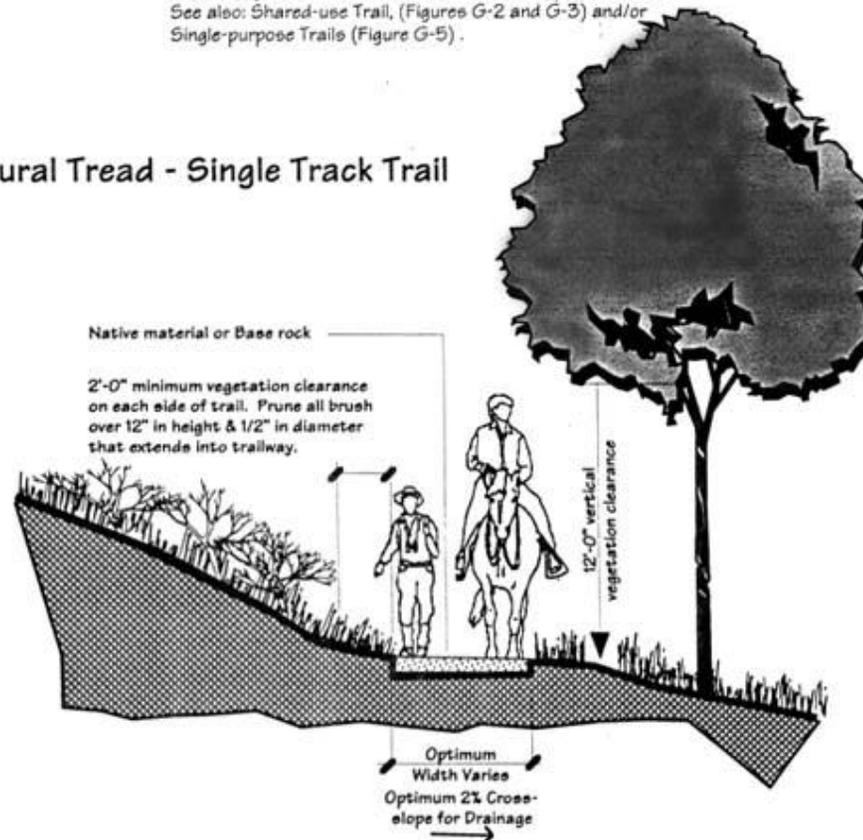


# Limited-use Trails

## Limited-use Trails

**Limited-use Trail Route:** a trail route designed, developed, and managed for more than one, but not all types of users. See also: Shared-use Trail, (Figures G-2 and G-3) and/or Single-purpose Trails (Figure G-5).

### Natural Tread - Single Track Trail



# Clearance and width..



# Trail Design Guidelines

- Grade (Slope): 0-10%
  - Max – 10% sustained
  - 20% shorter than 50 yd.
  - Outslope 4% max
- Trail length: minimum 5 miles (1 to 1.5 hours)
- Sight distance: 50-100 feet (two way traffic)



# Road Crossings



- Mark paved road crossings with the name of the road for navigational purposes.
- Ask DOT to post trail crossing signs and paint crosswalk on the road.
- Cross roads where line of sight for drivers and trail users is optimum for safety.

# Barriers & Bollards

- Use materials that won't catch stirrups
- 5' opening
- If using a locked 'vehicle' gate, leave an opening to one side

