

Castle Rock State Park

Road and Trail Management Plan

Change in Trail Use Question and Answer (Q&A)



Note that recent changes this document are highlighted in yellow.

1. *Q-Is California State Parks (CSP) evaluating all trails at Castle Rock State Park (CRSP) for potential change-in-use (CIU)?*

A-No, During the development of this RTMP, CIU requests for the addition of bikes were received for the following trails: Loghry Woods, Skyline to the Sea (within CRSP), Saratoga Toll Road, Skyline to the Sea/ Toll Road Interconnector, and Travertine Springs Trail. In addition, CSP initiated CIU evaluates for the addition of bicycles to Beekhuis Road, Saratoga Gap Trail Segments 6 and 8, and Skyline to the Sea Trail (located within Big Basin State Park) along Highway 236 from Waterman Gap to China Grade Road, for the purpose of creating bicycling connections and loop opportunities. Additionally, a CIU request for the addition of horses was received for the Travertine Springs Trail. No additional CIU requests are anticipated as part of the CRSP RTMP process.

2. *Q- If approved under a Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) will an approved CIU happen immediately?*

A- No, CIU will follow the CIU process, which is described at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28461. Typically, trails recommended for CIU require design and management modifications, which necessitate funding as well as environmental evaluation under CEQA, and possible permitting work, prior to implementation. Once implemented Adaptive Use Management (AUM) will be required for completed CIU trails that will entail subsequent trail monitoring and reporting. Failure to comply with AUM objectives will necessitate remediation actions, which if ultimately unsuccessful could result in the removal of the approved CIU. (i.e. removal of added bikes /horses). Public input and CSP management will guide prioritization of CIU implementation and use of limited resources and funding.

3. *Q- Won't proposed CIU design modifications to accommodate safe/sustainable trails change the current character of the trail?*

A- Trail modifications could include trail widening at designated locations for safe passing; pinch points to slow user speeds in locations with insufficient sightlines; rock armored watercourses to reduce erosion; vegetation brushing to improve sight distances at blind corners; trail reconstruction to improve drainage; and installation of trail signage to educate users on trail speed limits and user etiquette. Many of these modifications will improve overall sustainability of the trail regardless of the proposed CIU. Depending on the individual user's perception, these modifications may change the character of a trail in designated locations. If CIU is approved, CSP will strive to keep the existing character of the trail as much as possible while providing a safe and sustainable trail. The RTMP will strive to maintain appropriate hike only or hike/horse trail options (see Q&A #4).

4. *Q-Is there a desire to make all trails multi-use (hike, bike, horse) or dual use (e.g. hike/ bike, bike/ horse) at CRSP?*

A-No, CSP has received no request for multi-use on all trails. CSP has no intent to do this and values single use or appropriate dual use options and experiences for visitors.

5. *Q-Doesn't the 2000 General Plan (GP) for Castle Rock prohibit bicycle use on trails?*

A-Pending, the GP calls for a Unit Trails Plan that would govern trail use at CRSP. The current RTMP process is meant to respond to this GP recommendation. The intent of the RTMP is to be consistent with the General Plan while providing a variety of user experiences. CSP is evaluating whether future bicycling opportunities on trails and primitive roads in the park is consistent with the park's General Plan.

A summary of GP goals and guidelines related to trail use are provided below. These guidelines will be considered along with other CIU criteria when making RTMP proposals.

- Manage CRSP and provide access, while not degrading the natural features and ecological processes, achieving unitwide resource management goals and objectives, protecting resource values and opportunities for low impact recreation.
- Future trails planning and construction should follow Department's specifications and policies and be coordinated with soil erosion and sediment policies prescribed in the "San Lorenzo River Watershed Management Plan".
- A loop-trail system should be designated to distribute people throughout the park and facilitate a balance of trail use that is commensurate with resource values. First consideration should be given to trail routes and connections outside the natural preserve boundaries, such as portions of the Kings Creek Truck Trail, through the use of recreation and/or conservation easements.
- Mountain bike usage would require trail planning and management that may designate some trails as single use, one way use, or multiple use to reduce conflicts of oncoming traffic and reduce confrontation with other trail users.
- The visitor's quest for open space and solitude are met through an integrated system of trails and protected natural areas. Encounters with the most significant park values intensify as visitors penetrate deeper into these forested canyons. An environmental ethic guides responsible behavior and minimizes visitor impacts on the natural systems. There is a heightened awareness of the significance and sensitivity of park resources and the effect recreation may have on the health of the ecosystem, with recognition to preserve this area for future generations.
- A Unit Trails Plan should be prepared that strives to create opportunities for visitors to enjoy the unique and diverse topography, geology, biotic communities, and scenic views at Castle Rock State Park. The actual location, distance, and use of future trails should be governed by this plan.
- [CRSP] has opportunities to provide a trail experience where access and low impact use remain a priority in future park management, and complement the preservation of wildlands and diverse resource values.

6. *Q -Is CSP receiving my input on the CRSP RTMP?*

A-Yes. If your comments are received via email, you will receive a confirmation. All comments received from meetings, workshops and written correspondence are recorded and evaluated by the planning team. A comprehensive summary of comments and associated responses is available on our website (https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28392). Please note that CSP will be evaluating input based on the content of comments received and not the number of comments submitted.