



## Regional Open Space & Trails System Frequently Asked Questions Trail Access

### 1. What is the difference between an urban trail and backcountry trail?

- Urban trails, or shared-use paved trails, serve a variety of user groups, including pedestrians (walkers and joggers), in-line skaters, and bicyclists. With hard surfacing, these trails provide a high level of accessibility to users of all abilities.
- Backcountry, or natural surface trails, serve a variety of user groups, including hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers.

### 2. Are there maps showing the trails?

- Trail maps for the urban trails can be found by contacting the local governmental organizations –Boulder City, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Mesquite and Clark County. Most jurisdictions have the trail maps on their official websites.
- Maps for the adjacent federal lands can be found on the federal agency websites – Lake Mead National Recreation Area, National Park Service; Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management; Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Bureau of Land Management; Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, U.S. Forest Service; and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Maps showing both the on-street and off-street Regional Trail System (Neon to Nature) can be accessed by going to the Regional Transportation Commission website. This will show the approved system and those trails that are constructed and presently available for use.

### 3. Where/what are trail heads?

- A map showing the location of all trailheads is being developed and will be available shortly on the Regional Transportation Commission website. In the meantime, the best place to go is to the individual governmental agency websites



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- The first Clark County trailhead is now complete and serves users near the County Wetlands Park and the Sunrise Management Area. This trailhead also provides linkages to the River Mountains Loop Trail, Rainbow Gardens Trails, and the Flamingo Arroyo Trail. To get to the trailhead go east on Vegas Valley Drive then turn south on Hollywood and follow the road for about 2.5 miles.

### 4. How long are the trails?

- Regional urban trails are those that cross multiple jurisdictions and typically cover more than five miles. Local urban trails vary in length and typically connect to other trails in the system but do not cross jurisdictions. The longest regional urban trail is the River Mountain Loop Trail which is 35 miles long. About 90% of that is constructed and available for use (see River Mountain Loop Trail website).

### 5. What types of activities are acceptable on trails?

- Acceptable activities on the urban trails include hiking, cycling, and in-line/roller skating, skateboarding, jogging, and walking. Some trails have adjacent un-paved natural tracks for equestrian use. Wheelchairs and strollers are also allowed on trails.
- Acceptable activities on the federal trails vary with the agency and whether they are in designated wilderness areas or not. Most of the trails allow for hiking and equestrian use and some allow for street bikes and some mountain bikes. The most extensive mountain biking trail networks are at Cottonwood Valley on Bureau of Land Management lands and at Bootleg Canyon on City of Boulder City lands.

### 6. Services to expect on the trails?

- Depending on the trail there may be benches, shade structures and trash receptacles. Typically no restrooms, drinking water or lighting are provided along the trails but are generally available at the trailheads.



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### 7. Which trails are ADA accessible?

- All urban trails consisting of concrete or other solid surface are constructed to ADA accessibility standards to accommodate wheelchair travel. However, some rural trails consist of earthen soils, clays or crushed rock material that may be difficult to accommodate ADA access.
- According to the National Center for Accessibility, an accessible trail is a trail that is accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. Accessible trails are identified as meeting minimum guidelines established by the U.S. Access Board. The Access Board is the federal agency responsible for creating guidelines and standards for accessible environments. Shared use paths that allow bicycles, equestrians and other non-pedestrian modes of transportation have their own design and construction guidelines.
- The primary guide for bicycle and shared use facilities is from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The AASHTO guide has different requirements than those for pedestrian use trails. A trail designed only to meet the proposed accessibility guidelines for trails may not be adequate and possibly hazardous for bicyclists. Accessible routes, outdoor access routes, and trails are all paths that have varying requirements based on their purpose, what they connect to and the environment they fall within.

### 8. Can I backpack or spend the night?

- Overnight camping on the urban trails is not allowed.
- On the adjacent federal lands, backpacking is generally allowed and overnight camping requirements vary with the agency. Camping requirements can be found on the National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service websites.



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### 9. What is being done to provide safe routes to schools?

- The Safe Route to School Program provides a comprehensive, computerized traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle plan for elementary and middle schools under the jurisdiction of Clark County. The program involves conducting an annual inventory of school-related traffic control devices within a two-mile radius walking distance for approximately 77 elementary schools and 24 middle schools. This inventory is then converted to a Geographic Information System (GIS) Arc Info database, from which maps for each school walking zone are generated. Over 15,000 school-related traffic control device data are checked, and corrections/additions made. The maps are developed so that the parent/guardian and student can select the safest route to the school that the child attends.
- A partnership has been developed with the Clark County School District to distribute this information to its student population. The Clark County Public Works Department produced over 156,800 copies of these maps and 103,900 safety brochures for distribution to 77 elementary schools and 24 middle schools for the 2008-2009 school years.

### 10. What are present Bike facilities and RTC Transit connections?

- Presently, there are 210 miles of bike lanes and 78 miles of bike routes available for use across the Las Vegas Valley. Most of these are located with access to RTC Transit. By 2012, the Regional Transportation Commission will have implemented another 600 miles of bike lanes and 387 miles of bike routes. In the meantime over 98% of all streets in the Valley have a 14' wide curb lane, adequate for sharing the road with vehicles. To view a map of existing and planned bicycle facilities go to [www.rtcnv.com](http://www.rtcnv.com)