



February 25, 2025 Regular Meeting of the McKinleyville Community Forest Trails, Infrastructure, Clean-Ups and Security (TICS) Subcommittee

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: MCSD Conference Room, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville, California

Or

Teleconference via ZOOM or Telephone

Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 823 7786 4085 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82377864085>)

or DIAL IN TOLL FREE: 1-888-788-0099 (No Password Required!)

To participate by teleconference, please use the toll free number listed above, or join through the internet at the Zoom App with weblink and ID number listed above.

Agenda

- 1 Call To Order & Roll Call**
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3 Additions or Changes to the Agenda**

Items may be added to the Agenda in accordance with Section 54954.2(b)(2) of the Government Code (Brown Act), upon a determination by two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the time of the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the McKinleyville Community Services District after the Agenda was posted.

4 Approval of the Agenda

5 Public Comment and Written Communications

Any person may address the Subcommittee at this time upon any subject not identified on this Agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee; however, any matter that requires action will be referred to staff for a report of action at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting. As to matters on the Agenda, an opportunity will be given to address the Subcommittee when the matter is considered. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. Letters should be used for complex issues.

6 Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the TICS Subcommittee on January 28, 2025

Attachment 1 – Draft Minutes from January 28, 2025 (P. 5)

7 Change TICS Meeting Start Time (P. 9)

8 Consider Potential Partnership with Humboldt Trails Council (P. 11)

Attachment 1 – Draft MOU (P. 13)

9 Discuss Rule 47.02 of MCSD Rules & Regulations Concerning Use of Electric Bicycles in Community Forest (P. 19)

Attachment 1 – Email from Kevin Creed with Suggested Language for Rule 47.02 (P. 23)

10 Discussion of Gates & Keys (P. 29)

Attachment 1- MCF Murray Road Gate Access Points (P. 31)

11 Discussion of Approach to Development of Trails Plan (P. 33)

Attachment 1- Community Forest Trails Map (P. 35)

12 Committee Member Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Trails Management Plan Development
- Next MCFC Meeting – March 18, 2025
- Next TICS Meeting – March 25, 2025

13 Adjournment (Estimated 6:00 p.m.)

Posted 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2025

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.5, this agenda and complete packet are available for public inspection upon request at the MCSD office, 1656 Sutter Road, McKinleyville. If you would like to receive the complete packet via email, free of charge, contact the Board Secretary at (707)839-3251 to be added to the mailing list.

McKinleyville Community Services District will, on request, make agendas available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Board Secretary at (707) 839-3251. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements for accommodations.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY FOREST TRAILS, INFRASTRUCTURE, SECURITY, AND CLEAN-UPS SUBCOMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, January 28, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. IN PERSON AT THE MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (MCSD) OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM – 1656 SUTTER ROAD, MCKINLEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA and TELECONFERENCE Via ZOOM & TELEPHONE: Use ZOOM MEETING ID: 859 8670 1374 (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85986701374>) or DIAL IN TOLL FREE: 1-669-444-9171 (No Password Required!)

AGENDA ITEM A. CALL TO ORDER:

I Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members and staff in attendance in person at the MCSD Conference Room:

James Henry, MCSD Operations Director
Jens Andersen, Recreation Coordinator
Tyler Brown
Nicole West
Christopher Collier
Kenneth Burton
Phil Heidrick
Justin Brown
Shaun Fyfe
Charlie Caldwell
Nancy Morelli (Alternate)

The following members were absent:

Michele Stephens (arrived for Item 8)

Note: Post meeting it was discovered that the Zoom teleconferencing audio malfunctioned at 18 minutes into the meeting. Because of this, the actions taken on item 7, 8, 9, and 10 will be re-done at the February 25, 2025 meeting.

2 Flag Salute: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charlie Caldwell.

3. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: It was moved to approve the agenda

Motion by: Jens Andersen; **Second:** Kenneth Burton

Roll Call: Ayes: Henry, Andersen, T. Brown, West, Collier, Burton, Heidrick, J. Brown, Fyfe, Caldwell, Morelli Nays: None Absent: Stephens

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

5. Public Comment and Written Communications

The public did not respond to the invitation to comment both in person or through the online meeting. Written comment from Kevin Creed to be considered during agenda item 10.

6. Consider Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the TICS Subcommittee on November 26, 2024.

Motion: It was moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 26, 2024 meeting.

Motion by: Shawn Fyfe; **Second:** Jens Andersen

Roll Call: Ayes: Henry, Andersen, T.Brown, West, Collier, Burton, Heidrick, J.Brown, Fyfe, Caldwell, Morelli Nays: None Absent: Stephens

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

7. Discuss Draft Infrastructure Projects and Project Ranking

Charlie Caldwell opened topic for discussion. Committee members discussed project ranking and announced that the ranking would be subject to change due to future funding opportunities and partnerships. There was a discussion brought forth by Charlie Caldwell about the potential need for immediate erosion control measures that could change project ranking. Christopher Collier mentioned opportunities for collaboration with Cal Poly Humboldt and College of the Redwoods to recruit volunteers for invasive species removal, which might be relevant to project ranking. It was discussed that, at future meetings, individual committee members would have the opportunity to explain their reasoning for project rankings. The committee agreed to the importance of getting the list of current priorities to both the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee and the Forest Management Plan and Funding/Budget Subcommittee for further action.

Motion: It was moved to forward the Priority Draft Infrastructure Project Ranking list to McKinleyville Community Forest Committee.

Motion by: Shaun Fyfe; **Second:** Kenneth Burton

Roll Call: Ayes: Henry, Andersen, T. Brown, West, Collier, Burton, Heidrick, J. Brown, Fyfe, Caldwell, Morelli Nays: None Absent: None

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

8. Proposal to Change Meeting Start Time.

A discussion took place about changing the TICS Subcommittee meeting start time from 5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. because a couple of committee members needed more time to arrive from work.

Motion: It was moved to change the meeting start time to 5:15.

Motion by: Michele Stephens; **Second:** Kenneth Burton

Roll Call: Ayes: Henry, Andersen, T. Brown, West, Collier, Burton, Heidrick, J. Brown, Fyfe, Caldwell, Stephens Nays: None Absent: None

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

9. Consider Potential Partnership with Humboldt Trails Council

Committee discussed potential benefits from developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Humboldt Trails Council, a local non-profit focused on trail work. Kenneth Burton spoke of the potential for a recurring volunteer work day. Kenneth mentioned that the Humboldt Trails Council leads volunteers in performing trail maintenance, invasive species removal, sediment control, and trail construction. There was one public comment from a member of the public who volunteered his trailer to pick up trash. Kenneth Burton and Phil Heidrick are board members of the Humboldt Trails Council and abstained from voting.

Motion: It was moved to direct staff to develop a MOU for the Trails, Infrastructure, Security, and Clean-ups subcommittee review.

Motion by: Justin Brown; **Second:** Nicole West

Roll Call: Ayes: Henry, Andersen, T. Brown, West, Collier, J. Brown, Fyfe, Caldwell, Stephens

Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: Heidrick, Burton

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

10. Discuss Rule 47.02 of MCSD Rules & Regulations Concerning the Use of Electric Bicycles in the Community Forest.

Public comment was made by Kevin Creed discussing and clarifying his proposed rule change in order to allow the use of Class 1 & 2 Electric bicycles (e-bikes) in the community forest. Kevin stated that use of e-bikes allows access and use of the community forest to members of the public that would otherwise be unable to access it. Kevin said he had not heard of any compelling arguments not to allow e-bikes where regular bikes were allowed. Nancy Morelli was asked for her input on e-bikes as a representative of the equestrian community. Nancy stated that e-bikes have the potential to startle horses because they operate with very little noise. The committee asked Nancy if public education and etiquette could prevent problems associated with sharing the trail with e-bikes. Nancy stated she thought the equestrian community would support that. The committee proposed posting 'Trail Courtesy' signs in the future to inform the public of bicyclists' duty to yield to equestrians. Kenneth Burton suggested that, in the future, trails could be separated by use, such as equestrian-exclusive or bicyclist-exclusive trails

The committee received an additional public comment that stated e-bikes allowed him access to areas he wouldn't otherwise be able to reach because of mobility limitations.

The committee proposed minor revisions to the rule changes proposed by Kevin Creed to clarify that the e-bike rules were meant to explicitly allow only Class 1 and 2 e-bikes in places where non-electric bicycles are allowed. No additional motorized or electric vehicles were to be authorized.

Motion: Motion: It was moved to recommend that the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee adopt the revised Rule 47.02 to allow e-bike access to the Community Forest.

Motion by: Michele Stephens; **Second:** Justin Brown

Roll Call: Ayes: Henry, Andersen, T. Brown, West, Collier, J. Brown, Fyfe, Caldwell, Stephens, Heidrick, Burton

Nays: None Absent: None

Motion Summary: Motion passed.

12. Committee Member Announcement and Future Agenda Items

Michele Stephens provided an update to the committee that she had been in discussion with the Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) about the potential benefits and drawbacks of forming a 501(c)(3) non-profit for the community forest. Michele said that HAF could receive tax deductible donations intended for the community forest. She suggested having HAF receive donations seemed better than forming an additional non-profit board for the sole purpose of receiving donations.

Develop a process for updating the priority ranking for infrastructure projects.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Tyler Brown, Secretary

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Attachment 1 – Draft MOU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
 BETWEEN
 HUMBOLDT TRAILS COUNCIL
 AND
 MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between the Humboldt Trails Council, hereinafter referred to as HTC, and the McKinleyville Community Services District, hereinafter referred to as MCSD or the District.

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize the partnership between the HTC volunteer program Volunteer Trail Stewards, hereinafter referred to as VTS, and MCSD. VTS is a program with an abundance of volunteers, training and labor management support dedicated to park and trail system maintenance, monitoring, and reporting. MCSD owns the McKinleyville Community Forest, Hiller Park and a number of other parks and trails that require constant maintenance support, monitoring for hazards and other maintenance issues, and associated financial support to pay for staff, tools, and other resources. With ongoing future expansion expected for MCSD park and trail facilities, particularly in the Community Forest, associated costs will continue to rise. By formalizing a partnership between HTC and MCSD, the costs associated with park and trail maintenance will decrease, while the timeliness and thoroughness in maintaining these facilities will increase. This partnership will empower trail and park users, neighbors of these facilities, and other interested parties to play a direct role in the maintenance and monitoring of MCSD's facilities. This MOU will formalize a volunteer scope of work, protocol of communication between VTS volunteers and MCSD staff, liability and insurance coverage, monitoring of VTS program effectiveness and value, and the MCSD financial contribution to HTC.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTEREST

Both HTC and MCSD have shown a commitment to supporting trail and park facilities within Humboldt County. HTC has been an ongoing advocate of new trail development and MCSD has agreed to operate and maintain the facilities constructed on their property. Without the organized support of those who enjoy MCSD run trail and park facilities, that results in a decrease in associated operations and maintenance expenses, MCSD will not be able to continue taking responsibility for new future trail and park systems advocated for by HTC and the community. Therefore, it is in the best interest of both parties to work together, creating a sustainable operations and maintenance-focused volunteer organization that works effectively with HTC to overcome overextension of MCSD resources.

C. HTC, through VTS, SHALL:

1. Assist in the operation and maintenance of any and all MCSD park and trail facilities as long as:
 - a. Sufficient community volunteer interest exists to support a program on any given park or trail facility

- b. Sufficient financial resources are available to operate on any given park or trail facility
- 2. Perform the following tasks as outlined by MCSD:
 - a. Build, repair and rehabilitate trails
 - b. Assist with decommissioning unauthorized trails
 - c. Clear trail surfaces of litter and debris including but not limited to leaves, branches, cones, and gravel
 - d. Cut or trim vegetation encroaching onto the trail [this may include the use of gasoline powered equipment]
 - e. Remove identified invasive species
 - f. Prune native plants
 - g. Clean trail signs
 - h. Inspect and report on facilities for damage
 - i. Graffiti removal
 - j. Landscaping and other small MCSD projects (minor mechanical trail drainage improvements, erosion and sediment control)
- 3. Hold a minimum of one volunteer event every two months that will focus on one or more maintenance needs identified through volunteer reporting or as directed by MCSD staff
- 4. Provide MCSD with regular feedback on trail and park facility conditions via e-mail:
 - a. as a monthly digest of overall work completed by VTS and general summary of facility conditions
- 5. Train all volunteers to ensure they function as knowledgeable information sources and positive examples while acting under the VTS program on all MCSD park and trail facilities
- 6. Cover all volunteers operating under the VTS program with liability insurance in the amount of:
 - a. \$1,000,000 for each occurrence
 - b. \$2,000,000 overall
- 7. Cooperate with MCSD on any additional volunteer authorization or waiver procedures
- 8. Train and monitor all volunteers to ensure that they conduct work activities in accordance with appropriate safety practices
- 9. Report any volunteer accidents or other instances where volunteer safety has been jeopardized
- 10. Report all illegal activity encountered on MCSD facilities by calling 911 immediately. It may not be advantageous for HTC to be mandated reporters of illegal activities and be perceived as having an enforcement function.
- 11. Coordinate with MCSD staff, through a lead VTS contact, on protocols for all volunteer activities, facility conditions reporting content, organization of all volunteer events, additional MCSD needs, safety measures, and changes in tasks performed
- ~~12. Train and monitor all volunteers to ensure all work and reporting performed on MCSD property complies with MCSD safety and maintenance standards~~
- 13. Ensure that volunteers do not modify or change any trail routes or configurations without written permission of the MCSD.

14. Implement the mitigation measures identified in any applicable permits, any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents, the Community Forest Stewardship and Trails Plan, along with any additional permitting requirements or conditions identified or created by MCSD.
 15. Proactively include MCSD in program funding opportunities to the greatest extent possible.
- D. MCSD SHALL:
1. Provide access to MCSD staff to direct and monitor the work efforts of VTS volunteers. Provide clear direction regarding desired work to be performed, proper safety and maintenance techniques to be used by volunteers on MCSD trail and park facilities.
 2. Provide regular feedback about the effectiveness of the program and any desired changes to the volunteer scope of work or how volunteer tasks are executed.
 3. Provide and maintain available hand tools, trash bags, and other basic equipment to support volunteer maintenance of MCSD trails facilities.
 4. Provide financial support to the VTS program in the amount of \$100 per 20 hours of reported volunteer service time during organized VTS workdays with a maximum contribution of \$3500 annually.
 5. Participate in and support all grant opportunities applied for by HTC in support of VTS
 - a. Write letters of support
 - b. Proactively look for grant and other VTS funding opportunities
 6. Minimize the amount of paperwork and other partnership hurdles to the greatest extent possible.
 7. Remove or provide free access to a disposal facility for all green waste and trash collected during volunteer outings.
 8. Provide a yearly report on trends in MCSD park and trail maintenance costs for each facility VTS operates on.
 9. Continue to support the sustainable development of new connected trail and park facilities on MCSD property.
- E. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:
1. HTC and MCSD will communicate openly about any matter regarding the VTS partnership
 2. Any change in this MOU or the protocols developed under this MOU will require the joint approval of the HTC board and MCSD General Manager
 3. It is the intention of HTC and MCSD that this partnership will continue long term, but should it not be deemed satisfactory the agreement can be modified or terminated at any time by mutual consent with 60 days prior notice
 4. MCSD and HTC will be named as equal partners on any promotional, outreach, or informational materials published regarding VTS
- F. INDEMINIFICATION (ADDED ENTIRE SECTION)
1. Hold Harmless, Defense and Indemnification. HTC and MCSD shall jointly hold harmless, defend and indemnify their agents, officers, officials,

employees and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages and liabilities of any kind or nature, including, without limitation, attorney's fees and other costs of litigation, arising out of, or in connection with, or in any way connected with the work on MCSD property by HTA or anyone else entering MCSD property at HTC direction or invitation, except such loss or damage which was caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of MCSD. Both Parties obligations under this Section shall survive the termination or revocation of this MOU.

2. **Effect of Insurance.** Acceptance of the insurance required by this MOU shall not relieve HTC from liability under this provision. This provision shall apply to all claims for damages related to HTC performance hereunder, regardless of whether any insurance is applicable or not. The insurance policy limits set forth herein shall not act as a limitation upon the amount of indemnification or defense to be provided hereunder.
3. **Property Conditions and Dangerous Conditions.** MCSD makes no representation as to the present or future conditions of the Community Forest or its other Park Facilities and its fitness for maintenance activities under this MOU. HTC accepts this license subject to all danger or injury to persons and damages or destruction to property while its members and guests are on MCSD property. In this regard, HTC assumes all risk of injury or death to individuals who are on MCSD property pursuant to this MOU and all risk of damage to property upon or in proximity to the MCSD property with HTC's knowledge or consent, without regard to whether such injury or damage is occasioned by known or unknown, hidden or disclosed defects on the MCSD property. HTC shall immediately notify MCSD and its members of any abnormal or dangerous conditions in the Community Forest or other portions of MCSD property of which HTC becomes aware.
4. **Own Risk.** HTC acknowledges and agrees that all activities undertaken by it or its members and guests on MCSD property are undertaken at their own risk, and that MCSD shall have no liability whatsoever for any injuries to persons or property occurring due to such activities, except such loss or damage which was caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of MCSD.

G. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

McKinleyville Community Services District

Kirsten Messmer

1656 Sutter Road

McKinleyville, CA 95519

Phone: (707) 839-3251

E-mail: kirsten@mckinleyvillecsd.com

Humboldt Trails Council

Post Office Box 7164

Eureka, CA 95502

Michael Proulx

President, HTC

Phone: 707-616-2526

E-mail: michaeltp47@aol.com

G. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

By signature below, the cooperators certify that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperators are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

DURATION

This MOU becomes effective upon signature by both parties, and can be modified or terminated at any time by mutual consent. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving 60 days written notice to the other party or at such other date as may be established.

The signatories will evaluate annually whether this MOU should be amended or expanded to meet the needs of both parties.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

McKinleyville CSD

Humboldt Trails Council

Date

Date

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Grantee is responsible for ensuring the project complies with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to: allowable uses of proposed trail including e-bike uses, CEQA/NEPA, legal requirements for construction, building codes, health and safety codes, state contractor's and other licenses, and disabled access laws.

Non-motorized Trail – means a trail designated for recreational purposes such as walking/ hiking, bicycling, equestrian use and other non-motorized recreational uses.

e-bike – a bicycle that can be run on electric power as well as by pedaling

The above suggest that e-bikes can be used in the Community Forest without violating the grant agreement.

The Arcata Community Forest, Forest Management Plan Standards state:

2. (S) Motorized vehicles are prohibited in the forests except forest management, public safety or for research purposes approved by the City. The definition of motorized vehicles includes gas powered machines and electric bikes (E-bikes or pedal assist bikes) except for Class I bikes that are not capable of speeds greater than 20 MPG.

The McKay Trail Plan Standards State:

Mountain Bikers have diverse interests based on age and skill level. Desired routes for biking will vary from gentle and easy to strenuous and challenging. Travel speeds will vary from less than two mph to over ten mph. Experienced bikers will seek more remote, less travelled trails with complexity and technical trail features. Trail designs for mountain bikers can range from “open and flowing,” with gentle slopes, gradual turns, and long sightlines, to “tight and technical,” with sharper turns, narrower tread, and natural obstacles (IMBA, 2004; IMBA/BLM, 2018). Proper transitions between trail sections with different types of flow are important.

A new development during the last five to ten years is the increased use of electric motor-assisted bicycles (also known as “e-bikes”). Electric mountain bikes are sometimes called “e-MTBs.” An e-bike operates at relatively low speeds with a low-power electric motor to assist in pedaling. Ebikes are considered consumer products rather than motor vehicles (such as mopeds and motorcycles). An e-bike has fully operable pedals and an electric motor less than 750 Watts. Three classes of e-bike have been designated in California based on motor speed and the level of electric assist. Class 1 e-bikes have motor assist only when the rider is pedaling, and assistance stops when the bike reaches 20 miles per hour. Class 2 e-bikes can be propelled by the motor alone without pedaling, up to a speed of 20 miles per hour. Class 3 e-bikes have motor assist

only when the rider is pedaling, and assistance stops when the bike reaches 28 miles per hour.

One of the benefits of e-bikes is they expand opportunities for biking especially for people who are older or have physical disabilities. Potential concerns about e-bikes include safety, trail impacts, and social impacts (noise and nuisance). In 2017, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) released the following position statement:

IMBA is supportive of Class 1 eMTB access to non-motorized trails when the responsible land management agency, in consultation with local mountain bikers, deem such eMTB access is appropriate and will not cause any loss of access to non-motorized bikes. IMBA recognizes that changes in design, technology and the numbers of eMTB users is evolving, and believes these bikes can be managed in a sustainable way for both the environment and other trail users.

Attachment 1 is an email from Kevin Creed with his suggestions for edits to Rule 47.02.

Alternatives:

- Take no action

Fiscal Analysis:

Not applicable

Environmental Requirements:

Not applicable

Exhibits/Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Email from Kevin Creed with Suggested Language for Rule 47.02

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Date: (DRAFT, 10/16/24)

To: McKinleyville Community Forest Subcommittee
Trails/Infrastructure/Security

From: Kevin Creed
McKinleyville Resident

Subject: Proposal to Allow Electric Bikes in the McKinleyville Community Forest

I am submitting this proposal for your consideration in making it an agenda item for the subcommittee to discuss, modify, etc., and hopefully vote in favor of it. Likewise, the subcommittee would send it to the McKinleyville Forest Committee for potential approval and, subsequently, that committee would submit it to the MCSD Board of Directors for final approval.

Issue

MCSD Rule 47.02, as amended in Ordinance 2024-01, reads as follows:

‘RULE 47.02. MOTORIZED AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE USE PROHIBITED Public recreation use of the Community Forest Property does not include use or operation of any motorized or electric vehicle. Recreational use must be done via pedestrian use, non-motorized/non-electric bicycle or horseback. Operation of non-motorized vehicles within the community forest property must comply with existing Rule 41.04 of these Rules & Regulations.’

Concerns

Rule 47.02, as currently written, prohibits E-bikes and, consequently, excludes a growing number of bike riders that could otherwise be McKinleyville Community Forest (MCF) users. For some of these potential forest users an E-bike provides the only viable means to access and enjoy the MCF due to their limited mobility restrictions that cannot be overcome by other means.

E-bikes (class 1 and class 2) are allowed everywhere non-motorized bikes are allowed in the jurisdictions listed below.

- City of Arcata; Arcata Community Forest
- Green Diamond Resource Company; Hatchery Ridge Trails, Blue Lake; McKay Tract, Eureka; other GDRC properties
- Bureau of Land Management; Lacks Creek Management Area
- City of Flagstaff, AZ;
- Maricopa County, AZ
- Boulder County, CO
- Santa Clara County Parks, CA
- California State Parks, per approval by individual park Superintendent;
- Henry Coe State Park, CA; E-bike full access (second largest park in California system)

The prohibition of E-bikes in the MCF is a significant inconsistency given how more broadly E-bikes are allowed. Wouldn't it be great if McKinleyville residents who own or otherwise depend on an E-bike could just ride from their home and into the MCF? Now they (and their money) must go to Arcata or Blue Lake to enjoy that experience.

Of the total number of upper end mountain bikes sold locally, the percentage of those that are electric mountain bikes on an annual basis ranges from roughly 25-80%. This is consistent with national trends in E-bike purchases, i.e., the relative amount of E-bike sales has increased compared to non-electric bikes. Consequently, the number of individuals who potentially have a desire to ride in the MCF is expectedly going to increase.

In my opinion, the assumed safety risk that electric bikes pose to other trail users, versus non-motorized bikes, is misplaced based on an incorrect understanding of safety risks and an incomplete understanding of electric bikes. The actual risks posed by all bikes to other trail users, not just E-bikes, originates with the individual bike rider behavior, not with the bike itself. It is hazardous rider behavior with disregard for the safety of other trail users that is the real risk. Therefore, prohibiting electric bikes is a misdirected restriction with no compelling or rational basis.

Opportunities

MCSD has an amazing opportunity to evolve the MCF into a model community forest that attracts a wide diversity of users while operating with sustainable environmental protection and timber harvest practices. The wider the diversity of users to the forest, the wider the overall support for the community forest will be.

An amendment to Rule 47.02 can be the first logical step to attract this growing potential community forest user group. This proposal includes amended language for 47.02 as noted below. This proposal additionally suggests additional language to provide greater clarity.

'RULE 47.02. MOTORIZED AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE USE PROHIBITED

Public recreation use of the Community Forest Property does not include use or operation of any motorized or electric vehicle. For the purpose of this rule, electric bicycles are not considered electric vehicles.

RULE 47.02.1 ELECTRIC BIKES

DEFINITIONS

Electric Bike: Bike with a battery-powered motor that provides some level of assistance to the rider. (AKA E-Bike)

Classifications of E-Bikes*

1) A "class 1 electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with a motor (max power 750W**) that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

2) A "class 2 electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with a motor (max power 750W) that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

3) A “class 3 electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with a motor (max power 750W) that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer [*source is: PeopleForBikes, national bike advocate organization]

4) E-Moto bikes: Are electric motorcycles with a power rating of 7,500 Watts and a top speed of 50 mph. (prohibited in the MCF)

RULE 47.02.2 RECREATIONAL USAGE

Recreational use must be done via pedestrian use, non-motorized or electric bikes (Class 1 or 2 only) ~~non-electric bicycle~~ or horseback.

Electric bikes Class 1 & 2 are allowed on all trails where non-electric bikes are allowed; and, Class 1 & 2 electric bikes are not allowed where non-electric bikes are prohibited.

Class 3 bikes, all other electric bikes with greater than 1 horsepower/750 watts and E-Moto bikes are prohibited in the McKinleyville Community Forest.

Trail Etiquette

Bicyclists (non-motorized and electric bikes) yield to hikers and horses

Hikers yield to horses



----- end of proposed rule amendment -----

Through the process of developing these proposed rule changes, an active constructive exchange of ideas can be catalyzed between different user groups such as cyclists, hikers and equestrians. And this networking can continue to prove productive in the long term evolution of the community forest.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

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1) A "class 1 electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with a motor (max power 750W**) that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

2) A "class 2 electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with a motor (max power 750W) that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

3) A "class 3 electric bicycle" is a bicycle equipped with a motor (max power 750W) that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer [~~*source is: PeopleForBikes, national bike advocate organization~~]

4) E-Moto bikes: Are electric motorcycles with a power rating of 7,500 Watts and a top speed of 50 mph. (~~prohibited in the MCF~~)

RULE 47.02.2 RECREATIONAL USAGE

Recreational use must be done via ~~horseback~~, pedestrian use ~~and~~ ~~non-motorized~~ or electric bikes (Class 1 or 2 only) ~~/non-electric bicycle or horseback~~.

~~Electric bikes Class 1 & 2 are allowed on all trails where non-electric bikes are allowed; and, Class 1 & 2 electric bikes are not allowed where non-electric bikes are prohibited.~~

Class 3 bikes, all other electric bikes with greater than 1 horsepower/750 watts and E-Moto bikes are prohibited in the McKinleyville Community Forest.

Trail Etiquette

Bicyclists ~~(non-motorized and electric bikes)~~ yield to hikers and horses

Hikers yield to horses



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make it feasible to track user groups and copied keys. This is a procedure that is currently being used at other Parks facilities and proves to work well. Once Gate #2 is able to be removed, the locks would transfer to Gate #3.

Alternatives:

- Take no action

Fiscal Analysis:

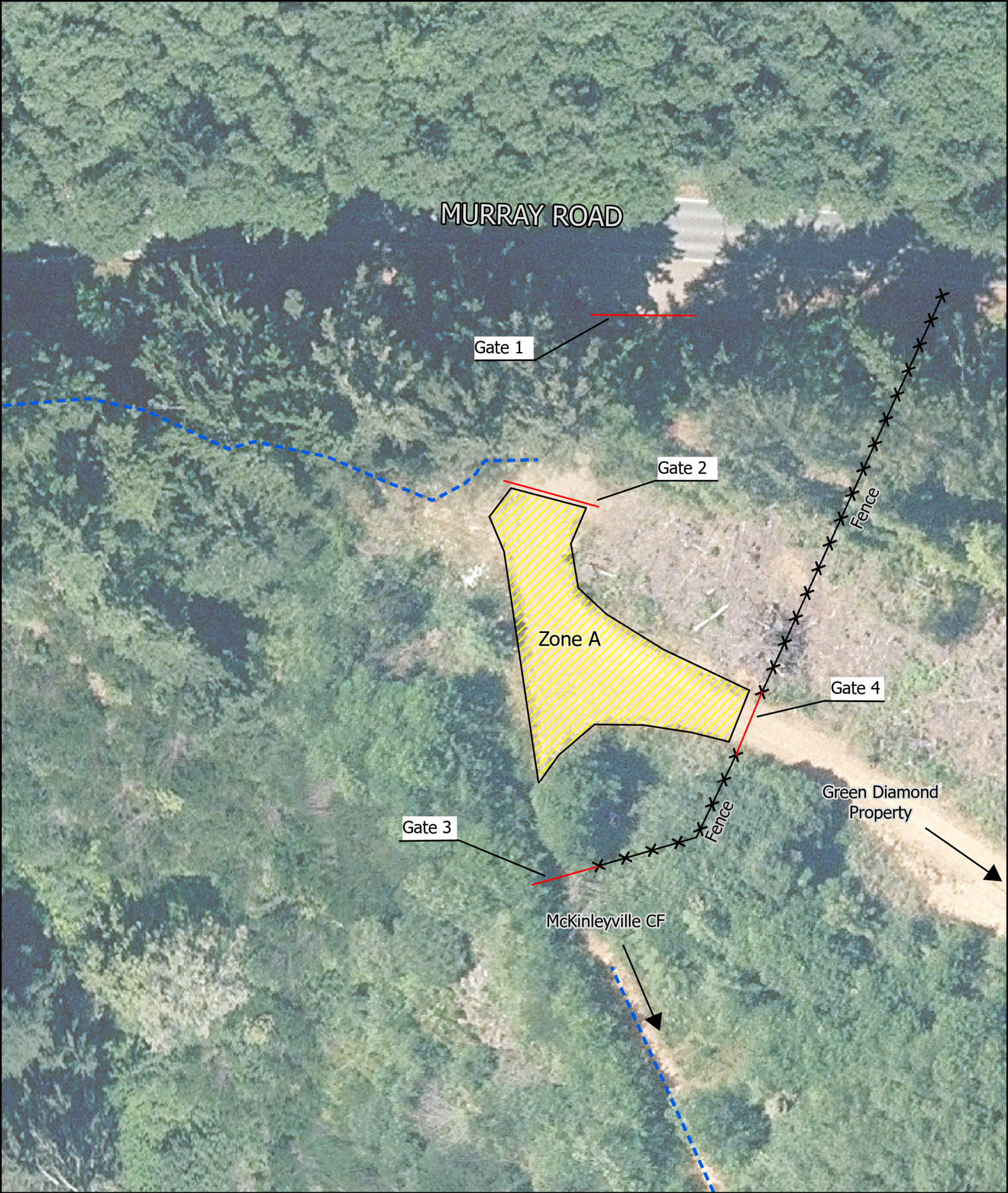
Not applicable

Environmental Requirements:

Not applicable

Exhibits/Attachments:

Attachment 1- MCF Murray Road Gate access points



--- Trails

MCF Murray Road Gate Access Points

0 25 50 31 100 Feet

Scale: 1:530

ITEM 10 ATTACHMENT 1



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McKinleyville Community Services District

McKinleyville Community Forest Committee

TRAILS, INFRASTRUCTURE, CLEAN-UP AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

February 25, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: **Action**

ITEM: 11 **Discuss Approach for Development of Trails Plan**

PRESENTED BY: **James Henry, Operations Director**

TYPE OF ACTION: **Roll Call**

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Subcommittee review the information provided, discuss, take public comment, and consider and/or revise the approach for the development of the Trails Plan.

Discussion:

As the TICS committee members are aware, one of the Subcommittee's main goals and responsibilities is the development of a Trails Plan for the Community Forest. This is going to be a long-term, multi-tasked endeavor. Staff recommends that the Subcommittee develop a systematic approach to tackling the Trails Plan. Suggested Subtasks include:

1. Review existing road/trails and identify those which are to remain
2. Develop a systematic numbering methodology and begin numbering the existing trails to remain, including installing trail numbering signage
3. Determine which existing trails are to be multi-use trails
4. Perform a trails assessment to identify those multi-use trails which are currently suitable for multi-use, and, if not, what work needs to be performed to make them multi-use. In conjuncture with this, identify other trail work, such as stream crossing or erosion/sediment sources that need to be corrected
5. Install multi-use signage/single use signage
6. Identify those trails to be abandoned
7. Begin the process of laying out potentially new trails with the Committee
8. Hold Public Meetings to review Draft Trails Plan
9. Revise Draft Trails Plan for review by the MCFC
10. Take Final Draft Trails Plan to MCSD Board for approval

Alternatives:

- Take no action

Fiscal Analysis:

Not applicable at this time, but trail development, repair, and abandonment will require funding and/or volunteer assistance,

Environmental Requirements:

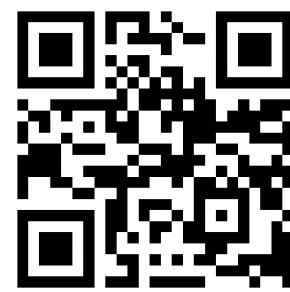
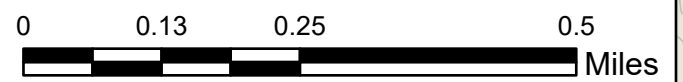
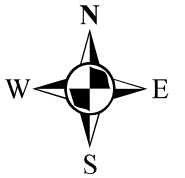
The development of the Trails Plan does not require CEQA or other environmental permitting. The implementation of the Trails Plan will require CEQA and other environmental permitting.

Exhibits/Attachments:

Attachment 1- Community Forest Trail Map

McKinleyville Community Forest Trail Map

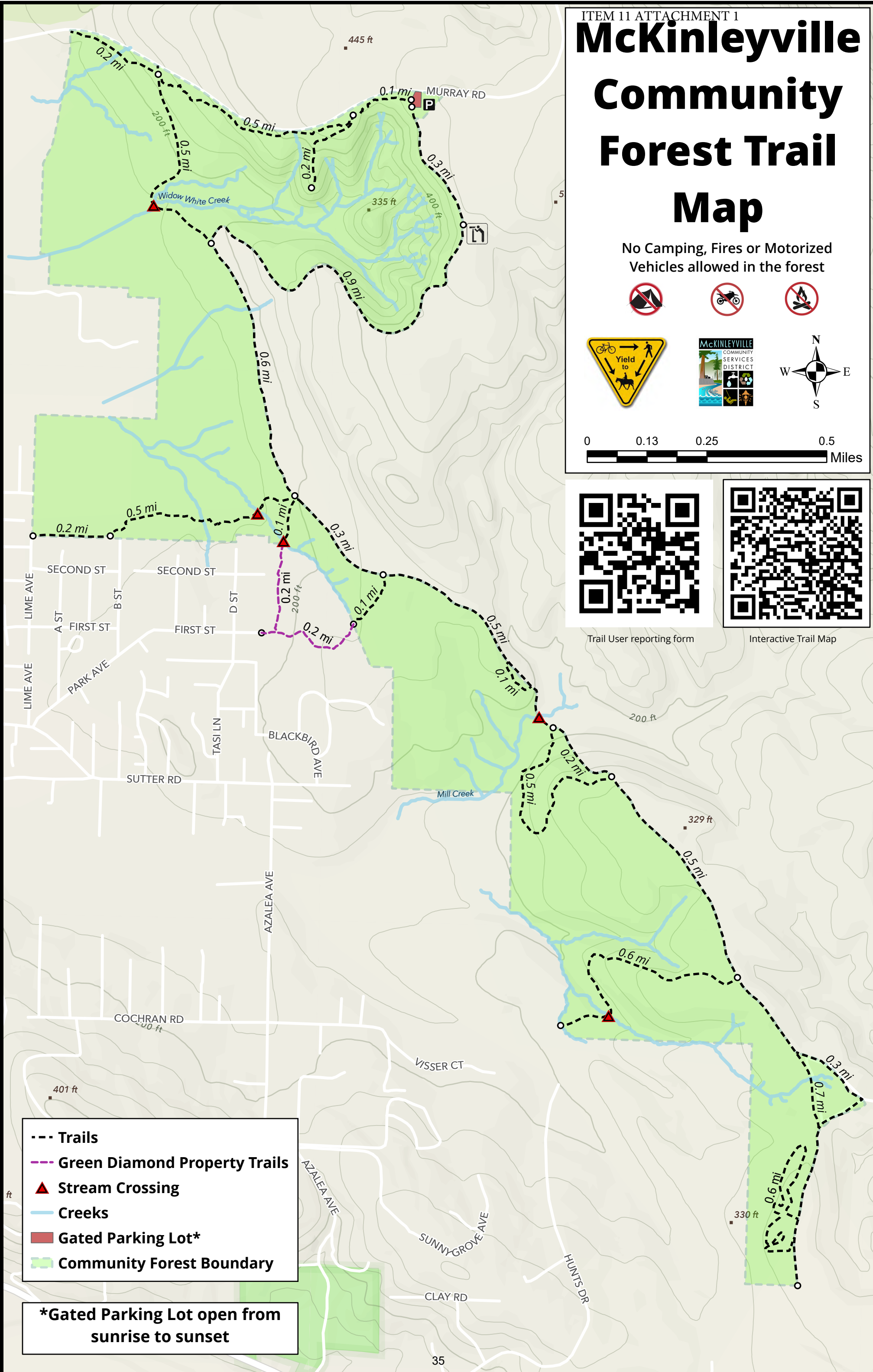
No Camping, Fires or Motorized
Vehicles allowed in the forest



Trail User reporting form



Interactive Trail Map



- Trails
- Green Diamond Property Trails
- ▲ Stream Crossing
- Creeks
- Gated Parking Lot*
- Community Forest Boundary

***Gated Parking Lot open from sunrise to sunset**