

REGION 6 FAQ

What is a “trail designation” process?

In 2015, the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) began a collaborative public process to formally designate a road and trail system in county preserves. This process is taking place on a region-by-region basis. Regions 1-5 have been designated, while designation is currently active for Region 6 (Old Saint Hilary’s, Tiburon Ridge, and Ring Mountain preserves). A goal of the process is to create a designation map. A designated road or trail is one that appears on an official MCOSD preserve map and is marked with signs.

What is a trail designation map?

A designation map is a planning document to provide transparency and inform future projects. This map identifies which trails are proposed for adoption or not proposed for adoption.

How can I participate in the trail designation process?

1. **Email.** If you have questions or would like to provide your input by emailing Jon Campo JCampo@marincounty.org, or Amanda Magallanes AMagallanes@marincounty.org.
2. **Virtual Office Hours.** Make an appointment for yourself or a group to have a one-on-one meeting via Zoom, or phone.

What is the timeline? What happens when the trail designation process is over?

Following the public trail planning meeting for Region 6 on November 17, a 60-day feedback period will begin. Staff will evaluate and incorporate feedback to finalize a designation.

Will this change any preserve rules or access to my favorite trails?

No. This process does not result in any policy, rule, access, or physical changes to the existing roads and trails. Designation is a planning process to shape future changes in the trail system. Future trail projects will be informed by the designation map and each project will include extensive planning, environmental compliance, and public input opportunities.

Why is the MCOSD doing this?

The MCOSD preserves include 100 miles of unpaved roads and 70 miles of trails. Nearly all the roads and trails were built as logging and ranch roads, or informal trails developing over time.

The designation process formally evaluates roads and trails through the three goals of the [Road and Trail Management Plan](#):

1. Establish and maintain a sustainable system of roads and trails that meet design and management standards.

2. Reduce the environmental impact of roads and trails on sensitive resources, habitats, riparian areas, native and special-status plant and animal species.
3. Improve the visitor experience and visitor safety for all users, including hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

The goal is to build a sustainable trail system that reduces environmental impacts while improving recreational opportunities for people of all abilities.

When will there be changes to the trails and approved uses at the preserves?

Changes to the preserves, will occur incrementally over time. Staff will begin planning a trail improvement project after the designation process. Improvement projects will focus on specific areas a preserve. A project may include a group of trails to be adopted and improved for public access, while other trails may be deemed unsustainable and would undergo decommission and restoration. The project planning will include biological and cultural assessments, a robust public process, and environmental review.

I love walking my dog at Ring Mountain, how does this process impact where I can go and what I can do?

This designation process will not change existing dog walking policies or rules. The MCOSD policy at this preserve allows leashed dog walking on designated roads and trails. The preserve has several fire roads and two designated trails (Phyllis Ellman and Loop trail). A designated road or trail is one that appears on an official MCOSD preserve map and is marked with signs.

Can I ride my bike on trails on Ring Mountain?

No. Trails at Ring Mountain are hiking only per an agreement with The Nature Conservancy. However, bikes are allowed on designated fire roads.