



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Open Space and Trails Plan?



The City of Henderson Open Space and Trails Plan (OSTP) is a citywide plan that seeks to update the 2005 OSTP to successfully prepare for the City's open space, trails and desert edge needs for the next ten years. The City of Henderson is well known for its quality-of-life amenities, and its parks, trails and open spaces play an integral role in achieving the mission to be America's premier community with services and resources in place for those who live, work and play in the city. The OSTP update is a joint effort between the Community Development and Services and Parks and Recreation departments.

What is Open Space?



In the context of this plan, open space is defined as an interconnected system of protected lands that are conserved in their natural state, restored, or improved with appropriate native landscaping to retain a natural or natural-appearing condition. Open space areas provide resource conservation, visual, wildlife, and recreational benefits, as well as relief from urban development.

Allowed uses vary depending upon resource sensitivity and management objectives, but some areas can accommodate passive recreational uses and facilities such as trails, trailheads, overlooks, rest areas and interpretive signage. Developed facilities primarily with active recreation areas such as playgrounds, sports fields, courts, and turf areas are not analyzed in detail in this plan.

What are Trails?

Trails range from soft surfaces in backcountry areas to shared-use paths adjacent to major roadways. Ideally, trails occur in non-vehicular corridors with appropriate pedestrian amenities, aesthetic enhancements, and connections. On-street lanes, sidewalks, and other neighborhood trails are not addressed in this plan, but they are being addressed in other planning efforts such as the Master Transportation Plan and the Transportation and Mobility Plan.



What are Trailheads?

Trailheads are the start and end point for many trail users. They provide connections to other trail systems and include, but are not limited to, parking, restrooms, shade structures, drinking fountains, signage, waste receptacles, seating, and bike repair stations. Each trailhead shall be designed per the individual trail corridor unless otherwise noted in trail specific guidelines and master plans.



What are Desert Edges?

Desert Edges are transitions between urbanizing areas and the public lands that surround the Las Vegas Valley. Some of these areas lie at the edge of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA), Black Mountain Nature Preserve, Boulder City Conservation Easement (CE), River Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and Rainbow Gardens ACEC.



Why does the City need to update this Plan and what will it do?

Much has changed since the completion of the 2005 Plan, yet much remains the same. The update for this plan will follow eight keys to success:

1. Mobilizing Key Community Partners

The 2004 Open Space & Trails Plan galvanized the community and many of the plan's partners have become leaders in the Valley with a vested interest in a successful update. These organizations will be mobilized to increase the plan's impact.

2. Fine-tuning what Works and Doesn't Work in Henderson

Understand Henderson's history and future, federal land management, Clark County Regional

Flood Control District, and best practices in natural washes, desert edges, and wildlife conservation.

3. Robust Engagement Key to Implementation

In order to gain valuable input and feedback on the current demand for open space, trails and desert edge, and to determine desired improvements to existing facilities and programs, the plan will engage multiple and diverse audiences.

4. Integration with Local and Regional Planning Efforts

The Open Space & Trails Plan Update supports the values and priorities of several past planning efforts, including Southern Nevada Strong, Henderson Strong, Henderson Strategic Plan and Henderson Parks Master Plan in its enhancement of sustainable communities. This includes increasing healthy lifestyle choices and active lifestyles, improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and an overall higher quality of life for the City's residents.

5. Institutionalizing Desert Edges

Special attention will be paid to how to guide development at the desert edges in terms of resource protection versus utilization, nature versus infrastructure, and ecology versus anthropology.

6. Investing in Restoration and Recreation

As density and use increase, the quality and restoration of open spaces must also increase. The plan update will address the encroachment and deterioration of natural edge conditions, as well as isolated interior open spaces that are available.

7. Re-envisioning Our Washes

The 2005 Open Space Plan envisioned a system of natural-appearing washes and influenced changes to the Clark County Regional Flood Control District's multiple use policies. The plan update will identify natural washes for conservation through flood control and green infrastructure best practices.

8. Regional Connectivity and Trail Experiences

The plan update will identify trail gaps, alignment of the trails master plan with updates to the Master Street and Highway Plan as well as the City's various funding sources for alternative transportation.

What are the opportunities for public participation?

Public participation opportunities include surveys, community meetings, and project's website. If you would like to be notified of these opportunities, please register with your email [here](#).

Will this plan consider accessibility for all users?

Yes, the OSTP Update will consider users of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

What is the Plan Area?

The OSTP Update is a Henderson-wide initiative.

What are the goals of the Plan?

The Open Space and Trails Plan will be updated to:

- Provide an inventory of existing open spaces, trails and desert edge areas citywide, and identify potentially new locations based on existing conditions, community outreach, and national standards.
- Document the essential personal, social, health, recreational and environmental benefits from open space, trails, and desert edge areas.
- A planning document that provides information for City staff and interested public to reference, simple in format but graphically rich, that is made available on the City website.

When will the Plan be completed?

The OSTP Plan update is anticipated to be presented for adoption in the winter of 2024.