



TITLE

Courtesy Trail Signage

RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss trail rules and signage, and explore bicycle speed limit practices for City and regional trails in American Canyon.

CONTACT

Alexandra Ikeda, Deputy City Manager

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

As part of the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Work Plan, the Commission expressed interest in reviewing courtesy trail rules and signage for City trails, and explore options related to bicycle speed limits.

City staff conducted a review throughout American Canyon. This included trails managed and maintained by the City, as well as regional trails such as Lynch Canyon Open Space, the Ridge Trail, the Vine Trail, and Bay Trail. The City's trail network currently includes approximately 22.7 miles of trails within American Canyon (Attachment 1).

City of American Canyon

The City of American Canyon maintains a network of public trails including Wetlands Edge Park, Newell Open Space Preserve, and several trail segments located within residential neighborhoods and parks. Some of our trails connect to larger regional system like Lynch Canyon Open Space, the Ridge Trail, the Vine Trail and the Bay Trail.

Municipal Code Section 12.04.220 - Trail Use Regulations outlines prohibited activities and general guideline for public access (Attachment 2). However, City trails currently lack consistent or visible signage, which limits public awareness of these regulations. In addition, there are no posted bicycle speed limits, which may create challenges on shared-use trails where pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists must safely coexist.

The Newell Open Space Preserve will have its own signage and trail standards once the Newell Open Space Management Plan is adopted by City Council. The plan outlines recommended trail use rules

intended to promote courtesy and safety among users (Attachment 3). While enforcement will be limited, the plan does establish a maximum bicycle speed limit of 15 miles per hour (mph) and allows for the use of Class 1 electric bicycles on designated trails.

Vine Trail

The Vine Trail is managed and operated by the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition and is envisioned as a 47-mile Class 1 paved trail stretching from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal. The completed segment between Vallejo and American Canyon is approximately 7.5 miles, with a total of 2.5 miles within American Canyon. The Vine Trail enters city limits from Vallejo on Broadway Street near Mini Drive and ends on Newell Drive near Newell Open Space Preserve. There is another completed section at the intersection of Green Island and Devlin Road, continuing north on Devlin Road.

The trail mentions a 15mph speed limit for bicyclist in its safety guidance, but this is shared as a general courtesy recommendation and is not officially posted or enforced. While identifying markers and mileposts are located throughout the trail, there is currently no formal wayfinding or trail etiquette signage in place.

The Bay Trail

The Bay Trail segment in American Canyon is partially located within Wetland Edge Park and extends both north and south from the park. The section of the Bay Trail extending north towards Green Island is managed and operated by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. The Bay Trail is part of the larger San Francisco Bay Trail, a regional trail system that will eventually span over 500 miles around the entire Bay shoreline.

A 15mph speed limit for bicyclist is referenced in some Bay Trail guidance materials as a suggested standard; however there is no posted signage within the Wetlands Edge segment, and speed limits are not actively enforced by the District. While users may encounter identifying markers and occasional mileposts, formal trail rules or guidelines are not posted. Additionally, trail rules were not outlined on the Bay Trail website or in the Bay Trail Guidelines and Toolkit, which focuses primarily on design and planning standards rather than user behavior or enforcement.

Some areas on the Bay Trail, like the Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge crossings, have bicycle patrols and active speed enforcement due to higher traffic volumes and narrower trail widths. This highlights how enforcement and signage can vary depending on location and usage levels.

Lynch Canyon

Lynch Canyon Open Space is owned and managed by Solano County and shares an open boarder with Newell Open Space. Aside from signage that indicates when you have crossed into either property, there is no physical separation between the two.

Lynch Canyon does not have posted bicycle speed limits. However, only Class 1 electric bicycles are permitted, which have a maximum speed limit of 20 mph. While this rule is noted at the trailhead,

there is no formal signage within the trail system related to speed, courtesy, or user conduct, and no active enforcement is in place.

Solano County does maintain a set of Parks Rules and Regulations, which apply to Lynch Canyon and other County parklands (Attachment 4). These rules cover general park use, including trail access, pets, and permitted activities - which are not visibly posted within the park.

Bay Area Ridge Trail

The Bay Area Ridge Trail, managed and operated by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, is a part of a regional trail system that spans more than 400 miles along the ridgelines surrounding the Bay Area. In American Canyon, the trail runs through Newell Open Space, beginning in Solano County at Lynch Canyon. While the trail is marked with indicators, there are no posted trail rules, speed limits, or user guidelines along this segment. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council defers the creation and enforcement of trail rules to the agency or organization responsible for managing the parkland in which their trail is a part of.

Additional Regional Trail Research

As part of this review, staff also looked at other regional trail systems including the East Bay Regional Park District, Alston Park, and Skyline Park. Alston and Skyline Parks do not have posted bicycle speed limits but both allow Class 1 electric bicycles on their trail systems. The East Bay Regional Park District provides general trail use rules and guidelines across its system, but individual parks have more specific regulations tailored to their unique amenities, user needs, and natural features.

Summary

This review highlights a wide range of signage practices, trail rules, and speed limit policies across local and regional trail systems. While some trails reference courtesy guidelines and speed recommendations, most lack posted rules or consistent enforcement. As the City continues to enhance its trail network, there is an opportunity to improve our user experience and safety through clear, visible signage and educational messaging.

COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Outdoors and Recreation: "Expand opportunities for use of outdoor recreation and an active and healthy lifestyle."

FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

None

ATTACHMENTS:

1. American Canyon Trails and Miles
2. Municipal Code 12.04.220
3. Newell Open Space Management Plan - Trail Rules
4. Lynch Canyon Park Rules