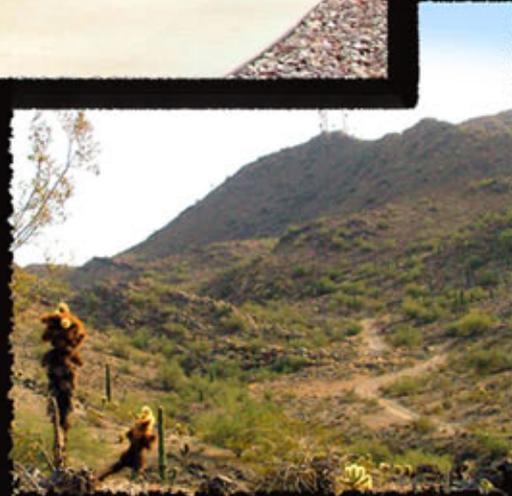
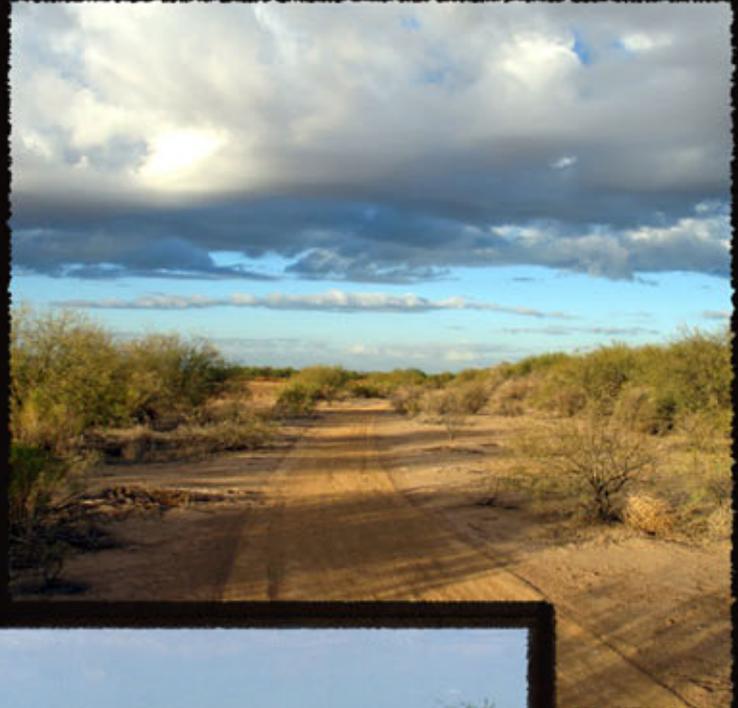
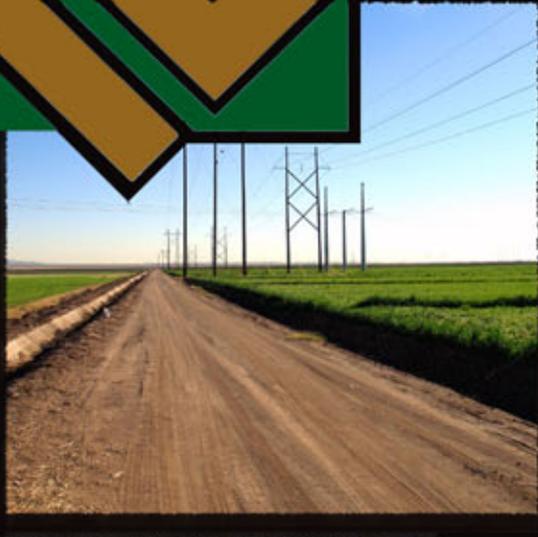


# City of Casa Grande Regional Trail System Master Plan



May 2008

Prepared for:  
City of Casa Grande  
Community Services Department

Prepared by:  
McGann & Associates Inc., Landscape Architects and Planners

## Acknowledgments

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**City of Casa Grande Mayor and Council** . . . . . Robert M. Jackson, Mayor  
Karl Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem  
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## 1.1 Introduction:

The City of Casa Grande is a community with nearly 45,000 residents located along the Interstate 10 corridor in Pinal County, Arizona. The City was incorporated in 1915 and has, for nearly a century, served as the hub of the central Arizona farming and ranching industries. In recent years, the community's economic base has become much more diverse and its population has grown significantly. In spite of this growth, the community has retained its roots as a place where residents enjoy being active and outdoors.

It is anticipated that the recent growth trend experienced by the community will continue, and the City is actively planning for this growth. The planning boundary identified in the City of Casa Grande General Plan 2010 includes approximately 250 square miles of land. Within this planning boundary, as many as 250,000 people may reside by the year 2030.

To meet the needs of these citizens, the City of Casa Grande Community Services Department is working to develop plans that will result in the preservation of open space, the construction of parks, and the development of a high quality trail system. This Regional Trail System Master Plan is an important component of this on-going planning effort.

## 1.2 Scope and Character of the Proposed Trail System:

The trail system proposed will be a non-motorized, multi-use trail system. It will serve: walkers, hikers, trail-runners, bicyclists, in-line skaters, and equestrians. To the extent possible, all trails in the proposed regional trail system will accommodate multiple users.

The trail system described herein is not intended to serve motorized off-highway vehicles (OHV's) such as motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel-drive trucks. The facility needs of these users are being addressed by various federal and state agencies.

Off-highway vehicles will be prohibited from using the proposed regional trail system to ensure public safety and to prevent damage to the trails, the natural resources adjacent to the trails, and the cultural resources that may be present along the trail corridors.

# 1. Introduction

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## 1.3 The Purpose of this Document:

This Master Plan summary report is intended to:

- Document the public process utilized to develop the plan
- Articulate specific goals for the trail system
- Identify the types of trails to be included in the system
- Illustrate the location and alignment of the proposed trails
- Describe the features of proposed trails
- Establish standards for the construction of the proposed trails
- Identify responsibilities for trail development and maintenance
- Outline a strategy for plan implementation

## 1.4 The Need for a Regional Trail System Master Plan:

In 2005, the City of Casa Grande conducted a survey of local citizens to determine issues, concerns, and preferences related to community development. The Community Attitude and Interest Survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Casa Grande.

The results of this survey indicated that “walking and biking trails” were the outdoor recreational facilities that respondents most wanted to see constructed in the community. Additionally, walking and biking trails were the facilities that the survey respondents were most willing to fund.

Several other surveys and studies have been conducted in recent years in conjunction with various City of Casa Grande planning efforts. These studies also found a high level of citizen interest in the development of a regional trail system.

Prior to the 2005 survey, the City of Casa Grande Community Services Department had initiated a number of trail planning and development projects. The survey results confirmed the importance of these efforts. It also made clear the need for a comprehensive, long-range plan for trail development within the community.

The City of Casa Grande Mayor and Council took action to address this need by authorizing the preparation of this Regional Trail System Master Plan.

### **1.5 Public and Stakeholder Input in the Planning Process:**

The Regional Trail System Master Plan, as presented herein, was developed based on extensive public input from local citizens and stakeholders. The scope of the public participation process included:

#### **Public Meeting / Open House Number 1:**

During the course of the project several public meetings were conducted to solicit public input related to the proposed trail system. The first of these meetings was conducted on October 5, 2006 at the Community Services Department conference room.

At this meeting, members of the public were invited to share with the planning team their vision for a multi-use, non-motorized trail system. They were also encouraged to mark up maps showing historic trails, existing trails, and areas where new trails might be appropriate. This input was valuable and used to prepare the initial trail system maps.

#### **Public Meeting / Open House Number 2:**

A second public meeting was conducted on May 10, 2007. At this meeting a draft trail system map was presented along with descriptions and illustrations of proposed trail system elements. Suggestions related to refinements, additions, and modifications to the draft map were received and were subsequently used to develop the plan presented herein.

#### **City Council Study Session:**

On July 2, 2007, an outline of the trail master plan was presented to the Mayor and Council at a Council Study Session. At this meeting, preliminary maps and recommendations for trail system development were presented. Comments were received from the Council and have been incorporated into this plan.

#### **Additional Meetings / Public Hearings:**

During the course of the project, three meetings were conducted with members of the homebuilding and development community. Issues related to the construction and maintenance of trails were discussed. Numerous modifications and refinements to the draft plan were made based on input received at these meetings.

## **1. Introduction**

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### **Technical Advisory Committee Input:**

To ensure that a broad range of perspectives were considered in the development of this plan, a Technical Advisory Committee was empaneled to provide input related to the Regional Trail System Master Plan. The Technical Advisory Committee included representatives from: the local home-building industry, trail advocacy and user groups, the City of Casa Grande Police Department, the Pinal County Planning Department, and interested local citizens. The Technical Advisory Committee met on several occasions to review elements of the proposed trail system. The input of this group is reflected in this master plan.

### **City of Casa Grande Inter-Departmental Project Team Input:**

The planning, development, and operation of trails in the community will be an on-going activity involving several City of Casa Grande departments. To ensure that the experience and expertise of these departments was appropriately utilized during the development of the plan, a City of Casa Grande Inter-Departmental Project Team was established. The Community Service Department, the Public Works Department, the Planning Department, and the City Manager's Offices were represented on this team.

The team met on several occasions to review trails as they relate to transportation improvements, utility system development, and land use planning. The team identified opportunities to co-locate trails along utility corridors, to use planned roadway bridges for trail / roadway crossings, and to integrate trails with new residential communities being developed within the City of Casa Grande.

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Input:**

Input related to trail development was also solicited from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). Concept plans, preliminary design sketches, and various drafts of the Master Plan were presented to the Board for review and comment.

The Board provided valuable insights related to the physical and demographic features of the community vis-a-vis trail development. The experience and expertise of the Board is reflected in this document.

### **Input from Impacted Agencies and Organizations:**

During the course of the project, meetings were conducted with various agencies and organizations. Included were meetings with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). These meetings were used to identify the issues, conflicts, and opportunities associated with trail development along and across Interstate 10 and Interstate 8 which run through the planning area.

Meetings were also conducted with the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District (SCIDD) to discuss the development of trails along irrigation canals and irrigation pipelines in the planning area. The District's input is reflected in the Regional Trail System Master Plan.

### **1.6 Project Goals and Objectives:**

The public and stakeholder input described above was used to develop a specific set of goals and objectives for the City of Casa Grande Regional Trail System. These are:

- To maximize trail-related recreational opportunities for the citizens of Casa Grande
- To accommodate all appropriate trail uses and users (pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian)
- To facilitate public access to the trail system
- To connect residential areas with community facilities such as schools, parks, and natural resource areas
- To support and accommodate local travel using alternative modes of transportation
- To utilize "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED) principals to enhance public safety along the trail system

## 1. Introduction

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- To connect and integrate local trails with regional trails and trails being developed by other communities.
- To create trails that enhance the visual character of the community and add value to the community's open space system

### 1.7 Related Documents:

The following public documents were used in the development of this Regional Trails System Master Plan. These documents contain additional information related to the trails, pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and other miscellaneous transportation improvements. They also contain information related to planned parks and other municipal facilities.

City of Casa Grande General Plan 2010

City of Casa Grande (2001)

[http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/dev\\_center/general\\_plan.php](http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/dev_center/general_plan.php)

City of Casa Grande City Code (Title 16 - Subdivisions - Chapter 16.16 - Design Standards)

<http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/engineering/subcode.php>

City of Casa Grande City Code (Title 15 - Buildings and Construction - Chapter 15.32 - Public Improvement Requirements for Land Developers)

[http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/pub\\_works/publicimprov.php](http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/pub_works/publicimprov.php)

City of Casa Grande Small Area Transportation Study

Wilson and Company (2007)

[http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/pub\\_works/pdf/sats\\_final\\_July.pdf](http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/pub_works/pdf/sats_final_July.pdf)

City of Casa Grande Community Services Master Plan

GreenPlay LLC (2007)

[http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/parks\\_and\\_rec/pdf/master\\_plan.pdf](http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/parks_and_rec/pdf/master_plan.pdf)

Community Attitude and Interest Survey

City of Casa Grande (2005)

<http://www.ci.casa-grande.az.us/admin/pdf/CommunityAttitudeSurvey2005.pdf>

Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Pinal County (2007)

<http://www.co.pinal.az.us>

### 1.8 Organization of Master Plan Report:

Provided in Section 2 of this report are maps, descriptions, and other information related to the proposed Community Trails. Community Trails will serve as the spine of the regional trail

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system. They will connect the various neighborhoods within the city and will provide opportunities for recreation and alternate-modes of transportation.

Provided in Section 3 of this report is information related to trails within natural resource area / trail parks. These areas, such as Casa Grande Mountain Park, are natural areas that afford opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other trail uses.

Section 4 addresses the proposed system of trails to be developed within individual neighborhoods and residential communities. These trails will be developed, operated, and maintained by private entities such as homeowner associations. They will serve as recreational resources and as gateways to the Community Trail system.

Standards and specifications for trail system development are provided in Section 5. These standards apply to both Neighborhood and Community Trail development. They also address the planning and construction of related facilities such as trailheads.

Include in Section 6 are recommendations for the implementation of this Regional Trail System Master Plan.

## 1.9 Application

The standards and requirements as outlined in this Regional Trail System Master Plan shall apply to all new development within the community. The standards and requirements shall not apply to those previously approved Planned Area Developments (PAD's) that include comprehensive guidelines and standards for trail system development within the subject PAD.

The standards and requirements of this Regional Trail System Master Plan shall apply to those previously approved PAD's that do not include comprehensive guidelines and standards for trail system development within the subject PAD.

## 1.10 Effective Date

The requirements of this Regional Trail System Master Plan shall be effective as of May 19, 2008.