

Community Focus Statement E: Create or provide a cost-effective approach to developing equestrian trails and trails for non-motorized vehicles.

Action Statement E.2: Protect and develop equestrian, walking, bicycle, and multi-use trails using dedicated easements (utility and drainage) or connecting to existing destinations (e.g. parks, trails, etc.).

E2

Benchmark: A trail management or advocacy group coordinated public access to at least one major utility corridor running through the community, and developed a plan that outlines future planned trail construction.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$20,000–\$4 million



Its large-lot single-family residential properties and rural setting, Phelan Piñon Hills is a community suited to outdoor recreation and equestrian activities. However, there is currently limited pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian access and connectivity both within the community and to nearby recreational resources. Existing utility and drainage easements offer an efficient and cost-effective opportunity to provide walking, biking, and equestrian trails that will connect and provided heathy activities for the community.

Utility corridors are often ideal for trails, as they are usually long and narrow and lack any kind of development.

Cyclist on the Santa Ana River Trail. Photo source: [Nandaro](#)

Water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical lines can be buried or encased near or beneath a trail, while telecommunications, cable, and electric utilities can run above a corridor using air rights. The community should work with the Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District and utility providers to help identify and gain public access to ideally suited utility corridors to create a network of trails to nearby amenities and open spaces.

Puma Canyon Ecological Preserve is located south of Pinon Hills and has over 350 acres available for hikers and horseback riders. Connecting trails from the community to the preserve would expand trail opportunities for residents.

For example, in San Jose, California, Albertson Parkway, which was once an unsightly utility corridor with a history of attracting crime, was developed into a winding bike path with pleasant landscaping through the negotiation of an easement with the electric utility PG&E.

Additional Information and examples of multi-use utility corridors are available on the Rails to Trails Conservancy website.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Trails Advocacy/ Management Group.	Champion	Month 1	Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District https://www.pphcsd.org/
2. Meet with Community Services District (CSD), County Regional Parks and County Special Districts to identify a potential entity responsible for development and maintenance of future trails.	Trails Advocacy/ Management Group	Month 1	San Bernardino County Regional Parks http://cms.sbcounty.gov/parks/parks/santaanarivertrailandparkway.aspx Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – How to build a “Friends of the Trail” group and promote community support http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/outreach/building-community-support/
3. Identify potential utility easements that could be used for trails.	Trails Advocacy/ Management Group with support from responsible entity and community members	Months 2 – 6	http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/planning/utilities/
4. Work with property owners and utility companies to gain public access easements to utility corridors and/or explore donation of utility ground space by local utility providers.	Trails Advocacy/ Management Group, with support from utility providers, property owners and responsible entity	Month 6 – onward	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – Utilities http://www.americantrails.org/resources/land/CarlsonNY04.html
5. Draft and adopt a plan that outlines proposed trail projects/networks along utility corridors.	Trails Advocacy/ Management Group, with support from Utility providers	Months 6 – 12	Park, trail, and recreation grant funding http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants
6. Apply for grant funding for trail construction.	Trails Advocacy/ Management Group and responsible entity	Months 12 – 18	http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/
7. Incorporate proposed trail projects into the 5-year CIP or budget.	Responsible Entity	Month 18 – Year 5	http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/
8. Start construction on community trails.	Responsible Entity	Month 18 – Year 5	http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/financing-and-funding/ http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324
9. Continue ongoing operation and maintenance of community trails.	Responsible entity, Trails Advocacy/ Management Group, with support from community organizations, schools, churches, volunteers	Years 1 – 5	