

## Safe Trails Initiative

Throughout the Bay Area there has been an increase in the reported conflicts between users in Open Space areas with multi-use trails. While the temptation is to put up signs that tell our visitors to “be nice” we do take the situation much more seriously than that. When Walnut Creek Municipal Code that governs what is authorized and legal in the Open Space is violated, there is an increase in the chances that the natural resource will be harmed and our visitors will be hurt. Visitors to the Open Space are permitted to run, walk, hike, ride bicycles and enjoy equestrian activities. In order for all visitors to enjoy the spaces in their own ways rules, backed by the force of municipal code, have been established and must be followed.

The Open Space Division is promoting the Safe Trails Initiative to provide information, public education and enforcement of these rules. Information will be arriving in kiosks and in publications over the next year to help visitors understand each other and the plant and wildlife species of the Open Space that need to be protected. Sections of information kiosks will be devoted to Safe Trails information and will be updated every four to six weeks. Please check out these kiosks for new information.

The first information should be appearing the beginning of July and will consist of posters and pamphlets on Sharing the Trail. Contact information will be included so Open Space users can address their concerns and comments to staff as well as report situations that are thought to be unsafe.

The next poster and pamphlets will consist of information on animals that you might expect to see in the Open Space, what their normal behaviors are, and what to watch for as you are also sharing the trail with wildlife residents of the Open Space.

If you have any questions about the information you see as part of the Safe Trails Initiative, please don't hesitate to contact staff. We're very happy to speak with you about our work.

