

Attachment 4

Sherwin Area Recreation Plan Excerpt

Map ID #

Description

2

CONCEPT: Non-motorized trailhead at Tamarack Street

Develop an ADA-accessible non-motorized trailhead at the end of Tamarack Street. Facilities will be limited to signage and the creation of three to six parking spaces, at least one of which will be an ADA-only spot. This trailhead will be open year-round to non-motorized use only (see Winter Map ID #5c) and is intended to serve as a secondary, neighborhood-centric access/egress point

RATIONALE: Tamarack Street is an access/egress point popular with neighborhood residents and others. Improving the site with parking and signage will increase ease of use and accessibility while respecting the private-property owner. Formalizing it as a trailhead creates an important link within the stacked-looped trail system in the meadow (see Summer Map ID #7). This trailhead will provide an alternate access/egress point for non-motorized users, including equestrians, wishing total separation from OHV staging at the borrow pit staging area and will primarily serve neighborhood residents. This trailhead is intended to support a relatively low volume of users as compared to formal staging areas such as the borrow pit, Mill City, and the Lake Mary Road winter closure, which will help to keep traffic levels low in the neighborhood and alleviate safety concerns of residents regarding increased traffic on this narrow street.

NOTE: The private-property owner's future development plans will influence the exact location of this trailhead as well as potential usage, signage, and parking, but also may provide opportunity for site improvement concurrent with private construction.

3

CONCEPT: Formal non-motorized access/egress point at Snowcreek VIII

Formalize the access/egress point at Snowcreek VIII as identified in the Snowcreek VIII Master Plan. Facilities will be limited to signage and the area will be served by public transit (see Summer Map ID #28). This point will be open year-round to non-motorized use only (see Winter Map ID #5a).

RATIONALE: Formalization of this access/egress point will allow residents of, and visitors to, the Snowcreek VIII development access to the borrow pit staging area, the stacked-loop trail system (see Summer Map ID #7), and other amenities and destinations nearby, such as Cerro Coso Community College and the Mammoth Lakes Library, while also allowing users to travel through Snowcreek VIII to visit the planned hotel and retail amenities.

Map ID

Description

7

CONCEPT: Non-motorized “backbone” trail connections from the borrow pit staging area to the Tamarack Street trailhead

Articulate two separate non-motorized routes that connect the borrow pit staging area (see Summer Map ID #1) to the Tamarack Street trailhead (see Summer Map ID #2) and also connect into the summertime stacked-loop trail system (see Summer Map ID #8). The hard-surface or paved trail will be ADA-accessible and will be aligned over the existing USFS 4S100 road, which will require closure to motorized use. Construction should accommodate service- and maintenance-vehicle access to Kerry Meadow for special events such as weddings. The complementary trail will be soft surface and aligned over the existing trail to the south, near the base of the Sherwins. Accommodation of equestrian use will be included in the design process, which may include an equestrian-only bridle path. Environmentally appropriate trail design is critical. These trails will be open to non-motorized use only, with specific use dependent on trail surface.

RATIONALE: Accommodating multiple uses is important to the diverse Mammoth Lakes community, and providing one hard-surface trail and one soft-surface trail that link the borrow pit staging area to the Tamarack Street trailhead and the greater stacked-loop trail system allows users a choice of experience. The hard-surface or paved trail will enable disabled users and those desiring a compacted surface to enjoy the Sherwins area. It also will provide direct connections to other points on the Mammoth Lakes Trail System by way of the Tamarack Street trailhead (see Summer Map ID #2), the Snowcreek VIII access/egress point (see Summer Map ID #3), and the borrow pit staging area (see Summer Map ID #1). The soft-surface trail allows equestrians who have property on Tamarack Street to cross the meadow and access the borrow pit staging area and beyond, or to head up to the Lakes Basin if coming from the east. It also furthers connectivity for mountain bikers and hikers and discourages use-trail proliferation by providing an easy, clear route. The meadow area is flat and open, which provides excellent visibility for equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers sharing the soft-surface trail and can help curb user conflict and increase user safety. Proper trail engineering will allow for restoration of the wet meadows by closing other, less-sustainable use trails. Ensuring continued, though modified, access to Kerry Meadow will sustain special-event business there and also offer interpretive opportunities.

NOTE: The exact alignment of the backbone trails has not yet been determined, but will be positioned to avoid possible conflict with golf balls hit from the nearby Snowcreek fairway.

Map ID #

Description

8

CONCEPT: Non-motorized stacked-loop trail system in the meadow

Articulate a stacked-loop trail system from the borrow pit staging area (see Summer Map ID #1), along the base of the Sherwins to the Tamarack Street trailhead (see Summer Map ID #2), and back to the borrow pit staging area. Facilities will include signage. The southern half of the perimeter trail of this system will be soft surface; the northern half will be hard surface or paved (see Summer Map ID #7). The entire system will be open to non-motorized use only. An equestrian crossing across Bodle Ditch will be necessary.

RATIONALE: To improve the existing non-motorized opportunities in the meadow, a “stacked-loop” or “nested” trail system will be created to offer multiple route and surface options to a variety of summer users. The primary section of trail, out from which the smaller, nested loops will branch, will connect to the access points identified in Summer Map ID #2 (Tamarack Street trailhead) and #3 (Snowcreek VIII access/egress point) via the hard-surface or paved northern half of the loop, providing consistent and easy access/egress across the area to the loop system, the borrow pit staging area, and points of connection farther north and east. Creating a soft-surface southern half will provide an option for equestrians unable to use a hard-surface or paved trail as well as those seeking a more “wild” or “natural” experience.

NOTE: The possibility of adding a hiking-only trail around the meadow should be considered.

NOTE: Mammoth Community Water District needs for access to Hidden Lake will be considered and coordinated with the design process.

9a

CONCEPT: Convert existing USFS roads 4S104 and 4S110 to non-motorized use

Convert existing USFS roads 4S104 and 4S110, at the eastern end of the study area, to non-motorized use only. The routes run roughly from Sherwin Creek Road north to just short of Mammoth Creek.

RATIONALE: The existing roads are currently open to motorized use but lack connectivity to other motorized opportunities and experience minimal use. The conversion would help to protect the existing mule deer habitat in the area, which is a tourism amenity (to see deer on the trail is a unique experience). Additionally, this road is part of the existing Sierra Meadows Equestrian Center lease-area trail inventory.

QUESTION: Should the area through which these existing roads run be open or closed to mountain bikes?
