

Community Focus Statement E: Improve open space and recreational opportunities for Helendale residents.

Action Statement E.2: Establish more walking and multi-use trails within the community including areas such as the wash and the Mojave River.

E.2

Benchmark: Trail advocacy group formed to coordinate with the Helendale Community Services District joint agreement for recreational use of the river and wash with the San Bernardino Flood Control District and a plan that outlines planned walking path and trail construction.

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

Estimated Cost: Multi-use trail cost:

ADA-compliant asphalt for bicycle and pedestrian facility = \$30 per linear foot

decomposed granite material suitable for pedestrians/equestrians = \$20 per linear foot



Multi-use trail built on river levee in St. Louis, MO. Photo source: LittleT889

The Mojave River and Buckthorn Wash traverse Helendale, between the Silver Lakes community and Helendale’s commercial and industrial areas. Many rural living and residential properties are located adjacent to the river, and large expanses of vacant property abut the river, but most of the area is not accessible for recreation. An access road follows much of the Mojave River, but it is fenced off to the public.

The Mojave River and Buckthorn Wash offer tremendous opportunities for use in their natural state for both passive and active recreational purposes such as trails. A Class I pathway, often referred to as a multi-use trail, is a completely separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicyclists, pedestrians, and in some

cases, equestrians, and for other non-motorized forms of travel such as roller skating and skateboarding. Multi-use trails offer public health, economic, and transportation benefits in communities, such as attractive, safe, and accessible places to cycle, walk, hike, or ride, opportunities for exercise and mental respite, and habitat conservation. The Mojave River could provide connectivity for Helendale residents to travel to Victorville and access its recreational amenities, including Rockview Nature Park, Mojave Narrows Regional Park, and the planned Mojave Riverwalk. The City of Victorville has already proposed a Class I multi-use trail running north along National Trails Highway toward Helendale as part of the San Bernardino County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. These trails would be ideal for equestrian purposes as well as for hiking, giving Helendale residents the opportunity to venture into a more natural setting while remaining close to home. In addition, the river offers opportunities for groundwater recharge, scenic views, and habitat preservation. Estimated costs for multi-use trails typically range between \$40 - \$60 per linear square foot, but can vary greatly depending on existing conditions, size, and other factors.



It is recommended that the Helendale Community Services District, similar to the Hesperia Recreation and Park District, work with the San Bernardino County Flood Control District to open access to the river and the wash for recreational uses. A joint agreement for recreational use of the river and the wash will allow CSD staff to access flood-prone areas, provide recreational amenities and an alternate transportation corridor, and aid in the preservation and future restoration of this important riparian area.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Engage with the community to establish a citizens trail advocacy group	Champion	Months 1–2	Helendale Community Services District https://helendalecsd.org/
2. Work with the San Bernardino Flood Control District to establish a joint agreement for public access and recreational use of the river and the wash.	Trail advocacy group and Community Services District, with support from San Bernardino Flood Control District,	Months 2–4	San Bernardino County Flood Control District https://helendalecsd.org/ 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. Work with the community to identify community-supported trail alignments and access points along the river and the wash.	Trail advocacy group	Months 4–6	Development of trails along canals, flood channels, and other waterways https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/canal%20waterway%20trails%20study.pdf
4. Draft and adopt a plan that outlines proposed walkways and multi-use trail projects.	Trail advocacy group, Support from Community Services District	Months 6–10	
5. Apply for grant funding for trail construction.	Community Services District, Trail advocacy group	Month 10–onward	Park, trail, and recreation grant funding http://www.thegranthelpers.com/municipal-grants/parks---recreation-grants http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/
6. Incorporate proposed trail projects into the 5-year CIP.	Helendale Community Services District	Months 12–18	http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/
7. Start construction on community trails.	Community Services District	Month 18–Year 5	
8. Continue ongoing operation and maintenance of community trails.	Community Services District and advocacy group with support from community organizations, schools, churches, volunteers	Years 1–5	http://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/financing-and-funding/ http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324