

RFVHC SUMMARY

TRAILS & PARKING DESCRIPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4/10/2022

Q19-20 RIO GRANDE TRAIL (Multi - Users Trail)

Multi options for truck and trailer parking are available, but unknown to users. Organized truck and trailer parking is suggested.

Rio Grande Trail is used by many equestrians to access trails and the Carbondale Rodeo Grounds. The soft track additions aside the asphalt trail is appreciated. More sections can be added.

RIO GRANDE TRAIL - What the RFVHC learned

Having listened to our hikers and equestrians and having traveled many parts of the Rio Grande and examining possible addition of horse trail on these routes, the RFVHC firmly believes the routes are much too busy with wheeled recreation to ever make it 100 % safe for horses. It's narrow in many places, has an asphalt surface, and has a very dangerous intersection at Buckhorn Trail entrance. We would like to work with RFTA to improve the access to the Rodeo Grounds and other specific trail heads from local stables. Let's concentrate on the most realistic trail possibilities.

What more can be done

- Create a dedicated truck and trailer parking lot where the Rio Grande Trail crosses McLain Flats Road, directly above Wink Jaffee Park
- Place educational and parking signs prominently on Rio Grande Trail
- Educate tourist cyclists at rental operations about horses on the trail, educate them on what to do when meeting an equestrian on the trail.
- Work toward a trail connecting Coffman Ranch and Carbondale Rodeo Arena.

In the works - solutions with RFTA and Mid Valley Trails Committee

- Receipt of our Survey Monkey Responses SUMMARY to begin a conversation
- Follow-up on 2021 request for funding from RFVHC via the Mid Valley Trails Committee
- Introduce RFTA, the Pitkin County Open Space & Trails (PC OST) and Mid Valley Trails Committee (MVTC) to RFVHC's new Yield Sign for the Trails Safe Passing Action Plan and Lexington Kentucky's Equine Land Conservation Resource.
- <https://elcr.org/trails-safe-passing-plan/>
- Funding is being sought for 2022-23-24 projects and working grants with the Pitkin County OST and MVTC.