



CITY OF HELENA OPEN LANDS DEPARTMENT
316 North Park Avenue, Room 405
Helena, Montana 59623
Telephone: 406.447.8454
blangsather@helenamt.gov

**Environmental Analysis Form
City of Helena Open Lands Department**

1. Proposed Project Name:

2. Division:

3. Date:

PART I – PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action:

2. Department Authority for the Proposed Action Item:

3. Department Contact:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email Address:

4. Anticipated Schedule: (change as necessary):

Estimated Project Commencement Date:

Estimated Completion Date:

Current Status of Project Design (% complete):

Summarize precisely when (what time of year) project phases will be completed:

5. Location affected by proposed action. Include a map. If your project will take place on specific trails, ensure they are clearly identified here by name as well as on your map:

6. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

a. DEVELOPED

Residential:

Industrial (existing shop area):

b. OPEN SPACE/WOODLANDS/RECREATION

Open Space /Woodlands/Recreation:

c. WETLANDS/RIPARIAN AREA

Wetlands/Riparian Area:

d. FLOODPLAIN

Floodplain:

e. PRODUCTIVE: IRRIGATED CROPLAND

Productive Irrigated Cropland:

f. DRY CROPLAND

Forestry:

Rangeland:

Other:

7. Permits, Funding, and Overlapping Jurisdiction

a. PERMITS

Agency Name:

Permits:

Agency Name:

Permits:

Agency Name:

Permits:

b. FUNDING

Agency Name:

Funding Amount:

Agency Name:

Funding Amount:

Agency Name:

Funding Amount:

c. OTHER OVERLAPPING OR ADDITIONAL JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Agency Name:

Type of Responsibility:

Agency Name:

Type of Responsibility:

8. Narrative summary of the proposed action (include reasons why this project is necessary and the benefits of the project:

9. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action

Alternative B: Proposed Action

Other Alternatives:

10. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another governmental agency (note any agreements or contracts that would provide control measures of define responsibilities here):

PART II – ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST - Please include a statement either here or under “no action and other alternatives” to describe the impacts of those actions. The checklist typically only illuminates the Proposed Action Impacts.

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment Tables.

a. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can be Mitigated	COMMENTS PROVIDED
1. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture						
2. Air quality or objectionable odors						
3. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)						
4. Existing water right or reservation						
5. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality						
6. Unique, endangered, or fragile vegetative species						
7. Unique, endangered, or fragile wildlife or fisheries species						
8. The nesting or movement of migratory bird species						
9. Introduction of new species into an area						
10. Changes to abundance or movement of species						

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment Tables.

b. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can be Mitigated	COMMENTS PROVIDED
1. Noise and/or electrical effects						
2. Land use						
3. Risk and/or health hazards						
4. Community impact						
5. Public services/taxes and/or utilities						
6. Potential revenue and/or project maintenance costs						
7. Aesthetics and recreation						
8. Cultural and historic resources						
9. Evaluation of significance						
10. Generate public controversy						

PART III – NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

- 1. Summarize the impacts of the proposed action and address any cumulative impacts:**

PART IV – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1. Public Involvement: Describe how the public is/will be notified to comment on this current EA, the proposed action, and alternatives. If your project work might affect neighboring landowners, have they been contacted?**

- 2. Comment Period: Have you provided a formal, 30-day public comment period for this project? If so, when was the comment period and how were comments solicited? What was the outcome of the comments?**

- 3. This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impact, many of which can be mitigated. Is this a true statement for your project? YES NO**

PART V – EA PREPARATION

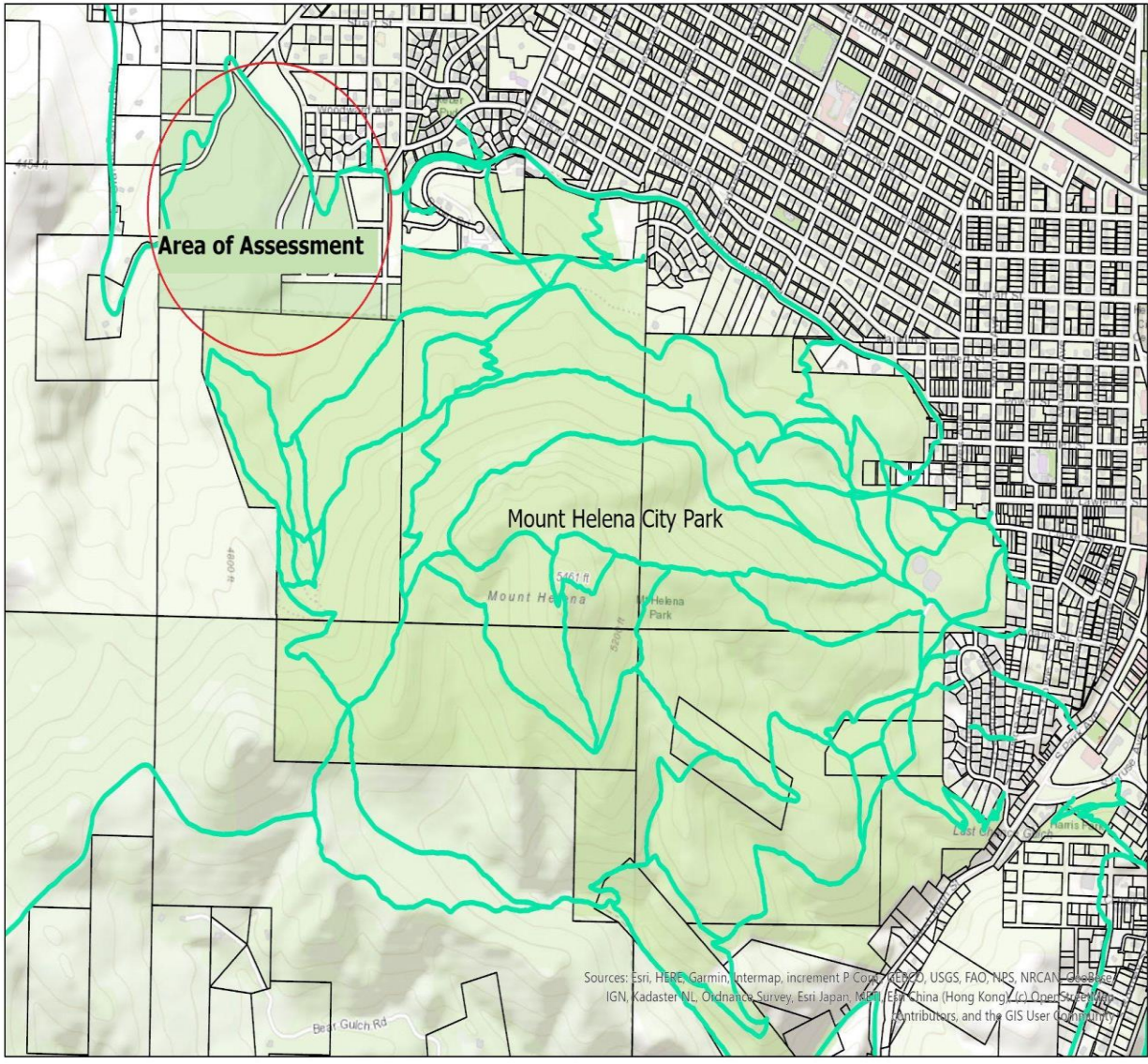
- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in the EA, is an EIS required? YES NO**
If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

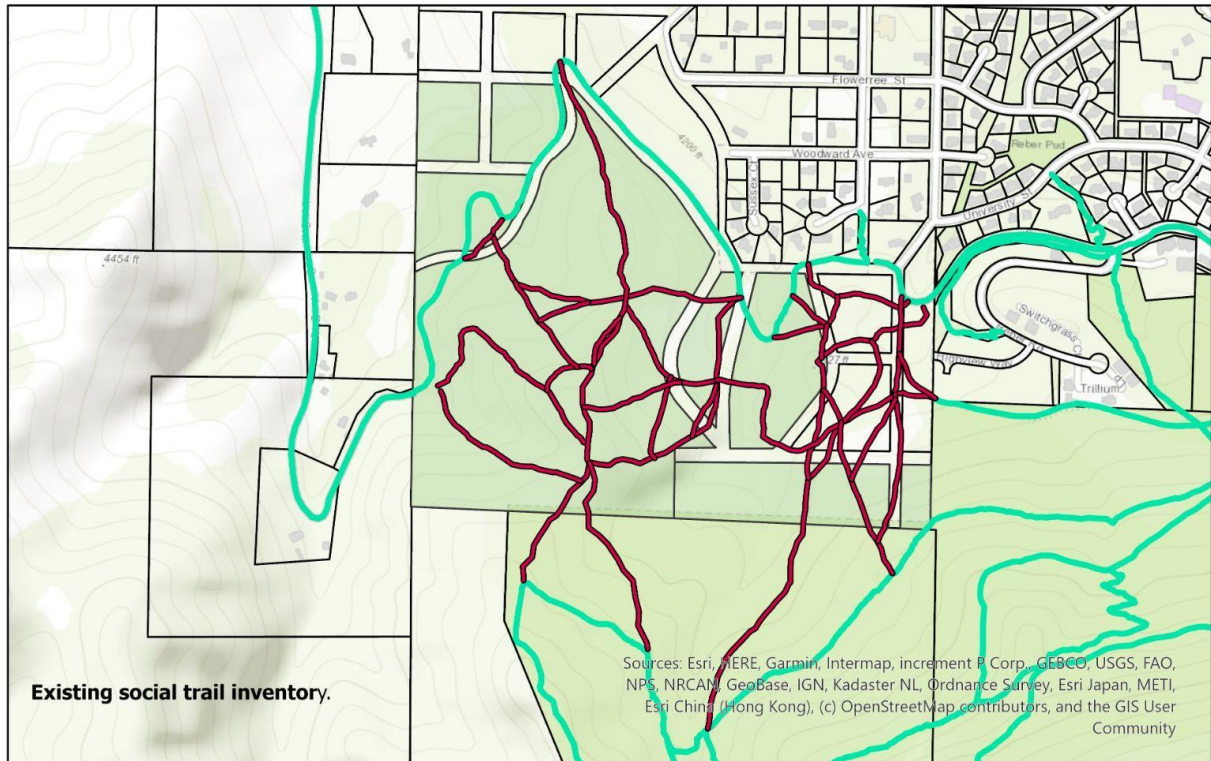
- 2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

- 3. List of agencies or offices consulted during the preparation of the EA:**

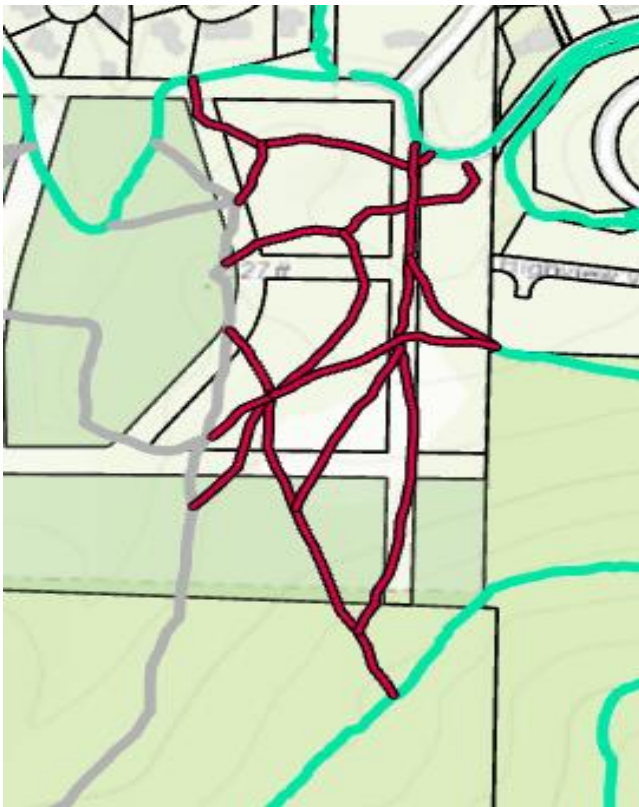
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MAPS WHYTE PROPERTY

Reference Maps:

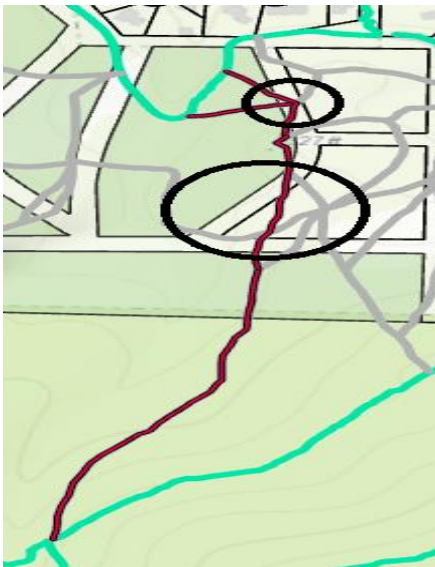




Road to Mars Area:



All trails east of Road to Mars located on private property were not assessed and should either be closed formally or signed and fenced appropriately to notify trail users of private property trespass.

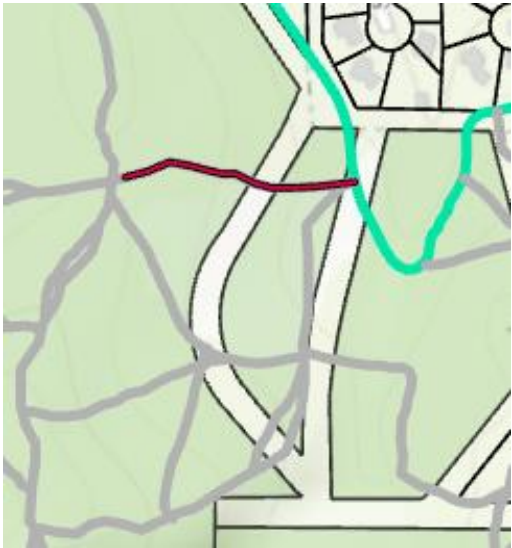


Reroute Road to Mars in two locations to relocate trail off of private property.

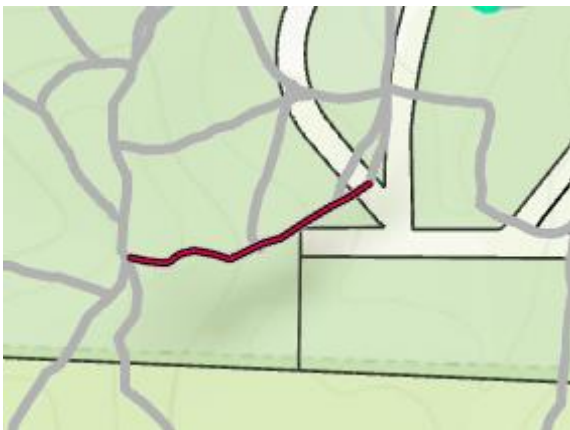


Reroute small section of trail west of Road to Mars to improve trail sustainability. Reroute trail connecting to the Meadow.

The Meadow Area:

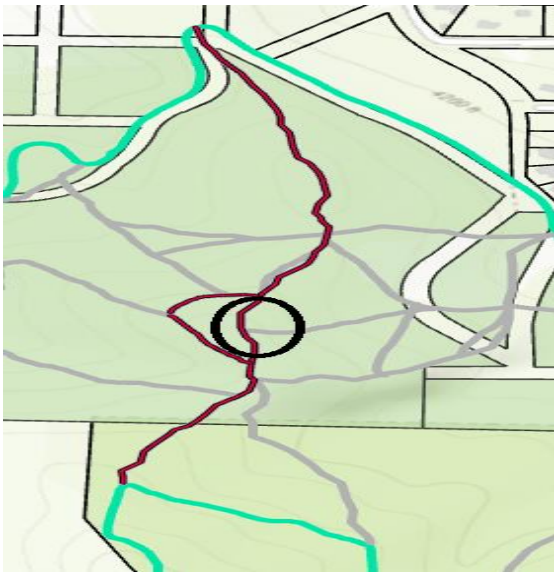


Close and obliterate trails exiting the Meadow that go directly up the fall line.

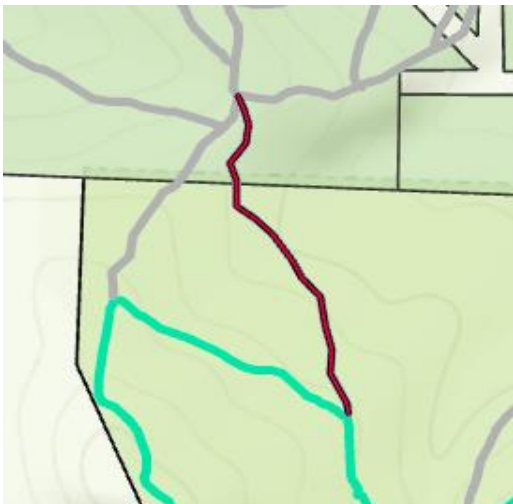


Designate the southern trail as an unmaintained non-system trail due to fall-line nature and suitability as an access road.

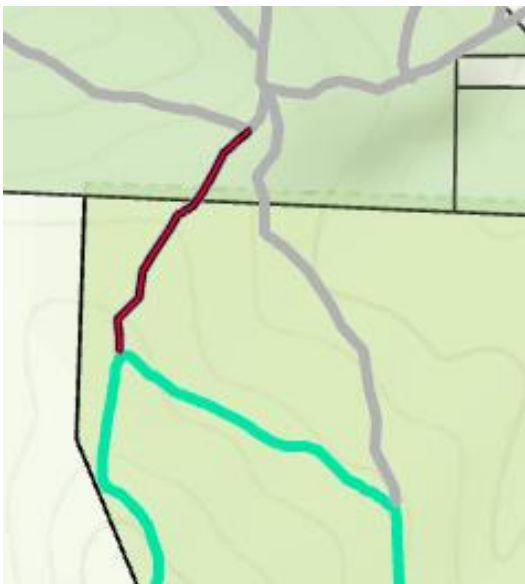
Seven Sisters Area:



Close and obliterate the unsustainable Seven Sisters "alternate".



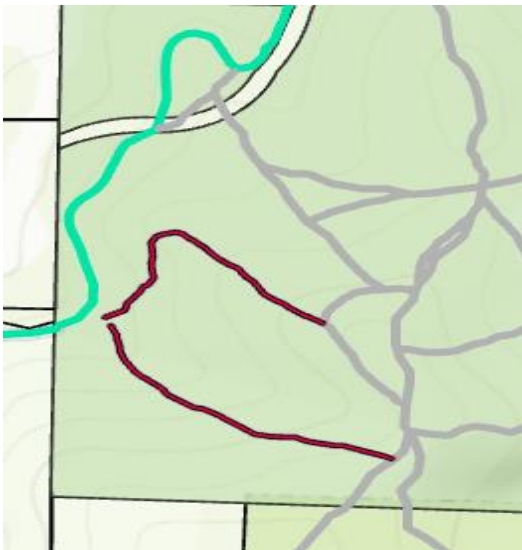
Designate the "Old Chevy connector: as an unmaintained non-system trail due to trail unsustainability and suitability as an access road.



Note that this assessment preserves the Seven Sisters/Andy's Trail connection as shown on the map. If the city elects to assess the adjacent Graham property for trail potential this trail would be a candidate for a reroute utilizing the land to the west and south.



Close and obliterate the two trails connecting to the western parking area.



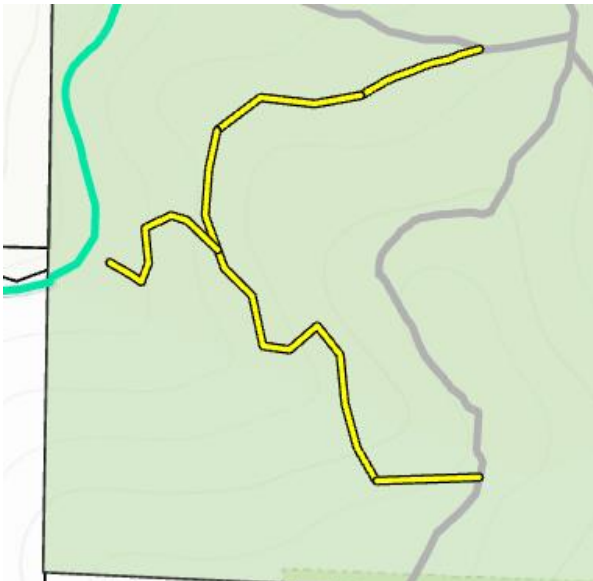
Close and obliterate Seven Sisters connector to northwest.

The Meadow Loop(s)



The Meadow offers up a unique opportunity to create a novice, entry level trail experience that much of the South Hills system lacks. Given the accessible nature of LeGrande Cannon, it is already a natural place to provide some “easy” trails for recreationists. This area could include one main loop or a “stacked loop” system that provides the ability for people to choose trail loops of varying length. Included in these proposed trails are access points connecting this novice zone to the Seven Sisters trail.

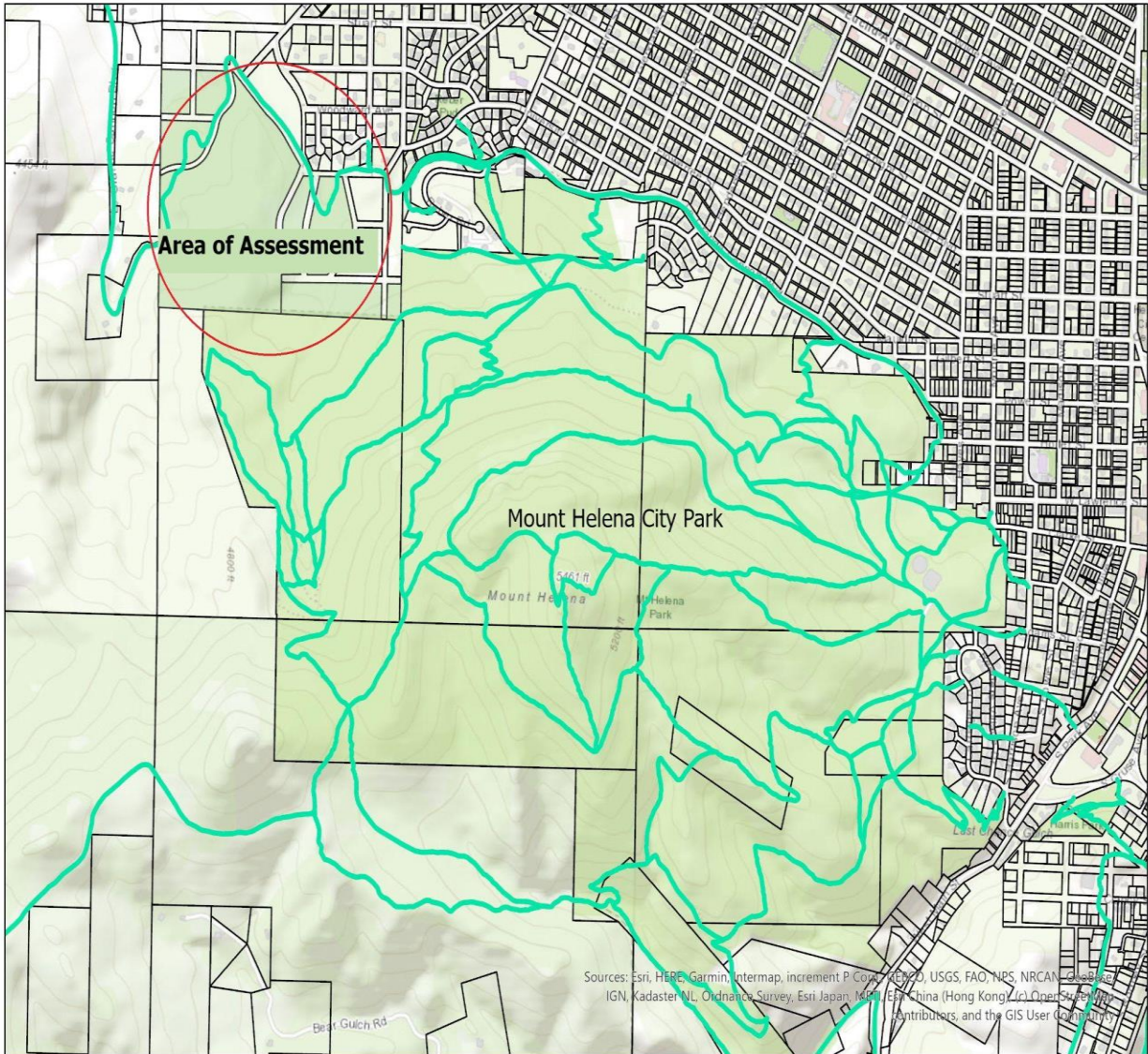
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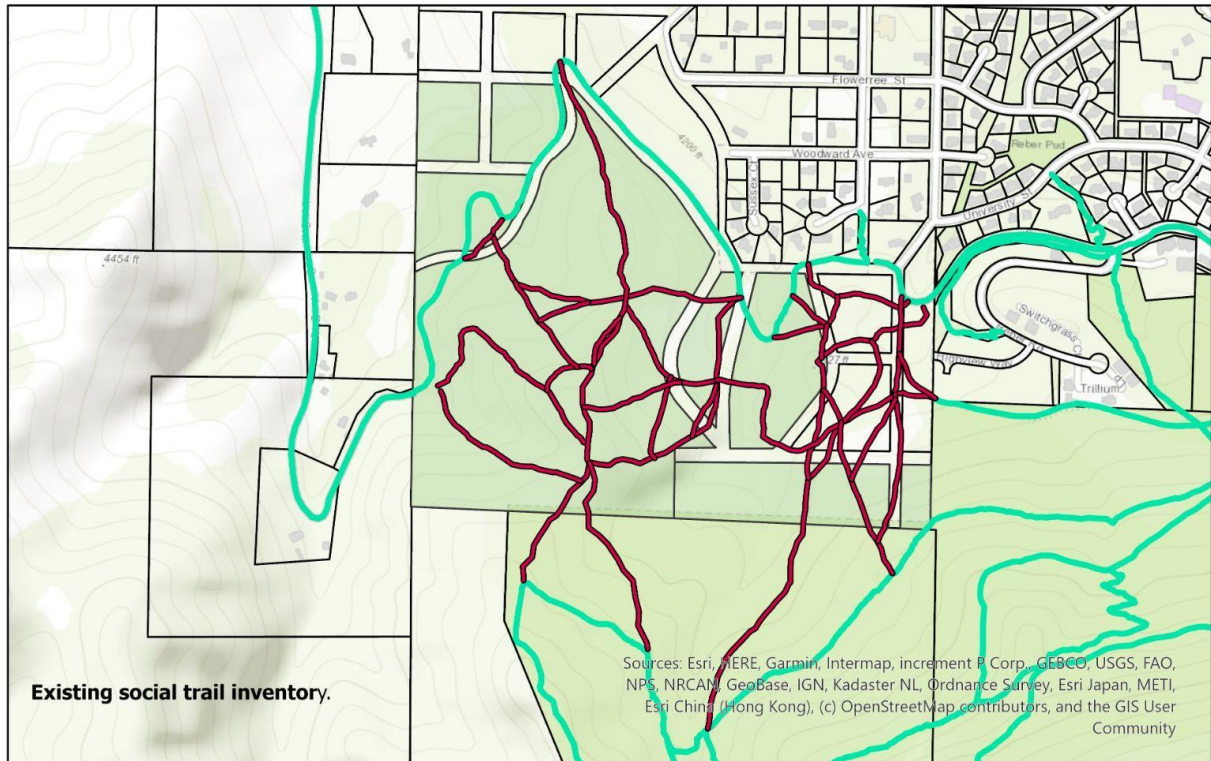


The proposed new trail would replace the unsustainable existing trails that currently exist from the parking area. The trail would climb up the steep ridge using a series of turns and then split with one trail splitting to Seven Sisters north and the other to Seven Sisters south. This trail would preserve access to the parking area and improve trail sustainability.

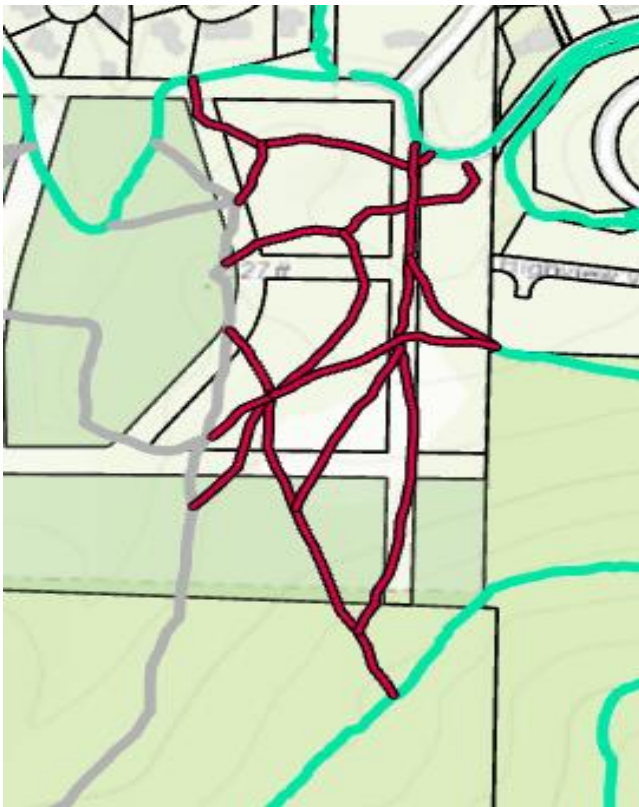
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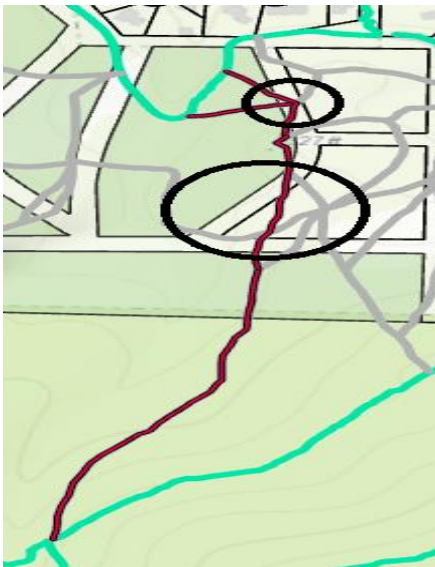




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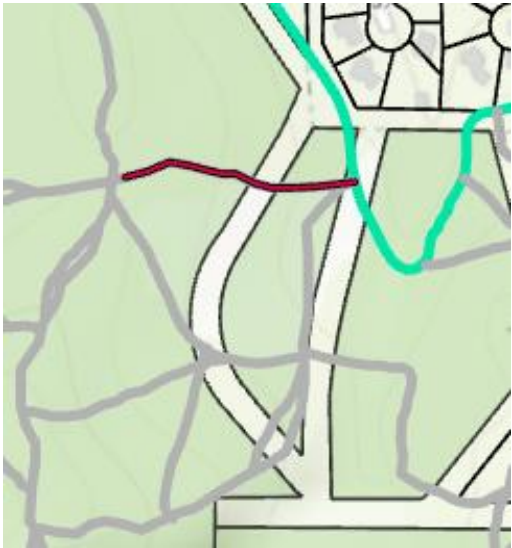


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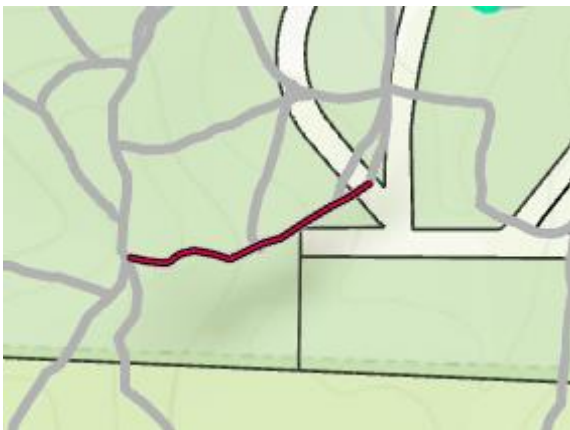


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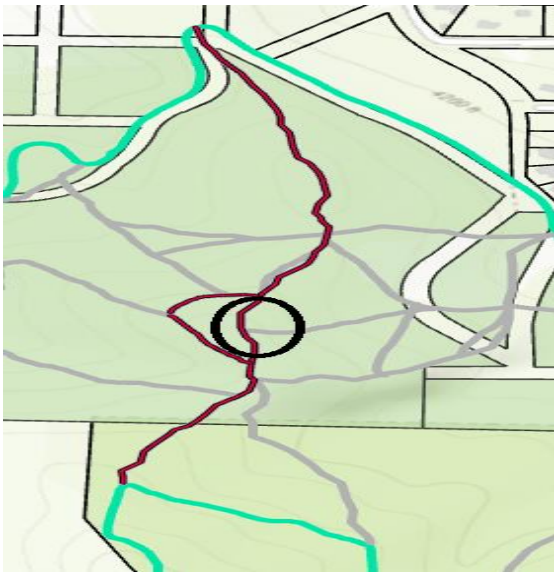


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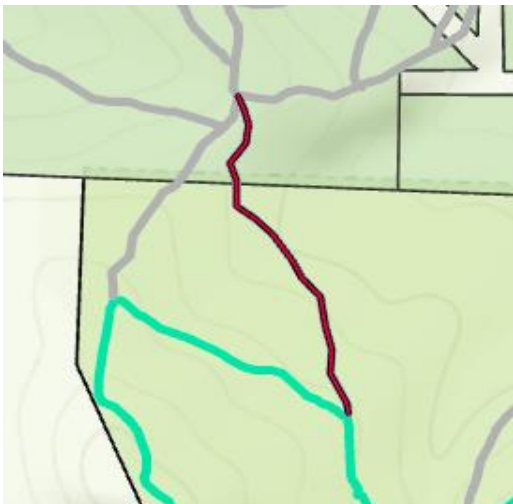


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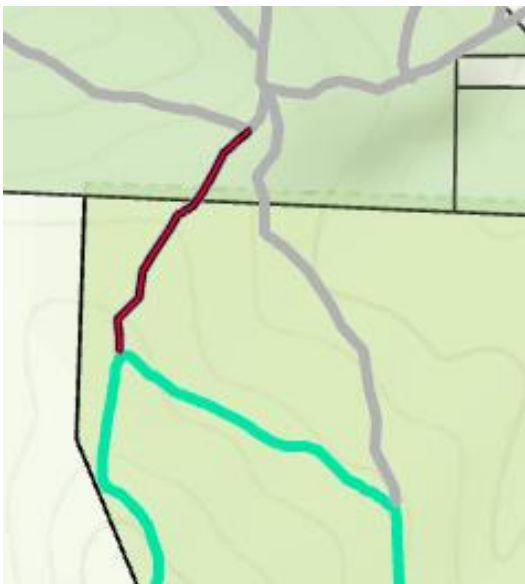
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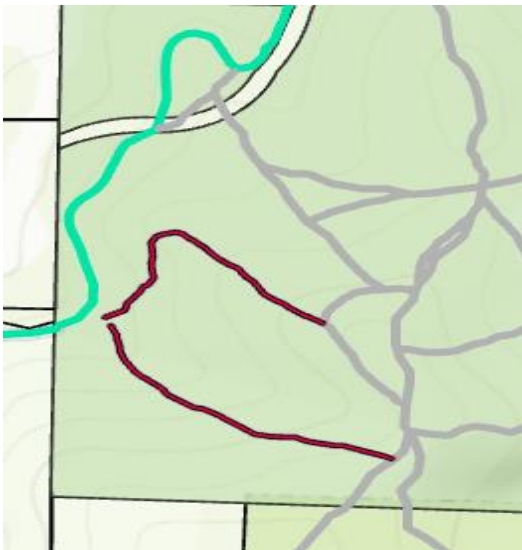
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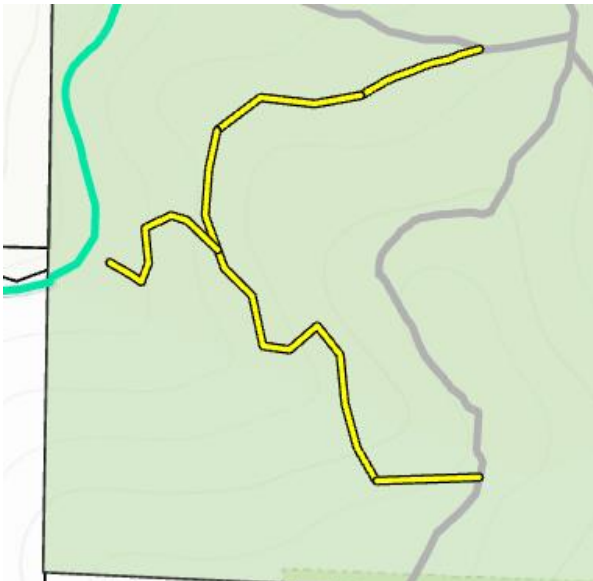
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