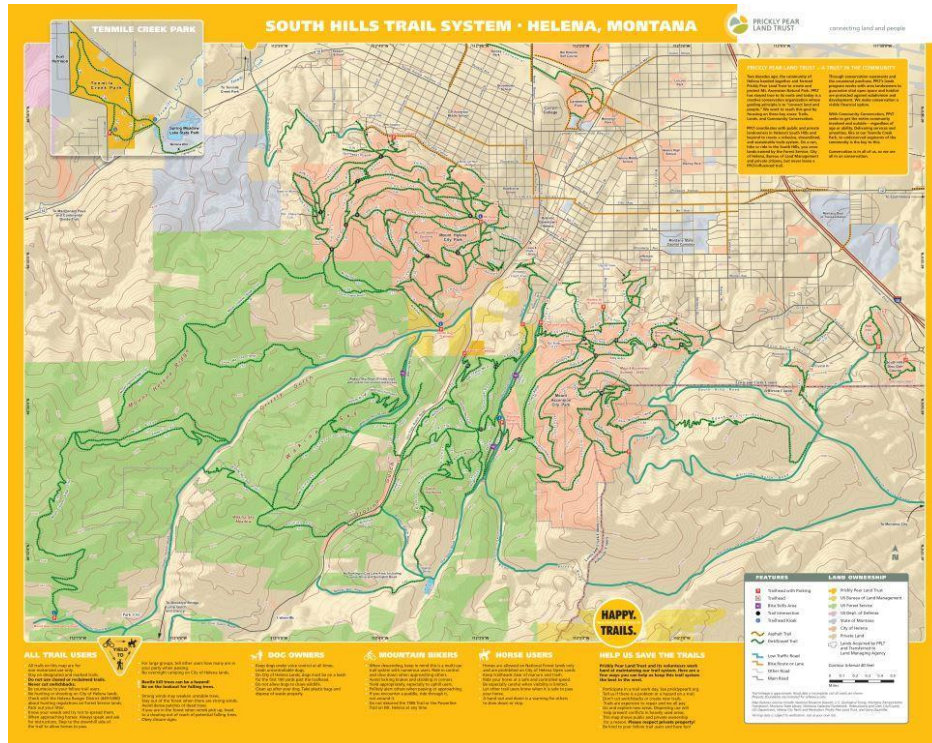# 2020 Helena Open Lands Trail Inspection Report

Prepared by: Prickly Pear Land Trust, June 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

As part of the 2020 trails maintenance contract Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT) staff undertook the inspection of South Hills trails that are part of the City of Helena's Open Lands system in spring 2020. "Contractor shall complete a comprehensive condition inspection of all designated trails occurring within the City of Helena Open Lands System." PPLT staff walked every foot of trail on the city system and logged and recorded maintenance needs as well as specific trail features when appropriate. PPLT staff utilized the Avenza PDF maps application on a smart phone to record GPS points and notes, the notes are transcribed here in the report. The South Hills trail map served as the baseline for the trail routing as that is the map the majority of the public is familiar with and uses while out recreating.

Overall Takeaways

Overall the trails on City of Helena Open Lands are in excellent shape, the majority of trails are in good repair and need nothing beyond routine, annual maintenance. Trails were scouted primarily in the month of May and the report was prepared in the first weeks of June. It should be noted that there have been a number of heavy rainfalls in Helena since inspections began that may have affected trails that were previously inspected, those trails should be monitored and PPLT will remain responsive to safety concerns identified by trail users, should they arise.
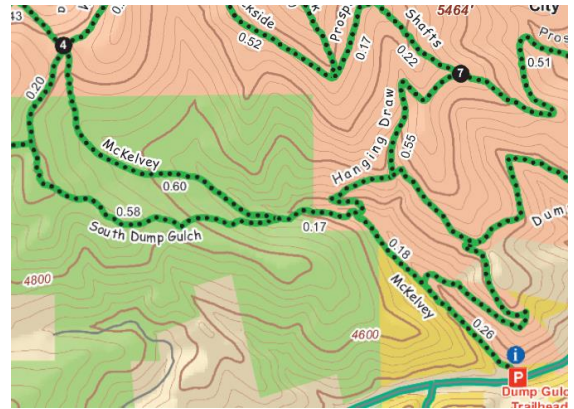
Covid-19

The trails as well as the trail inspection did see impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic. Beginning in the month of March the trails saw a dramatic increase in use as Montana's shelter-in-place orders went into effect and people sought trails and outdoor spaces for their recreation and exercise needs. This uptick in use coincided with a lengthy spring freeze-thaw cycle that left many trails muddy for an extended period of time. This combination left many trails with a lumpy character due to rutting from bicycles and indents from the footwear of hikers and runners. It is anticipated that these lumps and bumps will work themselves out on their own but they will be monitored throughout the season and fixed if they do not self-remedy. Additionally, PPLT staff faced challenges in completing the inspection in adjusting to working remotely and complications due to Covid-19. The inspection was completed by PPLT's Project Manager in as timely a manner as could be managed.

Mount Helena Trails

McKelvey Trail

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: McKelvey is a wide trail that runs up a gully starting from the Dump Gulch trailhead. It has a fall-line nature and as such requires the installation and maintenance of numerous drain dips. It provides access to Mount Helena as well as the Mount Helena Ridge trail. It crosses both City land as well as Forest Service property.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: McKelvey
   e. Length: 6,353ft
2. Annual Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Completed**
   b. Drainage: **Completed**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Requires annual drain maintenance and clearing due to the fall-line aspect. Trail is over 6' wide in most places so drains are generally larger and more time consuming to build/maintain.
   b. Minimal brushing needs, few trees over trail.
   c. Potential opportunities to reroute out of the gully to improve trail sustainability and improve user experience.
   d. Bicycle speed can be a concern as grade remains constant throughout, trail does not provide natural speed control.
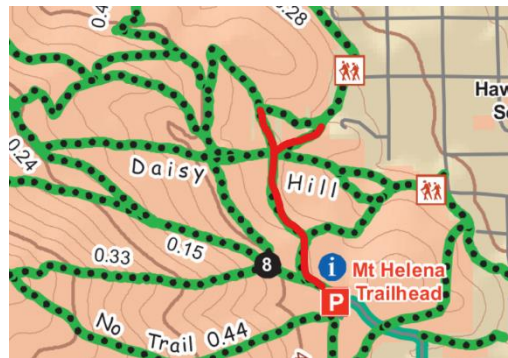
Daisy Hill

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Daisy Hill is a relatively short trail on the northeast side of Mt. Helena, primarily accessed from neighborhood trailheads. It has switchbacks down low but a fall-line aspect as it heads up towards its junction with the Prairie trail.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/4/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Daisy Hill
   e. Length: 3,471ft
2. Annual Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Completed**
   b. Drainage: **Completed**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None

4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Upper fall-line section requires annual maintenance on the, approximately 20 or so, drains.
    b. Fall-line could be rerouted to improve sustainability but holds up well with annual maintenance
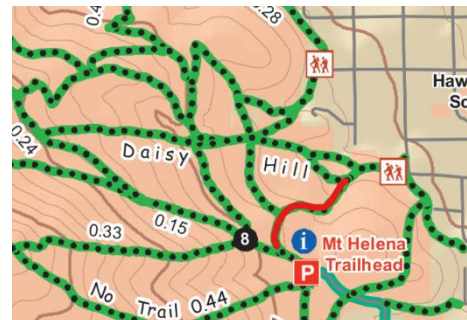   c. Daisy Hill area has lots of social trail and neighborhood connections, can be confusing to navigate.

Bitterroot Way

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Bitterroot Way runs through the Daisy Hill area in a generally north-south fashion. Accessed via Mount Helena parking lot and neighborhood trails. Picnic area near Mount Helena trailhead.
    b. Inspection Date: 5/4/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Bitterroot Way
    e. Length: 933ft

2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Completed**
    b. Drainage: **Completed**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Good location for ADA trail to picnic area

Bitterroot Way – Daisy Hill Connector

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Connector accessed from the picnic area near Mount Helena trailhead that runs along the fence of the water tank and connects to the east end of Daisy Hill.
    b. Inspection Date: 5/4/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Bitterroot Way – Daisy Hill Connector
    e. Length: 600ft

2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Incomplete**
    b. Drainage: **Incomplete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. Need to clean out and improve drains on steep pitch down from picnic area
    b. Need to brush along fenceline
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Tends to get brushy near fenceline
    b. Monitor after rainfalls, steep fall-line from parking area

Mike Cormier

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: A steep access from LeGrande Cannon to the Daisy Hill area of Mt. Helena as well as the popular Ambrose and Prairie trails.
    b. Inspection Date: 5/4/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Mike Cormier
    e. Length: 3,121ft

2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Steeper trail, drainage and trail should be monitored for erosion annually

Powerline

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Steepest trail in the system, wide, fall-line. It is the most direct route to the Mt. Helena summit and one of the most popular hikes in the trail system. No downhill bike use permitted. Bicycles not recommended for uphill travel. Lots of waterbars to manage drainage.

    b. Inspection Date: 5/22/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Powerline
    e. Length: 3,777
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Needs annual maintenance to maintain the waterbars, a challenge to stay ahead of drainage issues on this trail
    b. Waterbars monitored annually to fix loose rocks, steps, etc.
    c. Trail widening should be monitored
    d. Limited brushing needs

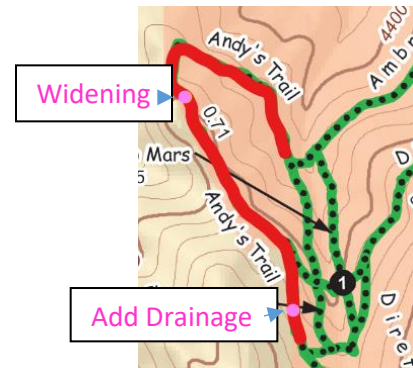**Powerline/ Prospect Shafts Connector**

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: A contour trail connecting the steep Powerline and Prospect Shafts trails. Bicycle traffic not recommended as only connection is to Powerline which has bicycle restrictions.
    b. Inspection Date: 5/21/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena

d. Trail: Powerline to Prospect Shafts Connector
e. Length: 1,044ft
2. Basic Maintenance:
a. Brushing: **Complete**
b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues:
a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns:
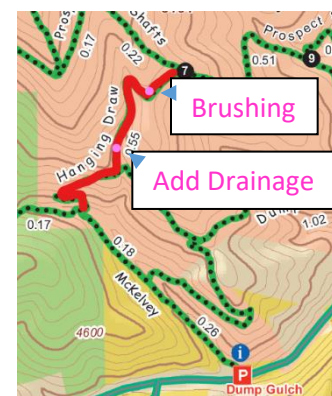a. Monitor rocky section on south side of trail, may need widening and brushing in future

Andy's

1. Trail Information
a. Overview: This trail, built in 2015, follows a route along the northwestern boundary of Mt. Helena City Park. Connects to recently acquired LeGrande (Whyte property) parcels.
b. Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
d. Trail: Andy's
e. Length: 3,143ft
2. Basic Maintenance
a. Brushing: **Complete**
b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues:
a. Narrow, outsloped tread in some places
b. Fall-line section eroding
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns:
a. Add drainage to fall-line section, low priority
b. Widen/flatten tread where needed, low priority
c. Look at new connections to LeGrande property, new signs needed?

Hanging Draw

1. Trail Information
a. Overview: A steep climb greets people coming off of McKelvey trail before flattening into a manageable grade to the junction with Prospect Shafts. Accessed primarily via Dump Gulch trailhead.
b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
d. Trail: Hanging Draw
e. Length: 2,902ft
2. Basic Maintenance
a. Brushing: **Complete**
b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
a. Some confusing social trails, needs signage or social trail closures

      b.   Fall-line section needs drains installed

      c.   Low-priority brushing

  4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns

      a.   Add drains to fall-line section

      b.   Add sign at confusing social trail junction
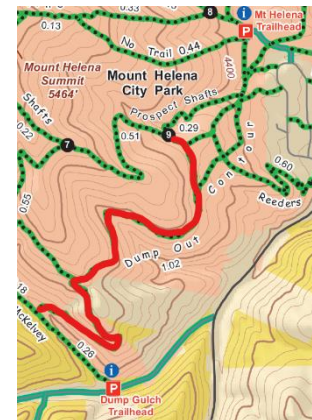
      c.   Close or incorporate social trails

Hanging Draw to Dump Out Connector

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Connector trail between Dump Out and Hanging Draw
   b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Hanging Draw connector
   e. Length: 1,207ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Incomplete**
   b. Drainage: Complete
3. Trail Issues
   a. Needs polesaw brushing
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Monitor for brushing needs

Dump Out

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Rocky contour trail that connects from Dump Gulch trailhead to Prospect Shafts trail.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Dump Out
   e. Length: 6,045ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
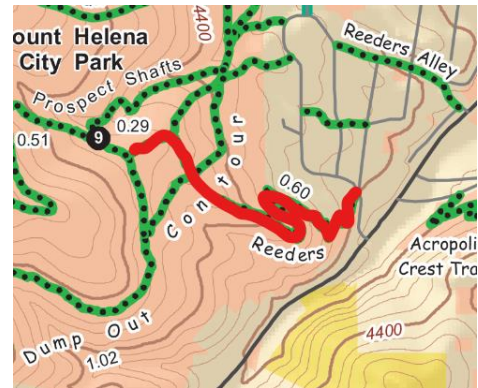   a. Has a tendency to narrow on steep sidehill sections, monitor

Reeders

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Steep trail that connects from Reeder's Village Drive to Contour and Dump Out trails
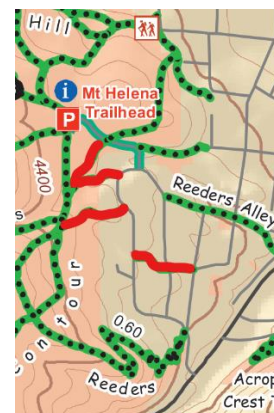   b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena

d. Trail: Reeders
   e. Length: 3,055ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
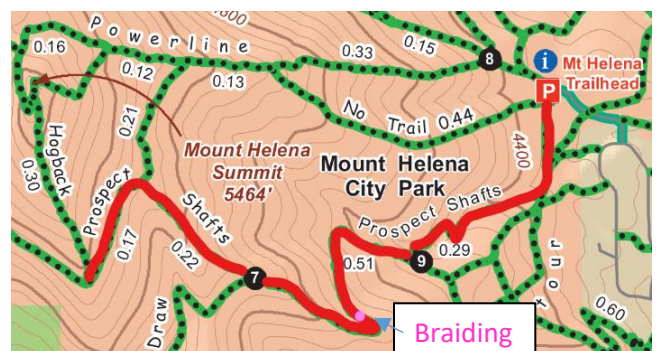4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Monitor brushing needs

Reeders Village Trails

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: These trails connect the neighborhood of Reeder's Village to Mount Helena. Mix of singletrack connectors and decomposed granite surfaced trails.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Reeders Village, Reeders Alternate, Reeders Cut-off, Carriage Lane to South Harrison
   e. Length: 1,542ft, 463ft, 1,552ft, 475ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Numerous social trails in area
   b. Weeds in surfaced trails
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Treat weeds growing in surfaced trails
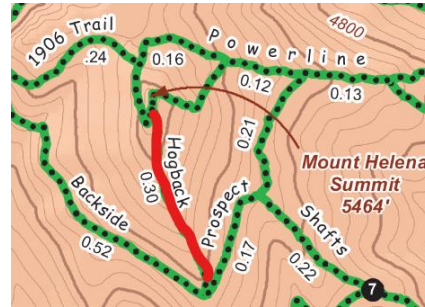   b. Likely need resurfacing in the next few years

Prospect Shafts

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: This trail is a combination of single-track and old road bed that alternates between steep climbs and relief contours. Accessed via Mount Helena trailhead.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/18/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Prospect Shafts
   e. Length: 7,022ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Minor trail braiding
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Needs annual drain maintenance, some steep sections

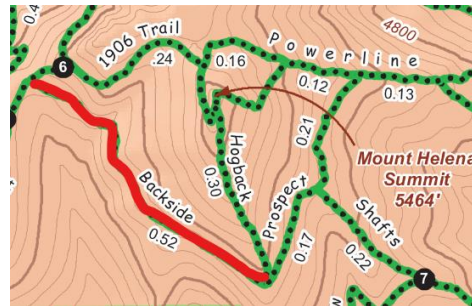b. GPS needs to be looked at at lower end and map needs correcting

Hogback

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Steep, rocky trail connecting Prospect Shafts to Mount Helena summit. Numerous waterbars to manage drainage.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/21/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Hogback
   e. Length:2,436ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
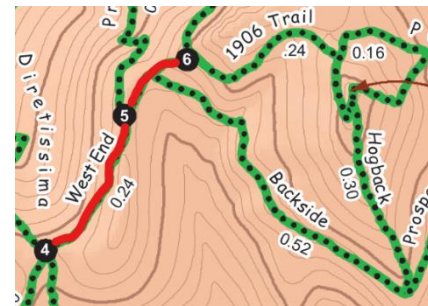   a. Needs annual maintenance on waterbars

Backside

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Contour trail running along the backside of Mount Helena.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/22/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Backside
   e. Length: 2,693ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
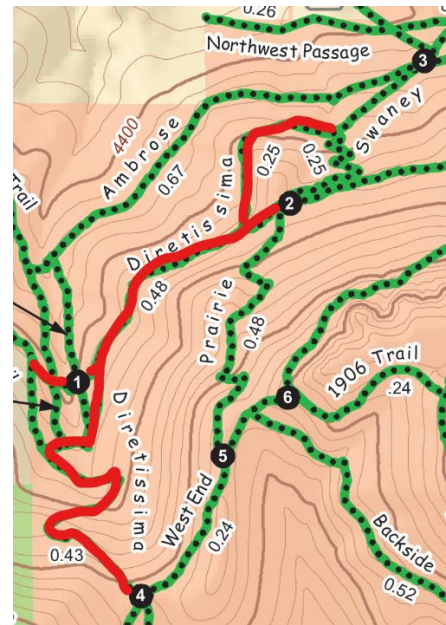   a. Monitor for brushing

West End

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Connector trail between the Mt. Helena Ridge trail and 1906 trail.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: West End
   e. Length: 1,819ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues

        a.   Fallen log encroaching on trail

4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
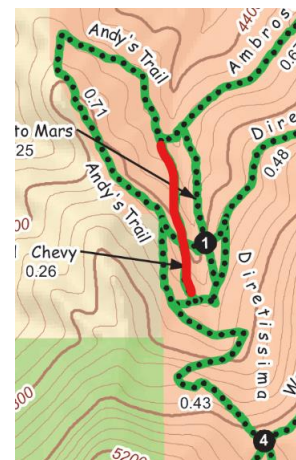   a. Cut back fallen log
    b. Monitor for brushing needs

Diretissima

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Climbs northwest side of Mt. Helena, connecting between Swaney and West End trails.
    b. Inspection date: 5/14/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Diretissima
    e. Length: 6,044ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Incomplete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. Needs some brushing throughout
    b. Social Trail between Diretissima and Ambrose
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Monitor steep section near top for drainage erosion issues
    b. Brush in 2020
    c. Correct GPS on map

Old Chevy

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Short, steep, wide fall-line trail
    b. Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Old Chevy
    e. Length: 2,631ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Because of its fall-line nature needs to be monitored annually for erosion concerns
    b. Susceptible to damage after big storms
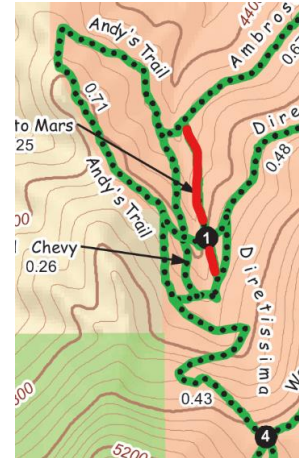   c. Old Chevy needs trash cleaned out of it

Road to Mars

1. Trail Information
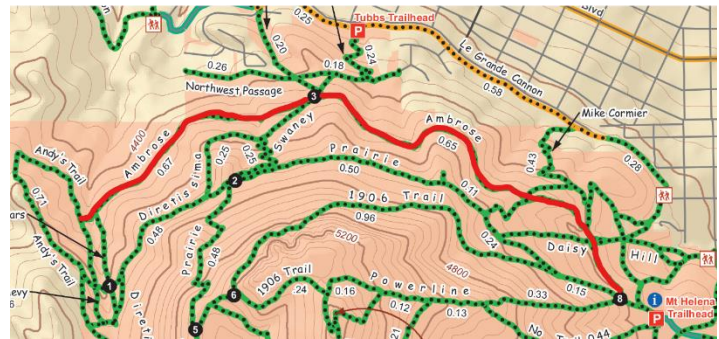
a. Overview: Short, steep, wide fall-line trail
b. Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
d. Trail: Road to Mars
e. Length: 2,123ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Because of its fall-line nature needs to be monitored annually for erosion concerns
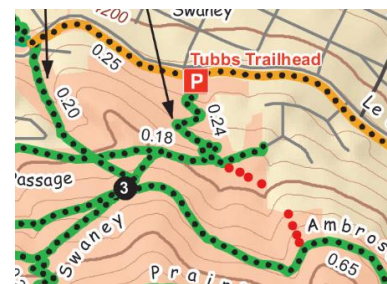   b. Susceptible to damage after big storms

Ambrose

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: The lowest of 3 contour trails on the north side of Mt. Helena
    b. Inspection Date: 5/21/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Ambrose
    e. Length: 7,226ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Incomplete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. Minor localized trail braiding and outsloping
    b. Some social trails spurring off of trail
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Repair tread in localized spots
    b. Adopt "Old Ambrose" and Water tank connector and add to map

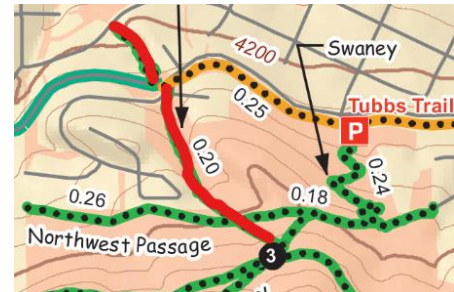**"Old Ambrose" and Ambrose watertank connector**

1. Trail Information:
    a. Overview: Connector trails that connect to the watertank area and Ambrose trail
    b. Inspection Date: 5/21/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
    d. Trail: Old Ambrose, Watertank Connector
    e. Length: 758ft, 275ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues

          a.   Needs to be added to trail map
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
          a.   GPS and add to map
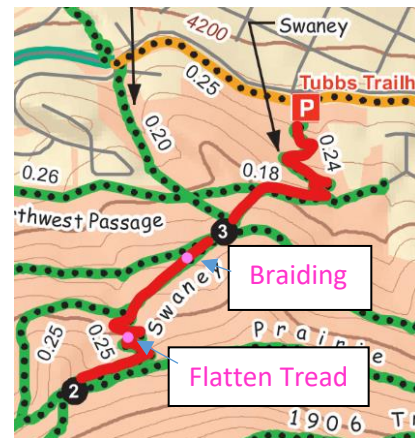   b.   Monitor fall-line trail from watertank

Panhandle

1. Trail Information
          a.   Overview: Steep neighborhood connector from Reber Road and LeGrande Cannon
          b.   Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
          c.   Park Name: Mt. Helena
          d.   Trail: Panhandle
          e.   Length: 1,000ft
2. Basic Maintenance
          a.   Brushing: **Complete**
          b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
          a.   Needs drainage added throughout
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
          a.   Monitor drainage
          b.   Drains added to trail **June 3rd**

Swaney

1. Trail Information
          a.   Overview: Swaney switchbacks up the north side of Mt. Helena until its terminus with the Prairie Trail. Access via Tubbs trailhead.
          b.   Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
          c.   Park Name: Mt. Helena
          d.   Trail: Swaney
          e.   Length: 4,311ft
2. Basic Maintenance
          a.   Brushing: **Complete**
          b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
          a.   Some social trails leaving off of switchbacks
          b.   Braiding down low
          c.   Localized trail outsloping
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
          a.   Fix braiding and flatten tread where needing
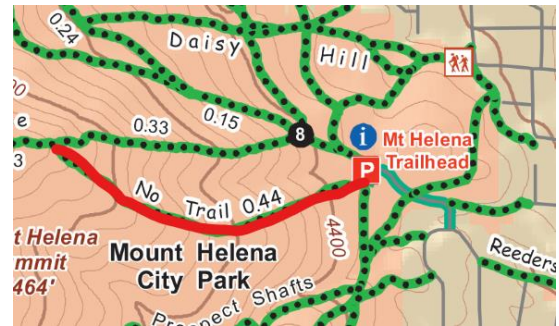
No Trail

1. Trail Information
          a.   Overview: Adjacent to Powerline trail, also a fall-line trail with numerous waterbars. Narrower and more shaded than Powerline.
          b.   Inspection Date: 5/29/2020

      c.   Park Name: Mt. Helena
      d.   Trail: No Trail
      e.   Length: 2,800ft
2. Basic Maintenance
      a.   Brushing: **Complete**
      b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
      a.   None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
      a.   Fall-line trail, requires drain and waterbar maintenance annually.
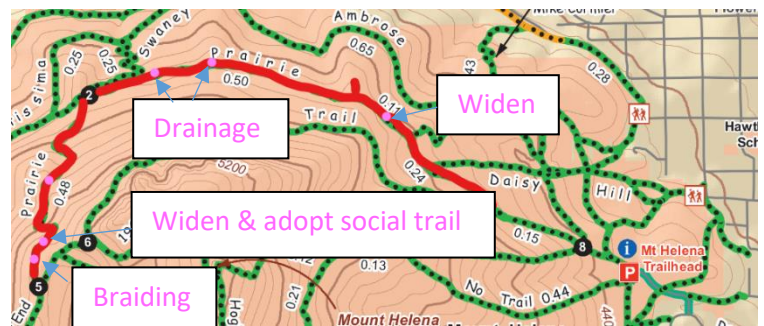   b.   Monitor for brushing needs

1906

1. Trail Information
      a.   Overview: This is Helena's most popular hiking trail, wide and sustainable. Bicycles may only travel this trail in uphill direction.
      b.   Inspection Date: 5/21/2020
      c.   Park Name: Mt. Helena
      d.   Trail: 1906
      e.   Length: 8,096ft

2. Basic Maintenance
      a.   Brushing: **Complete**
      b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
      a.   Some social trails between 1906 and Prairie
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
      a.   Close or adopt social trails
      b.   Clean out drains, should "resurrect" old filled in drains in the next year or two

Prairie

1. Trail Information
      a.   Overview: Trail parallels 1906 lower on the mountain before switchbacking up to join 1906 near the summit.
      b.   Inspection Date: 5/21/2020
      c.   Park Name: Mt. Helena
      d.   Trail: Prairie
      e.   Length: 7,889ft

2. Basic Maintenance
      a.   Brushing: **Incomplete**
      b.   Drainage: **Incomplete**
3. Trail Issues
      a.   Social trails between Prairie and 1906
      b.   Localized outsloping, braiding
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns

a. Close/disguise social trail accesses
b. Widen and flatten instances outsloped tread
c. Add and repair drainage on fall-line section
d. Adopt the uppermost social trail between 1906 and Prairie

Le Grande Cannon

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Gravel road used by pedestrian and biker traffic only. Flat and wide, more accessible than most trails on the system.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/19/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Le Grande Cannon
   e. Length: 4,816
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Could surface with a more accessible material

Westridge Trail
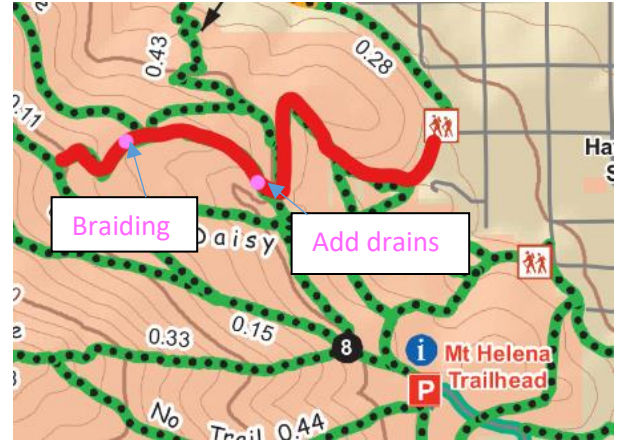
1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Single track trail that parallels Le Grande Cannon Blvd. Accesses Reber subdivision.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Westridge
   e. Length: 2,022ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Needs to be added to paper map
   b. Rock structures need to be fixed and drainage improved in gully accessing Reber Rd. Trail needs to be widened in some places as well.
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Fix rock structures and drainage in gully accessing Reber Rd.
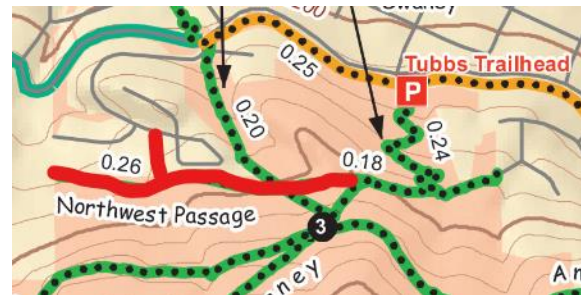   b. Widen and add drainage to gully accessing Reber Rd.

Quarry

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Mt. Helena Daisy Hill area trail that passes by an old Quarry, accesses Ambrose and Prairie trails.

b. Inspection Date: 5/4/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Quarry
   e. Length: 1,766ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. No drainage on steep pitch near Quarry
   b. Localized braiding
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Add drains to steep pitch near Quarry
   b. Fix braiding

Northwest Passage

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Contour trail above the Tubbs trailhead, connects to new LeGrande additions
   b. Inspection Date: 5/14/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Helena
   d. Trail: Northwest Passage
   e. Length: 1,900ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Add Reber Rd. connection to map
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
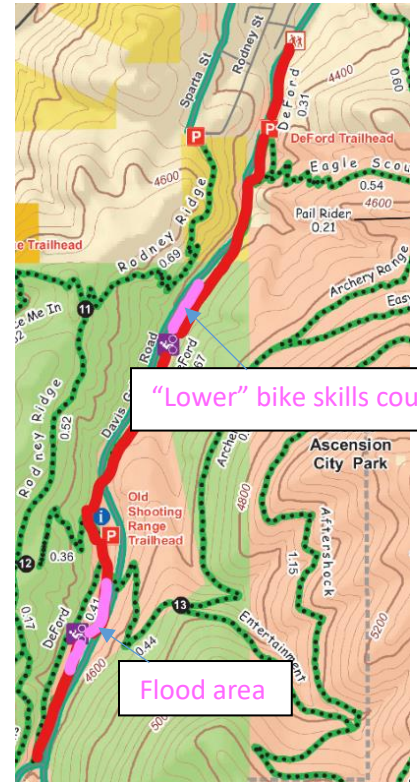   a. Look at connections to new LeGrande pieces

Mt. Ascension Trails

Deford

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Also locally known as the "woodchip trail" the portion of this trail between the DeFord Trailhead and Old Shooting Range Trailhead is wide and relatively flat. South of the Old Shooting Range parking lot transitions into a single track trail that connects to Dry Gulch.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/29/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Deford
   e. Length: 7,242ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Incomplete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Brush south end
   b. Periodically floods south of OSR parking lot
   c. Davis Gulch "lower" lower bike skills course needs formal action
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Raise trail south of OSR lot to manage water
   b. Professionally build "lower" bike skills course
   c. Fence out "lower" bike skills course

"Lower" bike skills course

Flood area

Upper Davis Bike Skills Course

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: This is a bike skills area that has bermed turns, small jumps, rollers and drops. Downhill bicycle use only. Riders should read the posted information and ride with caution.
   b. Inspection Date: 5/29/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Upper Davis Bike Skills course
   e. Length: 2,156ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
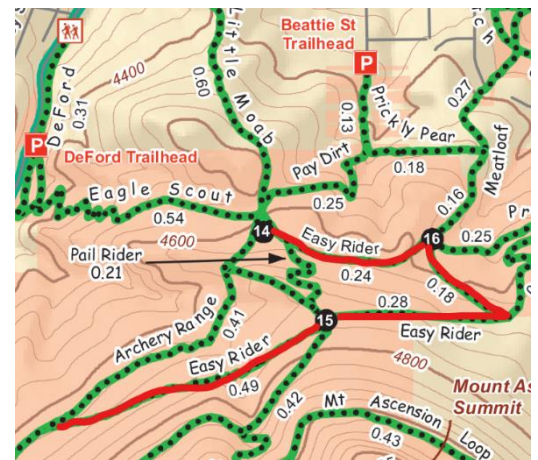4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. None

Archery Range

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Contour trail that connects from Eagle Scout trail to the Old Shooting Range parking lot. Crosses USFS management as well.
   b. Inspection Date: 4/29/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Archery Range
   e. Length: 6,287ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Some braiding and outsloping
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Brush hairpin near Entertainment trail
   b. Flatten outslope in sections
   c. Repair braiding
   d. Remove roots on trail approaching Davis Gulch

Easy Rider

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Uses an old access road bed for its northern section and turns to gentle single track as it crosses 2006 trail and approaches Archery Range.
   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Easy Rider
   e. Length: 6,283ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Examine social trails
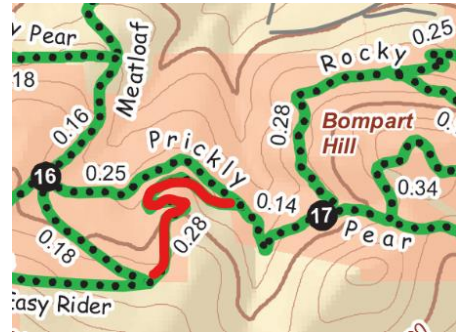

Easy Rider to Prickly Pear Connector

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: A new connector built in 2018, this short trail offers a single-track connector from the Bompart area to Mt. Ascension or vice-versa
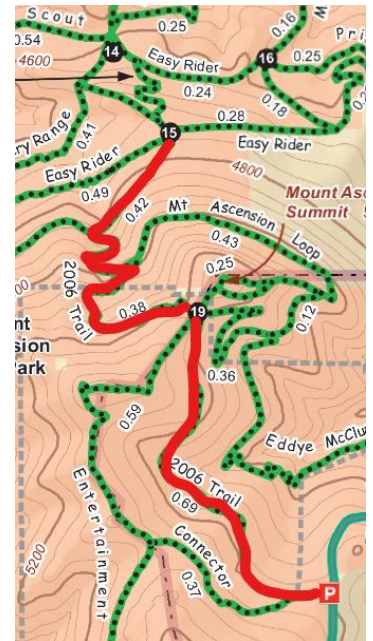   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension

       d.   Trail: Easy Rider Prickly Pear Connector

       e.   Length: 1,242ft

2. Basic Maintenance

       a.   Brushing: **Complete**

       b.   Drainage: **Complete**

3. Trail Issues

       a.   None

4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns

       a.   Add to paper map

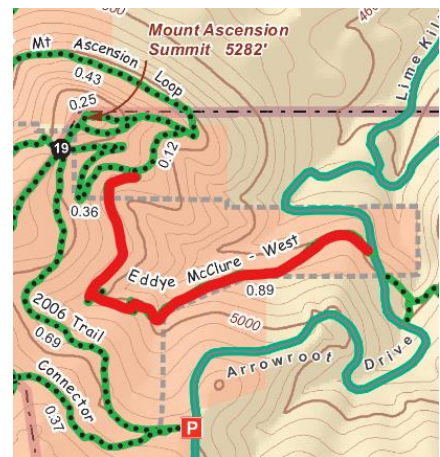**2006**

1. Trail Information

       a.   Overview: 2006 Trail is the primary access to the Mt. Ascension summit. Can be accessed via the north face of Mt. Ascension or by Arrowroot Drive on the backside.

       b.   Inspection Date: 5/28/2020

       c.   Park Name: Mt. Ascension

       d.   Trail: 2006

       e.   Length: 7,342ft

2. Basic Maintenance

       a.   Brushing: **Complete**

       b.   Drainage: **Complete**

3. Trail Issues

       a.   None

4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns

       a.   Monitor section from Arrowroot Dr. to Mt. Ascension for narrowing and outsloping tread
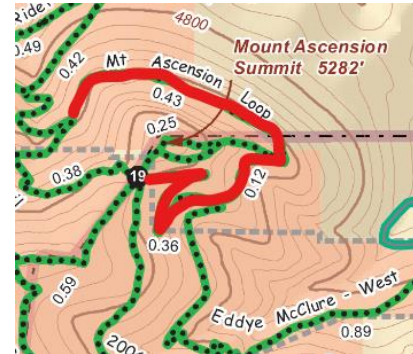

Eddye McClure West

1. Trail Information

       a.   Overview: Eddye - West descends the southeast side of Mt. Ascension and provides an alternate to the more popular 2006 trail.

       b.   Inspection Date: 6/1/2020

       c.   Park Name: Mt. Ascension

       d.   Trail: Eddye McClure – West

       e.   Length: 4,925ft

2. Basic Maintenance

       a.   Brushing: **Complete**

       b.   Drainage: **Complete**

3. Trail Issues

       a.   None

4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
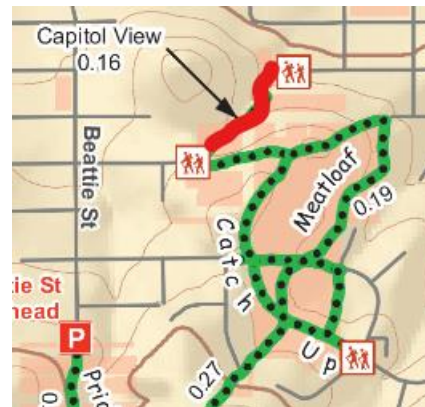
       a.   Monitor for narrowing and brushing

Mt. Ascension Loop Trail

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: This trail loops around the north side of Mt. Ascension from 2006 until it reaches the summit gradually. Dense trees in sections.
   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Mt. Ascension Loop
   e. Length: 4,699ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Some social trails down to Easy Rider and as one approaches the 2006 junction
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
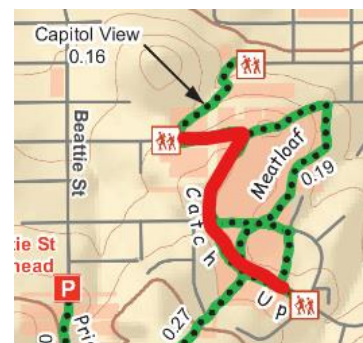   a. Monitor for brushing annually
   b. Close social trails

Capital View

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Neighborhood access to Meatloaf Hill and Mt. Ascension,
   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   a. Trail: Capital View
   b. Length: 1,555ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. GPS does not match what's on the map
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Correct paper map GPS in Meatloaf area

Catch-Up

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Catch Up provides access to Mt. Ascension Natural Park from the Meatloaf area.
   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Catch-Up
   e. Length: 1,759ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**

3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Correct GPS in Meatloaf Hill area
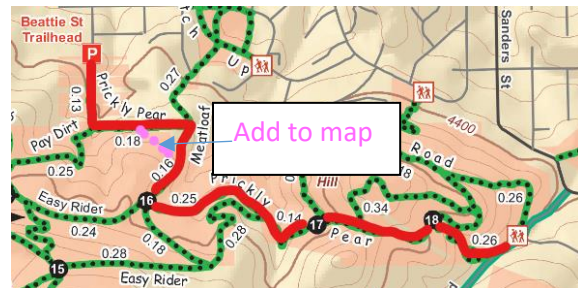
Pay Dirt

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Pay Dirt connects the Beattie St. Trailhead to a five-trail junction on lower Mt. Ascension
   b. Inspection Date: 5/28/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Pay Dirt
   e. Length: 1,388ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Monitor as Beattie trailhead reopens

Prickly Pear

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Trail that connects Beattie Street trailhead to Bompart Hill
   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Prickly Pear
   e. Length: 4,566ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Segment signed, but missing from map
   b. Social trails near Pay Dirt junction
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
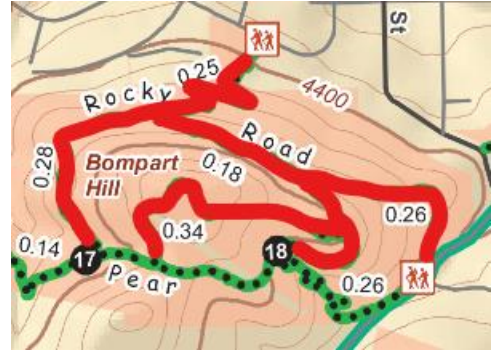   a. Add missing segment to map

Rocky Road/Bompart Hill

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Trail accessed via Diehl Drive or Lime Kiln Rd. provides access to Bompart Hill and Mt. Ascension.
   b. Inspection Date: 6/3/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Rocky Road
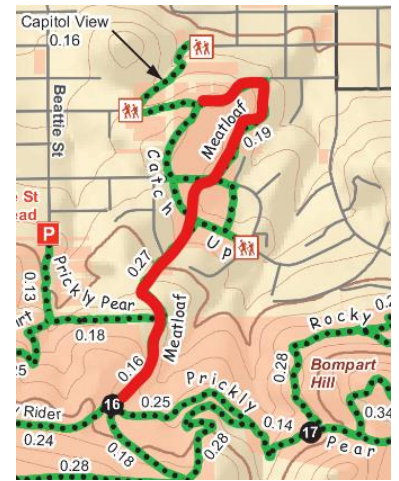
  e. Length: 7,324ft
 2. Basic Maintenance
  a. Brushing: **Complete**
  b. Drainage: **Complete**
 3. Trail Issues
  a. Numerous social trails near Diehl Drive trailhead
  b. GPS should be corrected
  c. Add signs
 4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
  a. Social trail inventory, determine if any should be incorporated or eliminated
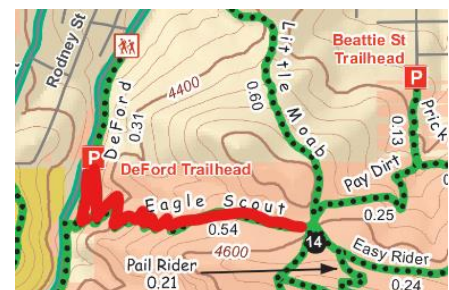 b. Correct map GPS

Meatloaf

 1. Trail Information
  a. Overview: Neighborhood access trail that provides access to Mt. Ascension
  b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
  c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
  d. Trail: Meatloaf
  e. Length: 2,720ft
 2. Basic Maintenance
  a. Brushing: **Complete**
  b. Drainage: **Complete**
 3. Trail Issues
  a. Incorrect GPS
 4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
  a. Correct GPS throughout Meatloaf area

Eagle Scout

 1. Trail Information
  a. Overview: This trail uses a series of climbing turns to climb from Davis Gulch to the northern shoulder of Mt. Ascension
  b. Inspection Date: 4/29/2020
  c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
  d. Trail: Eagle Scout
  e. Length: 2,877ft
 2. Basic Maintenance
  a. Brushing: **Complete**
  b. Drainage: **Complete**
 3. Trail Issues
  a. None
 4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
  a. Monitor lumpiness from use during the spring muddy season, may need to repair

      b.   Monitor drains on upper, wide fall-line section

Pail Rider and Ridge Rider

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Two connector trails on lower Mt. Ascension
   b. Inspection Date: 4/29/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Ridge and Pail Rider
   e. Length: 2,130ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
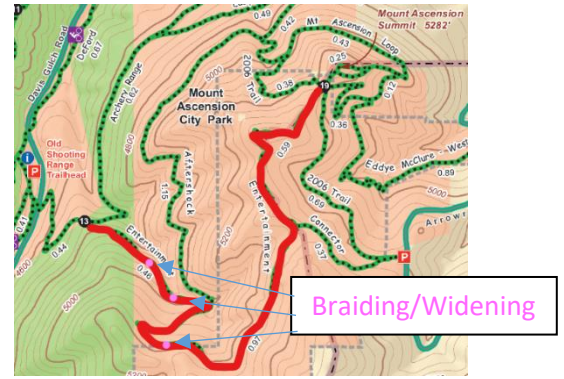   a. Monitor fall-line Ridge Rider for erosion

Directional Trails

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Two bicycle downhill trails that begin off of Eddye McClure West and go down to Arrowroot Drive. Maintained by Montana Bicycle Guild
   b. Inspection Date: 6/1/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Directional Trails
   e. Length: 4,000ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. N/A, maintained by MBG
3. Trail Issues
   a. N/A maintained by MBG
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Add trail names and signage on Eddye McClure West
   b. Add to trail map

Entertainment

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: One of the most popular trails in the entire South Hills, accessed via Arrowroot Drive or Old Shooting Range trailheads. Crosses both City of Helena and USFS management
   b. Inspection Date: 5/28/2020
   c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
   d. Trail: Entertainment
   e. Length: 10,717ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**

b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. Braiding and widening
    b. Polesaw brushing in Entertainment Woods
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Entertainment is one of the more popular bicycle downhill trails and speed is a concern
    b. Trail is widening each year and become more and more of a maintenance issue
    c. Needs to be monitored and fixed annually
    d. Steep Entertainment Alternate needs annual drain maintenance (has been removed from trail map)

Braiding/Widening

Entertainment Connector

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Connector trail from Arrowroot trailhead to Entertainment trail
    b. Inspection Date: 5/28/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
    d. Trail: Entertainment Connector
    e. Length: 1,710ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. None

Aftershock

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Contour trail above Archery Range trail between 2006 and Entertainment.
    b. Inspection Date: 5/28/2020
    c. Park Name: Mt. Ascension
    d. Trail: Aftershock
    e. Length: 6,015ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. Rock structures need repair
    b. General widening and flattening of outsloped tread
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Recommend a more involved tune-up in 2021 (widening, flattening, brushing, etc.)

Other Trails

Nob Hill

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Nob Hill is an island of open space surrounded by Private Property, popular neighborhood trail.
   b. Inspection Date: 6/3/2020
   c. Park Name: Nob Hill
   d. Trail: Nob Hill
   e. 4,997ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Inaccurate GPS on map
   b. Neighborhood social trails
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Revisit GPS and social trails to correct map

Saddle Drive

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Decomposed granite trail passing through the South Hills Disc Golf course
   b. Inspection Date: 6/4/2020
   c. Park Name: South Hills Disc Golf Course
   d. Trail: Saddle Drive
   e. Length: 3,140ft
2. Basic Maintenance
   a. Brushing: **Complete**
   b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
   a. Weeds in tread
   b. Switchbacks losing material
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
   a. Spray weeds in trail corridor and along edge
   b. Rake bare spots and improve switchbacks

Far East

1. Trail Information
   a. Overview: Island trail between South Hills Drive and Winscott and Crystal Drives. Old Lime Kiln along Trail.
   b. Inspection Date: 6/4/2020
   c. Park Name: Other
   d. Trail: Far East

e.   Length: 3,480ft
2.   Basic Maintenance
    a.   Brushing: **Complete**
    b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3.   Trail Issues
    a.   Social trails along trail
4.   Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
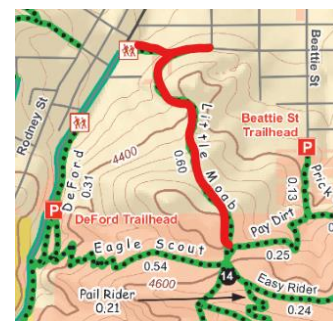   a.   Analyze social trails

Bull Run Trail (California to Saddle, Gold Rush to California)

1.   Trail Information
    a.   Overview: Neighborhood connector consisting of two segments: California to Gold Rush and California to Saddle Drive.
    b.   Trail Inspection Date: 6/3/2020
    c.   Park Name: Other
    d.   Trail: Bull Run
    e.   Length: 1,910ft, 267ft

2.   Basic Maintenance
    a.   Brushing: **Complete**
    b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3.   Trail Issues
    a.   Weed spraying on decomposed granite portion between California and Gold Rush
4.   Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a.   Monitor fall-line on section between Saddle and California
    b.   Improve access between sidewalk and trail and sidewalk and street for accessibility

Little Moab

1.   Trail Information
    a.   Overview: Rocky trail between Davis Gulch and the top of Eagle Scout and Pay Dirt trails. Crosses City as well as private properties.
    b.   Inspection Date: 5/29/2020
    c.   Park Name: Other
    d.   Trail: Little Moab
    e.   Length: 2,994ft

2.   Basic Maintenance
    a.   Brushing: **Complete**
    b.   Drainage: **Complete**
3.   Trail Issues
    a.   Steep pitch on city to Second Street connection, needs drainage
4.   Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a.   Users respecting private property is a concern, could lose trail if landowners disallow access
    b.   Monitor fall-line section towards Second Street connection

Acropolis Crest

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Neighborhood connection, connects to Park Ave via Cruse Ave.
    b. Inspection Date: 5/30/2020
    c. Park Name: Other
    d. Trail: Acropolis Crest
    e. Length: 2,692ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. Section towards Cruse has some tread issues and social trail issues
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Improve trail access to road
    b. Consider trail along Cruse grass island open space
    c. Fix tread issues on lower section of trail

Virginia Dale

1. Trail Information
    a. Overview: Connector trail between Virginia Dale and Belt View. Near Rocky Road trails
    b. Inspection Date: 6/4/2020
    c. Park Name: Other
    d. Trail: Virginia Dale
    e. Length: 482ft
2. Basic Maintenance
    a. Brushing: **Complete**
    b. Drainage: **Complete**
3. Trail Issues
    a. None
4. Recommendations, Annual Needs, and Concerns
    a. Monitor for water erosion