

# Rocky Mountain National Park



## Multiuse Trail Plan Environmental Assessment Public Scoping



Photo Credit: VHB

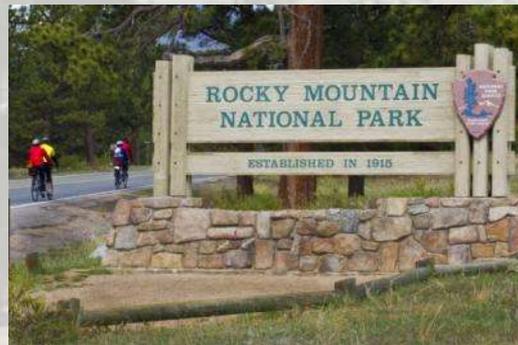


Photo Credit: Ann Schonlau



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## INTRODUCTION

- Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) is exploring the possibility of creating a new multiuse trail within the developed eastern portion of the park.



Photo Credit: Ann Schonlau

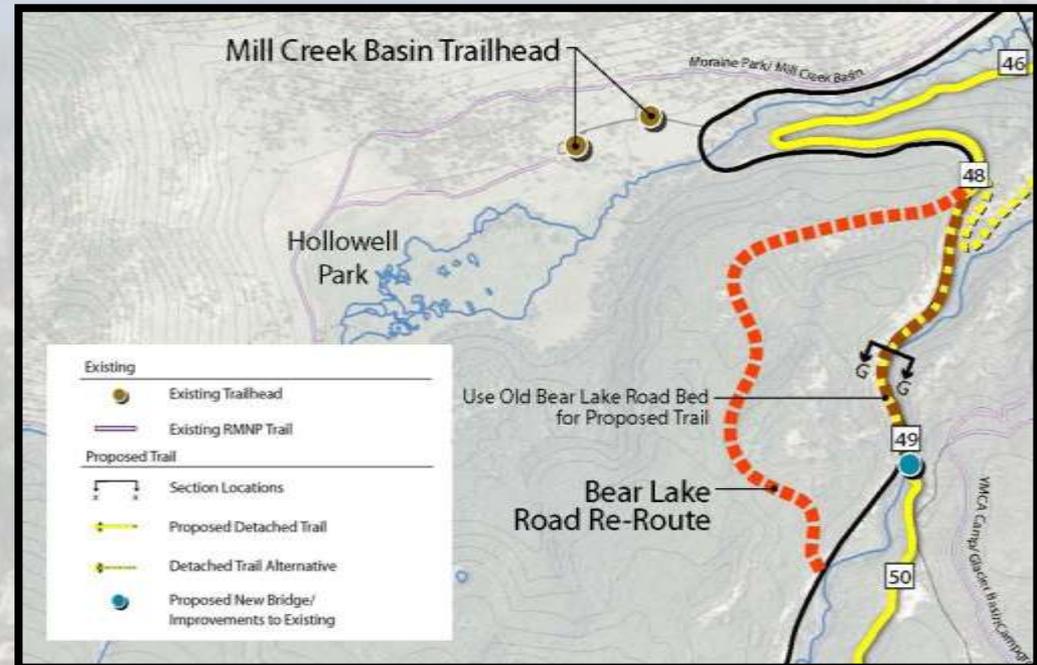
- An Environmental Assessment (EA) is required as part of the planning and decision making process.
- We are conducting public scoping to gather your thoughts and ideas at the inception of the EA process.

# Rocky Mountain National Park



## BACKGROUND

- Bear Lake Road reconstruction
  - Phase I: Park & Ride to Bear Lake
  - Phase II: Park & Ride to Trail Ridge Road
- Bear Lake Road above (south) of Bandit Curve has been realigned on a new route to the west (away from Glacier Creek) for approximately 1 mile
- There is an opportunity to reuse 1 mile of abandoned road bed as part of a multiuse trail

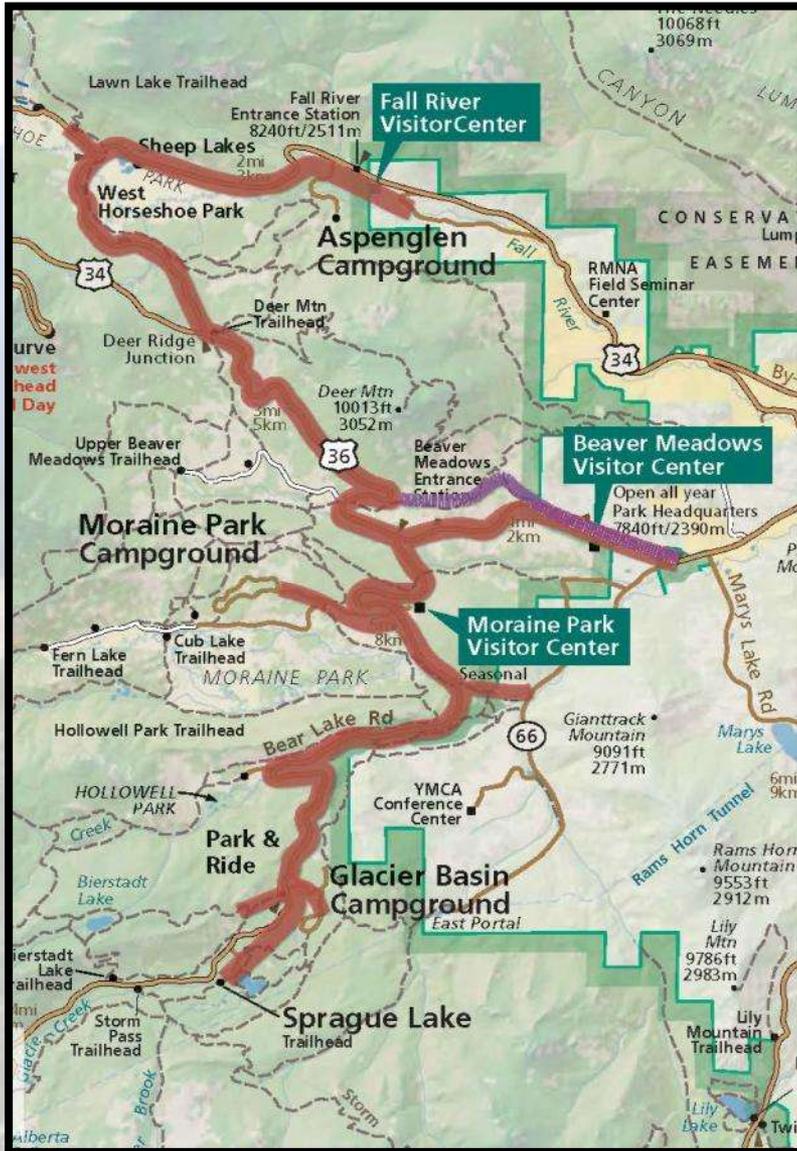


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## BACKGROUND

- A 2009 feasibility study confirmed the possibility of establishing approximately 15.5 miles of multiuse trail
- Northern terminus: Fall River Entrance
- Southern terminus: Sprague Lake
- Offers connections to
  - Estes Valley trails
  - Aspenglen, Moraine Park, and Glacier Basin campgrounds
  - Fall River, Beaver Meadows, and Moraine Park visitor centers
  - Lawn Lake, Hollowell Park, and Sprague Lake trailheads
  - Hiker shuttle stops and Park & Ride



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## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

- Explore the possibility of providing a multiuse trail system to connect with local trail systems in the Estes Valley
  - “Multiuse” – self propelled transportation such as bicycle, foot, baby stroller, snowshoe, cross-country skiing, etc.
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Provide multimodal travel options along the developed corridor of roads on the eastern side of the park



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## WHY CREATE A MULTIUSE TRAIL?

- Meet the projected increase in demand for access to recreational opportunities in the park.
- Better accommodate bicycles to encourage multimodal access to the park.
- Provide additional methods of transportation for access to and travel within the park.

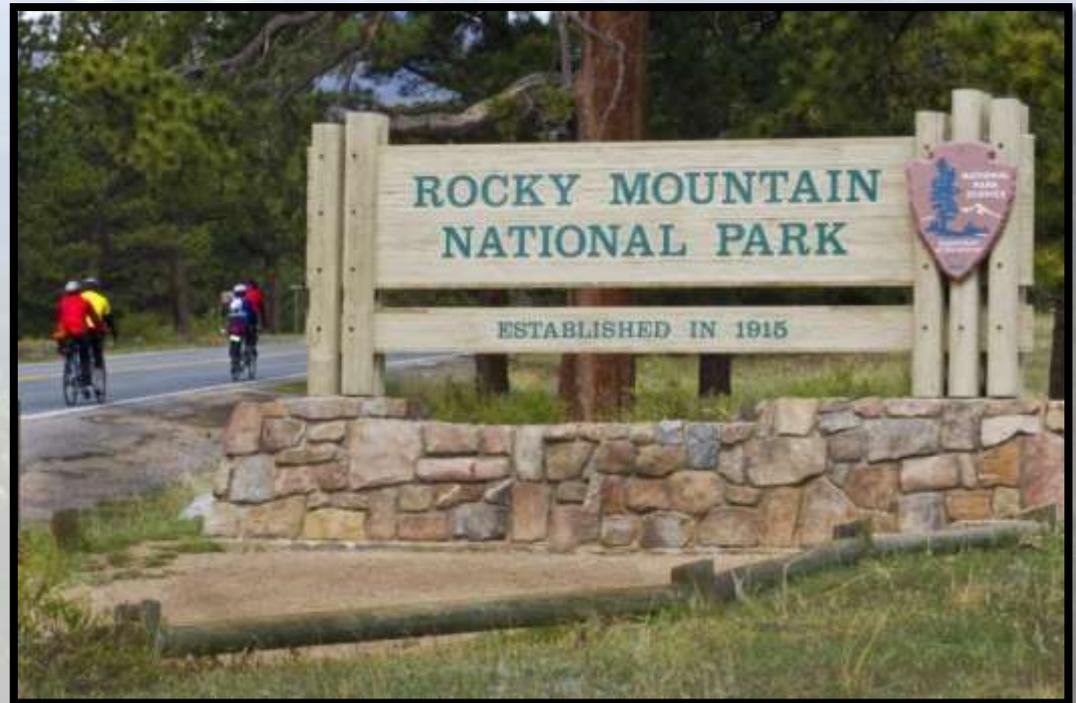


Photo Credit: Ann Schonlau

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## WHAT DOES THE PARK HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

- Connect to other recreational opportunities in the area such as campgrounds and other multiuse trails such as those managed by the Town of Estes Park and the Estes Valley Recreation and Parks District
- Expand recreational opportunities for self-propelled transportation
- Provide an alternate means of transportation within the park's developed eastern side
- Provide connections to the park's shuttle bus system



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## WHAT DOES THE PARK HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?



Photo Credit: Peter Biddle

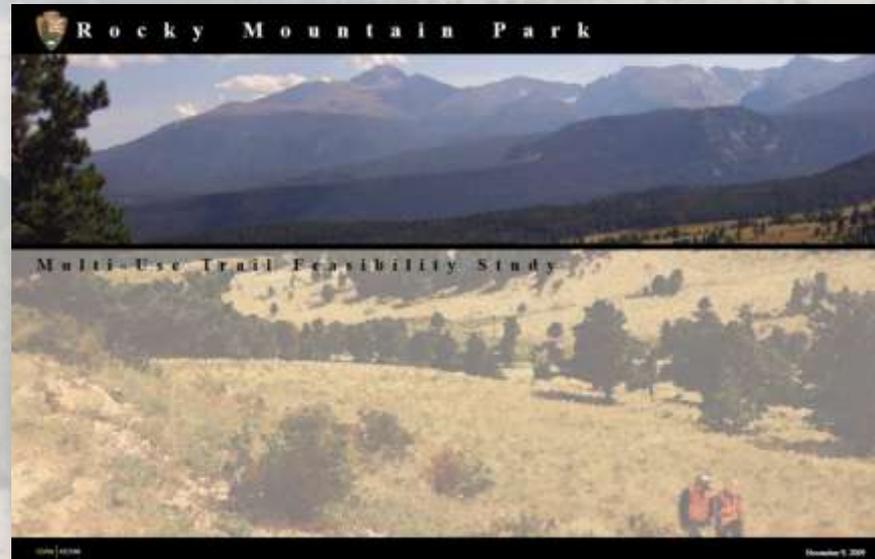
- Reduce vehicular congestion
- Provide for temporal and spatial dispersal of visitors
- Provide for new visitor experiences within the park
- Minimize adverse impacts on existing visitors
- Minimize conflicts among visitors
- Minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources
- Provide a safe multiuse trail system

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## PRELIMINARY OPTIONS FOR THE MULTIUSE TRAIL ALIGNMENT

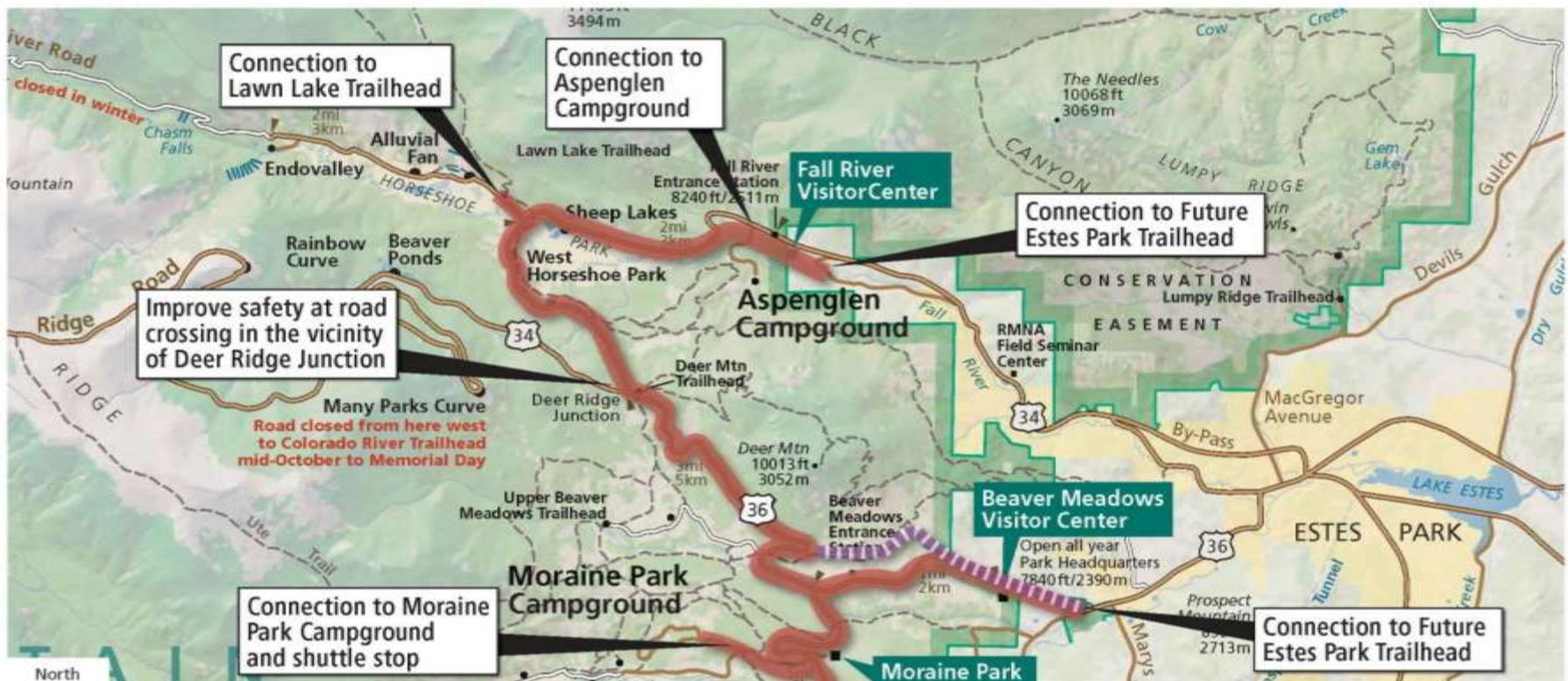
- The preliminary options for the multiuse trail alignment shown today are based on the 2009 Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study and internal scoping discussions with stakeholders



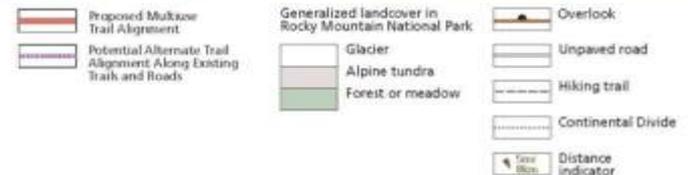
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## Preliminary Multiuse Trail Alignment (North)



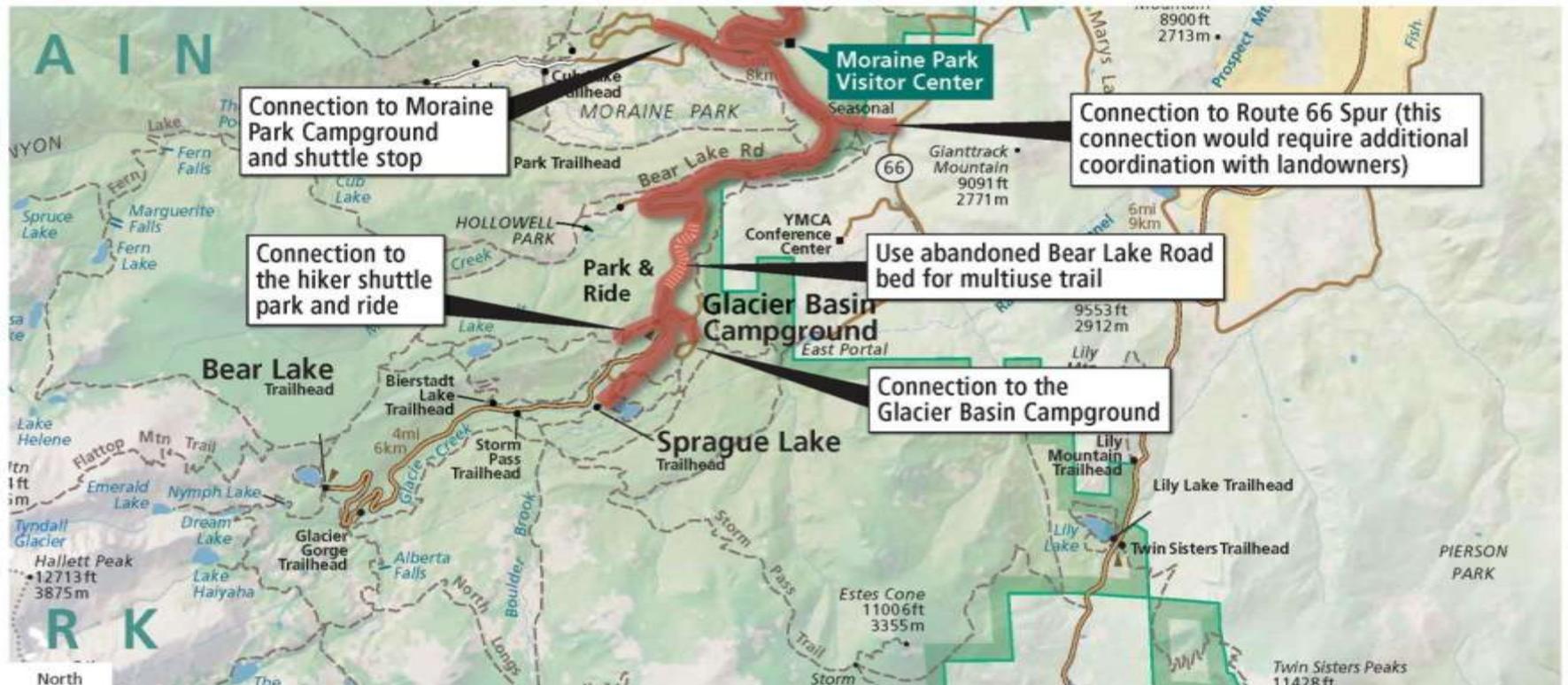
Proposed Alignment Corridor is conceptual. Actual Alignment to be identified during this process.



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## Preliminary Multiuse Trail Alignment (South)



Connection to Moraine Park Campground and shuttle stop

Connection to Route 66 Spur (this connection would require additional coordination with landowners)

Connection to the hiker shuttle park and ride

Use abandoned Bear Lake Road bed for multiuse trail

Connection to the Glacier Basin Campground



Proposed Alignment Corridor is conceptual. Actual Alignment to be identified during this process.

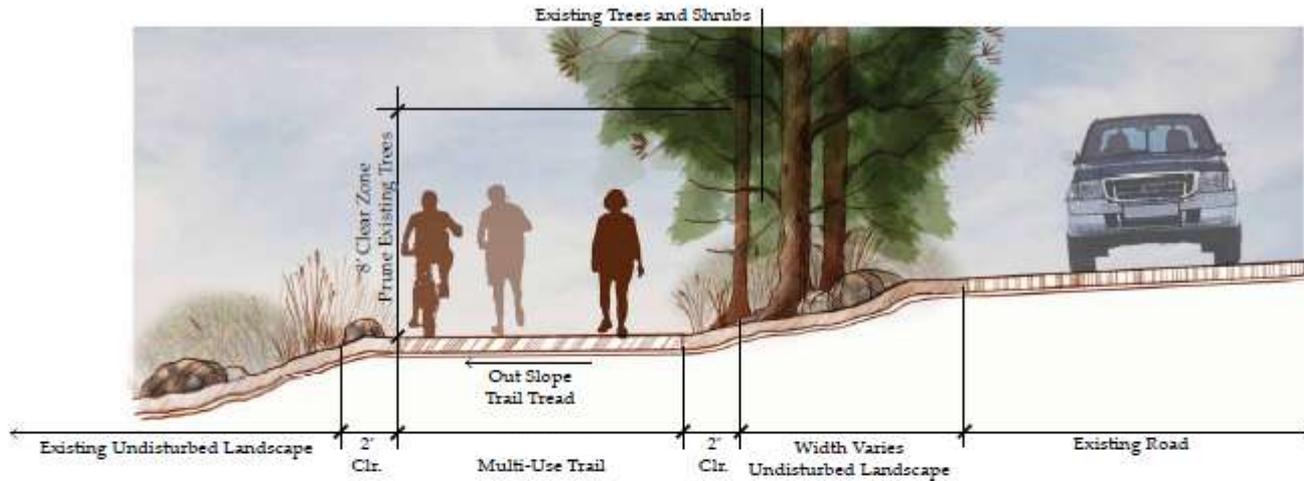


Proposed Multiuse Trail Alignment	Glacier	Overlook
Alpine tundra	Unpaved road	Hiking trail
Forest or meadow	Continental Divide	Distance indicator

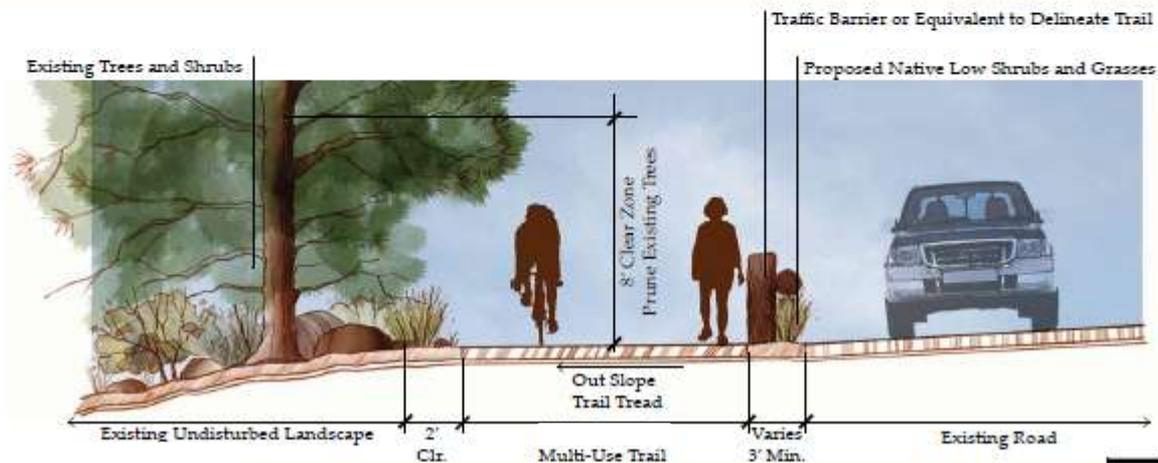
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## EXAMPLE TRAIL CROSS SECTIONS



Typical Detached Multiuse Trail



Typical Attached Multiuse Trail

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MILESTONES

Define purpose of and need for the project

fall/winter 2012

**Conduct initial public/agency scoping**



February/March 2013

Alternatives development and data gathering

winter/spring 2013

**Second public scoping period to review refined alternatives**

late spring 2013

**Public review of the plan/EA**

early 2014

Analysis of public comments, preparation of decision document

spring 2014

Announcement of decision

summer 2014

Items in **bold**, green lettering represent opportunities for public involvement

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CONTENT

- **Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need**
  - Purpose is a statement of goals and objectives that NPS intends to fulfill by taking action
  - Need is a discussion of decisions that need to be made
- **Chapter 2 – Alternatives Considered**
  - No-action Alternative – continue current management
  - Action Alternative(s) – develop a multiuse trail system on the east side of the park
- **Chapter 3 – Affected Environment**
  - Resources expected to experience environmental impacts, including natural resources, visitor experience, safety, and park operations
- **Chapter 4 – Environmental Consequences**
  - Predicts the degree to which the resources will be affected
- **Chapter 5 – Consultation and Coordination**
  - Describes consultation and coordination with other agencies, groups, and individuals

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## SUBMITTING COMMENTS

- We prefer that comments be submitted online via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/romo>

- You can also provide written comments on the form provided tonight.
- If you do not have internet access, you can send a letter to:

Superintendent  
Rocky Mountain National Park  
Estes Park, CO 80517-8397

- If you use express delivery (FedEx or UPS) add: 1000 U.S. Highway 36 to the address
- Please submit written comments by March 21, 2013
- This presentation will be available on the PEPC website

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## PROJECT CONTACT

Larry Gamble  
Chief, Branch of Planning & Compliance  
Rocky Mountain National Park  
Estes Park, CO 80517

Phone: (970) 586-1320  
Fax: (970) 586-1359  
Email: [larry\\_gamble@nps.gov](mailto:larry_gamble@nps.gov)