

Get Out and Ride and Hike Day a Success  
By Vickie Eiland, LDP Trailblazers

June 5 was National Trail Hike Day and we had our own version as the first Get Out and Ride and Hike Day at El Prado Park. We had a great turnout. Thanks for the LDP Owners Association for sponsoring the event. I met some of my friends at the horse camp at about 9:30 am and at that time, it was a quiet morning. We set off for our ride and when we returned, the event was in full swing! The Horse Camp was full of parked horse trailers and we had about 16 riders total. There were 3 or 4 groups of hikers that went out and many more community members stopped by to talk and learn more about the trail system. We had about 55 attendees total for the day. I spoke with one of the riders, who had learned of the event from a press release and was from Mariposa County, but outside of our Lake Don Pedro community. She was very complimentary about the condition of the trails and how well marked they were. She added that she would definitely be back to ride them again. It was nice to get such positive feedback. . We had a large map of the trails system posted and informational brochures available and many people learned more about the trail system and recent improvements that have been made.

I would like to thank the Hancock family, particularly Shaun and Sheldon, who refurbished and reinstalled the Horse Camp sign. It looks fantastic! I would also like to thank John Nathaniel for cooking and managing the barbeque, the food was wonderful.

As always, we are looking to the future and planning our next projects. One of our priorities is the Gregoris Pond Park. We have a network of trails around the park well marked and used by local pedestrians and equestrians. However, it is not accessible to larger vehicles or vehicles with trailers. We have determined that improving access to the park will increase usage and further open up our network of trails and easements. We are planning to approach the Stewards for Trails, Education & Partnerships (STEP) organization for funds to make these improvements, as well as for gravel for the El Prado Horse Camp. We will be submitting these requests in July and hope for a positive response from STEP.

The LDP Trailblazers meet on the third Thursday of each month in the LDP High School multi purpose room at 7:00 pm. Please join us! We are a group of property owners, equestrians and pedestrians whose purpose is the preservation and safeguarding of the Lake Don Pedro pedestrian/equestrian trail system, and education of the property owners. We will also assist property owners in clearing easements around your property. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer, call 852-9459 for more information or e-mail [ldptrailblazers@gmail.com](mailto:ldptrailblazers@gmail.com). Visit our website at [www.ldptrailblazers.com](http://www.ldptrailblazers.com).