

SUNRISE POINT TRAIL USE SURVEY

A trail use survey was conducted at Sunrise Point between the parking area and canyon rim on September 2-3, 1998. Although a fence has been constructed around the parking area, there are still several social trails in the area. The trail use survey indicates the use patterns of these social trails.

METHODOLOGY

Trail use by visitors was observed on three different occasions, for one hour each time. Observations were made in the morning, early afternoon and late afternoon. The number of visitors walking the designated trail from the parking lot at Sunrise Point to the rim was counted as well as any use of the six social trails in the area. (Note: the designated trail use was counted in one direction only, while all use of the social trails was recorded.) The direction of traffic on social trails was also indicated. Children being carried or pushed in strollers were not counted as they had no control over where they were going.

RESULTS

During the three observation periods, 255 people were observed walking from the parking lot to the rim on the designated trail or social trails. It was assumed that approximately the same number of people would walk back from the rim to the parking lot during the observation period, so the number of people walking back was not counted. However, this turned out not to be the case. During the late afternoon observation period there were approximately twice as many people walking back to the parking lot, and during the morning observation the reverse was true with many more people walking toward the rim.

A total of 41 people (16% of the 255 people counted walking to the rim), were observed off trail or on social trails during the survey. The vast majority of people using social trails were walking back to the parking area. Thirty-two (78%) were walking towards the parking lot. Only 3 (7%) were walking to the rim and 6 (15%) were walking parallel to the rim or playing off trail. Six social trails in the area were monitored.

Social trail #1: This southernmost social trail leads from the parking lot to the rim trail. The west end of the trail near the parking lot has a secondary fence across it, and no traffic was observed on this trail.

Social trail #2: This trail runs from the junction of the rim trail and horse trail back to the opening in the fence near the parking lot. This is the social trail that was used most often (23 people).

Social trail #3: This is not actually a trail, but the triangular space between the fork in the designated park trail near the rim. Four children were observed playing in this area and two people cut across it.

Social trail #4: Located just north of the designated park trail, this social trail connects the designated park trail to the rim with the rim trail. Three people were observed using this trail.

Social trail #5: This trail is almost parallel to Social trail #4, but just to the north. Five people were observed using this trail.

Social trail #6: This trail winds from the viewpoint north of Sunrise Point back over the hill towards the parking lot. This is the least well defined of the social trails. There was a group of four people observed walking this trail.

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PARK TRAILS
SOCIAL TRAILS



RIM TRAIL

HORSE TRAIL

#3

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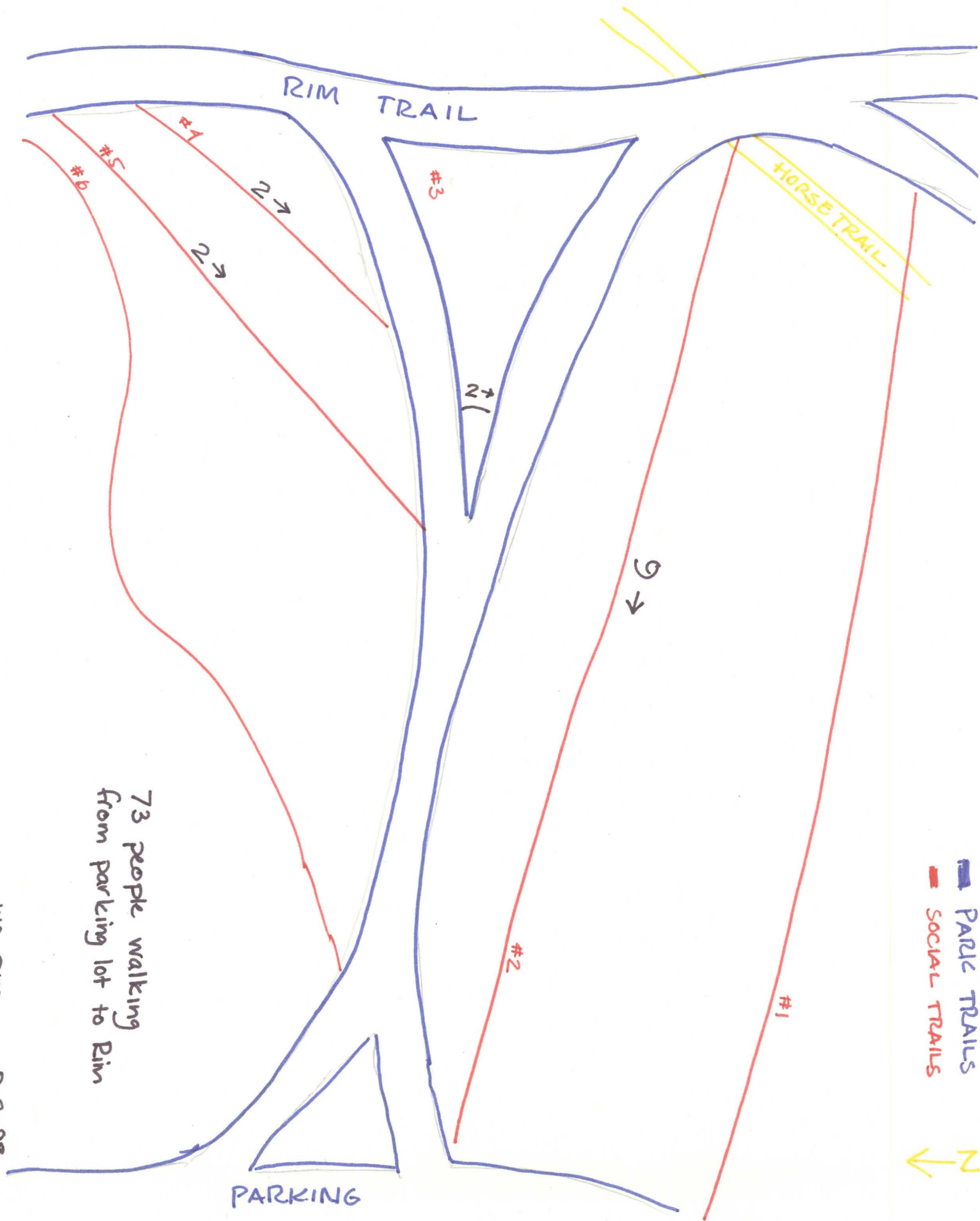
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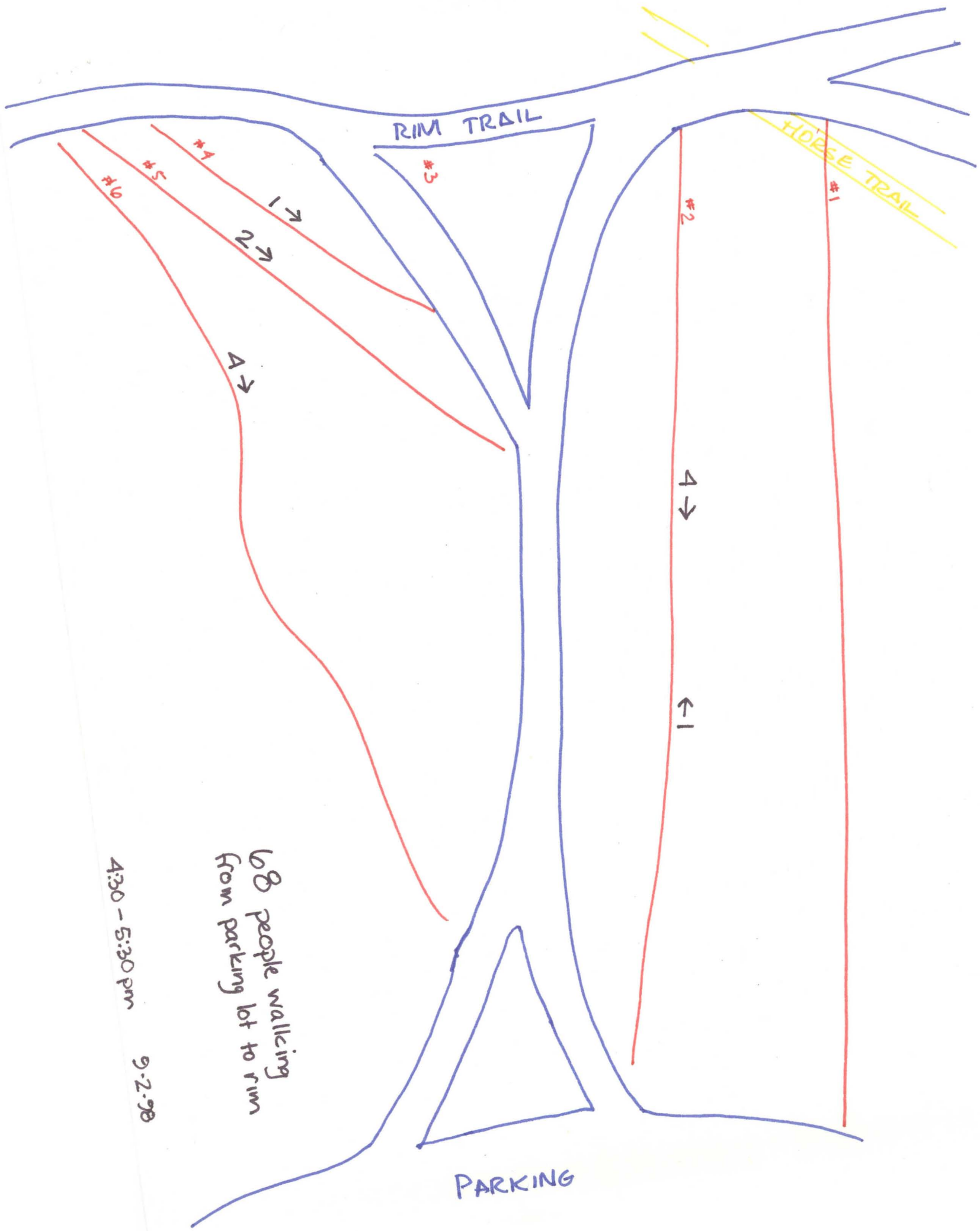
#1

PARKING

73 people walking
from parking lot to Rim

1:10 - 2:10 pm 9-2-98





RIM TRAIL

HORSE TRAIL

PARKING

68 people walking
from parking lot to rim

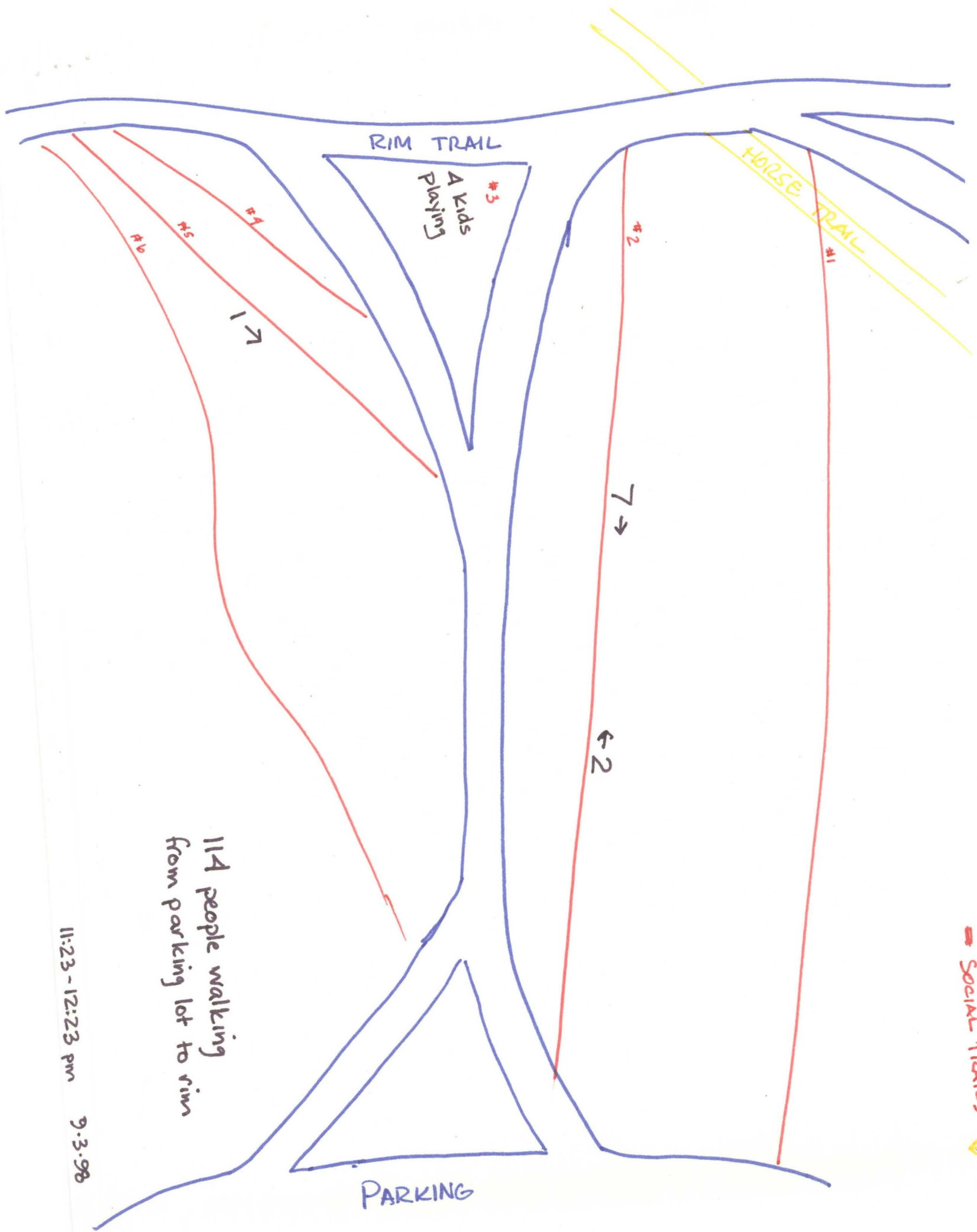
4:30 - 5:30 pm

9-2-98

— PARK TRAILS
— SOCIAL TRAILS

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→ PARK TRAILS
→ SOCIAL TRAILS
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11:23 - 12:23 pm 9.3.98