The Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Workshop Summary

Fortuna

In-Person Workshop

with 98 Attendees at Fortuna River Lodge Conference Center on March 22, 2023

Fortuna Community Workshop Agenda

Station 0. Welcome

Objective: Welcome station to orient people to the layout of the workshop and other stations.

Materials:

- Sign-in sheets
- Workshop Flyer that includes a map of the Great Redwood Trail (GRT) on one side and a
 description of the workshop activities by station on the other side. (pages 5 and 6)

Activity: Participants sign-in, learn about layout of workshop stations, and receive nametags and directions.

Station 1. The Great Redwood Trail Vision

Objective: Share information with participants about the Great Redwood Trail background, extents, and timeline; the GRT Master Plan purpose, vision, process, and schedule; and rail trails/railbanking.

Materials:

- <u>Board 1:</u> Vision and GRT Master Plan Overview. Shows a map of the entire GRT and provides information on the GRT and a timeline showing how we got to present day. (page 7)
- Board 2: GRT Master Plan Process. Includes a project schedule and information on what a master plan is, the community outreach process, and stakeholder groups being consulted during the process. (page 8)
- <u>Board 3:</u> Rail trails and Rail banking. Defines rail trails and railbanking, including photos of examples of each. *(page 9)*

Activity: Staff to help direct people to different workshop stations and answer questions participants have about the project and timeline.

Station 2. Trail Best Practices

Objective: Share trail best practices related to key topics surrounding the Great Redwood Trail. Illustrate possible solutions to these key challenges and learn more about specific concerns of workshop participants.

Materials:

- <u>Board 1:</u> Provides information and case studies for "Protect and Restore the Environment" and "Support Firefighting Access and Emergency Response." (page 10)
- <u>Board 2:</u> Provides information and case studies for "Be Good Neighbors" and "Proactive Approach to Homelessness." (page 11)
- Board 3: Provides information and case studies for "Create and Inviting and Comfortable Trail Experience." (page 12)
- Flip charts for notetaking
- Post-it notes

Activity: Staff take notes regarding participants' key concerns and additional ideas related to trail best practices. See *images of notes on pages 13 to 21*.

Station 3. Opportunity Mapping

Objective: Collect local knowledge on the corridor from the public to help guide planning of recreation opportunities, connector trails, access points, and destinations.

Materials:

- Board 1: South Mendocino County map with alignment. (page 22)
- Board 2: North Mendocino County map with alignment. (page 23)
- Board 3: Humboldt and Trinity Counties map with alignment. (page 24)
- Board 4: North Humboldt County map with alignment. (page 25)
- Board 5: Fortuna zoomed-in map with alignment. (page 26)

Activity: Participants use three colored stickers to mark key trail access points (red sticker); recreation opportunities such as water access, other trails, and parks (blue sticker); and destinations such as local landmarks, businesses, and scenic views (green sticker). Participants can also write additional details on the boards or on post it notes. See *images of notes on pages 27 to 47*.

Station 4. Trail Experience

Objective: Collect feedback from the public on what amenities they want the trail to offer and the "look and feel" of the trail that they prefer.

Materials:

- Board 1: Look and Feel. Shows different aesthetic styles for the trail through example images and inspiration images. (page 48)
- Board 2: Amenities. Shows eight types of amenities with example images. (page 49)

Activities: On Board 1, participants are asked to vote for their preferred aesthetic using stickers (one sticker per person). On Board 2, participants are asked to vote for their preferred amenities; three stickers each, which can be distributed all on one item or spread out on different amenities. On each board, participants can also write additional details on the boards or on post it notes. See *images of notes on pages 50 to 55*.

Station 5. Trail Towns

Objective: Collect feedback from the public on what types of businesses they want near the trail and what types of businesses already exist in their community.

Materials:

- <u>Board 1:</u> Economic Benefit Assessment Overview. Explains how the GRT can economically benefit communities and provides a QR code for participants to access the full assessment. (page 56)
- <u>Board 2:</u> Economic Opportunities and Trail Oriented Development. Provides information on different economic opportunities along trails and trail-oriented development, with example images. (page 57)
- Boards 3 & 4: Asks participants four questions about makes their community unique, as well as how the GRT could support their community and visa-versa. (pages 58 and 59)

Activity: Participants write down responses to the question prompts on boards 3 & 4. Participants are also asked to look at what other people have written and add stickers to other responses to show support for any they agree with. See *images of notes on pages 60 to 63*.

Station 6. Kids Station

Objective: Provide space for kids to provide creative feedback.

Materials:

- Blank paper and coloring-books
- Markers and crayons

Activity: Children are asked to draw what they want to see on the Great Redwood Trail.

Welcome to the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Community Workshop!

We want to hear from you! Visit each station to learn more about the Master Plan and share your ideas. Each station is numbered and has different content and activities.





TRAIL VISION

Learn all about the vision for the Great Redwood Trail and the Master Plan. Start at this station!



TRAIL BEST PRACTICES

Learn about key challenges that the Master Plan will address, and provide feedback on the topics that are important to you.



OPPORTUNITY MAPPING

Share your local knowledge of destinations and opportunities along the trail corridor.



TRAIL EXPERIENCE

Help inform the look and feel of the trail and the amenities along it.



TRAIL TOWNS

Learn about the economic benefits of the trail and tell us what makes your trail town unique.

Welcome to the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Community Workshop!

We want to hear from you! Visit each station to learn more about the Master Plan and share your ideas. Each station is numbered and has different content and activities.





TRAIL VISION

Learn all about the vision for the Great Redwood Trail and the Master Plan. Start at this station!



TRAIL BEST PRACTICES

Learn about key challenges that the Master Plan will address, and provide feedback on the topics that are important to you.



OPPORTUNITY MAPPING

Share your local knowledge of destinations and opportunities along the trail corridor.



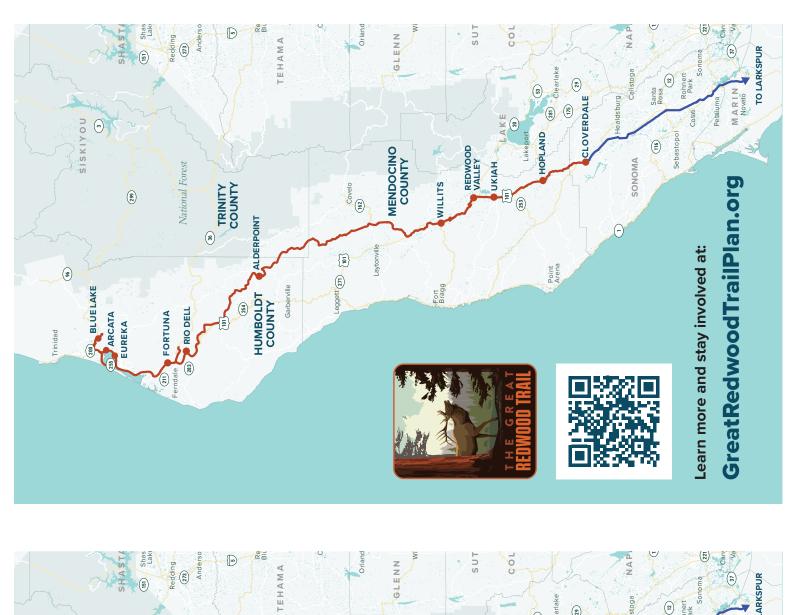
TRAIL EXPERIENCE

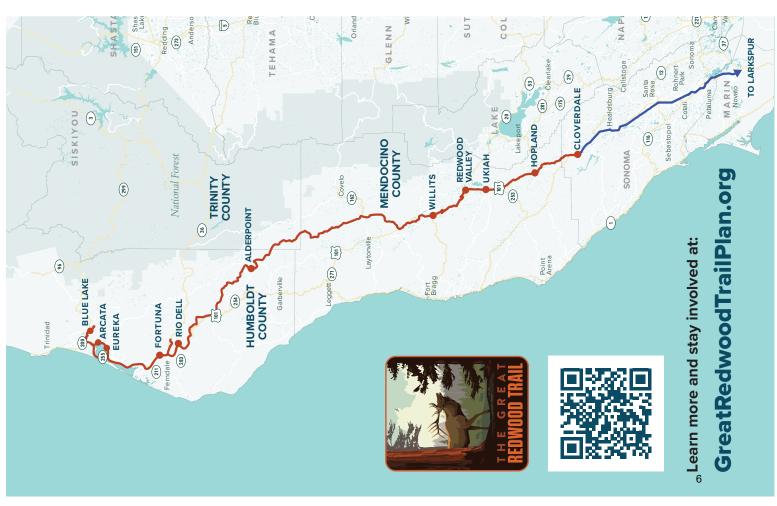
Help inform the look and feel of the trail and the amenities along it.



TRAIL TOWNS

Learn about the economic benefits of the trail and tell us what makes your trail town unique.







WHAT IS THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL?

The Great Redwood Trail is envisioned as a 316-mile rail-trail project connecting California's San Francisco and Humboldt Bays. Once completed, it will be the longest rail-trail in the United States and will traverse scenic landscapes including old-growth redwood forests, oak woodlands and vineyards, and the dramatic Eel River Canyon.

The Great Redwood Trail will connect the many unique communities of Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties, creating a transformational economic engine and boosting healthy recreation for all in the North Coast region.

1998

Operation of the NWP railroad ceased

2018

SB 1029 - Feasibility Reports

2021

SB 69 - Great Redwood Trail Act Passed

Transferred Sonoma & Marin to SMART

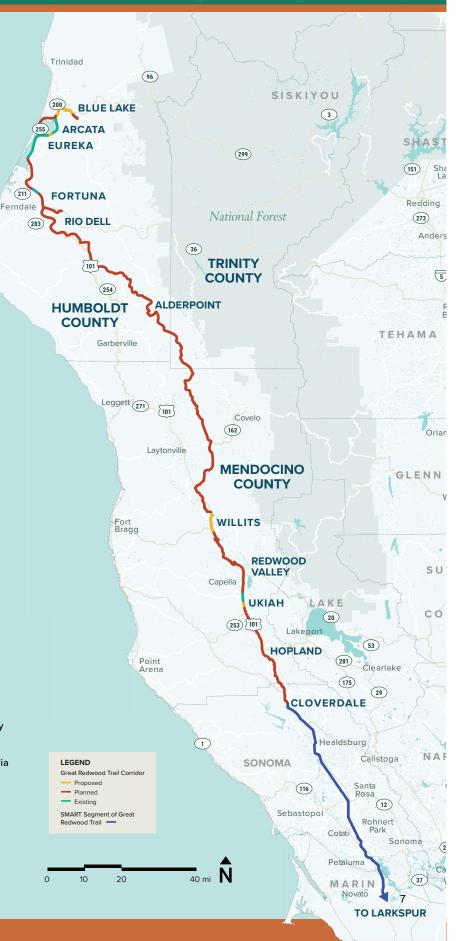
Created the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA)

Requires the rail corridor be preserved via railbanking

2022 - Present

Railbanked from Willits north (October)

Kicked Off the Master Plan (October)





WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

The master plan is a high-level roadmap for Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties that will provide guidance on:

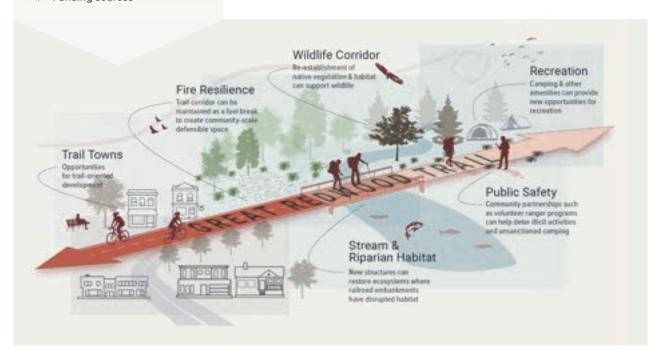
- ▶ Operations & maintenance
- ▶ Trail design
- Cultural & natural resource protection
- ▶ Habitat restoration
- ▶ Project prioritization
- Funding sources

The master plan will be informed by:

- In-person and virtual community meetings
- Small group problem solving meetings
- Tabling at events in your community

The project team is consulting a wide range of people including:

- ▶ Tribes
- ▶ First Responders
- Business Owners
- ► Farming & Ranching Community
- Local Leaders



MASTER PLAN SCHEDULE

2022 2023 2024 WINTER SUMMER FALL WINTER SPRING **WE ARE HERE BUILD CONSENSUS LISTEN & LEARN** REFINE **REVIEW** Information Gathering + Outreach **Develop Recommendations Develop Conceptual Designs** Share Public Draft Master Plan ★ Priority Trail Segments ★ Website & Survey Open ★ Evaluation Criteria - Trail Prioritization ★ Trail Design Criteria ★ Focus Group Meetings * Conceptual Designs for ★ Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Priority Segments





Source (above images): Friends of Annie & Mary Rail Trail

WHAT IS A RAIL TRAIL?

- Multi-use public paths created from former railroad corridors
- Model used across the country
- Over 25,000 miles in the US with over 1,000 miles in CA
- Rail trails support recreation, economic development, tourism, and environmental restoration in towns and rural areas





What is Railbanking?



Railbanking is a method, established in the National Trails System Act, to preserve an out-of-service rail corridor through interim use as a trail until a railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. The Great Redwood Trail Agency is mandated to railbank the former North Coast Railroad Authority rail corridor with the Surface Transportation Board. This use of railbanked corridors as trails has preserved thousands of miles of rail corridors that would otherwise have been abandoned.



TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



Protect and Restore the Environment

The trail design will address negative impacts from rail use. Trail projects will include:

- Restoring natural ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitats
- Restoring creeks and fish passage
- **Protecting Native American** cultural heritage
- Protecting waterways and improve water quality
- ▶ Removing abandoned rail equipment
- Restoring bridge and tunnel structures



Case Study: Elk River Restoration & Trail Project

The City of Eureka restored 114 acres of the Elk River estuary while constructing 1-mile of the Great Redwood and Eureka Waterfront Trail. The project restored critical estuarine habitat for fish and wildlife. This new section of Great Redwood Trail serves as an elevated berm that helps protect the coast from sea level rise.

Support Firefighting Access and Emergency Access

The Great Redwood Trail will support regional fire safety and emergency response by:

- Serving as a firebreak
- Providing emergency vehicle access to remote areas
- Building partnerships with local agencies to address fire and safety issues
- Restricting and managing campfires



Case Study: Sonoma County Trails as Fire Breaks

In Sonoma County, trails have been used as fire breaks to protect neighboring communities from major fires. Examples include Trione-Annadel State Park, Foothill Regional Park, Hood Mountain and others. Trails in these parks served as access points for fire fighting, fire breaks during fire incidents, and control lines for prescribed fires.



RAIL BEST PRACTICES



Be Good Neighbors

Research has shown that trail users stay on designated trails. The master plan process and future design phases will work with adjacent landowners to explore:

- ▶ Trail management solutions to maintain a clean and safe trail
- Rules and regulations to manage trail use and restrict undesirable activities
- Enforcement, patrols, and emergency response plans
- Design strategies to address concerns of adjacent neighbors and businesses, such as signage, fencing, landforms, and landscape buffers to encourage respectful trail use and increase privacy



Case Study: AG RESPECT Program

The Napa Vine Trail, a rail-trail traveling through vineyards and communities in Napa Valley, developed the AG RESPECT program to address agricultural community concerns. The guidelines were collaboratively developed by active agricultural operations and trail advocates. Signage, education, and trail management policies now help address top concerns from the agricultural community and reduce conflicts with trail users.



Proactive Approach to Homelessness

Much of the trail will be in rural and isolated areas that typically do not experience homeless encampments. However, sections in cities and developed communities with resources will require thoughtful and proactive responses to address encampments. Solutions could include:

- ▶ Working closely with homelessness outreach programs, county agencies, and continuums-of-care
- Designing standards for the trail that minimize the potential for unauthorized camping
- ► Coordinating with local agencies to provide active programming and events - research has shown that "public eyes" on trails and parks discourage camping
- Regular patrols and trail managers to contact when necessary
- Routine trail maintenance and management strategies



Case Study: Downtown Streets Team

City of San Jose worked with several local non-profits to address encampments along the Guadalupe River Trail. The non-profit, Downtown Streets Team, connects unhoused residents along the trail with services and provides opportunities for employment through trail cleanups. Peace Officers and young adults from the local Conservation Corps patrol the trail to keep 'eyes on the street' and clean up nuisances.



TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



Trail Experience

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

Well-maintained trails have been proven to deter crime and create a safe experience for recreation. The **Great Redwood Trail maintenance** and management plan will include:

- Routine maintenance plan for trailheads and restrooms
- Trail rules and regulations
- Nuisance abatement procedures
- Anti-graffiti coating on trail amenities
- Incorporate design elements, such as benches, interpretive panels, and public art into the trail

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH TRAIL DESIGN

The greatest deterrent to crime is creating a trail that is actively used and loved by the local community. Strategies include:

- Crime Prevention Through **Environmental Design (CPTED)**
- Well-lit and highly visible trailheads and access points
- Public art and murals
- Regular programming, including community events and races
- Overlapping uses, including visitor-serving businesses that face the trail

PATROLS & ENFORCEMENT

The master plan will include enforcement strategies such as:

- Coordinating with law enforcement
- Exploring options for routine volunteer patrols
- Creating a standard mile marker system to allow for quick emergency response



Case Study: LA River Rangers Program

This program employs trained staff and youth to patrol trails to provide safety monitoring and cleanup along the LA River Greenway.



Case Study: CV Link

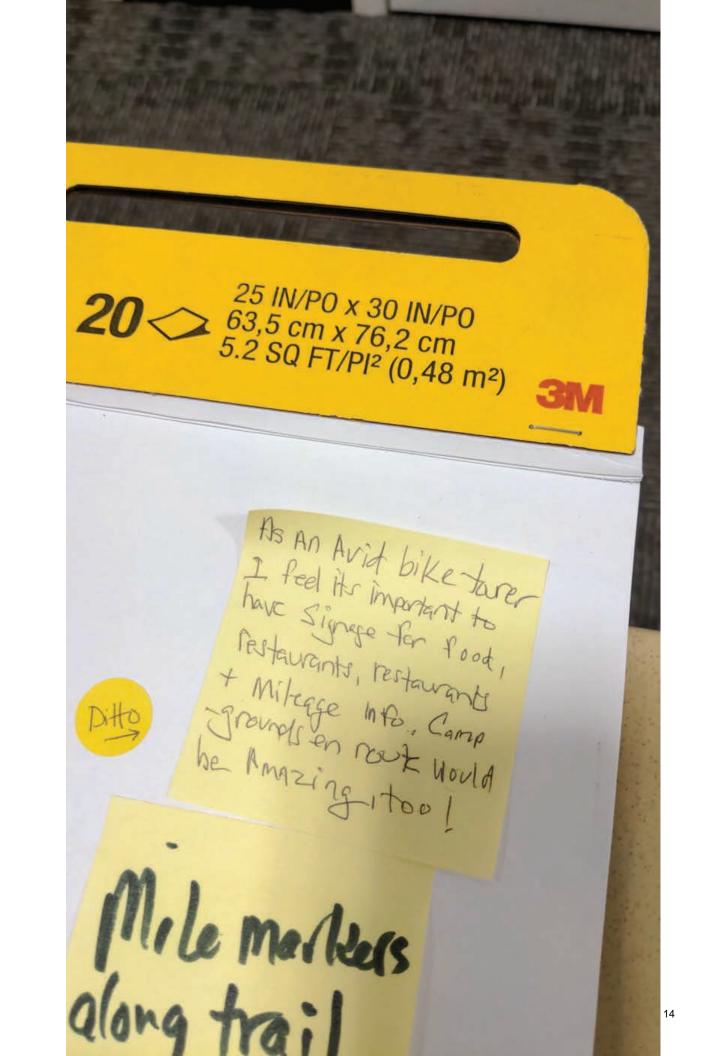
Highly visible access points with lighting and wayfinding. Amenities feature anti-graffiti coating that facilitates easy maintenance.

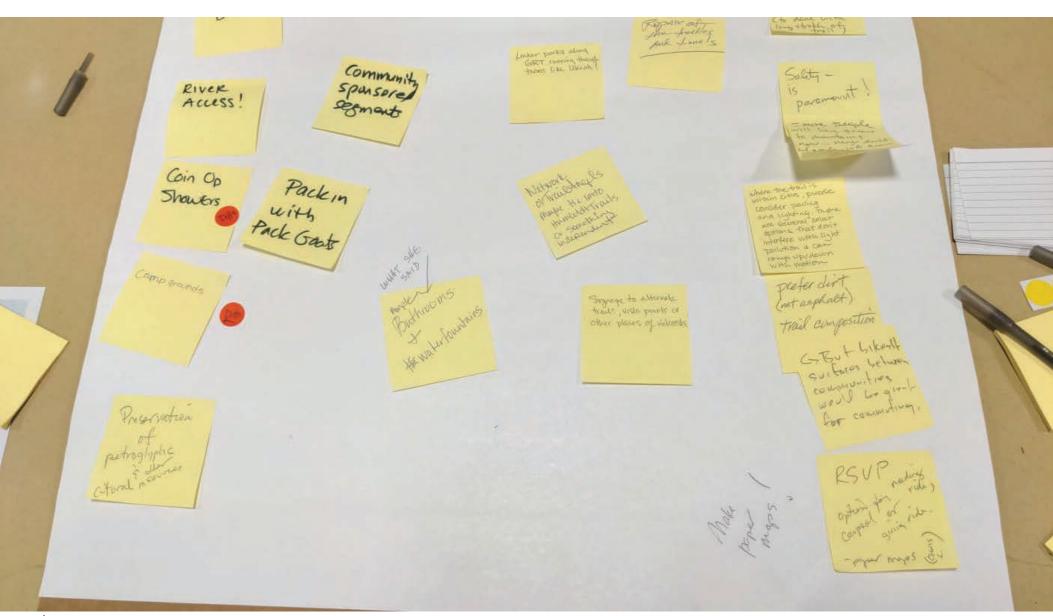


Case Study: Appalachian Trail Conservancy "Ridgerunners"

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has a trail patrol program called "Ridgerunners". Teams of volunteers and paid staff patrol the trail, providing assistance to hikers, monitoring trail conditions, and reporting any issues.







now never reache

where the trail is within cities, please consider paving and righting. There are several solar options that don't interfere with light pollution a can range up/down with motion

prefer dirt
(not asphabt)

trail composition

Confostion

Sor foros between communities
would be girely
for communities,



How can the Agency loc a good,

Tourism opportunity through local troise use or business catering to guiding trail Rides

designs as use a connecting

GARBAGE, ARANDONSO RAIL ED

Contact local to Area Back Country Horsemen units for trail maintainance and Presence for safety

Using Forest service trail grants to help equip people to break/maintain trail LOCALS?

Clarke Museum
landowner :
contacts in
campon!
malked whole combe

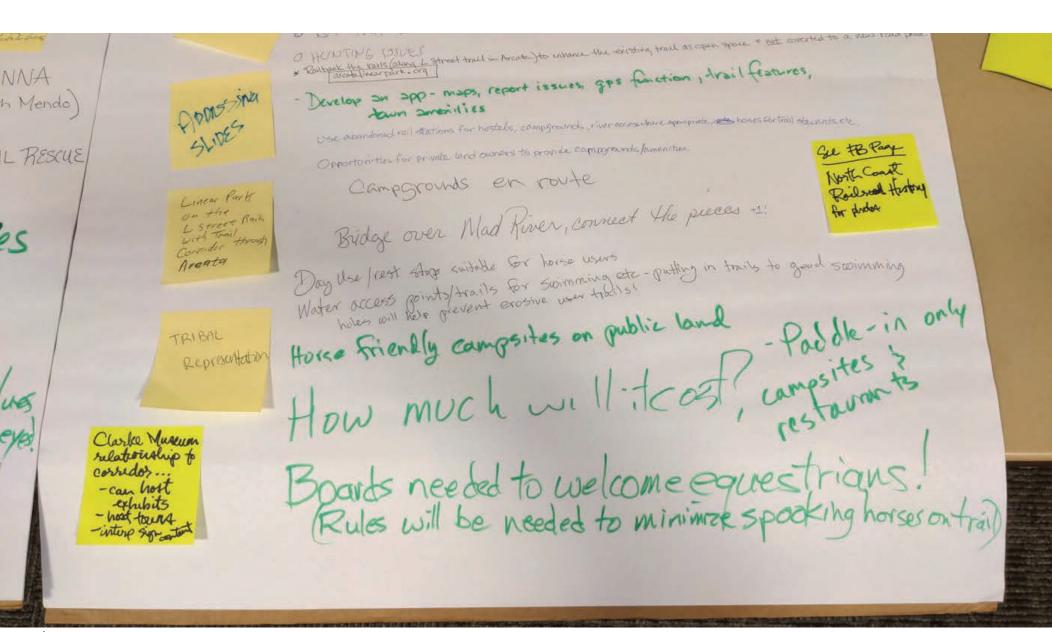
fish Passage

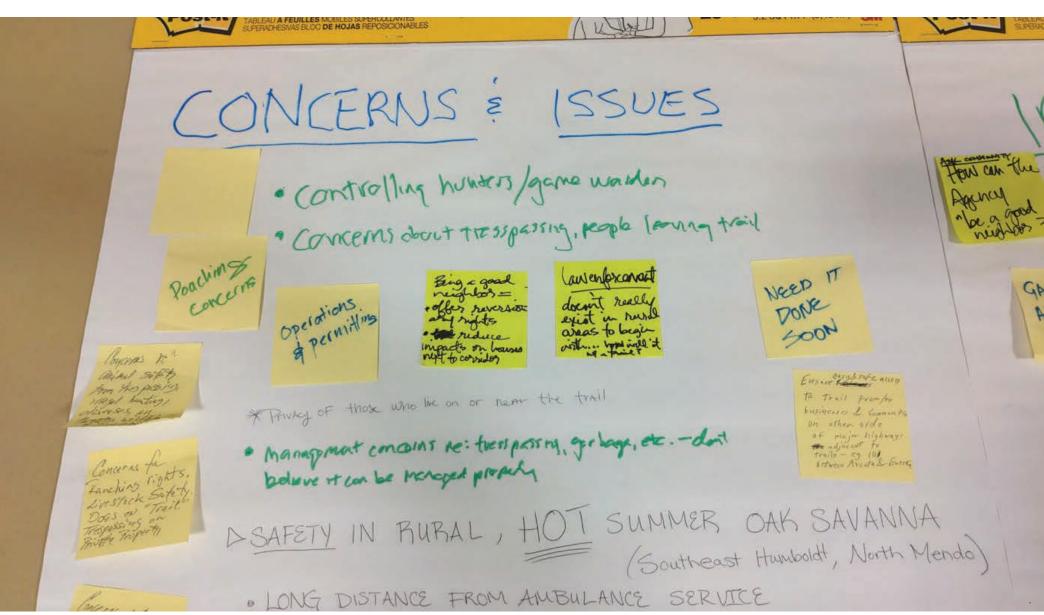
O BAT MANURE IN BLAND MTN. / TUNNELS - BIG BAT HABITAT

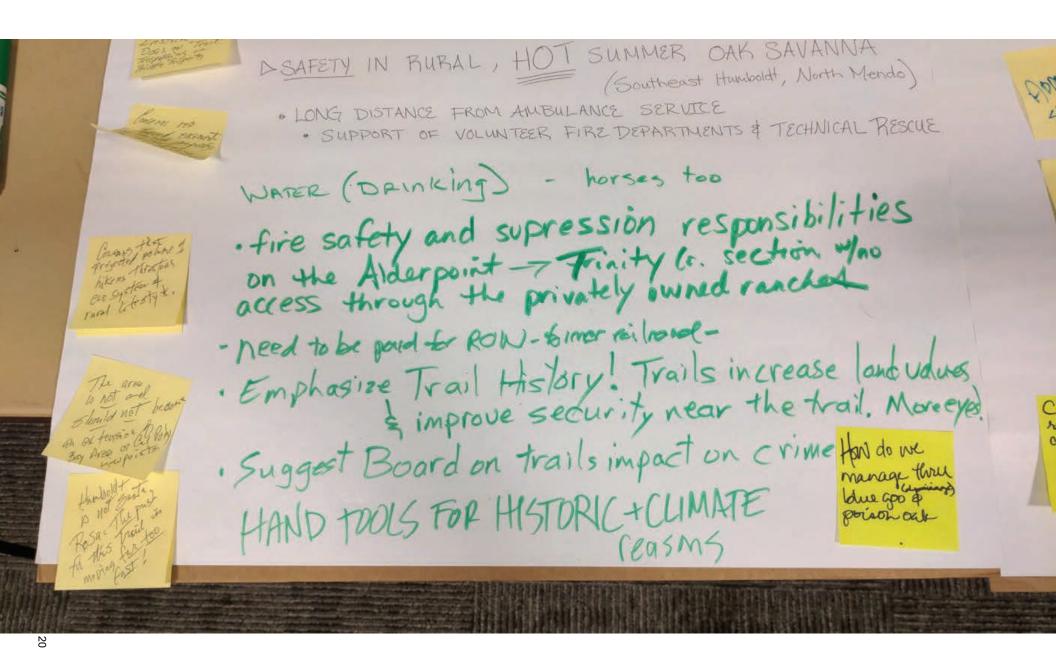
* Rombout the rails (along L street trail in Arcate) to enhance the existing trail as open space * not coverted to a new road these.

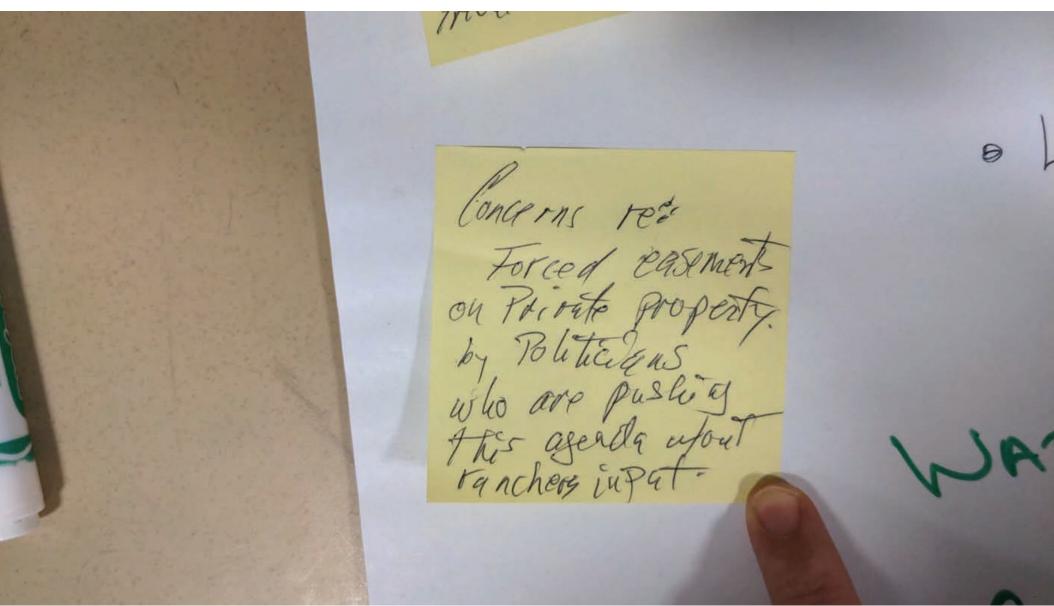
Clomsting

- Develop on opp-maps, report issues, gps function, trailfeatures,











Instructions:

STEP 1

You are the local expert.
Think about the destinations and opportunities you can envision for the Great Redwood Trail.

STEP 2

Mark a pin on the map for a destination or opportunity. There are three colors of pins:

0

Access (red) -

These are where you would prefer to get on the trail.



Destination (blue) -

These are great existing destinations along the trail, such as businesses, parks, or amazing views.



Opportunity (green) -

These are opportunities for new parks, new businesses or development, or future water access.

STEP 3

Mark as many destinations or opportunities as you would like. Add a sticky note next to your pin with any additional details! (i.e. Great view of Eel River Canyon)





10

0

N

Help us identify trail destinations and opportunities in South Mendocino county!





Instructions:

STEP 1

You are the local expert.
Think about the destinations and opportunities you can envision for the Great Redwood Trail.

STEP 2

Mark a pin on the map for a destination or opportunity.

There are three colors of pins:

•

Access (red) -

These are where you would prefer to get on the trail.



Destination (blue) -

These are great existing destinations along the trail, such as businesses, parks, or amazing views.



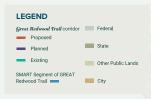
Opportunity (green) -

These are opportunities for new parks, new businesses or development, or future water access.

STEP 3

Mark as many destinations or opportunities as you would like. Add a sticky note next to your pin with any additional details! (i.e. Great view of Eel River Canyon)





0

N

10

Help us identify trail destinations and opportunities in North Mendocino county!





Instructions:

STEP 1

You are the local expert.
Think about the destinations and opportunities you can envision for the Great Redwood Trail.

STEP 2

Mark a pin on the map for a destination or opportunity.
There are three colors of pins:

•

Access (red) -

These are where you would prefer to get on the trail.



Destination (blue) -

These are great existing destinations along the trail, such as businesses, parks, or amazing views.



Opportunity (green) -

These are opportunities for new parks, new businesses or development, or future water access.

STEP 3

Mark as many destinations or opportunities as you would like. Add a sticky note next to your pin with any additional details! (i.e. Great view of Eel River Canyon)





0

Pacific Ocean

(N)

10

Help us identify trail destinations and opportunities in South Humboldt and Trinity Counties!





Instructions:

STEP 1

You are the local expert.
Think about the destinations and opportunities you can envision for the Great Redwood Trail.

STEP 2

Mark a pin on the map for a destination or opportunity. There are three colors of pins:

Access (red) -

These are where you would prefer to get on the trail.



Destination (blue) -

These are great existing destinations along the trail, such as businesses, parks, or amazing views.



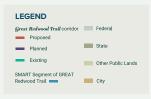
Opportunity (green) -

These are opportunities for new parks, new businesses or development, or future water access.

STEP 3

Mark as many destinations or opportunities as you would like. Add a sticky note next to your pin with any additional details! (i.e. Great view of Eel River Canyon)





0

N

10

Help us identify trail destinations and opportunities in North Humboldt County!





Instructions:

STEP 1

You are the local expert. Think about the destinations and opportunities you can envision for the Great Redwood Trail.

STEP 2

Mark a pin on the map for a destination or opportunity. There are three colors of pins:

Access (red) -

These are where you would prefer to get on the trail.



Destination (blue) -

These are great existing destinations along the trail, such as businesses, parks, or amazing views.



Opportunity (green) -

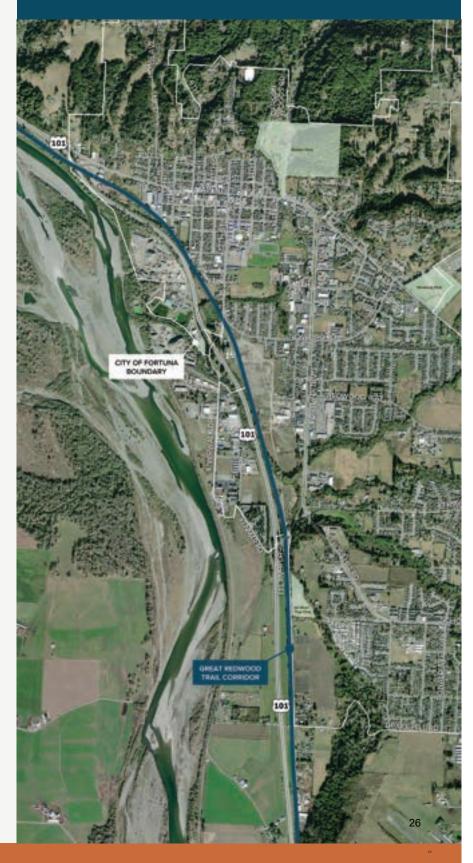
These are opportunities for new parks, new businesses or development, or future water access.

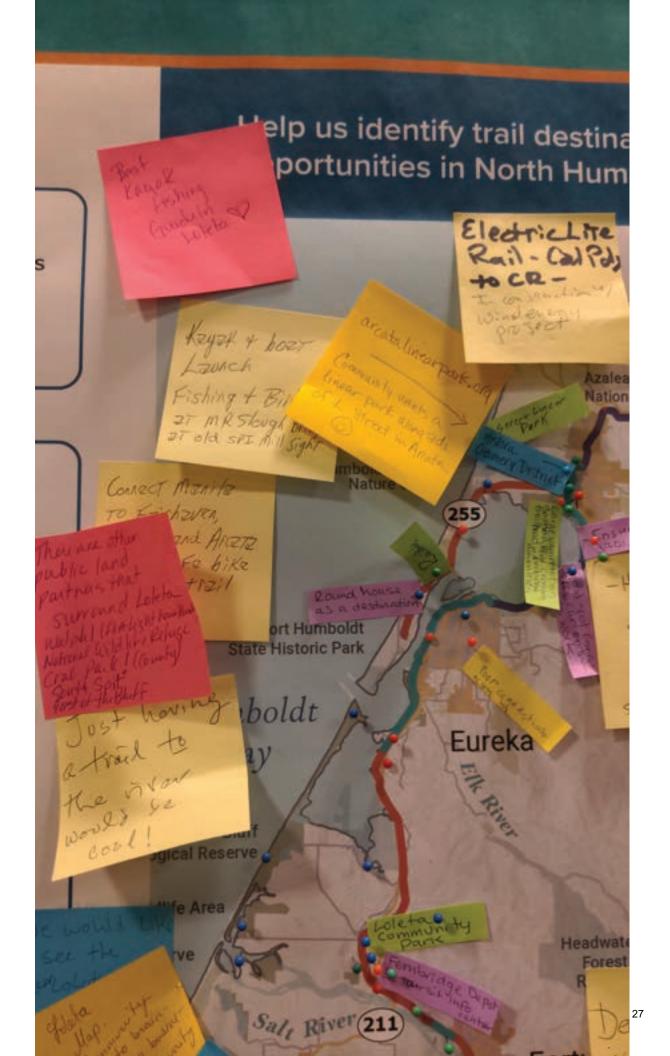
STEP 3

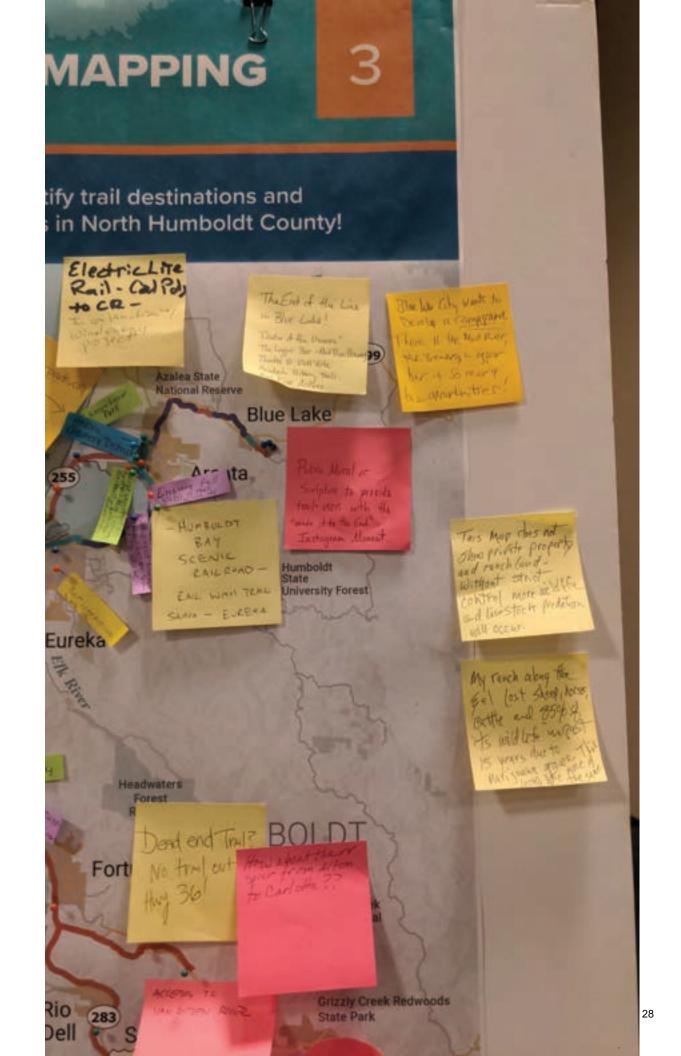
Mark as many destinations or opportunities as you would like. Add a sticky note next to your pin with any additional details! (i.e. Great view of Eel River Canyon)

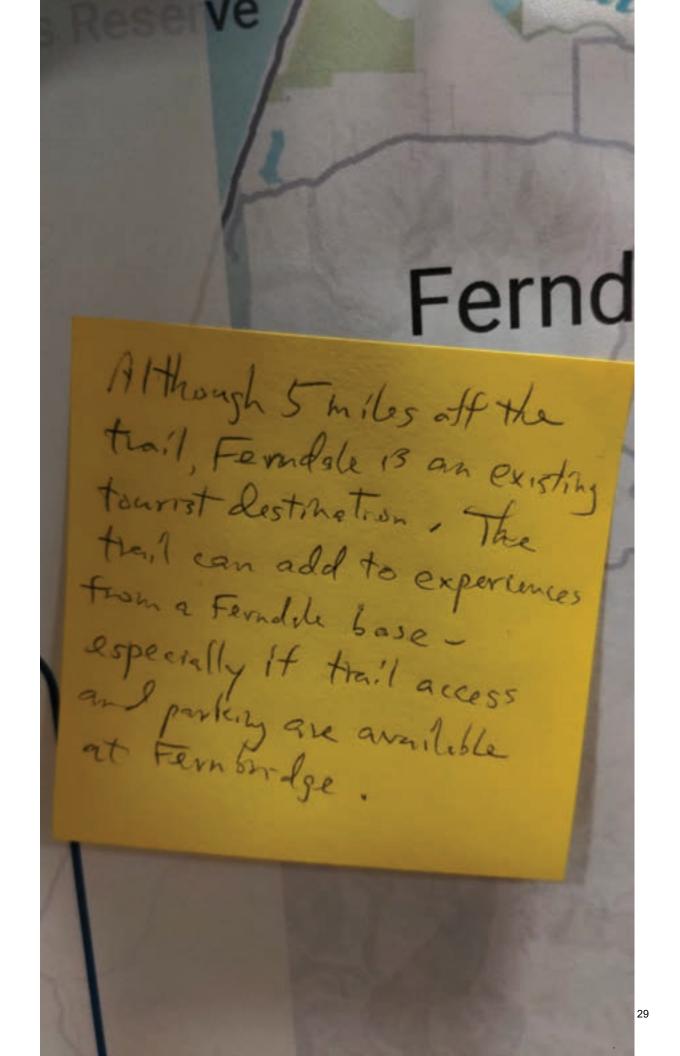


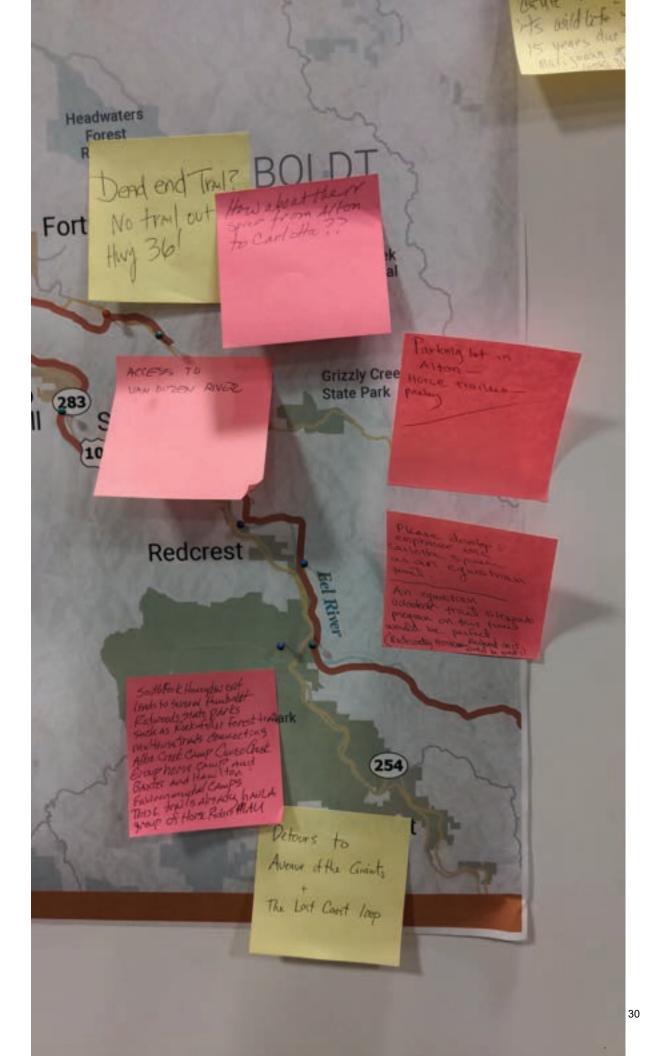
Help us identify trail destinations and opportunities in Fortuna!



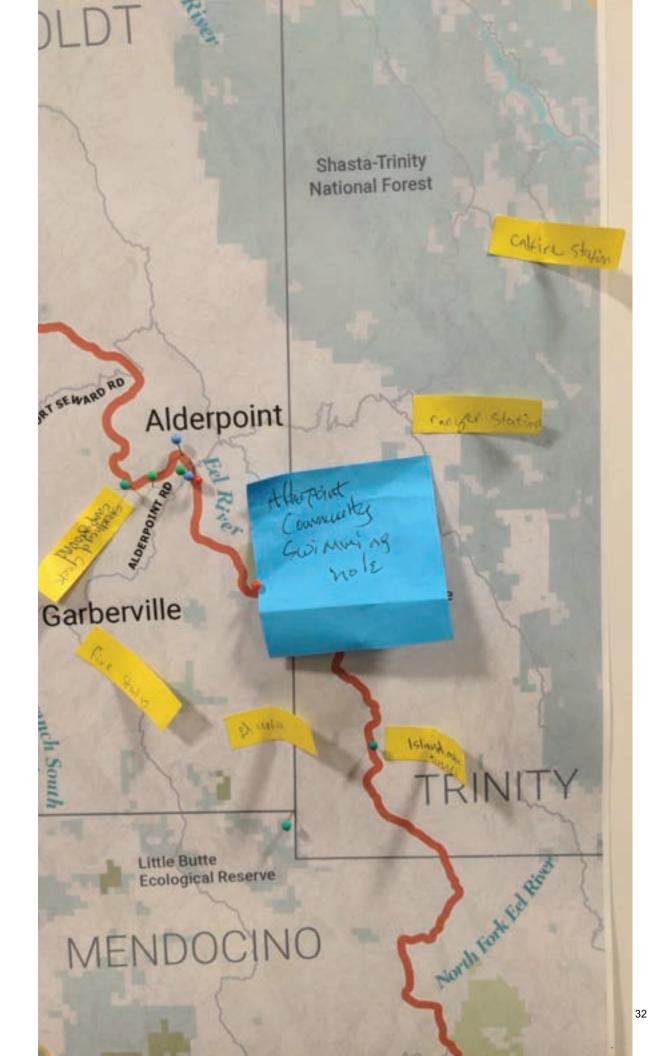


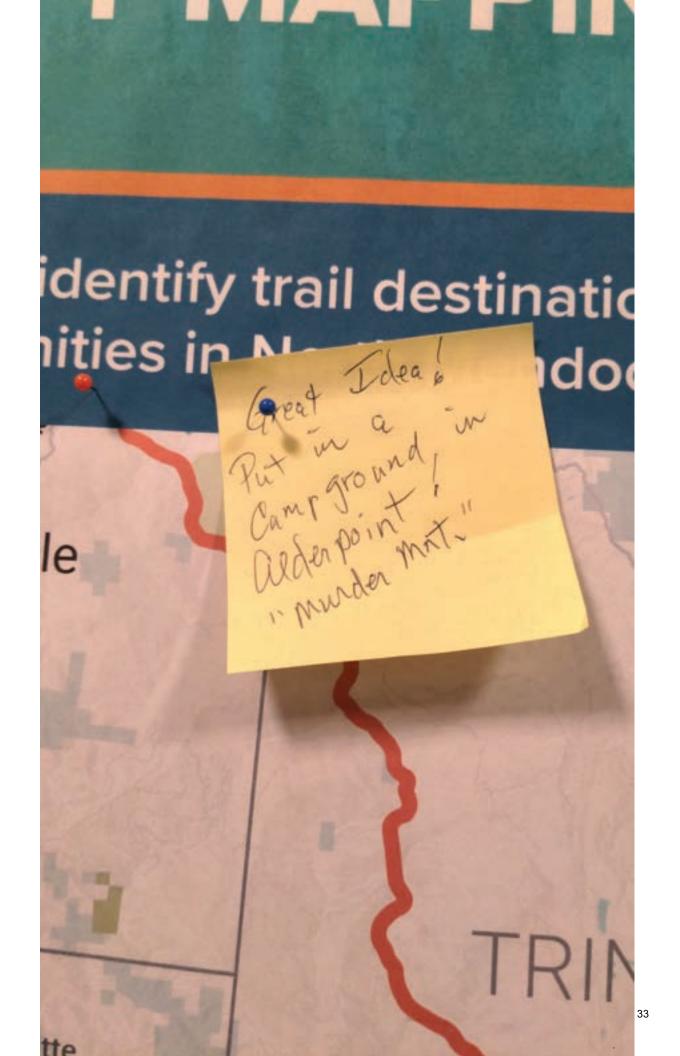






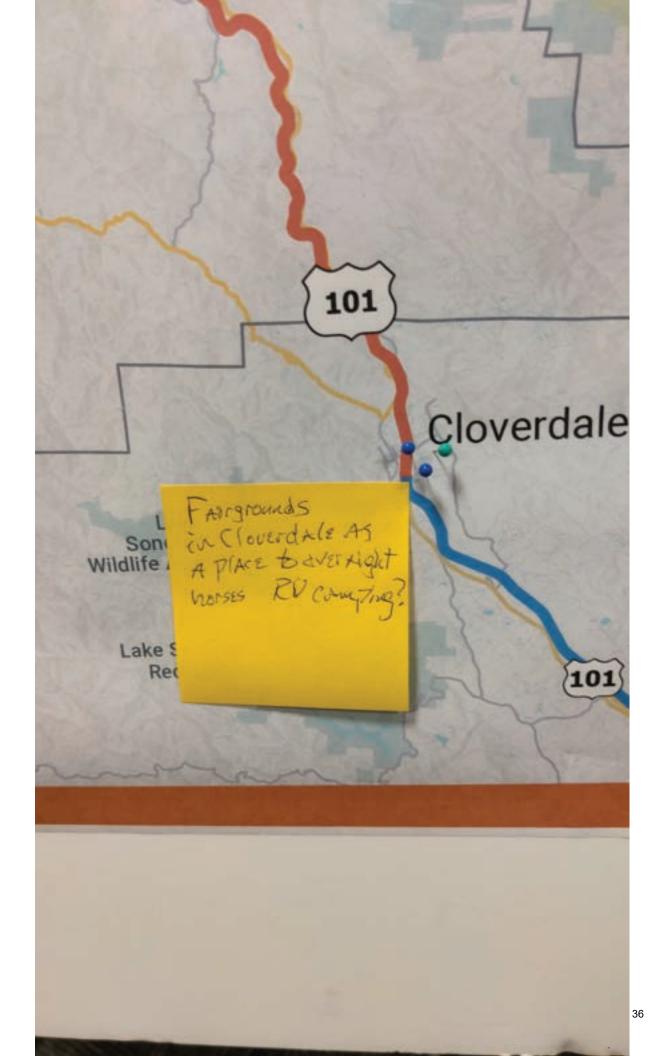






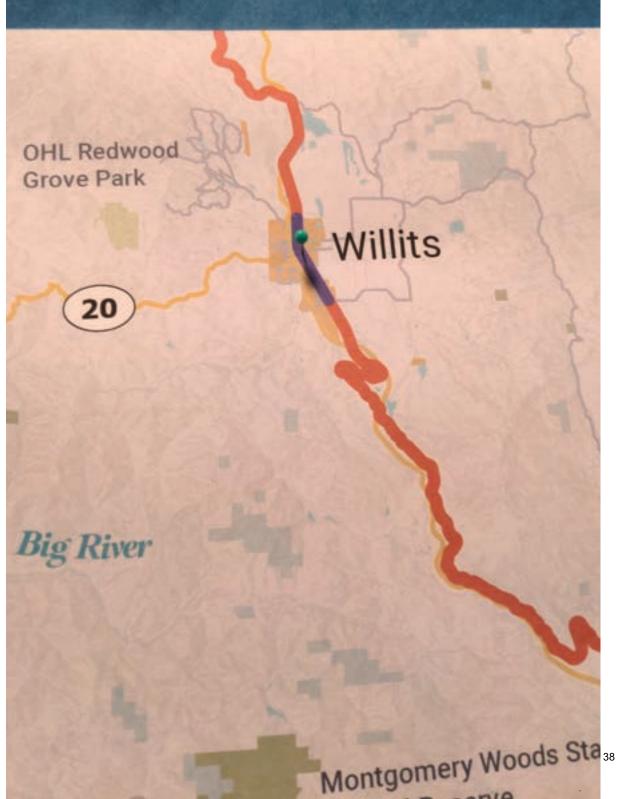


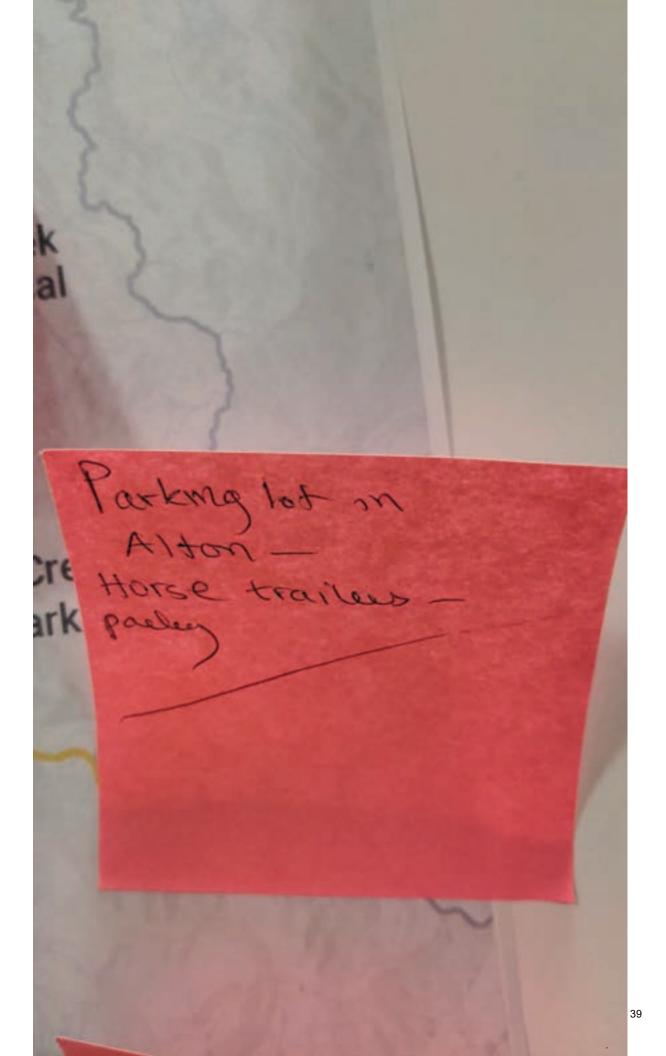


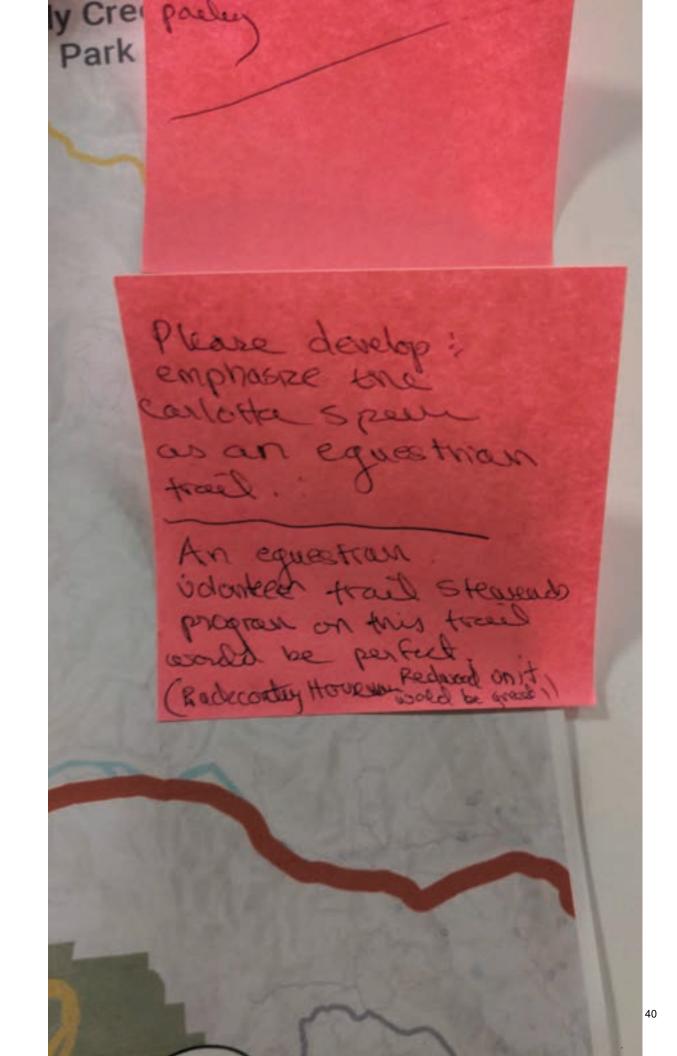


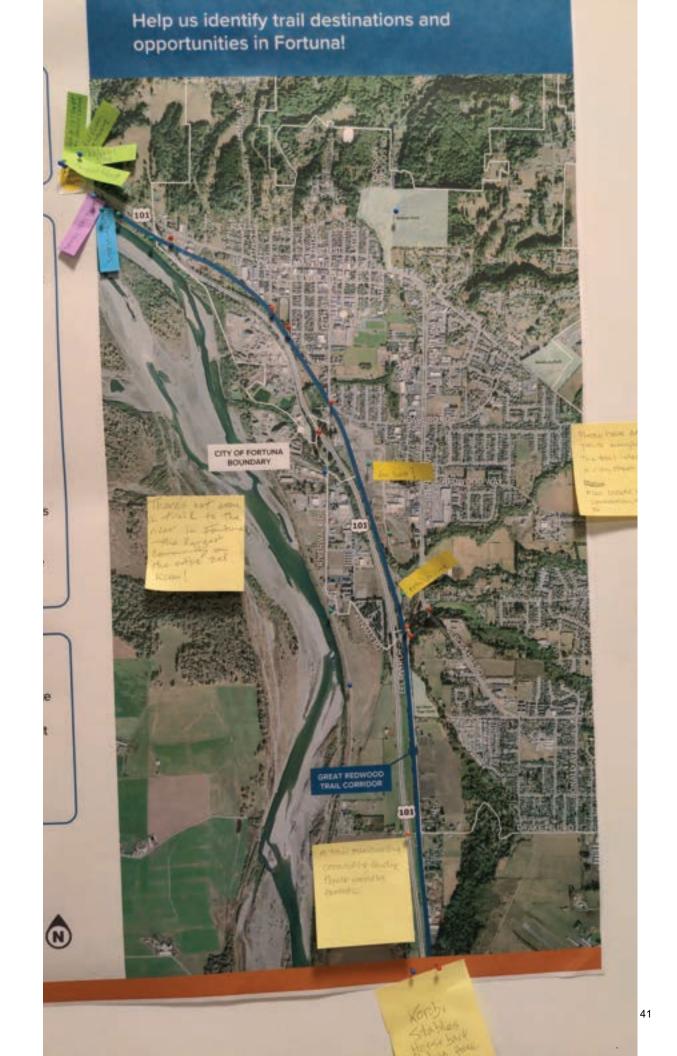
SouthFork Honrydew Exit (Ends to Siver & Humboldt REdwoods State PATKS Such as Rockafeller forest transark Multiusitrails Connecting Albe CoEEK CAMP CUNECCEEK Group horse CAMP And BAXTER AND HAMI (ton Environmental CAMPS These trails Already braven group of Horse Riders MAU Vetous

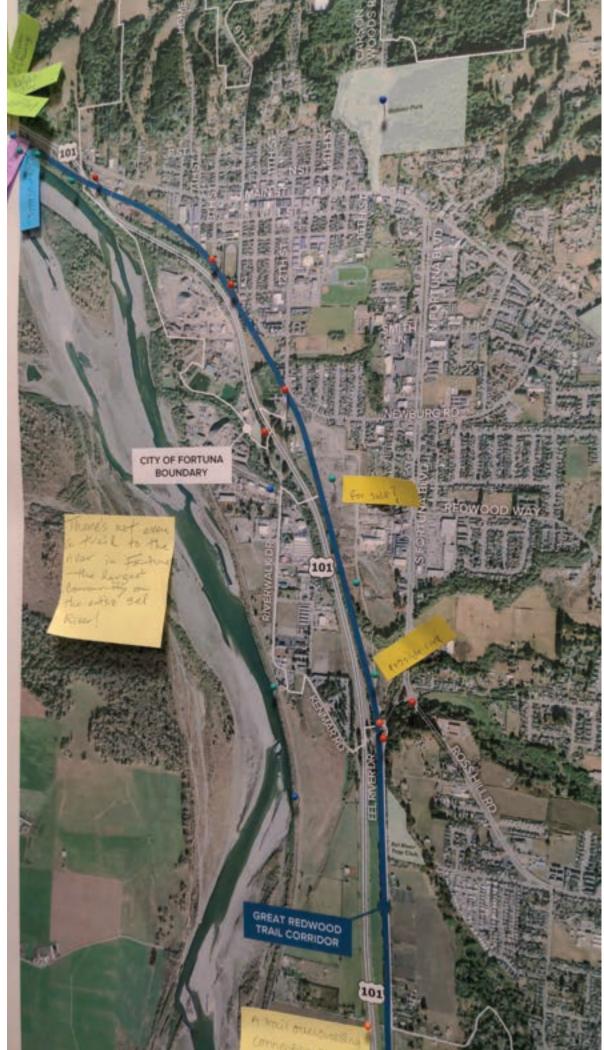
Help us identify trail dest opportunities in South M

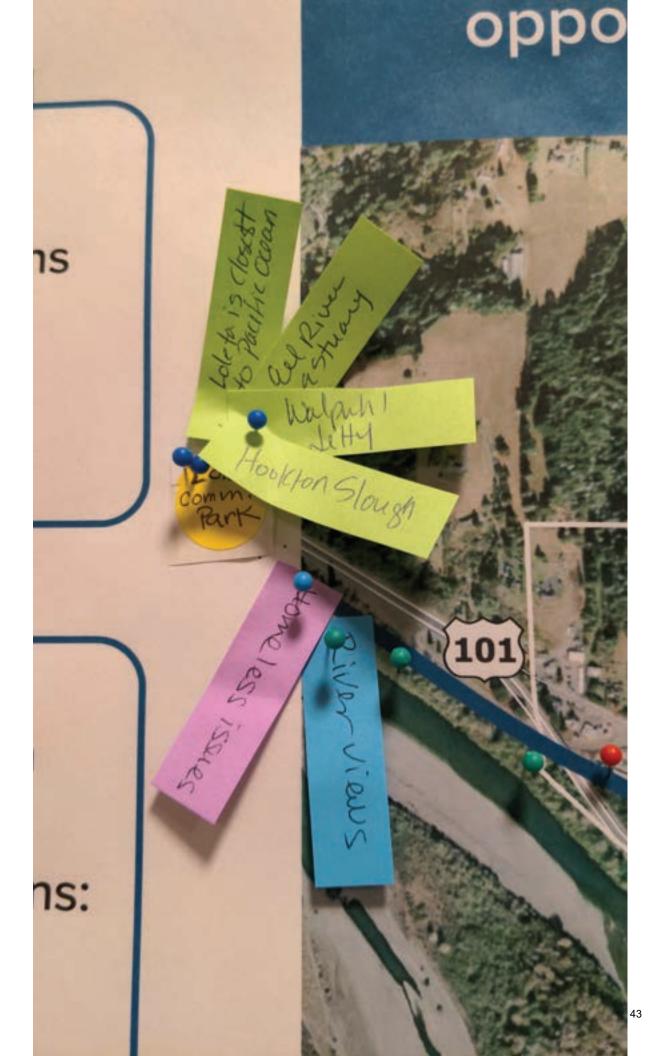


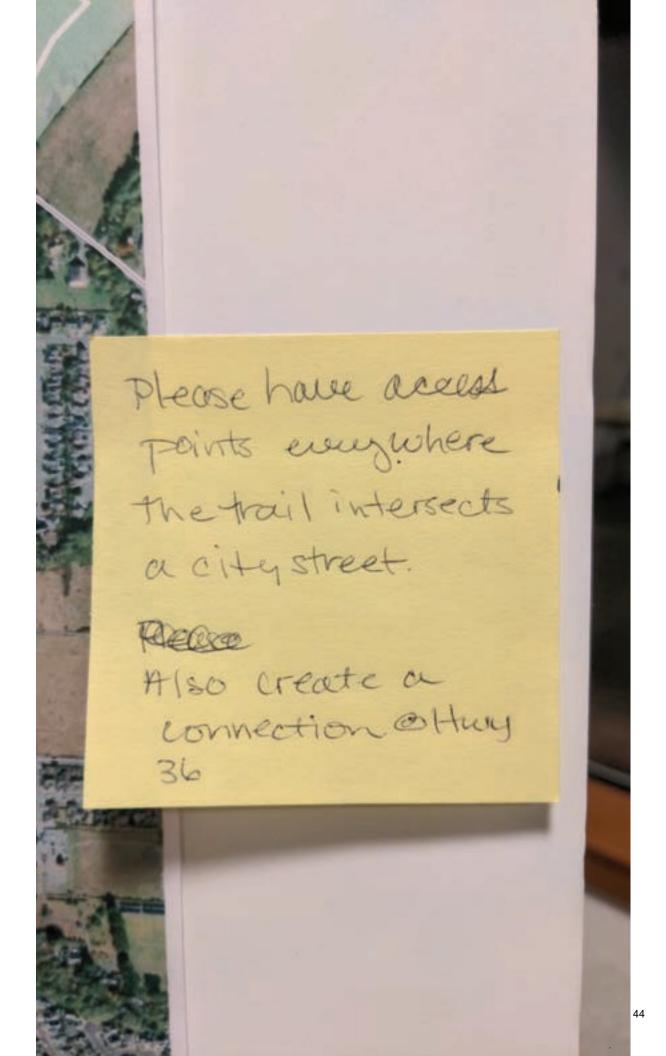


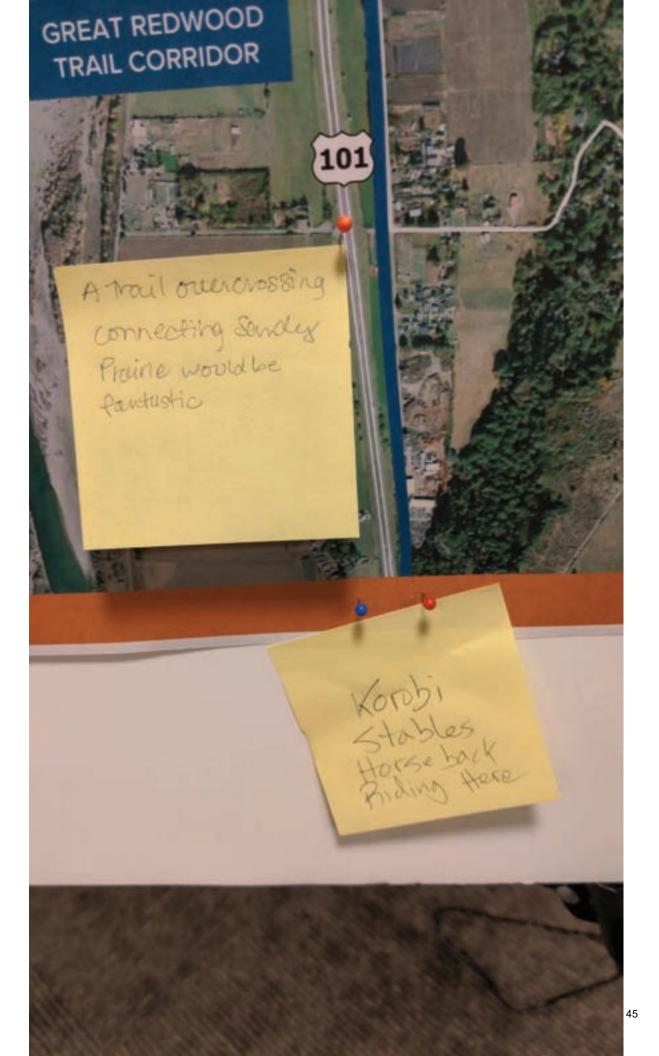




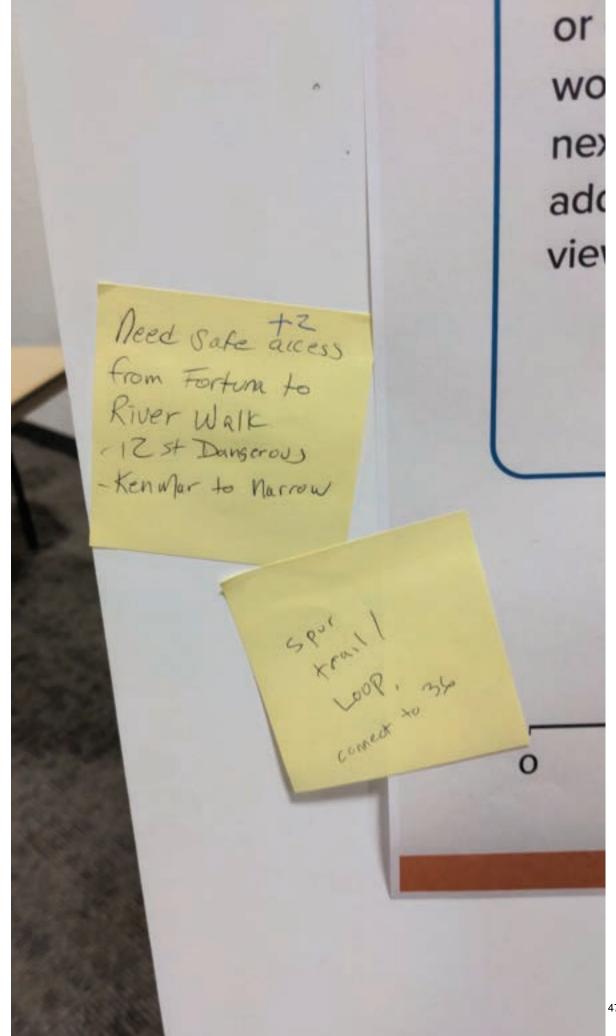








are great destinations he trail, such as Eco ogica sses, parks, or g views. we would Like to see the tunity (green ther LoLota spur are opportur horses/mule v parks, usi pn storm and dealer bushy acc - sine 5522 and best community Although 5 mile LOLETA trail can add to c France Foundale base iny destinations nities as you Add a sticky note r pin with any details! (i.e. Great





TRAIL EXPERIENCE

HOW DO YOU WANT THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL TO LOOK AND FEEL?

STEP 1

Take a sticker from the bag below!

STEP 2

Vote for the look and feel option you like the most!

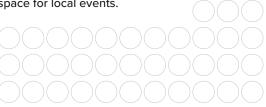
STEP 3

Add a sticky note to the board and tell us why you like or dislike an option!



Vibrant Culture

Embrace the contemporary culture with "stations" in each town, with bold public art and space for local events.



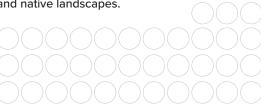






Green & Blue Ribbon

Connect the corridor by celebrating local ecology and hydrology, with natural materials and native landscapes.



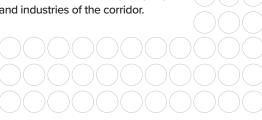






Passage Through Time

Tell the history of the corridor, through historic artifacts and materials that celebrate past peoples and industries of the corridor.











TRAIL EXPERIENCE

WHAT TRAIL FEATURES ARE MOST **IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

STEP 1

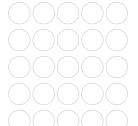
Take three stickers from the bag below!

STEP 2

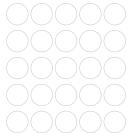
Vote for the trail features that you care most about! You can spend all three of your "votes" however you like - spread amongst three choices or all on one!

CAMPGROUNDS



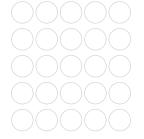






RIVER ACCESS & BOAT LAUNCHES



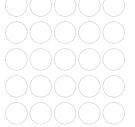




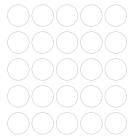


PUBLIC ART









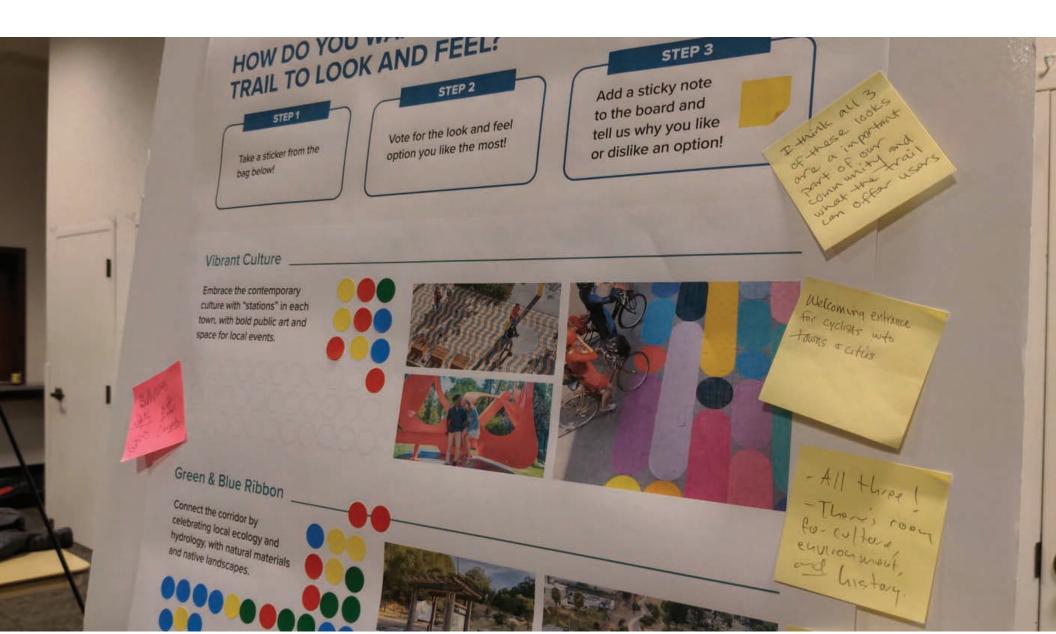
REST AREAS & OVERLOOKS

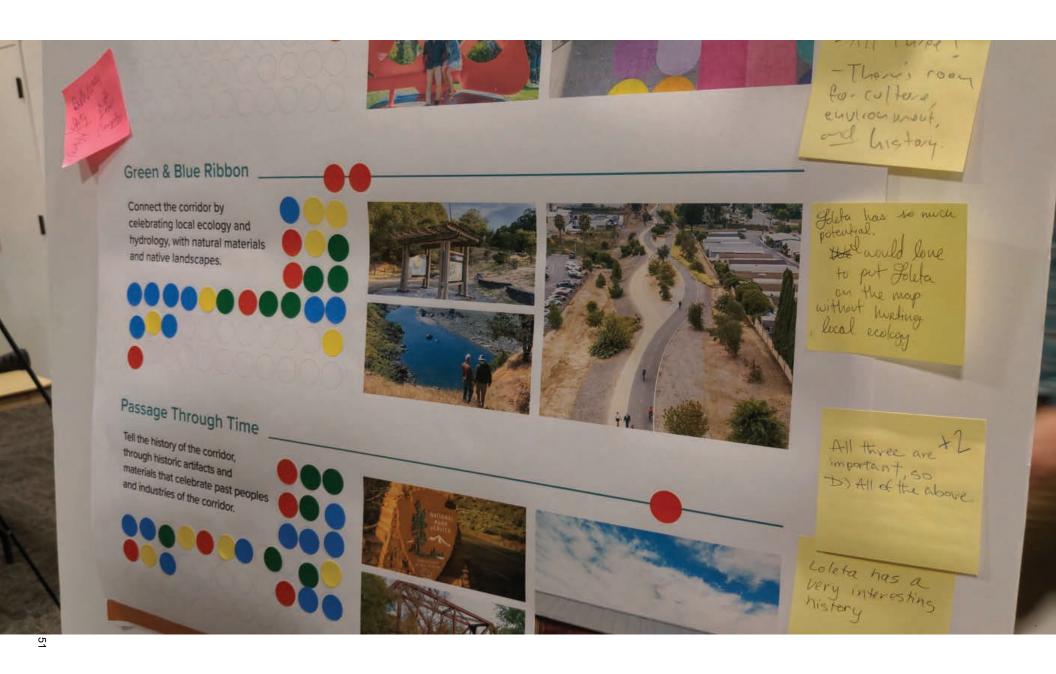




LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

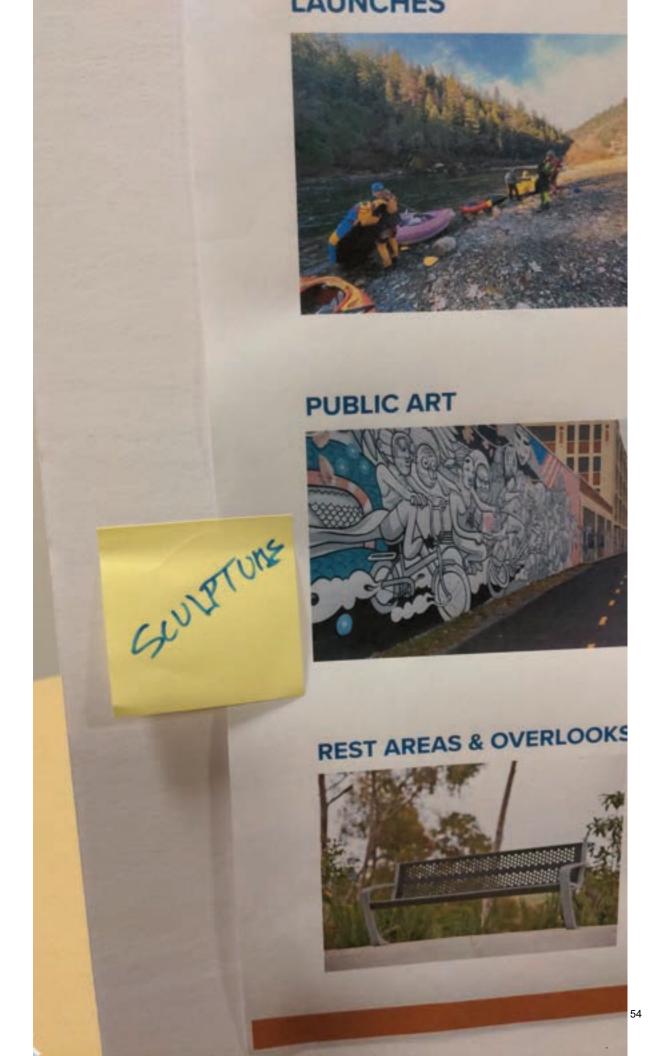


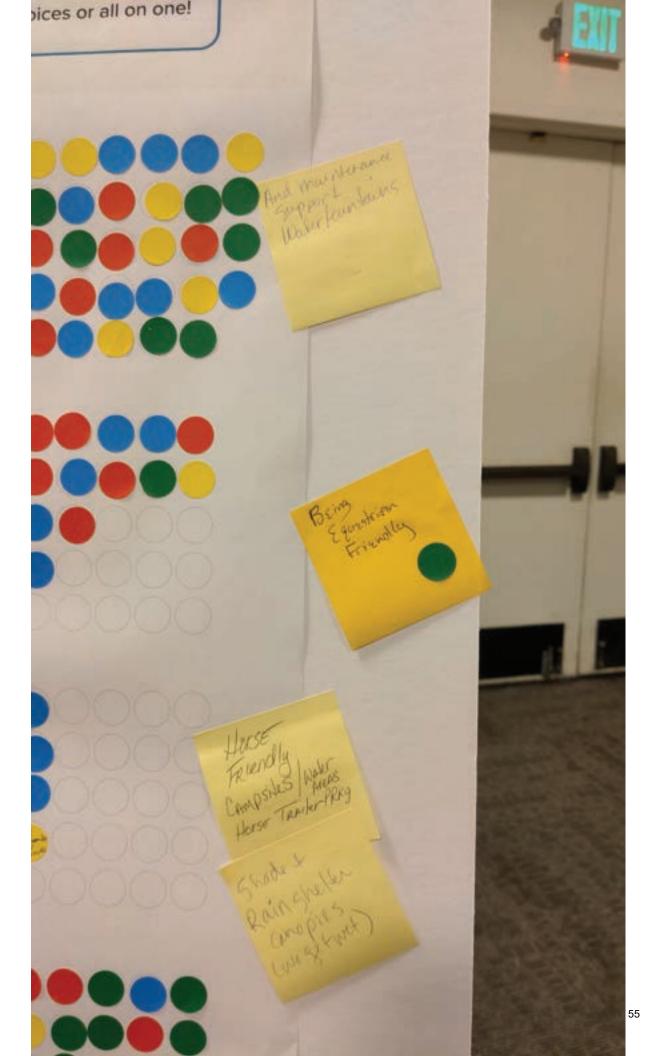














How Will the Great Redwood Trail create Economic Benefits for my Community?

The Great Redwood Trail will be a transformational economic engine in Northern California. The immense scale and scenic beauty of the completed trail will create new recreational experiences that will become destinations for the entire state and beyond, with 6.1 to 9.2 million trips expected annually.



Recreation, Tourism, and Retail Benefits

The Great Redwood Trail is expected to have 2 to 3.1 million trips annually by visitors from outside the region. New tourism from the Great Redwood Trail will be able to support increased economic development near and along the trail, such as expanded or new lodging, restaurants, rentals, and retail.

\$62,693,000 annual revenue



\$23,519,000 FOOD/MEALS



\$5,972,000 RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS



\$398,000 BICYCLE RENTALS



\$29,905,000LODGING



\$1,899,000ENTERTAINMENT



Health Benefits

The Great Redwood Trail will expand opportunities for physical activity and exercise for local residents and visitors, which will improve long-term community health and reduce regional health care costs.

\$38,455,000 annual cost savings

Rural communities in Northern California experience significantly higher rates of stroke, heart disease, vehicular collisions, and death than the rest of the state. Benefits from the trail will include:

- Increased physical activity levels
- Increased cardiovascular health
- ▶ Fewer vehicular collisions
- Improved mental health and well-being
- Reduced burden on regional health care system



Transportation Benefits

The Great Redwood Trail will create new opportunities for local residents and visitors to walk and bike more frequently as a means of transportation for short trips, such as going to the park, running errands, or getting to and from work and school.

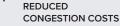
\$2,420,000 annual cost savings



\$669,000 REDUCED VEHICLE CRASH COSTS



\$206,000





\$188,000 REDUCED ROAD MAINTENANCE COSTS



1,230 metric tons*REDUCTION IN ANNUAL CO₂ EMISSIONS



\$1,258,000 HOUSEHOLD VEHICLE OPERATION COST SAVINGS *1,230 metric tons are equivalent to the CO₂ removed from the atmosphere by 1,456 acres of U.S. forests in one year.

Total Benefits:

\$102,568,000









ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Great Redwood Trail will draw visitors to communities along the trail. Visitors will spend on meals, lodging, entertainment and retail shops. Economic development strategies can help maximize the positive impact on the trail.



Economic Development strategies may include:

- Expansion of existing businesses near the trail
- New businesses to cater to trail users including:
 - Restaurants, cafes and coffee shops
 - Retail shops and outfitters
 - Hotels, B&Bs
 - Equipment
- Relocation of existing businesses companies often choose to locate in communities that offer a high level of amenities as a means of attracting and retaining employees
- Development and revitalization of depressed areas, such as converting vacant building or lots into businesses
- ► Agritourism such as:
 - · Cannibis or vineyard farm tours
 - · Farm stays
- Private campgrounds from adjacent landowners



The Great Allegheny Passage is a 150-mile multiuse rail-trail between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Cumberland, Maryland. An economic development trail program included the following:

- ▶ Economic impact studies and trail counts
- Consistent trail-wide marketing
- A business network
- Coaching and capital for business owners

As a result, trail visitors have increased tenfold, and 65 new businesses and 270 new jobs have been created. The overall economic impact of the GAP now reaches \$50 million each year.





What makes your community a special place to visit?						
How could the trail tell your community's his	story or					
honor leaders in your community?	story or					
honor leaders in your community?	story or					
honor leaders in your community?	story or					
honor leaders in your community?	story or					
honor leaders in your community?	Story or					
honor leaders in your community?	Story or					
honor leaders in your community?	Story or					
honor leaders in your community?	Story or					
honor leaders in your community?	Story or					
honor leaders in your community?	Story or					

What type of new businesses would benefit from the trail?					
	businesses ca ocal economy?		0		

