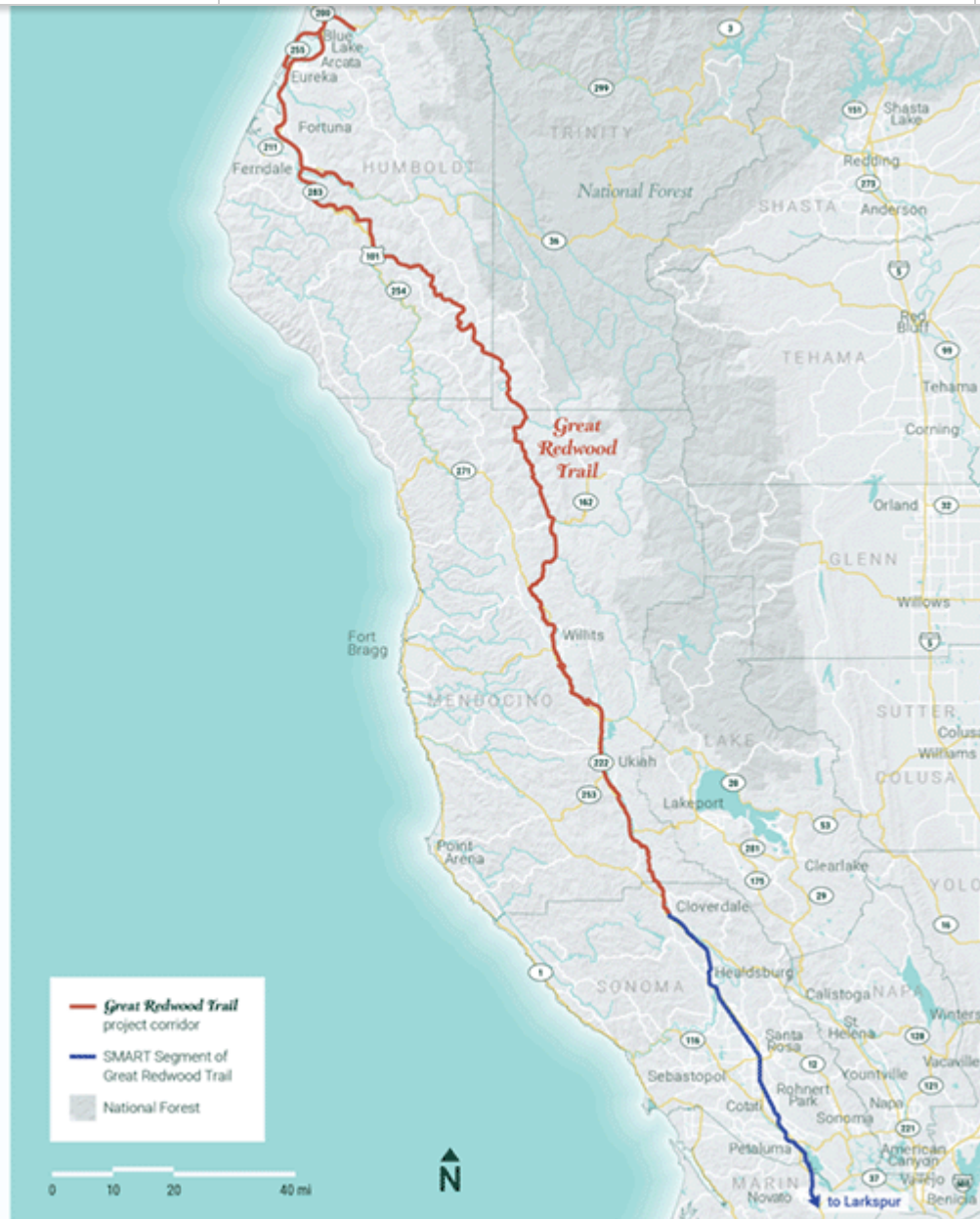


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## **The Vision: From Bay to Bay, the Scenic Way**

The Great Redwood Trail (GRT) is a 316-mile rail-trail project that will eventually connect California's San Francisco and Humboldt Bays. Once completed, it will be the longest rail-trail in the United States and will travel through scenic landscapes including old-growth redwood forests, oak woodlands and vineyards, and the dramatic Eel River Canyon. The GRT will connect the many vibrant 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. This master planning process focuses on the stretch of trail north of Cloverdale, through Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties.



## What Is a Master Plan?

The Great Redwood Trail Master Plan will serve as a road map for planning, constructing, and managing the future Great Redwood Trail. A robust community engagement plan will inform the master plan, capturing community desires, concerns, and ideas about development of the Great Redwood Trail. The process of developing the master plan is underway now and will conclude in 2024. Once complete, the master plan will serve as a guiding document to address issues including but not limited to trail user experience, trail design,



*The master plan will identify how the Great Redwood Trail can create overlapping social, environmental, and economic benefits.*

## A Great Boost to the Local Economy

Once completed, the GRT is expected to generate over **\$100 million per year** in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties, according to an Economic Benefits Assessment report prepared for the master plan. The immense scale and scenic beauty of the completed trail will provide new recreational experiences that will attract trail users from across the country, transforming an abandoned rail corridor into an economic engine for the region. The benefits of the trail will expand beyond the trail itself and into “trail towns”—communities along the corridor that support trail users with services, promote the trail to their citizens and regions, and embrace the trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated. The mutual relationship between the GRT and the trail towns along the way can create sustained economic benefits for generations.

Of the estimated 6.2 to 9.2 million annual walking, biking, and equestrian trips, roughly 33% are expected to be from outside the region, which represents **\$62 million annual tourism dollars being spent locally**. With new demand, trail towns can support economic development. Local entrepreneurs and established businesses will have opportunities to capture this \$62 million expected to be spent annually on lodging, rentals, entertainment, retail, and meals.

desirable and accessible trail will expand opportunities for trail recreation, increase access to park facilities, and make it easier for people to walk and bike to destinations. This will have a region-wide impact on community health, including increased physical activity levels, fewer vehicular collisions, and improved mental health and well-being. In total, increased activity due to the completed Great Redwood Trail may result in **\$38 million in health-care cost savings and \$2 million in transportation cost savings annually** in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties.

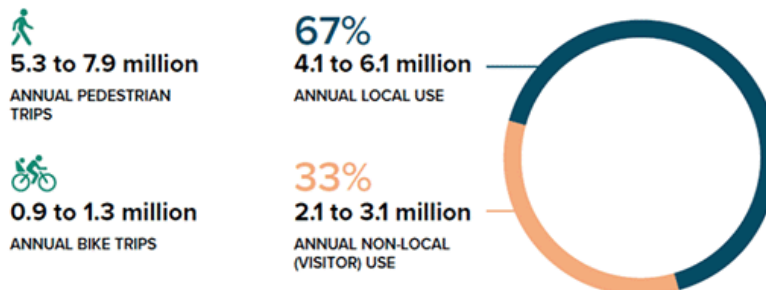
To read the full report, see the [Documents](#) section of the website.

Total Annual Benefits:

**\$102,568,000**

Total Estimated Annual Walking and Biking Trips

**6.2 to 9.2 million trips**



## A Trail for the Community, Guided by the Community

The success of the GRT is dependent on input from the residents and communities along the corridor. Throughout 2023 and into 2024, there will be frequent opportunities to learn more about the project and have your voices heard!

The Great Redwood Trail Master Plan kicked off in October 2022 with a local town hall led by Senator Mike McGuire, who spoke with constituents to bring the community into the planning process. Since then, 600 people have provided feedback on the project, 300 people have participated in an online survey, and 100 people have expressed interest in volunteering to support the GRT. This



in favor of this exciting new trail. People are eager for new trailheads near home, better access to scenic recreation and natural areas, and high-quality amenities such as restrooms and cafes. We are also receiving comments about concerns and will be working to address those in the development of the master plan. Please keep sharing your thoughts.

## Get Involved!

Want to get involved but don't know how? Start by visiting <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/> to learn more about the project, take an online survey, or contact the project team. Have more questions?

**Coming Up:** The first community meetings for the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan will take place in **Fortuna on March 22** and in **Willits on March 23**.

These meetings will feature a brief presentation by the project team, followed by engagement activities to learn more about community preferences for the trail. The Willits workshop will be a joint meeting co-hosted by the Great Redwood Trail Agency and the City of Willits to discuss both the GRT Master Plan and the Willits Rail Trail, a 1.6-mile Class-I bicycle and pedestrian pathway extending from Commercial Street south to East Hill Road. Once completed, the trail will be one of the first segments built as part of the Great Redwood Trail. These will be great opportunities to get informed and have your voice heard! To RSVP for any of these events, view the events calendar at <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/#events>.

**Can't make the in-person event?** There will be a **virtual community meeting on April 4**. In addition, there will be a number of upcoming events where you can speak with members of the project team.

## Upcoming Events

### *Spring Events*

3/22 – Community Workshop #1 (Fortuna)

3/23 – Community Workshop #2 (Willits)

4/04 – Online Workshop #1

For more details and to RSVP, see the [events calendar](#).

### *Summer and Beyond*

Stay tuned! We will update the [events calendar](#) once additional workshops are



Forward

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**You've Got Questions. We've Got Answers.**

We have received hundreds of questions about the Great Redwood Trail. To respond to the 23 most common questions, we have developed a frequently asked questions ([FAQ](#)) section on the website. We will keep updating the FAQ as we receive more questions, so keep them coming. You can submit comments and questions on the [Contact Us](#) section of the website!

**Contact us at:**

[info@greatredwoodtrailplan.org](mailto:info@greatredwoodtrailplan.org)

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