

The Great Redwood Trail  
Master Plan  
Workshop Summary

**Online Workshop**  
with 45 Attendees  
over Zoom  
on April 4, 2023

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through a rocky, light-colored bed. The surrounding hills are covered in sparse, dry-looking vegetation, with some green trees scattered throughout. A large, dark rock formation is visible on the left side of the river. A green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

# THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL

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Virtual Workshop  
April 4, 2023

# AGENDA

1. Introductions 
2. Project Overview & Trail Vision
3. Trail Best Practices
4. Trail Experience 
5. Economic Development & Trail Towns 
6. Questions & Discussion 

 **Activities &  
Discussion**

# PROJECT TEAM



**Louisa Morris**  
California State  
Coastal Conservancy



**Simone Nageon de Lestang**  
California State  
Coastal Conservancy



**Jeff Knowles**  
Alta Planning + Design



**Donny Donoghue**  
Alta Planning + Design

## NEED TO LEAVE EARLY?

► Visit the project website, includes:

- ◆ Project information & FAQ
- ◆ Online survey
- ◆ Interactive webmap
- ◆ Events schedule
- ◆ Comment box



Check out the website to stay involved and provide additional input!

[GreatRedwoodTrailPlan.org](https://GreatRedwoodTrailPlan.org)



# WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

## ZOOM POLLS

We will have polls throughout the presentation.

## MENTIMETER

We will use a website called mentimeter to do interactive exercises throughout the presentation. You will be able to engage on your computer or smartphone.

## Q&A

Submit questions using the Q&A feature within zoom. The team will respond to questions at the end of the presentation.



**HOW DO YOU FEEL  
ABOUT THE GREAT  
REDWOOD TRAIL?**



# TRAIL VISION

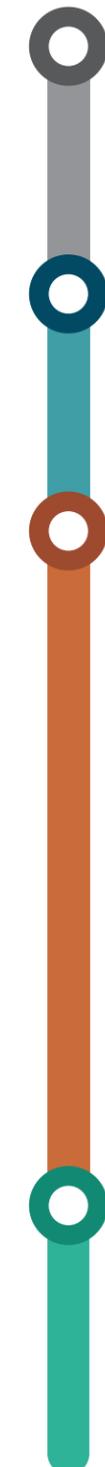
## WHAT IS THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL?

- ▶ 316 mile rail-trail from San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay along a historic rail corridor
- ▶ Connect Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties
- ▶ Scenic landscapes include:
  - ◆ Old growth redwood forests
  - ◆ Oak woodlands
  - ◆ Vineyards and wineries
  - ◆ Scenic Rivers
  - ◆ Eel River Canyon
  - ◆ Humboldt Bay
- ▶ Network of trails that meet local needs



# TRAIL VISION

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- 
- 1998**  
Operation of the NWP railroad ceased
  - 2018**  
SB 1029 - Feasibility Reports
  - 2021**  
SB 69 - Great Redwood Trail Act Passed  
  
Created the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA)  
  
Transferred Sonoma & Marin to SMART  
  
Requires the rail corridor be preserved via railbanking
  - 2022 - Present**  
Railbanked from Willits north (October)  
  
Kicked Off the Master Plan (October)

# TRAIL VISION

## WHAT IS A RAIL TRAIL?

- ▶ Multi-use public paths created from former railroad corridors
- ▶ Model used across the world
- ▶ Over 25,000 miles in the US with over 1,000 miles in CA
- ▶ Rail trails support:
  - ◆ Recreation & Tourism
  - ◆ Economic development in towns and rural areas
  - ◆ Commuting
  - ◆ Environmental restoration



Olympic Discovery Trail



Biz Johnson National Recreational Trail

# TRAIL VISION

## A NETWORK OF TRAILS

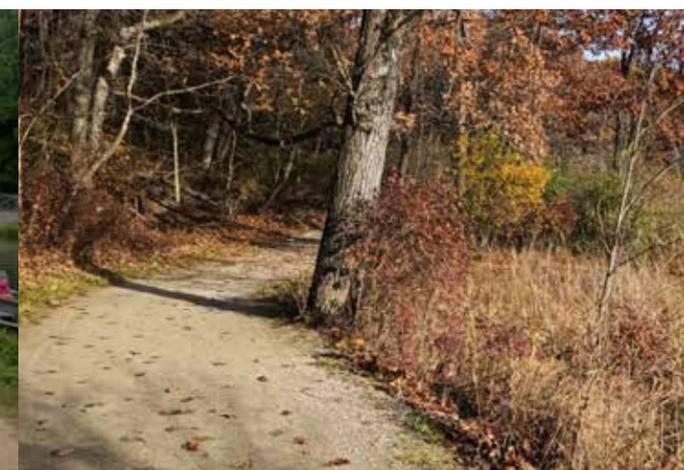
- ▶ No “one-size-fits-all” approach, the trail will vary based on context and environmental conditions
- ▶ Three general types of trail include:
  - ◆ **Backcountry Trail:** single-track trail constructed with bare earth material found on-site
  - ◆ **Crushed Stone Multi-use Trail:** compacted stone, with enough width for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians
  - ◆ **Paved Multi-use Trail:** concrete or asphalt, with enough width for areas of high user demand



**Backcountry Trail**



**Crushed Stone Multi-use Trail**



**Paved Multi-use Trail**



# TRAIL VISION

## WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

- ▶ 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

## WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

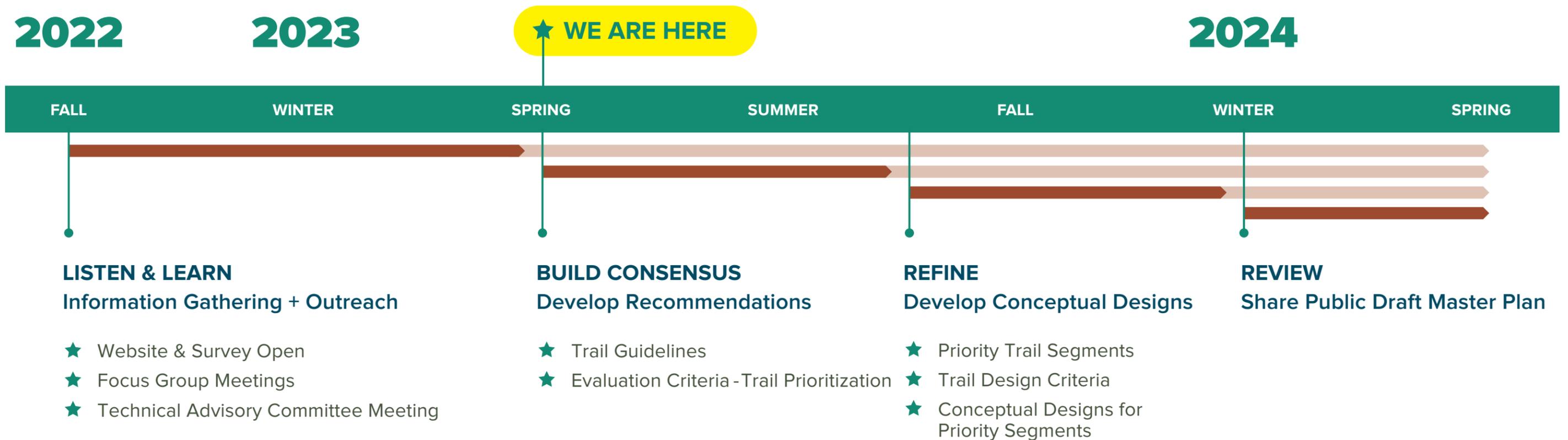
- ▶ The project team is consulting a wide range of people including:
  - ◆ Tribes
  - ◆ First Responders
  - ◆ Business Owners
  - ◆ Local Leaders
  - ◆ Farming & Ranching Community
  - ◆ Forestry and Parks Professionals
  - ◆ Adjacent landowners
  - ◆ Trail Users
- ▶ The Master Plan will also be informed by:
  - ◆ In-person and virtual community meetings
  - ◆ Tabling at events in your community
  - ◆ Survey and mapped input from project website



Fortuna Workshop on March 22nd

# TRAIL VISION

## MASTER PLAN SCHEDULE



# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

- ▶ Research has shown that trail users stay on designated trails
- ▶ The master plan will identify management strategies for:
  - ◆ Cleanliness and safety
  - ◆ Desirable activities
  - ◆ Signage and landscape buffers
  - ◆ Patrols and emergency response



**R**ESPECT OUR WORKING FARMS & VINEYARDS  
**E**XPECT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES & KEEP CLEAR  
**S**TAY WITHIN TRAIL BOUNDARIES (PETS, TOO)  
**P**REVENT SPREAD OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES  
**E**LIMINATE ALL TRACE & TRASH (FROM PETS, TOO)  
**C**HECK YOUR NOISE LEVELS  
**T**AKE RESPONSIBILITY AND REPORT PROBLEMS

AGRESPECT.ORG

### Case Study

## AG RESPECT PROGRAM

Education about agricultural uses and respect for adjacent spaces on the Napa Vine Trail

# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## SUPPORT FIREFIGHTING ACCESS AND EMERGENCY ACCESS

- ▶ The trail can support emergency response by:
  - ◆ Serving as a firebreak
  - ◆ Providing emergency vehicle access to remote areas
  - ◆ Building partnerships to address fire and safety issues
  - ◆ Restricting and managing campfires



*Case Study*

### **SONOMA COUNTY TRAILS**

In Sonoma County, trails have been used as fire breaks to protect neighboring communities from major fires.

# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## PROTECT AND RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ The trail design can address negative impacts from rail use and abandonment, including:
  - ◆ Restoring natural ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitats
  - ◆ Restoring creeks and fish passage
  - ◆ Protecting Native American cultural heritage sites
  - ◆ Removing abandoned rail equipment
  - ◆ Restoring bridge and tunnel structures



### *Case Study*

## **ELK RIVER RESTORATION & TRAIL**

114 acres of Elk River estuary restoration while constructing one of the most recent sections of the Great Redwood Trail.

# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## CREATE AN INVITING TRAIL EXPERIENCE

### Operations & Maintenance

- ▶ Well-maintained trails reduce crime and create safe recreation experiences
- ▶ The operations and management plan will include:
  - ◆ Routine maintenance for trailheads and restrooms
  - ◆ Trail rules and regulations
  - ◆ Nuisance abatement procedures



### Case Study

## LA RIVER RANGERS PROGRAM

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

# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## CREATE AN INVITING TRAIL EXPERIENCE

### Crime Prevention Through Trail Design

- ▶ The greatest deterrent to crime is creating a trail that is actively used
- ▶ Strategies include:
  - ◆ Well-lit and highly visible trailheads and access points
  - ◆ Design elements, such as benches, interpretive panels, and public art
  - ◆ Regular programming, including community events and races
  - ◆ Overlapping uses, including visitor-serving businesses on the trail



### Case Study

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## CV LINK

Highly visible access points with lighting, wayfinding, and amenities with anti-graffiti coating for easy maintenance.

# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## CREATE AN INVITING TRAIL EXPERIENCE

### Patrols & Enforcement

- ▶ The master plan will include enforcement strategies such as:
  - ◆ Coordinating with law enforcement
  - ◆ Exploring patrol options
  - ◆ Creating a standard mile marker system to allow for quick emergency response



### Case Study

## APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY “RIDGERUNNERS”

Volunteers and staff patrol the trail, providing assistance and reporting issues.

# TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



## PROACTIVE APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS

- ▶ Most critical for sections of the trail in developed communities
- ▶ Solutions may include:
  - ◆ Working closely with homelessness outreach programs and agencies
  - ◆ Designing standards for the trail that minimize unauthorized camping
  - ◆ Providing active programming and events
  - ◆ Regular patrols and trail managers to contact when necessary



### *Case Study*

## **SAN JOSE DOWNTOWN STREETS TEAM**

City of San Jose worked with the police and Conservation Corps to provide a coordinated patrol and cleanup of trails.

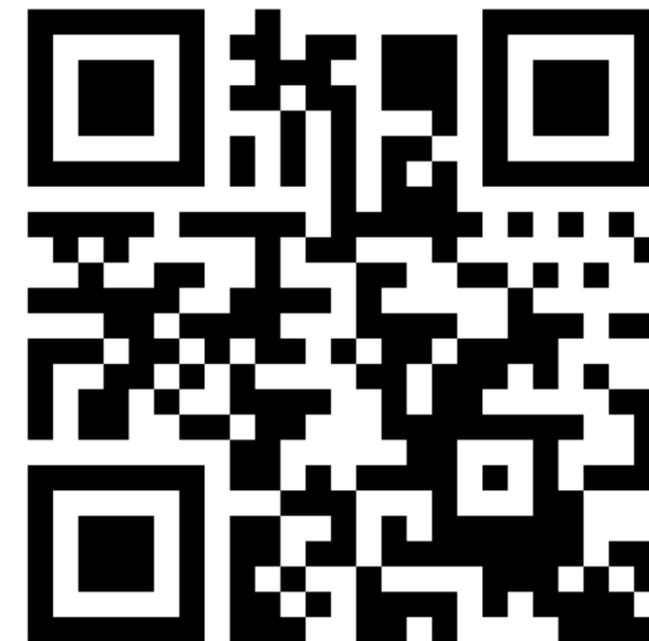


## BEST PRACTICES DISCUSSION

- ▶ What are you most concerned about?
- ▶ What ideas or solutions are you most excited about?

### Mentimeter Exercise

To participate, please please go to [bit.ly/GRTVote](https://bit.ly/GRTVote) or use the QR code below on your smartphone or computer.





## WHAT TRAIL FEATURES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Campgrounds



River Access & Boat Launches



Public Art



Rest Area & Overlooks



Restrooms



Educational Elements



Shade



Landscape & Ecology



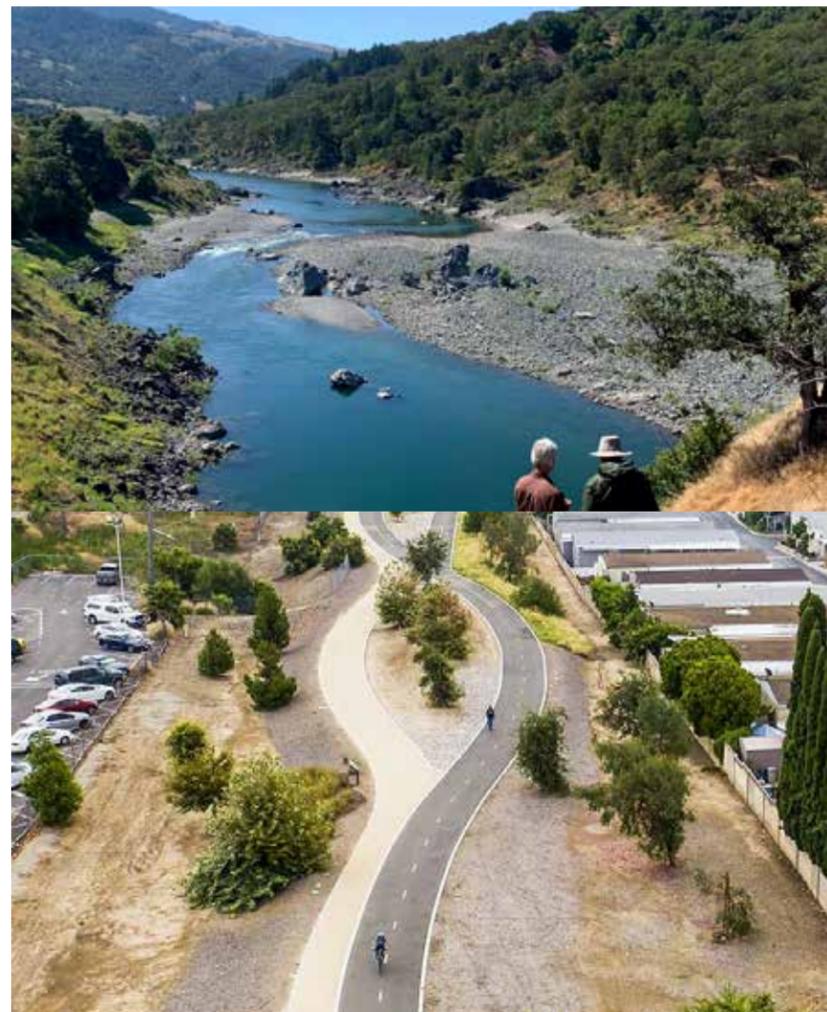
# TRAIL EXPERIENCE

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

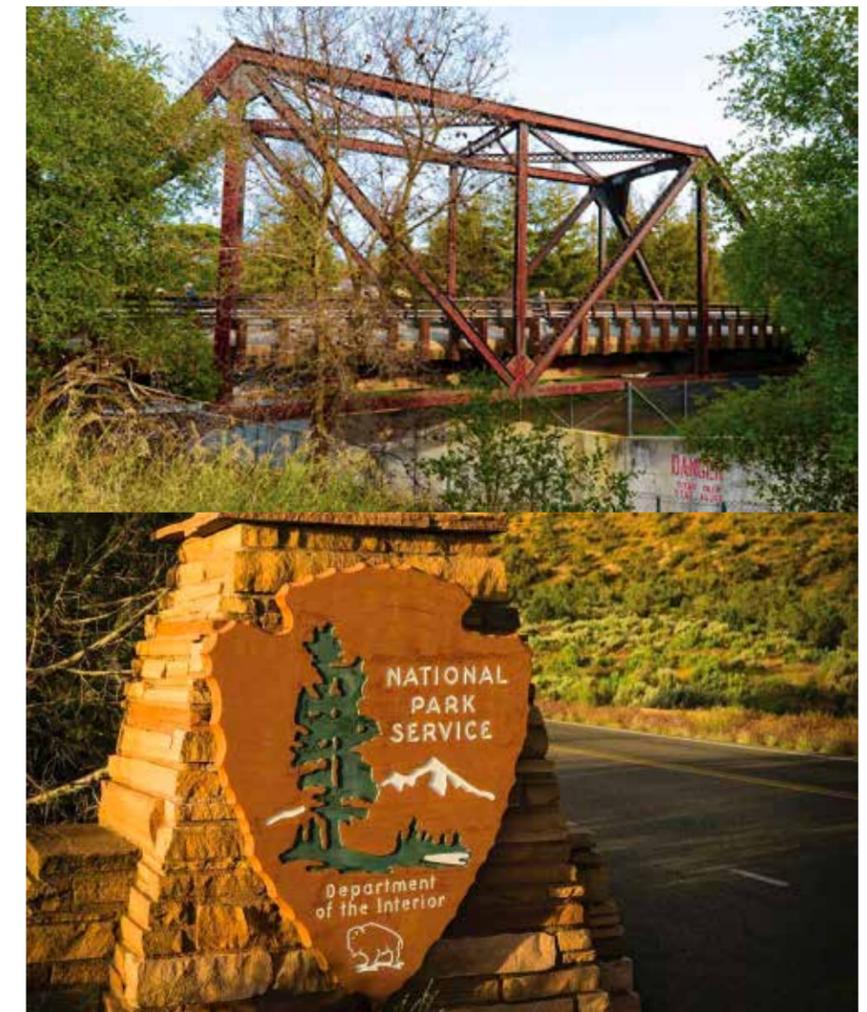
### Vibrant Culture



### Green & Blue Ribbon



### Passage Through Time



# TRAIL EXPERIENCE

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

### Vibrant Culture

- ▶ Embrace the culture and character of each community along the trail
- ▶ Bold public art and space for local events



# TRAIL EXPERIENCE

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

### Green & Blue Ribbon

- ▶ Connect the corridor by celebrating local ecology and hydrology
- ▶ Use natural materials and native landscapes



# TRAIL EXPERIENCE

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

### Passage Through Time

- ▶ Tell the history of the corridor through historic artifacts and materials
- ▶ Celebrate past peoples and industries of the corridor



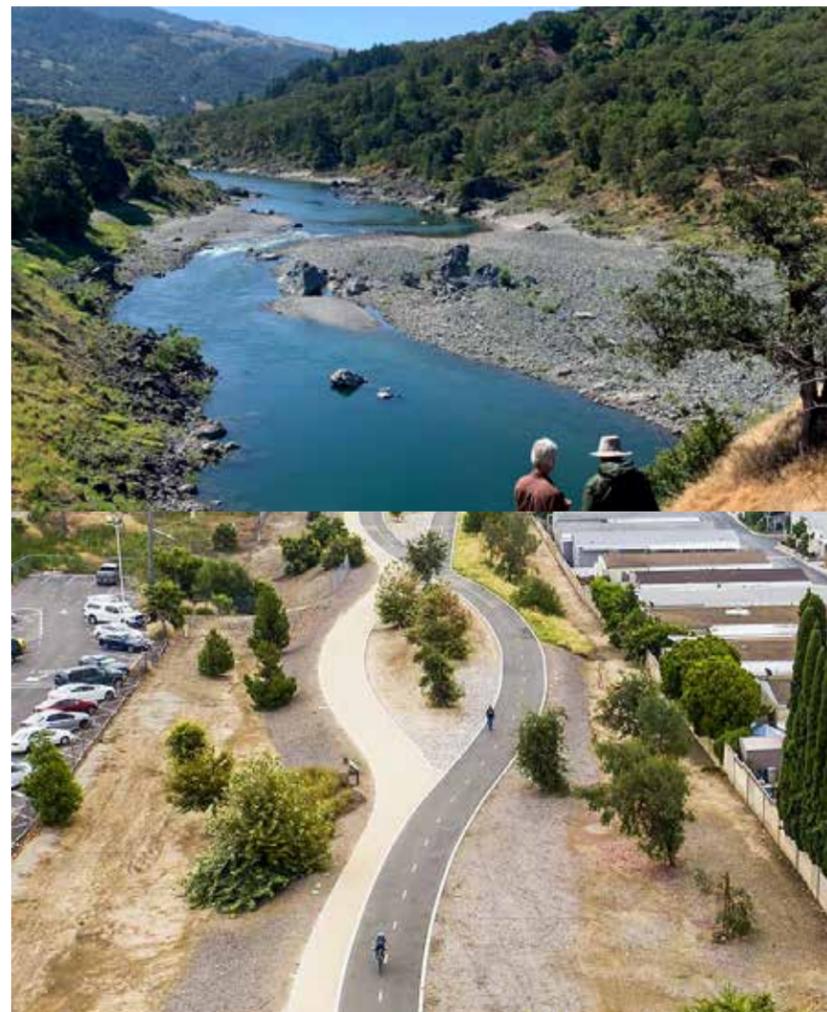


## HOW DO YOU WANT THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL TO LOOK AND FEEL?

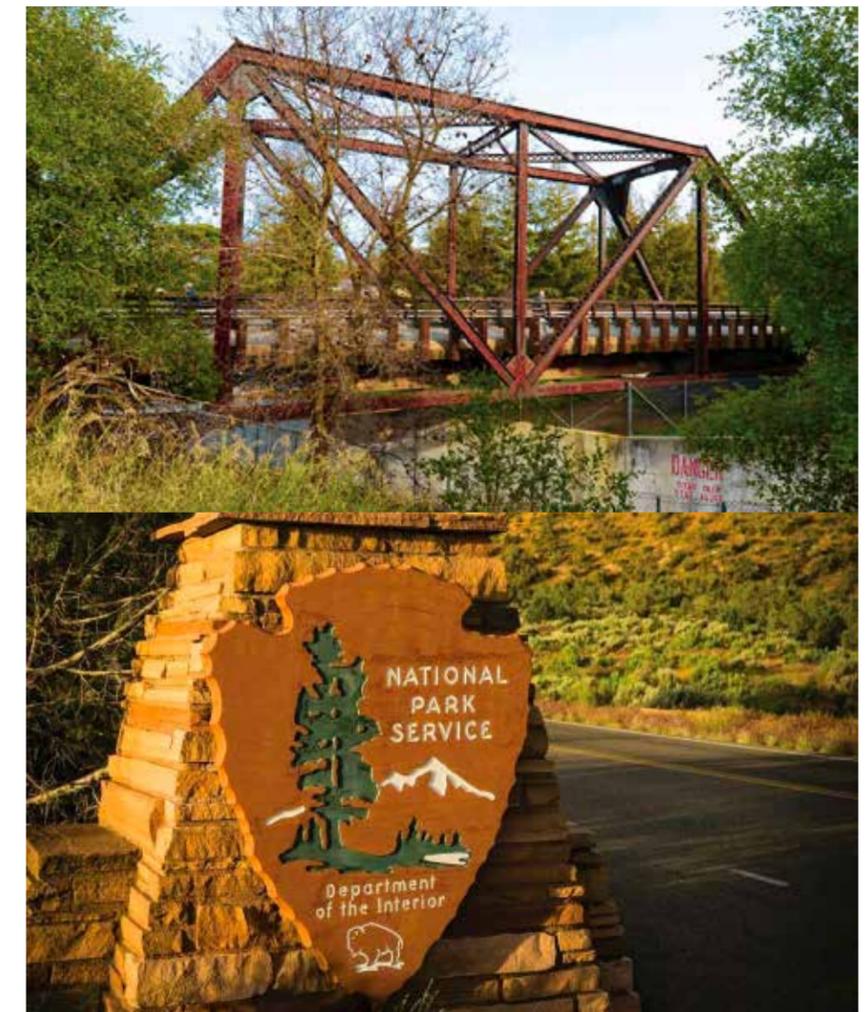
Vibrant Culture



Green & Blue Ribbon



Passage Through Time



# TRAIL TOWNS

## 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
- ▶ For the completed trail, the following are expected annually:
  - ◆ 6.1 to 9.2 million trips
  - ◆ 33% of trips on the trail from visitors outside the region
  - ◆ \$102,568,000 in total benefits

### RECREATION AND TOURISM BENEFITS

**\$62,693,000** annual revenue

Revenue from 2.1 to 3.1 million trips by non-local visitors that will go towards lodging, restaurants, rentals, and retail.



### HEALTH BENEFITS

**\$38,455,000** annual savings

Health care cost savings from increased exercise, reduced rates of illness, and improved community health.



### TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

**\$2,420,000** annual savings

Cost savings from reduced car travel and more walking and biking trips for errands, school, and leisure.

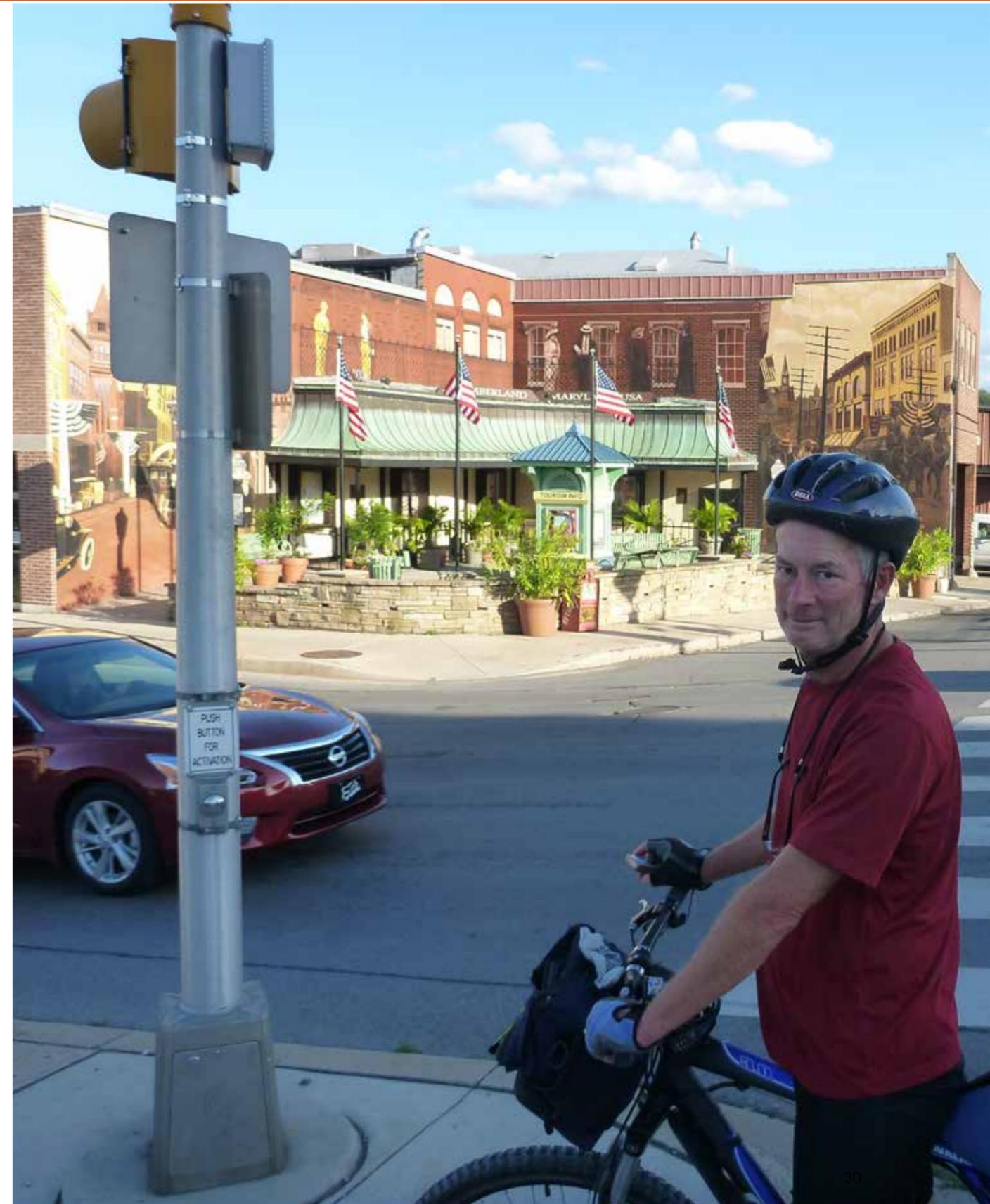


**\$102,568,000** total annually

# TRAIL TOWNS

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ 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



# TRAIL TOWNS

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Attract existing businesses
- ▶ Development and revitalization of depressed areas
- ▶ Agritourism such as:
  - ◆ Cannabis or vineyard farm tours
  - ◆ Farm stays
- ▶ Private campgrounds from adjacent landowners





## TRAIL TOWN DISCUSSION

- ▶ Where are you from, and what makes your community a special place to visit?
- ▶ What type of businesses would benefit from the trail?

### Mentimeter Exercise

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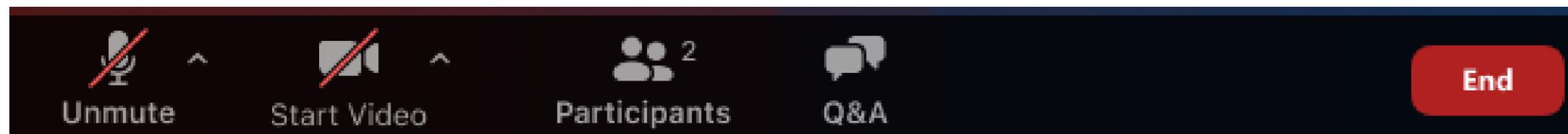
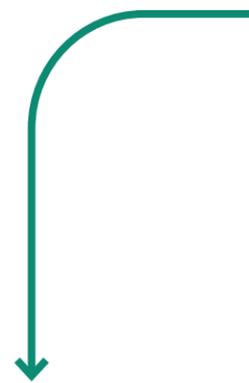
**HOW DO YOU FEEL  
ABOUT THE GREAT  
REDWOOD TRAIL?**



# DISCUSSION

## Q&A

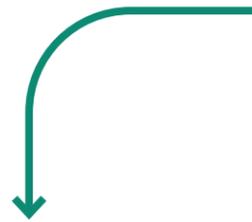
Use the Q&A button  
on your Zoom  
screen to submit a  
question!



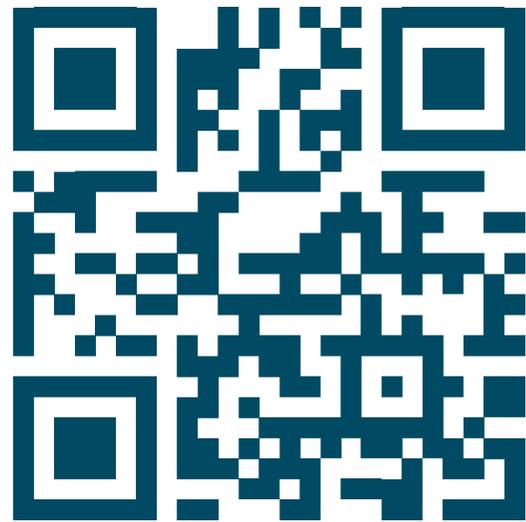
# DISCUSSION

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

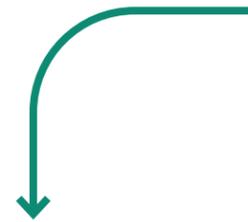
Check out the website  
to stay involved and  
provide additional input!



**GreatRedwoodTrailPlan.org**



Use the comment form  
on the project website or  
leave us a voicemail at:  
**(707) 440-9445**



**Contact Us**

Name \*

Email \*

Question, comment, or feedback \*

**SUBMIT**

A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a valley. The river is surrounded by rocky banks and lush green vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!".

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
ATTENDING!**

# Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Online Workshop

April 4, 2023 - Zoom Poll Results

## 1. How do you feel about the Great Redwood Trail? [pre]

Excited	26
Interested	3
Unsure	0
Concerned	1
I don't know - I need more information	2
TOTAL	32

## 2. What trail features are most important to you? (pick your top three)

Restrooms	18
River Access & Boat Launches	18
Landscape & Ecological Areas	17
Rest Areas & Overlooks	15
Campgrounds	14
Shade	13
Interpretive or Educational Elements	12
Public Art	1
TOTAL	108

## 3. How do you want the Great Redwood Trail to Look and Feel? (pick one)

Green & Blue Ribbon	18
Passage through Time	13
Vibrant Culture	1
TOTAL	32

## 4. How do you feel about the Great Redwood Trail? [post]

Excited	24
Interested	1
Unsure	0
Concerned	2
I don't know - I need more information	1
TOTAL	28

## Great Redwood Trail Online Workshop Poll Responses

### What are you most concerned about?

- Safety in remote small-town areas
- Trash, emergency access
- I have no concerns.
- Unauthorized camping or homeless encampments, staging areas for parking in rural areas, call for emergencies and enforcement
- When portions of the trail will be available so I can ride them in my lifetime.
- Increased wildland fire starts. People entering brutal hiking conditions without appropriate gear, food, water, and communications.
- The Rail and trail section around the Humboldt bay and will it become a reality as a R and T
- Habitat restoration
- Regular maintenance, wayfinding, vagrant control.
- Homeless housing - my driveway and property passes over the track and we already have a huge problem. Also, what kind of driveway would I have if the trail is through my driveway
- Trails for equine use.
- Safety in isolated areas
- Getting robbed. I rode a bike on the San Gabriel trail and the homeless learned that our bikes were worth 20000 dollars and would ambush us
- Maintenance and oversight
- I'm concerned the trail (spur near where I live) will not be built soon enough for me to enjoy it. I'm an older resident. I'd also like to see a low-impact trail (not paved).
- Making the trail go all the way to the golden gate bridge.
- I am concerned this will exclude any use of rail to enhance rail travel in the Lost Coast and continue the status quo in terms of car travel being the only means of travelling this great state.
- Timing
- Encouraging use
- Extending trail to Golden Gate Bridge
- Maintenance
- Safety, security. Need maintenance of trail and keeping the area clean
- Completion of the trail during my lifetime. The rest I don't worry about
- Unsure at this point
- Making the trail ad natural through Healdsburg area
- Leave historical fabric
- Eel River Canyon! potential exposure and economic boost for places like Alderpoint
- Will the trail be designed for the average speeds you want the users to travel at?
- Concerned about Humboldt Bay Rail and Trail section
- Development very soon
- Homeless - wondering for us that have driveways that the trail it will go through and already have homeless problems
- Getting robbed, I road on the trail in SoCal and the homeless would rob us of our bikes

- Respect existing natural resources, e.g., elk, salmon, beavers, etc. Make use of natural visual breaks.
- Making sure we go all the way to the golden gate bridge
- Rail width
- I'm concerned my local trail (a spur) won't be built along the existing RR, since some parcels have reverted to the original owners.
- Rail width low impact trail
- Annie & Mary spur - please don't make it 20 feet wide!
- Stay on the rail and not go around
- Habitat restoration a place to walk and bike

### What ideas or solutions are you most excited about?

- Funding much of the trail with the abundance of Trail Money that is available right now. A lot of this trail is along highways.
- Traveling from Larkspur to Eureka on two wheels.
- Public access to land that most people have never seen before. i.e., Eel River Canyon!
- The timetable of which sections will be first. Seeing the remote Eel River watershed again
- Contiguous route for self-powered transport from SF north
- Length and variety of landscapes and experiences, variety of travel surfaces, access to remote places.
- The option to bike this corridor
- A local section in Hopland that would provide recreation and exercise to the locals
- The trail being built! Amazing to think once it's all done, what it will be like!! Wonderful!
- Respecting the culture of the indigenous people, emphasis on keeping the trail clean of pet waste, maintaining the pristine beauty of the environment unharmed.
- Not having to climb hills biking I am not young any more
- Riding a bike between communities without being on the freeway.
- A great use of an abandoned railway that will give people access to the area and expand people's access to the redwoods. Getting businesses involved so that this can be an economic boom to the area
- The adventure of riding the northern half of our state
- Excited for wheelchair accessible trails. Understandably would like to use natural materials, asphalt is the most consistent for chair users. Longer paths vs short loops
- Good biking along Russian River elevation rise north out of Cloverdale
- Being able to see and visit wild areas of Eel River

### Where are you from, and what makes your community a special place to visit?

- Family ranch between Garberville and Alderpoint - in need of economic boost! beautiful area
- I live in Eureka, and it's the first coastal experience of the Great Redwood Trail.
- Want to visit all these places by ferry train and bike from the South SF Bay.
- Kettenpom. Incredibly rugged and rarely seen beauty. So much history and biodiversity.
- Mill Valley - Golden Gate Bridge to Humboldt Bay
- Humboldt county the northern part of the Eel River canyon redwoods
- Santa Rosa, large town, many destinations

- Gualala. Though not directly accessible from the GRT, the GRT is an excellent inland complement to the Mendocino Coast.
- Hydesville - very beautiful community. Local stores and possibly some new development of local restaurants, B&B
- Hopland. It is quaint.
- I live near Blue Lake, at the very end of the GRT. We have healthy streams, with elk, beaver, coyote, salmon, and the Mad River. You can visit the vibrant community of Blue Lake!
- From Mill Valley. It's a great place to ride through and would love the trail to come here to see the Redwoods so close to SF.
- Living in my little pocket, I appreciate the calm and quiet nature of my town. The nice scenery of the mountains in the distance is a constant that grounds me as the seasons change and time passes.
- Loleta. Adorable. Restaurant
- Fort Bragg/Oakland. Excellent cycling infrastructure
- Eureka - public art along the trail already
- Marin (Mill Valley) it's beautiful and I can easily ride and walk
- Princeton NJ moving to Sonoma County in 2024
- Fortuna. Friendly City
- Humboldt County Scenic Fresh air

#### What type of businesses would benefit from the trail?

- Environmental Restoration
- Service Industry
- Recreational businesses
- Sporting goods
- Deli snacks
- Hostels
- Groceries supplies
- Brewery
- Restaurant
- General Merchandise
- Campgrounds
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Art
- Markets
- Cafes
- Bike shops
- Bike shops
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Small arts and crafts

- Little-known restaurants
- Historic landmarks
- Coffee
- Eat Sleep Shop
- Water
- Lodging
- Bike repair
- Food
- Hotels
- Restaurant
- Gas

What type of businesses would benefit from the trail? 