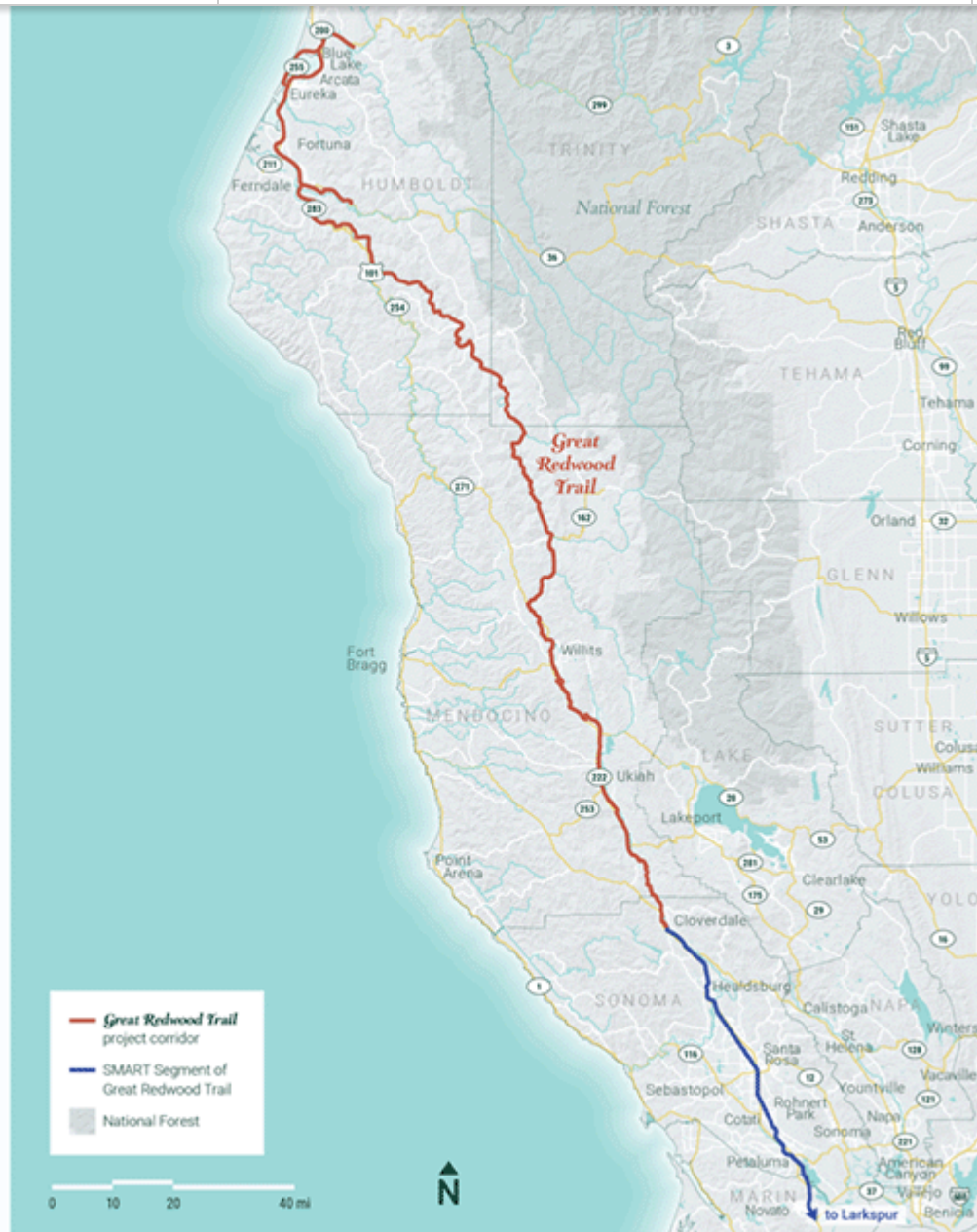


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The Vision: From Bay to Bay, the Scenic Way

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 and 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. This master planning process focuses on the stretch of trail north of Cloverdale, through Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties.



We're Hiring!

The **Great Redwood Trail Agency** is hiring a **General Manager**! The General Manager will oversee and manage day-to-day operations of the GRTA and lead the implementation of the Great Redwood Trail vision. The ideal candidate will have broad experience in all facets of small agency management and a passion for solving problems and building a world class trail system. For more information about this once in a lifetime opportunity, please see the [job description](#). **Applications are due July 14, 2023.**

What We've Been Up To: GRT Master Plan update

So far, we have received over 600 public comments and nearly 700 survey responses. We have also met with 30 stakeholder groups, including fire departments, chambers of commerce, farming and agricultural groups, and staff from local, regional, and state government agencies.

In March 2023, we held two in-person workshops, with 98 community members in Fortuna and 69 community members in Willits. These were highly participatory, dynamic workshops where participants visited a series of stations with different thematic information and opportunities for direct feedback.

Throughout the workshops, there were opportunities to talk with project team members, leave comments, and meet attendees from other interest groups. We also hosted an online workshop where 45 attendees learned more about the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan and shared their questions, concerns, and ideas. All workshop recordings and summaries are available at <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/#events>.



We Want to Hear from You!

This trail will be more of a quilt than a blanket; that is to say, there will be several unique trail experiences, linked as part of a larger recreational network.

areas will offer economic development potential, while natural paths in more remote sections could allow equestrian users to explore beautiful canyonlands by horseback. Stretches of trail with a crushed stone surface could allow both cyclists and birders to both find joy on the GRT. Perhaps some stretches will even include water access for kayaking, environmental stewardship, and tribal ceremonies. This potential for a mosaic of trails means that your voice matters! Let us know what kind of trail your community would be excited to see at one of our many upcoming engagement opportunities, including the following:

Alderpoint Workshop

Wednesday, July 26

5:30-7:30p

Volunteer Fire Hall

[RSVP here](#)

Hopland Workshop

Thursday, July 27

5:30-7:30p

Brutocao Cellars

[RSVP here](#)

Online Workshop #2

Wednesday, August 2

6:00-7:30 pm

[RSVP to the Zoom Meeting here](#)

We hope to also see you at Willits Frontier Days, Eureka Fourth of July Festival, Coyote Valley Big Time, Pinoleville Big Time, Annie and Mary Day, Rio Dell Wildwood Days, and more! For more details, see the [events calendar](#).

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 Master Plan website. We will keep updating the FAQ as we receive more questions, so keep your questions

Tribal Engagement Update

Humboldt and Mendocino County is the indigenous homeland to 17 tribes. Our project team members, Roseanne Ibarra and Radhika Misri from North Coast Opportunities, recently traveled throughout in-land Mendocino to visit tribal offices and share information about the Great Redwood Trail (GRT) Master Plan. The team met with tribal administrators and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) directors from: (1) Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Willits, CA); (2) Redwood Valley Rancheria (Redwood Valley, CA); (3) Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Redwood Valley, CA); (4) Guidiville Indian Rancheria (Ukiah, CA); (5) Pinoleville Pomo Nation (Ukiah, CA) and the inter-tribal (6) Mendocino Lake Sonoma Tribal Environmental Protection coalition of EPA directors. Feedback from tribal staff included interest about who would be responsible for maintaining the trail, protection of tribal land, protection of native plants, and a recommendation to include a replica of a native Pomo village along the trail and safety.

On May 5, tribal communities across the nation called for action in observance of the National Day of Awareness for Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). Tribal staff shared their concerns about overall safety along the future additions to the GRT. This project team will incorporate this important feedback and recommended solutions into the Master Plan. Additional tribal engagement will include presentations to tribal councils and to tribal organizations within the region.



Ribbon Tying Ceremony emphasizing the completion of the trail connecting Arcata and Eureka

Project Partner Updates

Humboldt Bay Trail South Groundbreaking

After decades of planning, Federal, State and local officials, as well as community trail supporters, gathered on a berm overlooking the Bay to celebrate the start of construction for Humboldt Bay Trail South, which will connect the Humboldt Bay Trail/GRT gap between Eureka and Arcata.

Construction of the trail is set to begin in late June and will be completed before the end of 2024. Funding has been provided by the California Transportation Commission, the State Coastal Conservancy, and Caltrans District 1.

Construction will involve widening the railroad prism, major modifications to the Eureka Slough railroad bridge and construction of three new trail bridges. The project includes “urgent repairs” to erosion damage along the railroad and raises the elevation of the railroad between Brainard and Bracut to address flooding hazards.

Fifth District Humboldt County Supervisor Steve Madrone, who also serves as the vice-chair of the Great Redwood Trail Agency, said it has been 37 years since Redwood Community Action Agency, the County of Humboldt and the State Coastal Conservancy formed a partnership to start planning trails in this region.

“And it was in 1997 that our first report on possible trail options around the [Humboldt] Bay was put together,” Madrone said.

Caryl Hart, chair of the Great Redwood Trail Agency, emphasized the economic benefits of trails, and she noted that this trail will eventually be part of a planned

“One of the things that I hear most often is, ‘Will [the Great Redwood Trail] happen in my lifetime?’” Hart said. “I’m so glad that I can say, ‘Go to Humboldt Bay. You will see the Great Redwood Trail as it is being created, as it is connecting around the Bay ... and that is thanks to all of you.’”

At the conclusion of the ceremony there was a ribbon tying — rather than the traditional ribbon cutting — to emphasize the upcoming new connection between Arcata and Eureka.

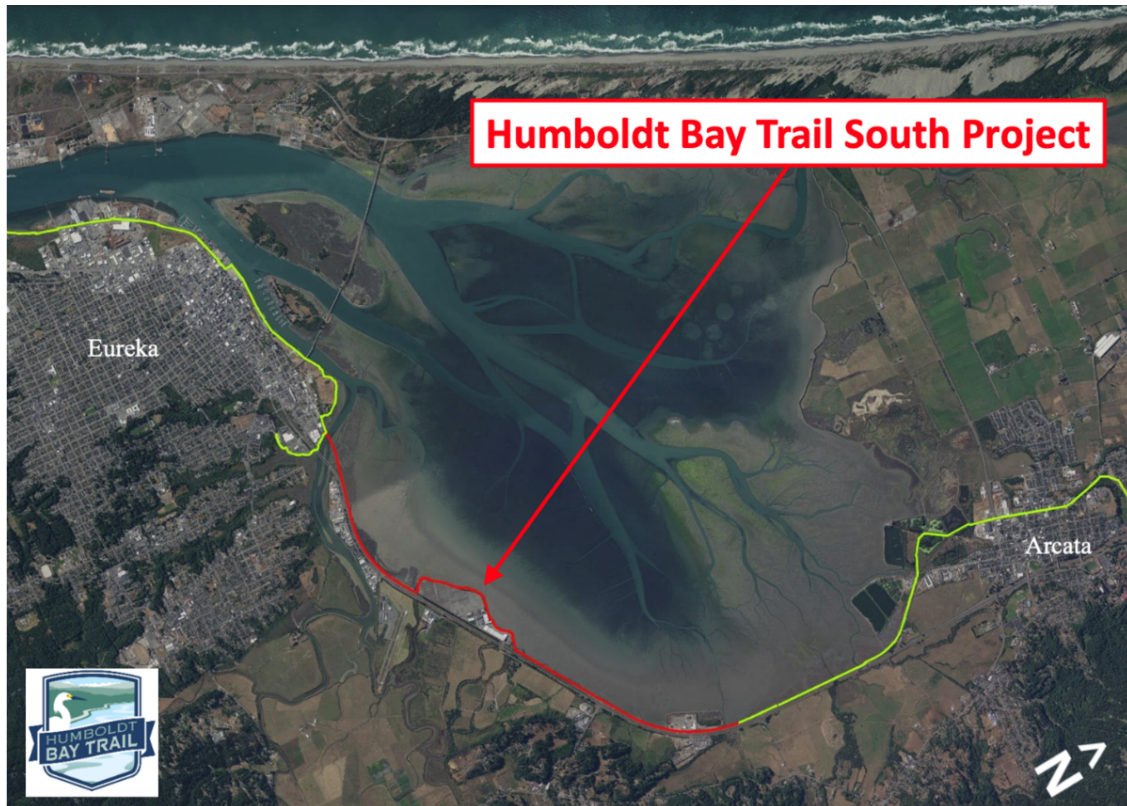
Planning Study to extend the Humboldt Bay Trail to the College of the Redwoods

The County of Humboldt’s Public Works Department has initiated a planning study for extending the Humboldt Bay Trail from the Elk River area in Eureka to College of the Redwoods, using the Great Redwood Trail Agency’s rail corridor. This trail will connect the recently completed Elk River trail at Tooby Road and provide a recreational and transportation trail to the communities of Fields Landing, King Salmon, and the College of the Redwoods. This study will coordinate with the Great Redwood Trail Agency’s Master Plan. An Advisory Committee, including representatives from the Wiyot Tribe, College of the Redwoods, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Humboldt Transit Authority State Coastal Conservancy, and other agency partners is helping to ensure that the project is responsive to the needs of the community and adjacent landowners. Redwood Community Action Agency will be leading public outreach, with the goal of creating a final plan by September 2024.

Willits Rail-with-Trail Updates

On Thursday, March 23, 2023, the City of Willits co-hosted a community engagement event with the State Coastal Conservancy to discuss the Willits Rail-with-Trail project and the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan. This event took place at the Willits Community Center from 6:00-8:00 PM, featuring an open house for community members to learn about and comment on both projects. Next steps for the Willits Rail-with-Trail project include refining project design, completing permitting and right-of-way work, with trail construction anticipated to start in 2024. If you have additional questions about the Willits Rail-with-Trail, please contact Dusty Duley, City of Willits Community Development Director at dduley@cityofwillits.org.

former rail right-of-way in the Ukiah area. Stay tuned for updates on these conversations!



Map of the Humboldt Bay Trail courtesy of the County of Humboldt.



Conceptual extension of the Humboldt Bay Trail along the GRT corridor to connect with College of the Redwoods.



City of Willits staff and partners discuss options with community members at the joint GRT and Willits workshop in March. Photo credit: City of Willits, 2023.

Upcoming Events

Summer Events

7/26 – Community Workshop #3 (Alderpoint)

7/27 – Community Workshop #4 (Hopland)

8/02 – Online Workshop #2

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

Fall and Beyond

Stay tuned! We will update the [events calendar](#) once additional workshops are scheduled. We hope to also see you at Willits Frontier Days, Eureka Fourth of July Festival, Coyote Valley Big Time, Pinoleville Big Time, Annie and Mary Day, and Rio Dell Wildwood Days, among many more!



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Past Issues

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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

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