The Great Redwood Trail
Master Plan
Workshop Summary

**Online Workshop**
with 32 Attendees
over Zoom
on August 2, 2023
THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL

Virtual Workshop
August 2, 2023
PROJECT TEAM

Louisa Morris
California State Coastal Conservancy

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Alta Planning + Design

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Alta Planning + Design

Hannah Bartee
California State Coastal Conservancy

Jeff Knowles
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AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Trail Vision
3. Community Engagement
4. Trail Best Practices
5. Trail Experience
6. Trail Towns & Economic Opportunities
7. Next Steps
8. Questions & Discussion

Public Input Activity
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
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. Chat is also available to reach out to panelists.
TEMPERATURE CHECK

ZOOM POLL: 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 and vineyards
  - Eel River Canyon
- Mosaic of trails that meet local needs
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

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)
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

2022

FALL

LISTEN & LEARN
Information Gathering + Outreach
★ Website & Survey Open
★ Focus Group Meetings
★ Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

2023

WINTER

BUILD CONSENSUS
Develop Recommendations
★ Trail Guidelines
★ Evaluation Criteria - Trail Prioritization

SPRING

WE ARE HERE

SUMMER

REFINE
Develop Conceptual Designs
★ Priority Trail Segments
★ Trail Design Criteria
★ Conceptual Designs for Priority Segments

2024

FALL

WINTER

REVIEW
Share Public Draft Master Plan

SPRING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

► In-Person Workshops (March & July)
  ◆ Fortuna
  ◆ Willits
  ◆ Alderpoint
  ◆ Hopland

► Online Workshop (April)

► Local Events

► Website
  ◆ Over 600 public comments
  ◆ Over 700 survey responses

Willits Workshop on March 23rd
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

▶ Focused Stakeholder Meetings
  ◆ Fire departments
  ◆ Chambers of commerce
  ◆ Farming & agricultural groups
  ◆ Local, regional, and state government agencies

▶ Landowner Engagement
  ◆ Particular focus in Eel River Canyon

▶ Tribal Meetings
  ◆ Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
  ◆ Redwood Valley Rancheria
  ◆ Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
  ◆ Guidiville Indian Rancheria
  ◆ Pinoleville Pomo Nation
  ◆ Wailaki Family Groups
  ◆ Round Valley Tribe
  ◆ Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

Alderpoint Workshop on July 26th
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WHAT WE’VE HEARD SO FAR

- How will trail ACCESS & DESIGN ensure the GRT is a good neighbor?
  - Privacy, Trespass, and Liability Issues
  - Allowable Uses of the GRT Corridor and Homelessness
  - Road Access to GRT Corridor & Trailheads
  - Managing Boating Access, Uses & Safety

- How will trail user SAFETY, E.M.S., & FIRE prevention be addressed?
  - Land & Water Patrols: Rangers & Volunteers
  - Communications
  - Fire Prevention
  - Heat & Drinking Water Access
  - VFDs, E.M.S. & CalFIRE Response

Hopland Workshop on July 27th
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WHAT WE’VE HEARD SO FAR

▶ Will CULTURAL RESOURCES be identified and protected?
  ◦ Work with Local Tribal Entities
▶ What INFRASTRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE are FEASIBLE?
  ◦ Shift Happens – Geologic Instability & Solutions
  ◦ Tunnels, Bridges, Trestles, Crossings & Drainage
  ◦ Costs & Long-Term Maintenance
  ◦ Trail Development
▶ Will there be support for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT opportunities?
  ◦ Economic Interests & Opportunities
  ◦ Capacity-Building & Incentives for Local Investment and Employment
TRAIL BEST PRACTICES
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

Case Study

AG RESPECT PROGRAM

Education about agricultural uses and respect for adjacent spaces on the Napa Vine Trail.
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 ecosystems and habitats
  - Restoring creeks and fish passage
  - Protecting Native American cultural heritage sites
  - Removing abandoned equipment
  - Restoring bridges and tunnels

Case Study

ELK RIVER RESTORATION & TRAIL

Restoration of 114 acres of Elk River estuary while constructing one of the most recent sections of the Great Redwood Trail.
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
  - Incorporation into design of trail elements

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.
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: 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 outreach programs and agencies
- Designing standards that minimize unauthorized camping
- Active programming and events
- Regular patrols and trail managers to contact when necessary
- Routine maintenance and management

Case Study
PARKS AND WATERFRONT RANGER
City of Eureka working to connect people to community, mental, and medical help while patrolling the City’s parks and waterfront.
What are you most concerned about?
What ideas or solutions are you most excited about?

Mentimeter Poll
To participate, please please go to bit.ly/GRTpoll or use the QR code below on your smartphone or computer.
TRAIL EXPERIENCE

WHAT COULD THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL EXPERIENCE BE?

- No “one-size-fits-all” approach, width and surface will vary based on context and environmental conditions
- Three general types of trail will be featured:
  - **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
PROPOSED TRAIL TYPES

LEGEND
Great Redwood Trail Corridor Trail Types
- Backcountry Trail
- Crushed Stone

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
ALDERPOINT
TRINITY COUNTY
DOS RIOS
MENDOCINO COUNTY
PROPOSED TRAIL TYPES

LEGEND

Great Redwood Trail Corridor Trail Types
- Backcountry Trail
- Crushed Stone
- Paved
YOUR VISION

- **Short Answer:** Write in your town or area, and list how you would like to explore your stretch of the GRT!
  *This could include walking, biking, riding a horse, kayaking or rafting, and others.*

- **Multiple Choice:** What top 3 trail features would bring you back out to the trail and are important to you? *In the chat, let us know where you would like to see specific amenities.*

Mentimeter Poll

To participate, please please go to [bit.ly/GRTpoll](http://bit.ly/GRTpoll) or use the QR code below on your smartphone or computer.
TRAIL TOWNS & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
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
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Expansion of existing businesses
- Attraction of new existing businesses
- Starting new businesses for trail users, including:
  - Restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops
  - Retail shops and outfitters
  - Hotels, B&Bs
- Development and revitalization of depressed areas
- Agritourism, such as:
  - Cannabis or vineyard farm tours
  - Farm stays
- Private campgrounds by adjacent landowners
TRAIL TOWN DISCUSSION

- What **existing** businesses would benefit from the trail?
- What **new** businesses would you like to see along the trail?

Mentimeter Poll

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

GRT PROCESS FLOWCHART

**START!**
Operation of NWP Railroad ceases in 1998

2018
Senate Bill 1029 assessment of NCRA right-of-way for a long-distance recreational trail

2021-22
State RECEIVES FUNDING to pursue railbanking and Trail Master Plan

2022-24
With public input, establish TRAIL MASTER PLAN for future trail designs

Partners RAISE FUNDS FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS (usually 3-10 miles)

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN begins, including detailed amenities

CONSTRUCTION begins, bringing segment visions into reality

LOCAL TRAIL SEGMENT COMPLETE!

Repeated for Each Project
Continued Local Public Input

Ongoing maintenance and local connections
NEXT STEPS

WHAT’S NEXT?

MASTER PLAN

▶ Continued tabling at local events
▶ Workshops in Eureka and Ukiah in December
▶ Operations & Maintenance Strategy, Trail Design Guidelines, and Segment Prioritization

LOCAL TRAIL SECTIONS

▶ Construction of Humboldt Bay Trail South and Willits Rail-with-Trail sections
▶ RCAA outreach for Humboldt Bay Trail extension between Elk Creek and College of the Redwoods

GreatRedwoodTrailPlan.org/#events
ZOOM POLL: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL?
Q&A

Use the Q&A button on your Zoom screen to submit a question!
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
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!
1. How do you feel about the Great Redwood Trail? [pre]
   - Excited: 13
   - Interested: 0
   - Unsure: 1
   - Concerned: 0
   - I don't know - I need more information: 1
   - TOTAL: 15

2. How do you feel about the Great Redwood Trail? [post]
   - Excited: 14
   - Interested: 1
   - Unsure: 0
   - Concerned: 0
   - I don't know - I need more information: 0
   - TOTAL: 15
## What are you most concerned about?

### 35 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safe Equestrian access</th>
<th>Sufficient camping facilities</th>
<th>Equine use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>That the trail will not happen!</td>
<td>Horse use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustained trail maintenance</td>
<td>I would like to see equestrian trails developed sooner than later.</td>
<td>Safety would be my concern. It sounds like that is on everyone's mind here, however.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### What are you most concerned about?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I'm worried that it might take too long to complete. And that unnecessary delays will cost the projects too much time and money.</td>
<td>Getting this thing finished before I die! :-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone smoking and throwing their lit and starting a fire. Or camping with a fire that gets out of control.</td>
<td>I would like to see equestrian trails developed sooner than later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homelessness growth</td>
<td>I'm worried that it'll be hard to get permits and that the projects will take too much time and money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The cost of developing the trail. I'm a cyclist from Santa Rosa and would love to be able to ride to Eureka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horse access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State run agencies creating a monopoly of amenities in the Eel River Canyon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### What are you most concerned about?

**35 Responses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety of individuals on or near the trail, in rural areas and inhabited areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separation of walking use and bike/equestrian use.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection between cloverdale depot and Mendocino boarder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the Arcata to Blue Lake corridor is left out of the planning.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the plan for assessing and cleaning up toxics material, soil, infrastructure, a serious not well understood problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of individuals on or near the trail. Homeless issues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making sure trails are PERMEABLE! No cement or asphalt!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arcata to Blue Lake corridor planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike tire repair station for flat tires</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are you most concerned about?

35 Responses

- With the current Trail segments like Willits and Elk River, what's being done about assessing and cleaning up toxics.
- I like the general idea of the Trail but am concerned about the legacy pollutants and where that's going in planning as I see nothing in this summary that refers to it.
- Be able to go on a multi day hike/walk/camp locally.
- Trails need to be wide enough to separate uses.
- I think it is great that the design will consider not only safety and crime prevention but cultural considerations.
- Again, in what priority is dealing with the toxics in current segments and in the Master Plan? There's a lot of information available but I don't see conclusions.
- Being able to go on a multi day hike/walk/camp.
- It would be nice to have benches.
What ideas or solutions are you most excited about?
16 Responses

Equestrian volunteer trail stewards

I'm intrigued by the idea that the community can engage in both small commercial and volunteer opportunities

Safe trails that can be used in everyday living

The connectivity between our towns in Humboldt County.

Incentives and support for trail-related business development (I hope!)

Being able to ride my bike from Santa Rosa to Eureka with campsites or local places to stay and eat.

The ability to ride from Blue Lake to Danta Rosa

Connecting our small communities with non-motorized options.

Bring more tourism up the inland corridor rather than heading to the coast
What ideas or solutions are you most excited about?
16 Responses

- Excited to reach the point in the process where private property owners are finally contacted...
- Use Adopt-A-Trail concepts.
- Petaluma: walk, kayak. Hopefully crushed stone and NOT paving that's bad for environment.
- Setting up respite areas where people can access water, etc. Need to be able to bypass unsafe tunnels. Connecting Arcata/Eureka and other local communities.
- Docents to show people Wildlife
- Public arts opportunities.
- Programs for children
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town/Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arcata, via horseback</td>
<td>Biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt County, Biking and walking mostly.</td>
<td>Some walking, mostly biking. So much biking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydesville - On the Carlotta Branch - hiking, equestrian, and river access.</td>
<td>Biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopland... biking</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humboldt County, walking &amp; Equestrian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Write in your town or area, and list how you would like to explore your stretch of the GRT

14 Responses

Blue Lake - Biking

So much biking in Humboldt.

Arcata: biking, walking, horseback riding

I live in northeastern Humboldt, from Sonoma County, all the Trail is my homeland. Hiking

linear park for Arcata L St section
What top 3 trail features would bring you back out to the trail and are important to you?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Businesses in downtown Hopland</td>
<td>Restaurants, lodging, equipment rental, tour guides for group trips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A grocery store in Alderpoint.</td>
<td>Cafes, outdoor supply stores, bike rental &amp; repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinetic Sculpture Lab in Arcata Restaurants</td>
<td>Restaurants, grocery stores, tourist guides, overnight housing opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kayak rental, restaurants, outfitters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Arcata, restaurants and bars, bike shops, and our one outfitter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bike shops, outdoor supplies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What existing businesses would benefit from the trail?

The Creamery District Businesses
What new businesses would you like to see along the trail?
8 Responses

- In Humboldt, hostels, campgrounds, maybe food trucks.
- Campgrounds and markets. Rafting guides.
- We are petitioning for Linear Park in Arcata which will benefit new businesses from the great redwood trail.
- Small independent store owners, campgrounds, restaurants.
- Equestrian camping or overnight lodging, food shack/ restaurants, transportation for a return from a one way trail trip.
- Outfitters, health spas, exercise studios, B&Bs.
- Camping for sure.
- Bookstores emphasizing fauna and flora and history of trail.