

The Great Redwood Trail
Master Plan
Workshop Summary

Online Workshop
with 32 Attendees
over Zoom
on August 2, 2023

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through a rocky bed, surrounded by steep, grassy hillsides. A large, dark rock formation is visible on the left bank. A dirt road or trail runs along the bottom left. The sky is clear and blue. A large green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and date.

THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL

Virtual Workshop
August 2, 2023

PROJECT TEAM

Louisa Morris
California State
Coastal Conservancy



Hannah Bartee
California State
Coastal Conservancy



Jeff Knowles
Alta Planning + Design








Emily Duchon
Alta Planning + Design



Donny Donoghue
Alta Planning + Design

AGENDA

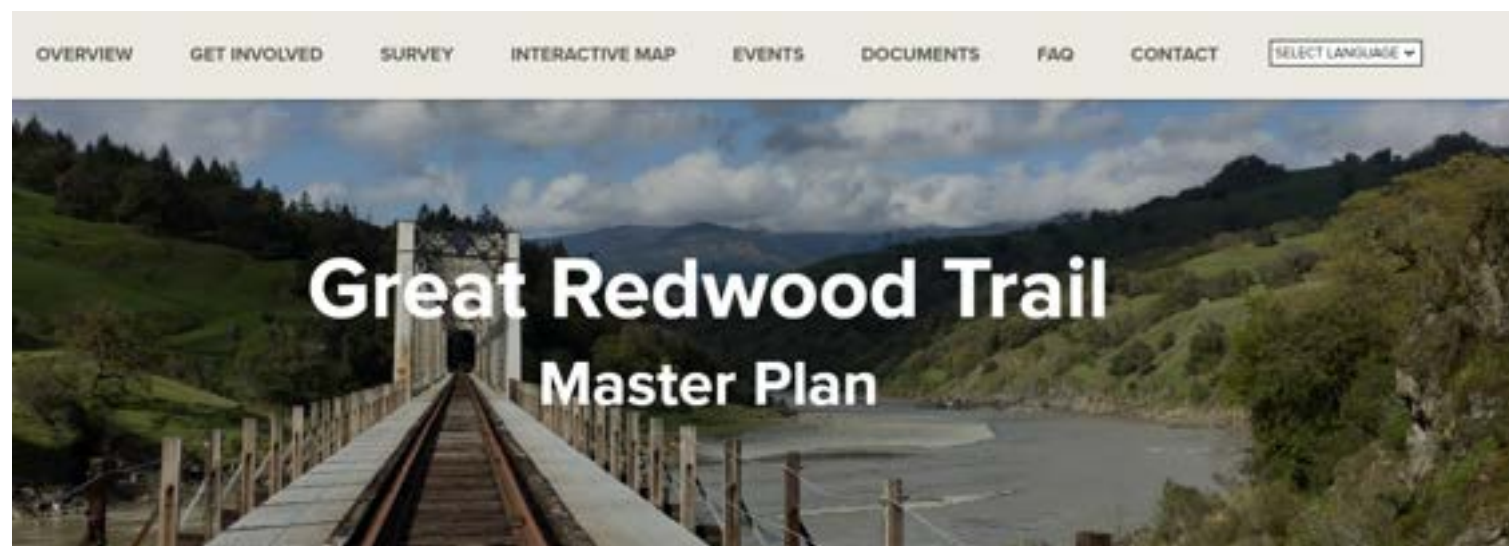
1. Introduction 
2. Trail Vision
3. Community Engagement
4. Trail Best Practices 
5. Trail Experience 
6. Trail Towns & Economic Opportunities 
7. Next Steps
8. Questions & Discussion 

 **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?**



An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through the center, surrounded by steep, rocky banks. The surrounding hills are covered in sparse vegetation, including trees and shrubs. A large, dark rock formation is visible on the left bank. A green circular overlay is positioned in the center of the image, containing the text "TRAIL VISION" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

TRAIL VISION

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



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



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 MASTER PLAN?

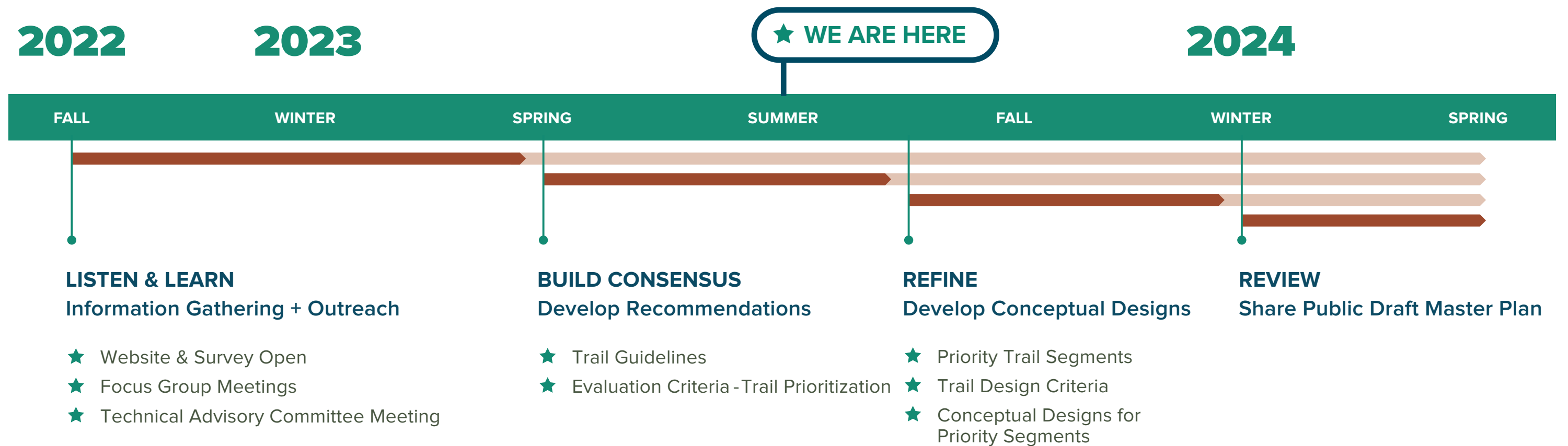
- ▶ The project team is consulting a wide range of people including:
 - ◆ Tribes
 - ◆ First Responders
 - ◆ Business Owners
 - ◆ Local Leaders
 - ◆ Farming & Ranching Community
 - ◆ Forestry and Parks Professionals
 - ◆ Adjacent landowners
 - ◆ Trail Users
- ▶ The Master Plan will also be informed by:
 - ◆ 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



An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through a rocky bed, surrounded by steep, hilly terrain. The hills are covered with sparse vegetation, including green trees and shrubs, and patches of dry, yellowish-brown grass. A large, dark, rocky outcrop is visible on the left side of the river. In the foreground, a dirt road or path runs along the edge of the valley. A large, solid green circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text "COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

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

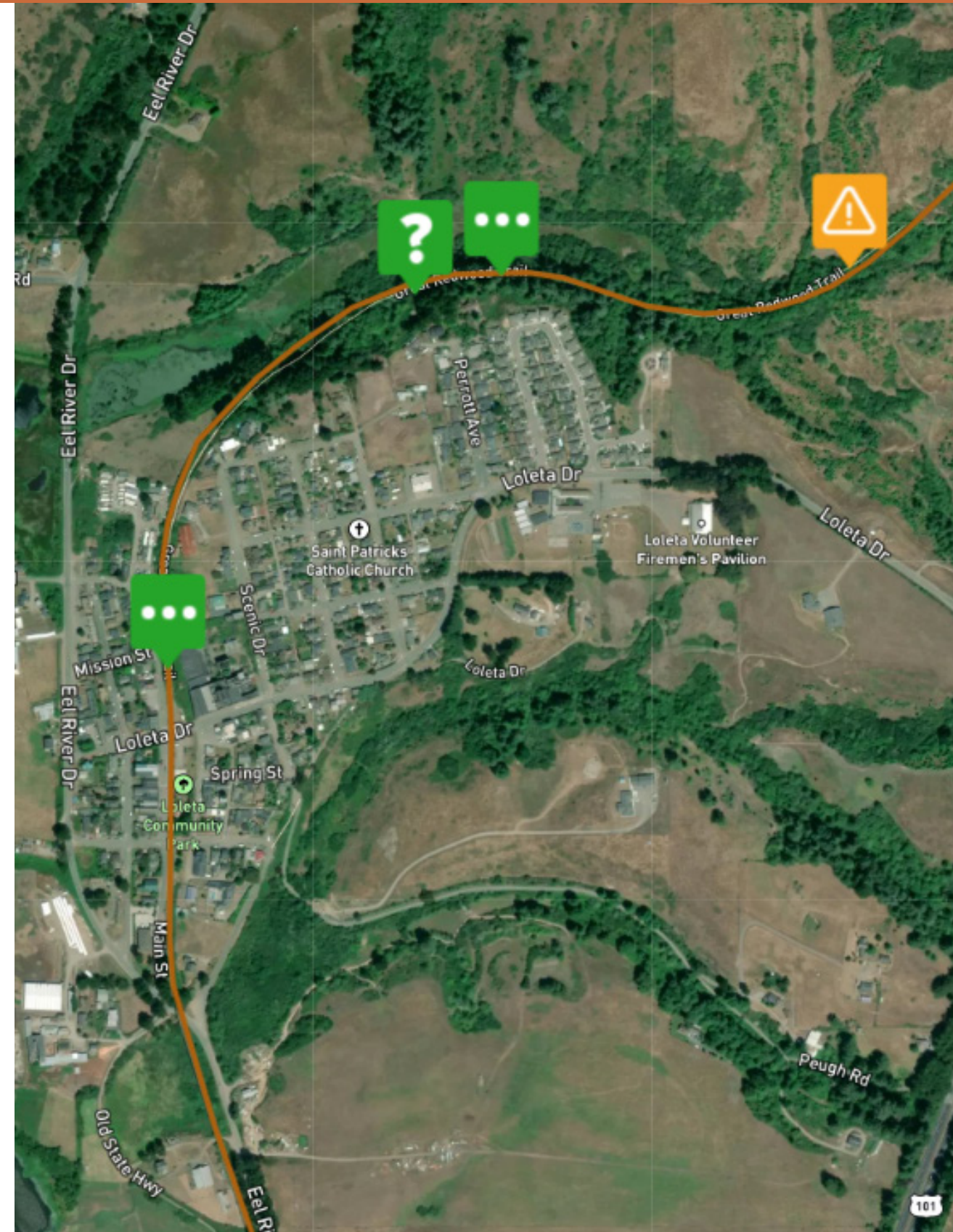


Hopland Workshop on July 27th

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



Online Webmap and Surveys

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through a rocky bed, surrounded by steep, hilly terrain. The hills are covered with sparse vegetation, including green shrubs and trees, and patches of dry, yellowish-brown grass. A large, dark, rocky outcrop is visible on the left side of the river. In the foreground, a dirt path or trail runs along the edge of the river. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "TRAIL BEST PRACTICES" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

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



RESPECT OUR WORKING FARMS & VINEYARDS
EXPECT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES & KEEP CLEAR
STAY WITHIN TRAIL BOUNDARIES (PETS, TOO)
PREVENT SPREAD OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES
ELIMINATE ALL TRACE & TRASH (FROM PETS, TOO)
CCHECK YOUR NOISE LEVELS
TAKE 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 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.

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
 - ◆ 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.

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

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”

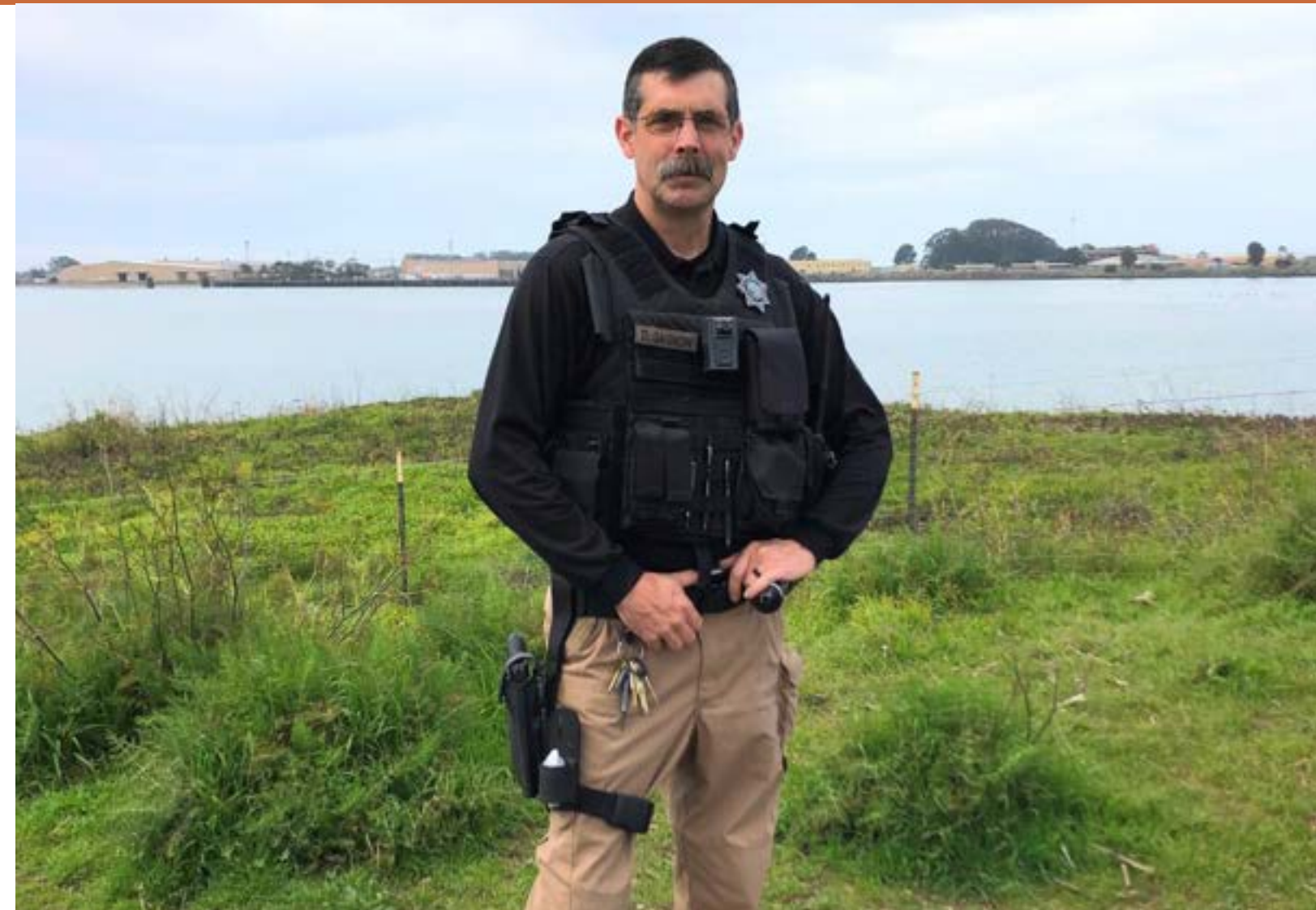
Volunteers and staff patrol the trail, providing assistance and reporting issues.

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.

TRAIL BEST PRACTICES



BEST PRACTICES DISCUSSION

- ▶ 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.



An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. A river flows through the center, surrounded by rocky banks and lush green vegetation. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green trees and shrubs. A large, dark, jagged rock formation stands prominently on the left side of the river. In the foreground, a dirt path or trail winds through the valley. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "TRAIL EXPERIENCE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

TRAIL EXPERIENCE

TRAIL EXPERIENCE

WHAT COULD THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL EXPERIENCE BE?

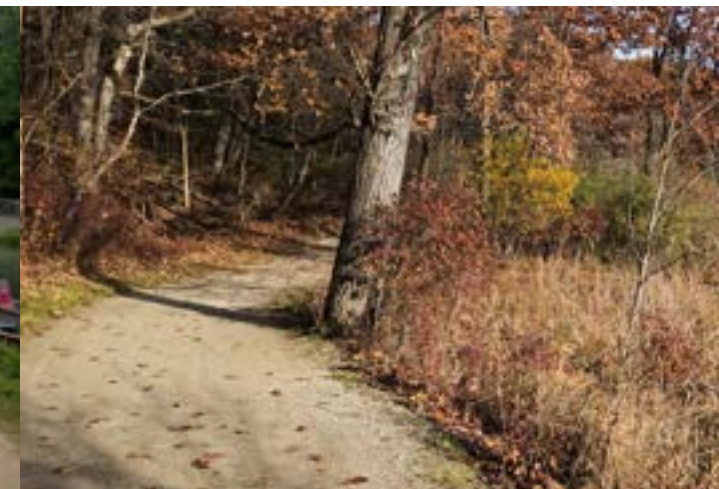
- ▶ No “one-size-fits-all” approach, width and surface will vary based on context and environmental conditions
- ▶ Three general types of trail will be featured:
 - ◆ **Backcountry Trail:** single-track trail constructed with bare earth material found on-site
 - ◆ **Crushed Stone Multi-use Trail:** compacted 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



Backcountry Trail



Crushed Stone Multi-use Trail

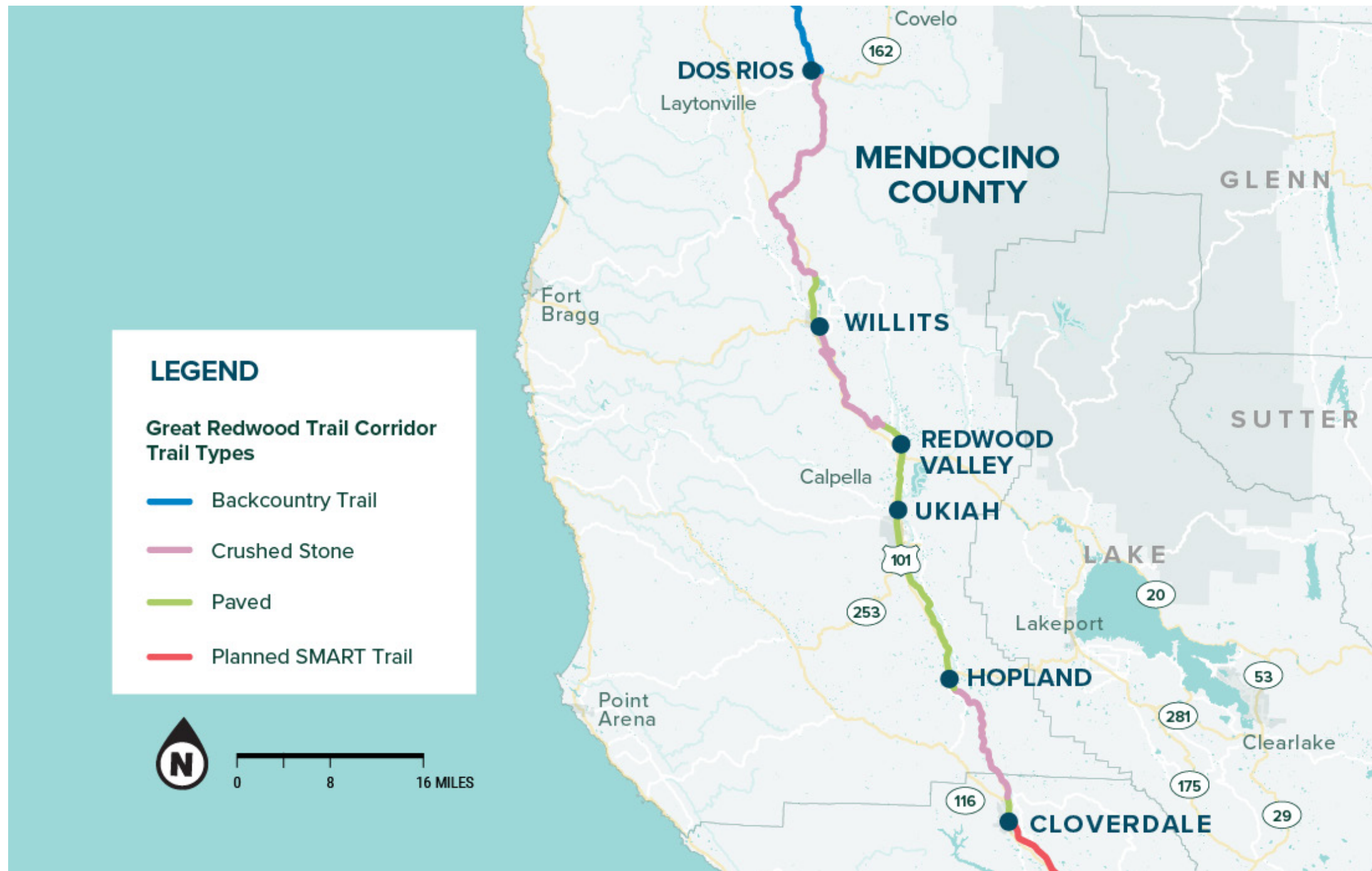


Paved Multi-use Trail



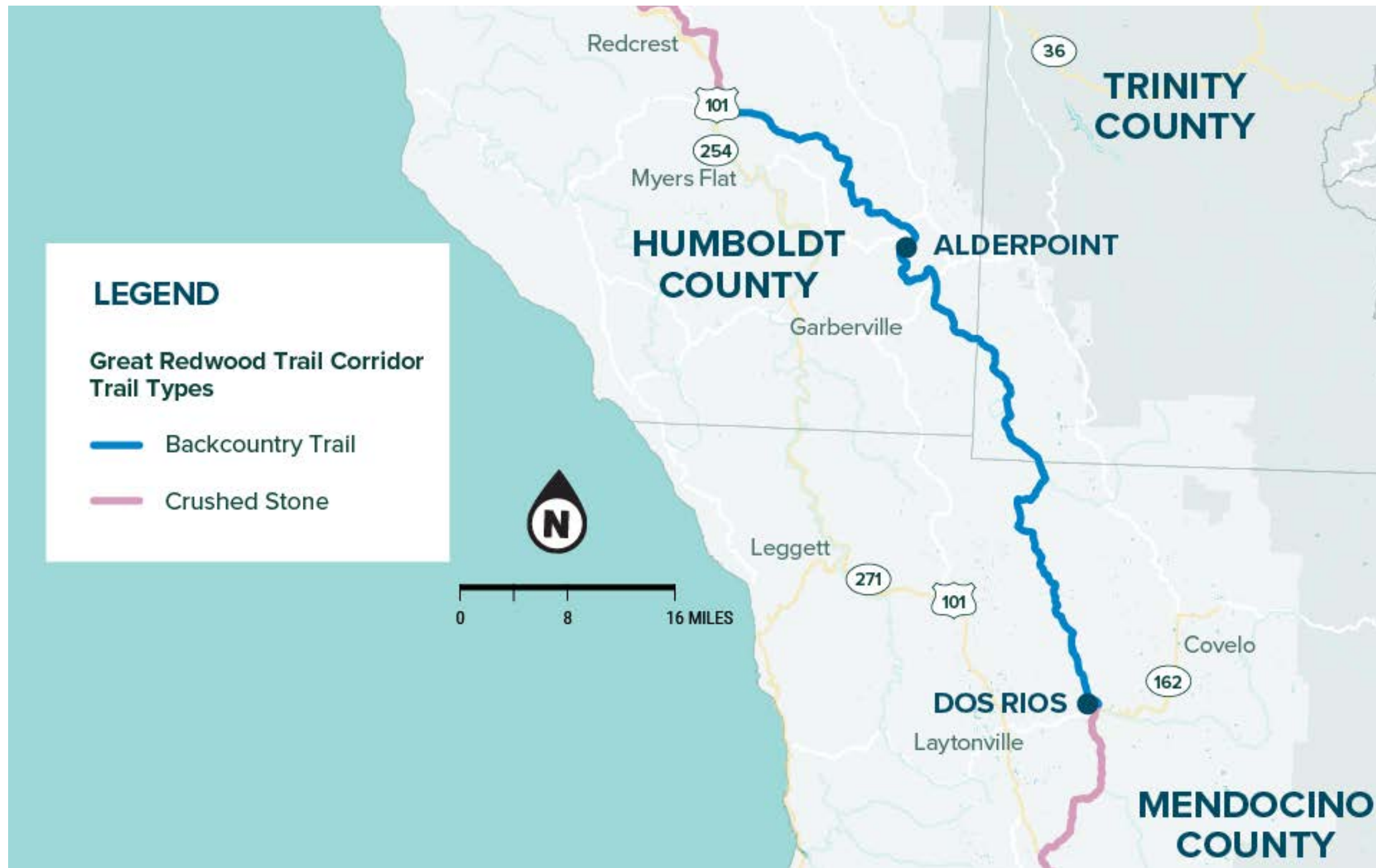
TRAIL EXPERIENCE

PROPOSED TRAIL TYPES



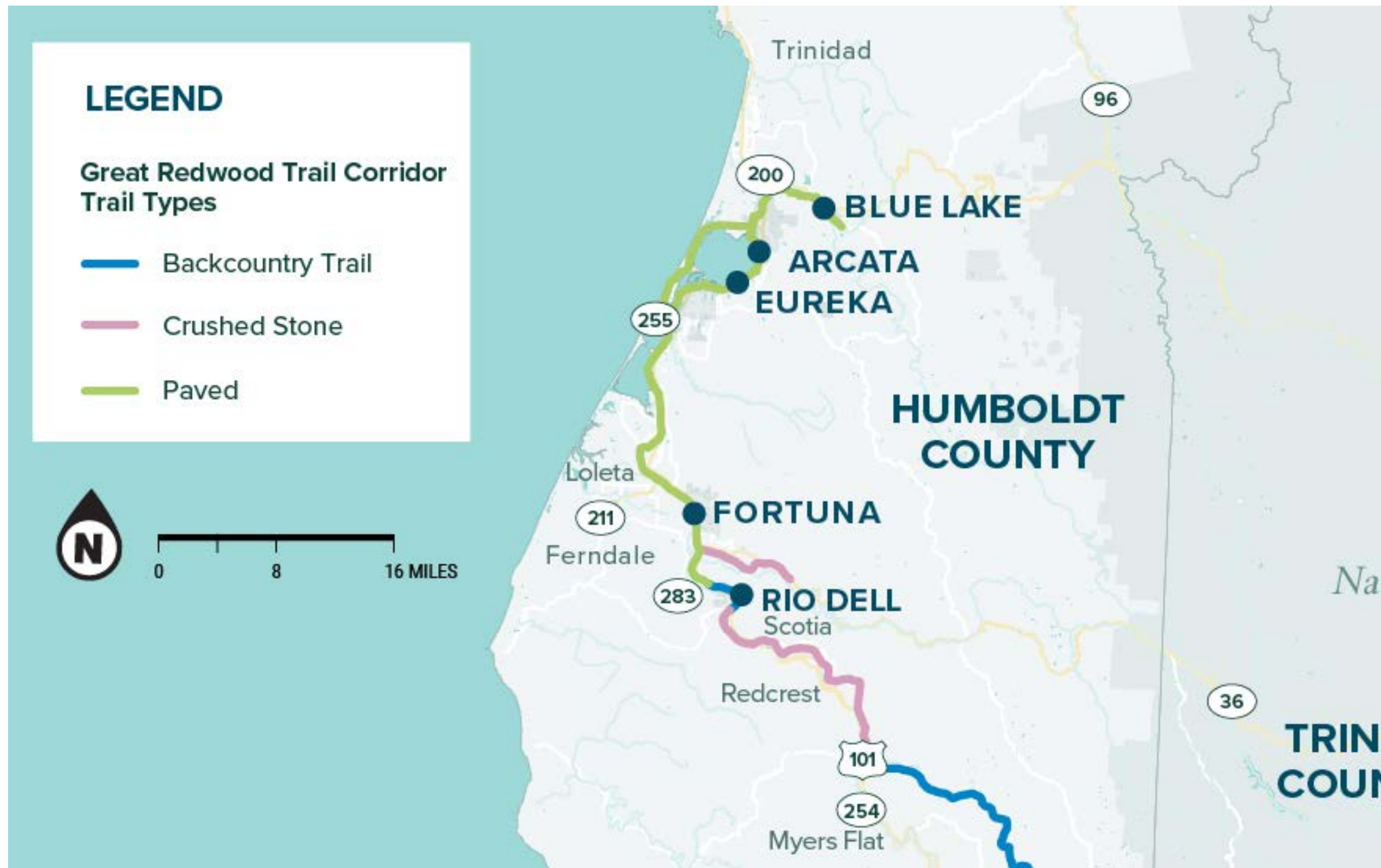
TRAIL EXPERIENCE

PROPOSED TRAIL TYPES



TRAIL EXPERIENCE

PROPOSED TRAIL TYPES



TRAIL EXPERIENCE



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** or use the QR code below on your smartphone or computer.



An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through a rocky bed, surrounded by steep, hilly terrain. The hills are covered with sparse vegetation, including green trees and shrubs, and patches of dry, yellowish-brown grass. A large, dark, craggy rock formation stands prominently on the left bank. In the lower-left foreground, a set of railroad tracks runs diagonally across the landscape. A large, solid green circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text.

TRAIL TOWNS & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

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.

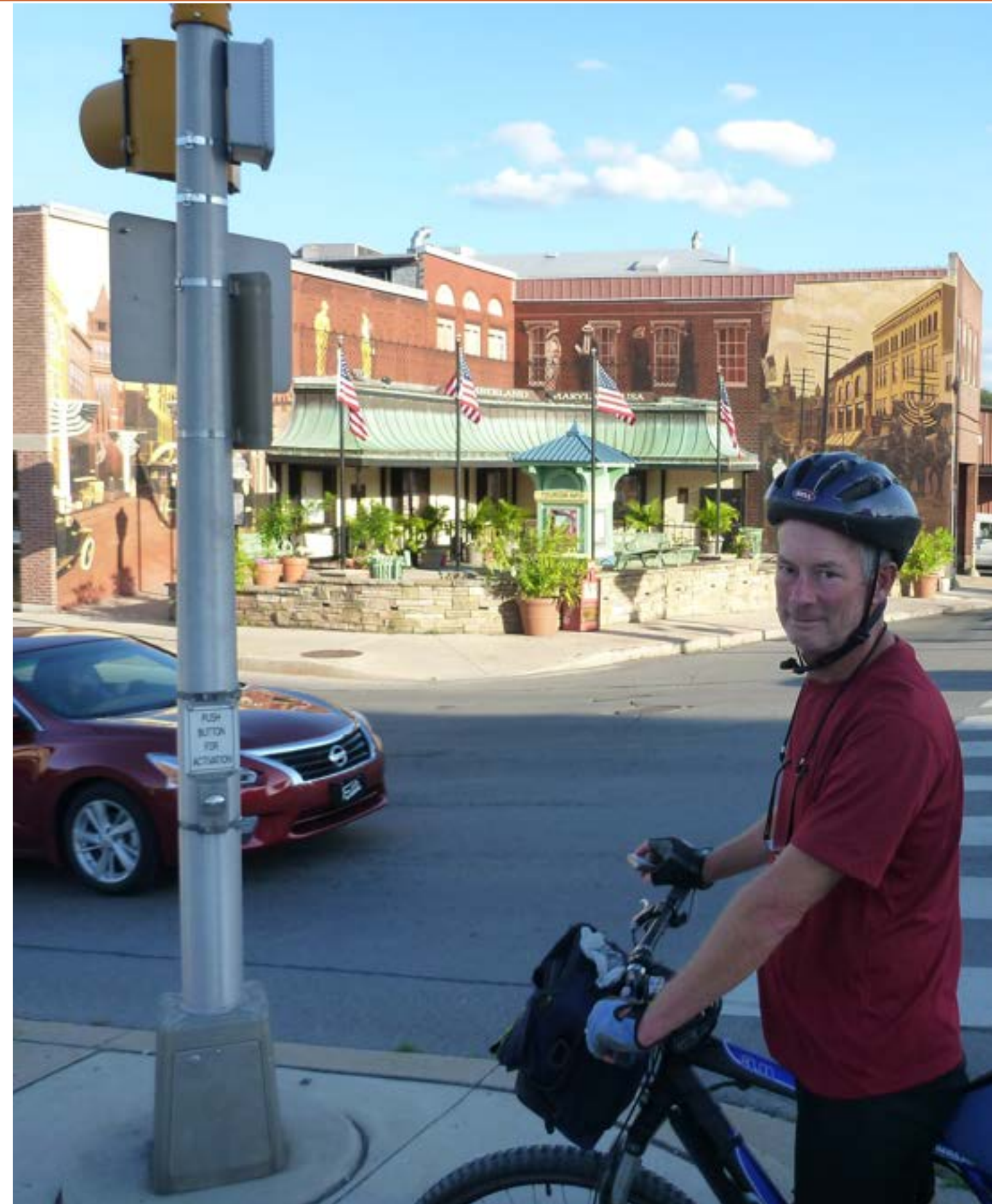


\$102,568,000 total annually

TRAIL TOWNS

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Expansion of existing businesses
- ▶ 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 TOWNS



TRAIL TOWN DISCUSSION

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

Mentimeter Poll

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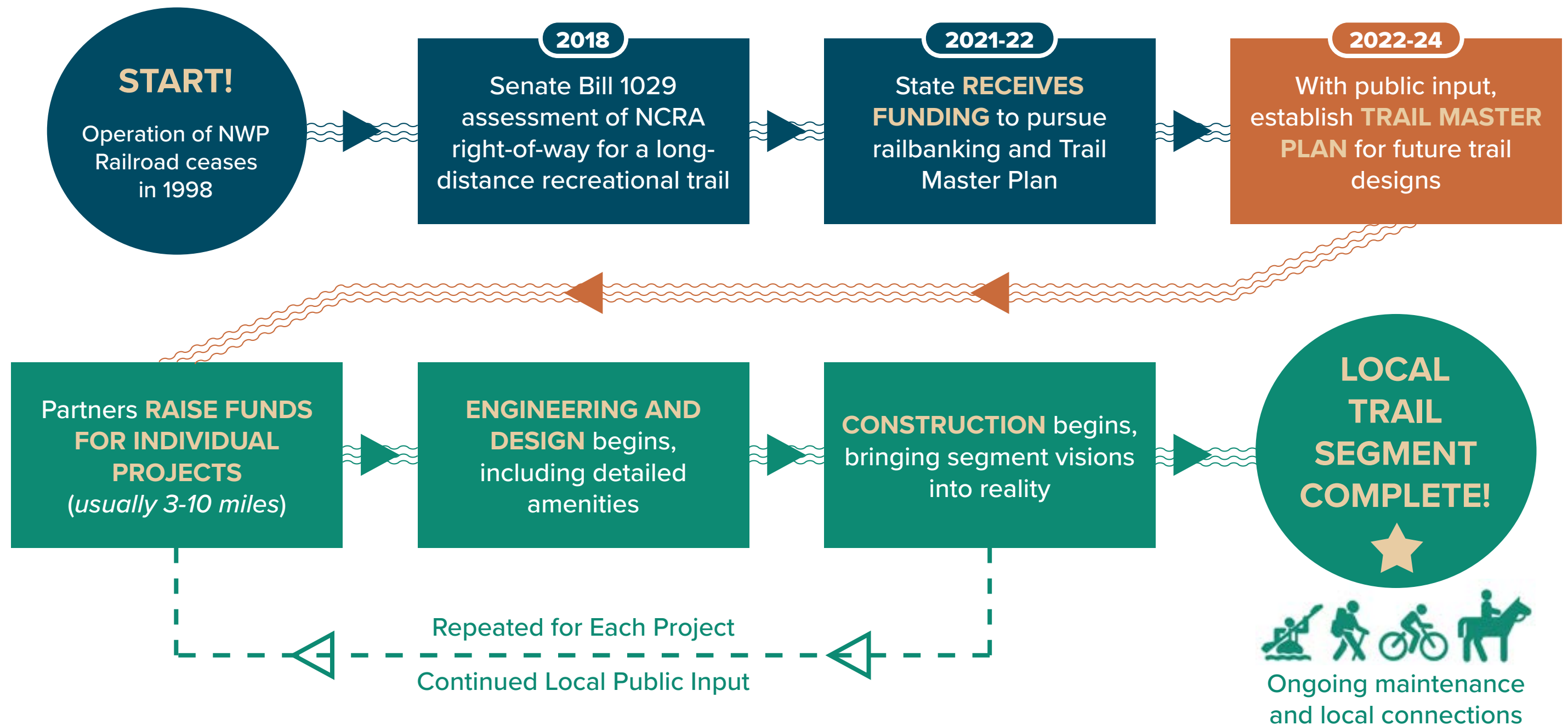


An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. The valley floor is covered with green trees and shrubs, interspersed with patches of dry, yellowish-brown grass. A large, dark, rocky outcrop is visible on the left side of the river. In the background, the valley rises into rolling hills and mountains, also covered in similar vegetation. A large, solid green circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text "NEXT STEPS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

GRT PROCESS FLOWCHART



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



TEMPERATURE CHECK



**ZOOM POLL:
HOW DO YOU FEEL
ABOUT THE GREAT
REDWOOD TRAIL?**



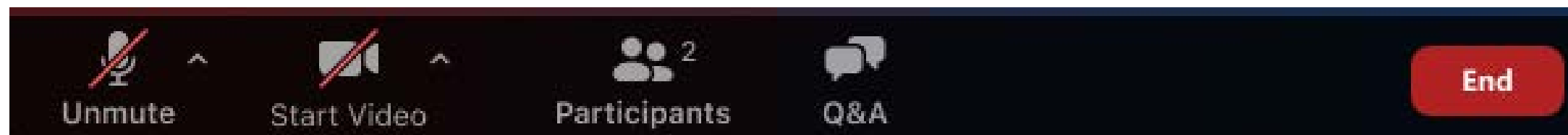
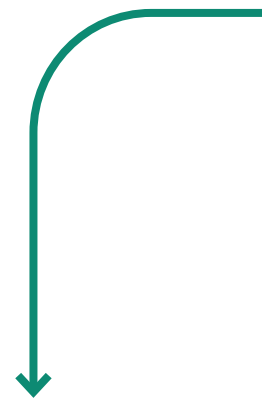
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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Q&A

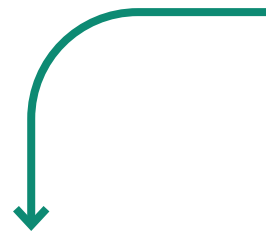
Use the Q&A button
on your Zoom
screen to submit a
question!



DISCUSSION

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

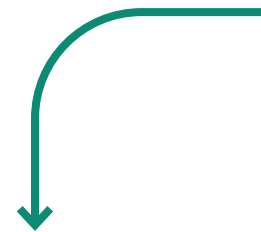
Check out the website
to stay involved and
provide additional input!



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, surrounded by hills and sparse vegetation. A large, dark rock formation is prominent on the left side of the river. In the foreground, a dirt path or railway track runs through the grassy area. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**THANK
YOU FOR
ATTENDING!**

Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Online Workshop

August 02, 2023 - Zoom Poll Results

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

Safe Equestrian access	Sufficient camping facilities	Equine use
Bathrooms	That the trail will not happen!	Horse use
Sustained trail maintenance.	I would like to see equestrian trails developed sooner than later.	Safety would be my concern. It sounds like that is on everyone's mind here, however.

What are you most concerned about?

35 Responses

I'm worried that it might take too long to complete. And that unnecessary delays will cost the projects too much time and money.

Someone smoking and throwing their lit and starting a fire.
Or camping with a fire that gets out of control.

Homelessness growth

Getting this thing finished before I die! :-)

I would like to see equestrian trails developed sooner than later.

I'm worried that it'll be hard to get permits and that the projects will take too much time and money.

The cost of developing the trail. I'm a cyclist from Santa Rosa and would love to be able to ride to Eureka.

Horse access

State run agencies creating a monopoly of amenities in the Eel River Canyon.

What are you most concerned about?

35 Responses

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

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

Trails need to be wide enough to separate uses.

Being able to go on a multi day hike/walk/camp

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.

I think it is great that the design will consider not only safety and crime prevention but cultural considerations.

It would be nice to have benches.

Be able to go on a multi day hike walk camp locally

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.

What ideas or solutions are you most excited about?

16 Responses

Equestrian volunteer trail stewards

The connectivity between our towns in Humboldt County.

The ability to ride from Blue Lake to Danta Rosa

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

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

Connecting our small communities with non-motorized options.

Safe trails that can be used in everyday living

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

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

Write in your town or area, and list how you would like to explore your stretch of the GRT

14 Responses

Arcata, via horseback

Biking

Hopland... biking

Humboldt County. Biking and walking mostly.

Some walking, mostly biking. So much biking.

Cycling

Hydesville - On the Carlotta Branch - hiking, equestrian, and river access.

Biking

Humboldt County, walking & Equestrian

Write in your town or area, and list how you would like to explore your stretch of the GRT

14 Responses

Blue Lake - Biking

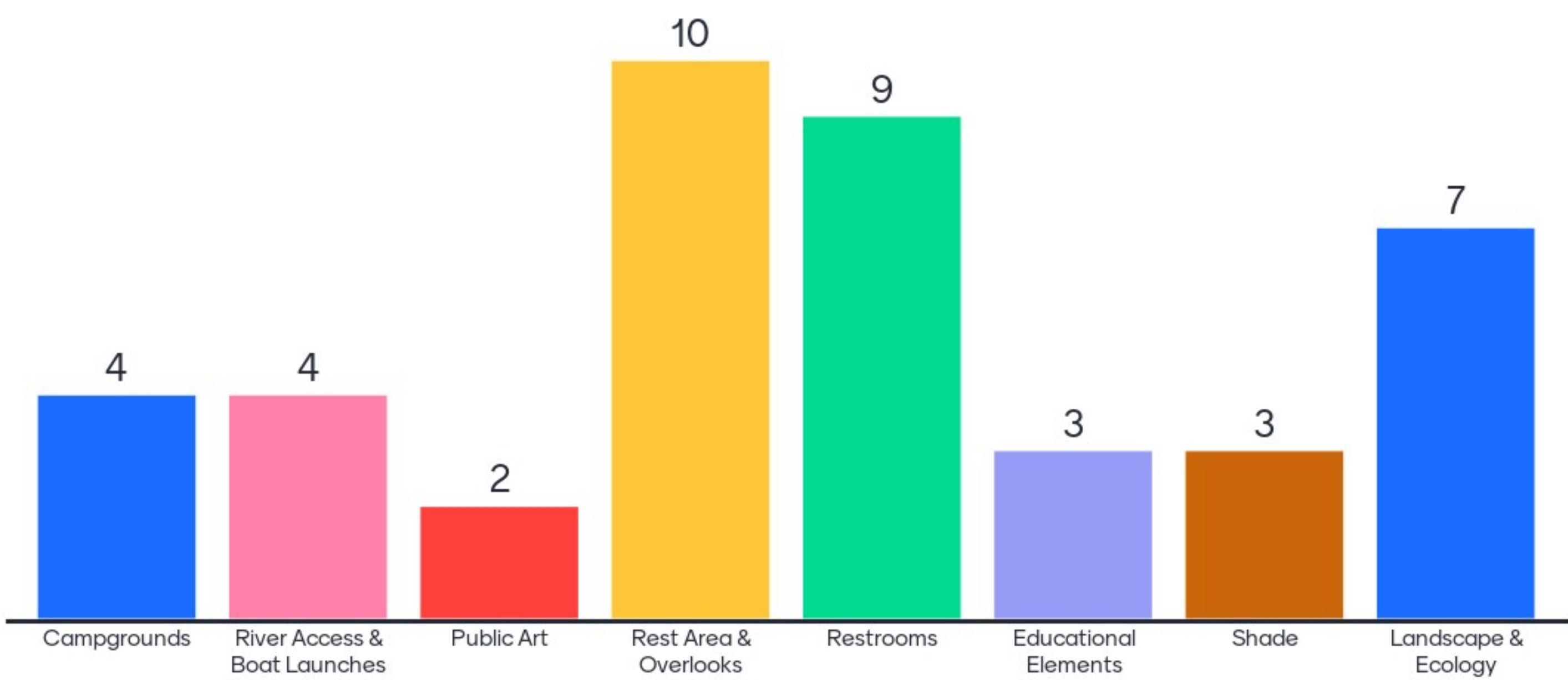
So much biking in Humboldt.

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?



Campgrounds



River Access & Boat Launches



Public Art



Rest Area & Overlooks



Restrooms



Educational Elements



Shade



Landscape & Ecology



What existing businesses would benefit from the trail?

10 Responses

Businesses in downtown Hopland

A grocery store in Alderpoint.

Kinetic Sculpture Lab in Arcata
Restaurants

Restaurants, lodging, equipment
rental, tour guides for group trips

Cafes, outdoor supply stores, bike
rental & repair

Restaurants, grocery stores, tourist
guides, overnight housing
opportunities

Kayak rental, restaurants, outfitters

In Arcata, restaurants and bars, bike
shops, and our one outfitter.

Bike shops, outdoor supplies

What existing businesses would benefit from the trail?

10 Responses

The Creamery District Buisnesses

What new businesses would you like to see along the trail?

8 Responses

In Humboldt, hostels, campgrounds, maybe food trucks.

Small independent store owners, campgrounds, restaurants

Outfitters, health spas, exercise studios, B&Bs

Campgrounds and markets. Rafting guides.

Equestrian camping or overnight lodging, food shack/ restaurants, transportation for a return from a one way trail trip

Camping for sure

We are petitioning for Linear Park in Arcata which will benefit new businesses from the great redwood trail

Bookstores emphasizing fauna and flora and history of trail