

GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL NEWS

December 2023

Tribal Engagement Spotlight



The project team attended Coyote Valley Big Time to share information about the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan.

The **Great Redwood Trail (GRT)** team has met with 21 individual California Native American Tribes - including Tribal groups, leaders, and members - to discuss the project, answer questions, and hear Tribal peoples' concerns. We have sent letters and emails and talked with Tribal people over Zoom, the phone, and in person at meetings and Tribal events. Our intention is to engage with Tribes throughout the GRT planning, design, construction, and management process, so that California Native American cultural resources and practices are respected and protected by the project. Partnerships and collaboration with Tribes are essential to the success of this project.

On October 1, members of the GRT Master Plan project team met at Richardson Grove State Park with members of Tribes and their allies to answer questions and listen to concerns about the Great Redwood Trail project. Concerns included potential impacts of public access on sensitive cultural sites and questions about the process of developing this project. Many of the Tribal people at this meeting want to find a way to be more involved in the development and oversight of the GRT. Land back initiatives and Tribal co-management of the trail were some of the many suggested ways forward together.

Local Mendocino County partner NCO led a workshop at the Round Valley Indian Tribes “Buffalo Room” in Covelo on October 27. This two-hour workshop was an opportunity to share GRT project information and listen to Tribal concerns, hopes, and input on the project.

Building trust and relationships between the GRT staff and California Native American Tribes is a long-term commitment of the GRT project team.

CBO Engagement Spotlight

Our sincere gratitude goes out to the wonderful support from our community-based organizations, Ukiah Vecinos en Acción (UVA), Arbor Youth Center, and Ukiah’s Boys & Girls Club. We have had an eventful, fun, and engaging past few months!

Firstly, we want to highlight our dedicated partners, Ukiah Vecinos en Acción (UVA), which is a Latino Coalition formed by community members who are passionate and focused on acting on issues affecting the Latino population. This coalition acts as a bridge between agencies and the community to enrich the positive presence of Latinos, serve as a non-biased platform for information, and build an environment of trust and positive relationships. UVA hosted three community events along the Great Redwood Trail in Ukiah, where community members enjoyed live music, local food vendors, information about new resources in the area (like the new Vision Family Resource Center) and experienced walking along the Great Redwood Trail as a fun and healthy activity, as a community.



This past summer, the project team tabled at a series of Ukiah GRT-based events, called Viernes con UVA in June, July, and August 2023.

Secondly, we want to highlight that we are incredibly grateful for the partnership with Redwood Community Service's Arbor Youth Center in Ukiah. This is a place where transition-age youth can find support and services to help them move from adolescence to adulthood successfully. Programs provide education support, housing navigation, peer mentorship, health and well-being coaching, employment workshops, and more. Over the past few months, their youth have been leading clean-ups along sections of the Great Redwood Trail and will continue this regularly.

Thirdly, we want to highlight the sincere support from our partner, Ukiah's Boys & Girls Club. They not only have graciously shared their tabling events with our outreach staff but have continued to help provide information to their community members about ways to get involved and offer feedback on the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan. In August, we were honored to share a table at the Back to School Bash and witnessed first-hand the amazing presence their team brings to their community. They provided free school supplies to all students and families and did this with enthusiasm and devotion.

North Coast Opportunities is truly humbled by these outstanding partnerships, and we look forward to creating more opportunities to collaborate!

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

Round 2 Workshops

In July 2023, we held two in-person workshops with 70 community members in Alderpoint and 57 community members in Hopland. These were highly dynamic workshops where participants visited a series of stations with different thematic information and opportunities for direct feedback and discussion. Throughout the workshops, there were opportunities to talk with project team members, leave comments, and meet attendees from other interest groups. We also hosted a second online workshop, where 32 attendees learned more about the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan and shared their questions, concerns, and ideas. Workshop recordings and summaries are available at <https://greatredwoodtrailplan.org/#events>.



Community members share their ideas and concerns at a workshop in Hopland at Brutocao Cellars.



We had 70 participants join us in Alderpoint at the Volunteer Fire Hall to engage with our team about the Great Redwood Trail.

Developing the GRT Master Plan

Our team is in the process of developing a draft Great Redwood Trail Master Plan, which will include the following components:

- Introduction and Background: Master Plan timeline, vision, and goals, intended benefits, and the history of the GRT corridor
- Community Engagement: a summary of Tribal engagement, and public & stakeholder engagement to date, including strategies and what we heard
- Existing Conditions: an overview of existing conditions along the corridor, including a review of existing and planned GRT segments and an analysis of opportunities and challenges along the corridor
- Trail Experience: information about Trail Towns and the potential look and feel of different trail segments
- Trail Design Guide: guidance on best practices related to trail types and users, trail construction, overcoming major barriers, trail crossings, wayfinding, and more
- Trail Oriented Development & Amenities: guidance on trail facility types (e.g., trailheads, campgrounds, etc.), trail amenities (e.g., restrooms, potable water/drinking fountains, lighting, etc.), and private trail-oriented development (e.g., restaurants, lodging, etc.)
- Trail Implementation: permitting process/requirements, funding opportunities, phasing and prioritization, trail operations and management

Keep an eye on our [events calendar](#) for upcoming engagement opportunities early next year!