

GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL MASTER PLAN NEWSLETTER

Coming Soon: Great Redwood Trail Draft Master Plan!

For the past 18 months, the Great Redwood Trail Agency has been developing a Master Plan for the 231 miles of trail within Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties. We have gathered ideas and suggestions from hundreds of community members and are now ready to share the Draft Master Plan!

The Great Redwood Trail (GRT) Draft Master Plan includes the following chapters and appendices:

Chapter 1: Introduction – We start with a vision for the GRT and principles to guide future development, as well as a brief history of the corridor.

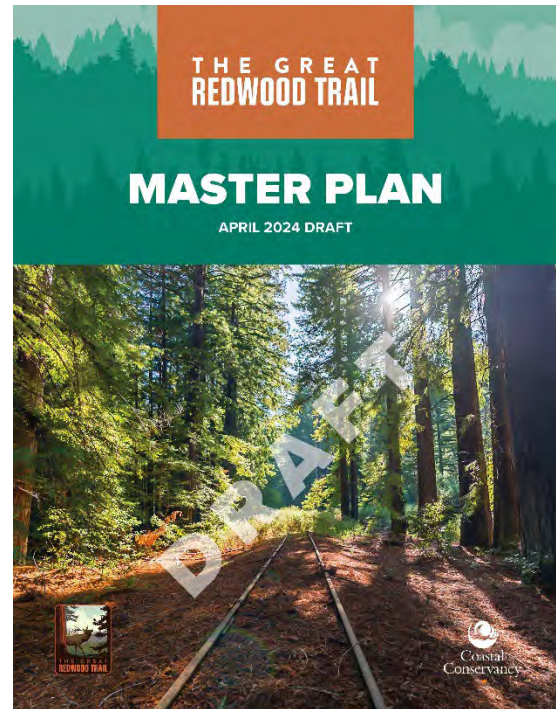
Chapter 2: Tribal & Community Engagement – Next, we summarize input from California Native American tribes, stakeholders, community-based organizations, and the general public. We also point out where in the Master Plan key concerns and ideas are addressed.

Chapter 3: Existing Conditions – Then, we document the existing conditions of the GRT corridor including the physical conditions (e.g. tunnels, bridges, trestles, landslides), existing and planned trail segments, and the land use and regulatory contexts.

Chapter 4: Trail Use & Design – This chapter provides information on anticipated trail user types and design solutions to meet their needs, including what amenities might be installed along the trail to improve the user experience. It also presents suggestions for trail-oriented economic development.

Chapter 5: Trail Operations & Management – This chapter offers guidance for the governance, operations, and maintenance of the GRT to ensure the trail segments are well maintained and operated. While some concerns can be addressed through design, others require careful management and collaboration with California Native American tribes, adjacent landowners, law enforcement, and first responders.

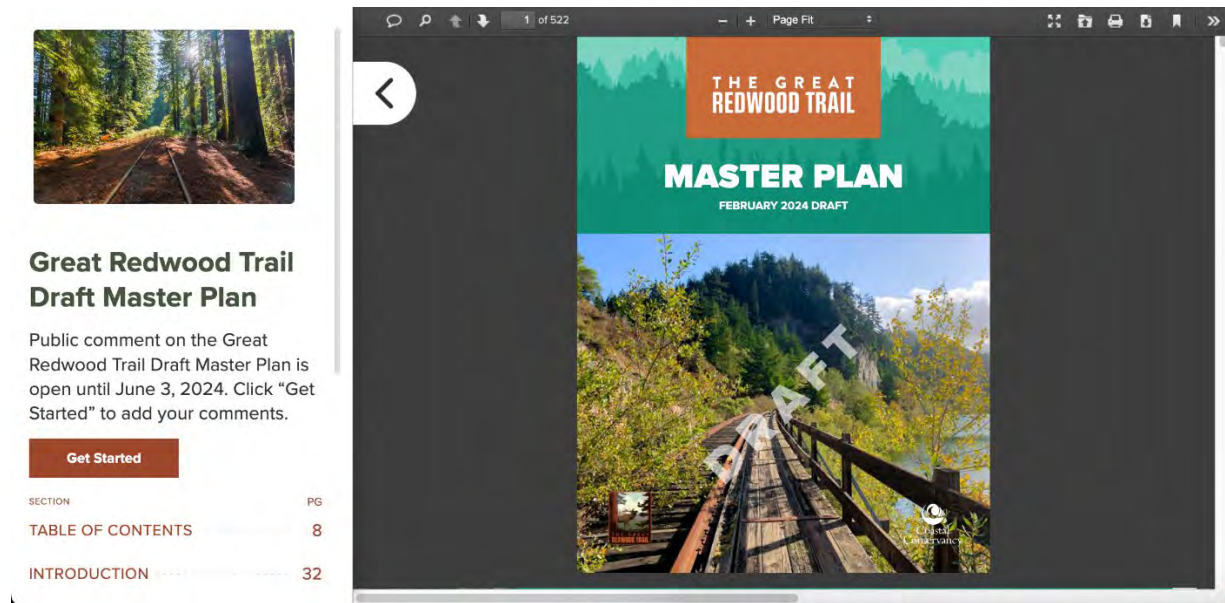
Chapter 6: Project Prioritization – This chapter provides a framework for building out the GRT over time and includes a list of prioritized trail segments. It also includes detailed maps to identify opportunities, constraints, and possible design solutions for future trail projects to consider.



Chapter 7: Implementation Strategy – This last chapter discusses the permitting process and requirements and potential funding strategies and sources.

Appendices – These provide more details on various Master Plan elements, including economic benefits, wayfinding and branding guidelines, and a fish habitat restoration assessment.

The GRT Draft Master Plan will be available for public comment starting on **April 3, 2024**, and closing on **June 3, 2024**. You can provide direct input on the Draft Master Plan by using our PDF commenting tool, which will allow you to leave comments through the document. You can also provide input by attending an upcoming workshop, as described in the next section.



PDF commenting tool for direct input.

Upcoming Workshops

You can learn more about the GRT Draft Master Plan and share your feedback at an upcoming in-person or virtual community workshop (details below). The in-person workshops in Eureka and Ukiah will be open house style (come and go as you please), with multiple stations covering different aspects of the Draft Master Plan. At these stations, there will be project team staff and large-scale boards to help you learn about:

- Great Redwood Trail background, vision, and benefits
- Overview of key takeaways from California Native American tribal and community engagement completed to date
- Trail design, including trail types, amenities, and wayfinding
- Detailed segment maps with opportunities and constraints
- Trail governance, operations, and maintenance recommendations
- Trail segment prioritization process and results
- Next steps, including GRT Master Plan implementation and the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) process (details below)

Refreshments will be provided to attendees at these upcoming in-person public meetings:

Eureka – Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Join us any time between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Sequoia Conference Center

901 Myrtle Ave, Eureka, CA 95501

[RSVP here](#)

Ukiah – Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Join us any time between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Ukiah Valley Conference Center

200 South School St, Ukiah, CA 95482

[RSVP here](#)

Online Workshop – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6:00-7:30 pm

[RSVP to the Zoom Meeting here](#)

For more information, please visit the [events calendar](#).

Engagement Summary

California Native American tribal and community input guided the project team to develop a GRT Draft Master Plan that prioritizes the needs of diverse trail users and stakeholders, helping to inform the project goals, trail elements, amenities, access point opportunities, policy considerations, and next steps. Additional and ongoing engagement with California Native American tribes, adjacent landowners, and the broader community will continue to be essential to future trail design phases, construction, and operations. The team connected with California Native American tribes, residents and stakeholders along the GRT corridor in many ways: through regional GRT Master Plan community outreach and engagement events, tabling at existing community events, targeted meetings with tribal leaders and stakeholder groups, surveys, and web-based input tools.

By The Numbers

The team connected with residents and stakeholders along the GRT corridor in many ways: through regional GRT Master Plan tribal and community outreach and engagement events, tabling at existing community events, targeted stakeholder meetings, surveys, and web-based input tools. In total, there were:



371
total attendees



4
in-person
workshops



2
online
workshops



23 tribal community and
general public events
attended for outreach

Over
70
stakeholder
meetings



767
surveys
completed

653
subscribers to
the GRT Master
Plan mailing list



153 unique
comments & **329**
votes on
comments

on the GRT Master Plan
web map

Engagement by the numbers.



Tribal engagement to date.



Community members joined the project team for a workshop at Brutocao Cellars in Hopland last July.



Tabling at community events, such as Festejando Nuestra Comunidad in College of the Redwoods, allowed the project team to share information and collect ideas.

GRTA to Start CEQA Process for Master Plan

Consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, the GRTA will be preparing a program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan. Preparing a program EIR for the whole of the Great Redwood Trail in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties allows for a more comprehensive consideration of effects than would be practical in separate mitigated negative declarations or EIRs on individual actions (i.e., individual trail segments) and allows for consideration of cumulative impacts that might be missed on a case-by-case basis.

When does the program PEIR process begin?

GRTA will prepare and distribute a Notice of Preparation (NOP) according to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, kicking off a 30-day public scoping period to provide interested parties the opportunity to offer early input on the scope of environmental issues and potential environmental effects to be considered in the GRT program EIR. GRTA plans to initiate the public scoping period this spring and hold an online public scoping meeting on the evening of **May 14, 2024**.

What information will be presented at the public scoping meeting?

It is anticipated that the scoping meeting will include an overview of the project, a description of the type and scope of the PEIR, a summary of probable environmental effects, and description of the PEIR process, including other opportunities for public comment. Oral comments from the public will be heard following the presentation (limit to 3 minutes per person).

How can I attend this meeting?

For more details on this meeting and to RSVP, please visit the [events calendar](#) closer to the event.

Can I provide written comments on the scope of the PEIR?

Yes. Check back after April 3, 2024 on the Master Plan website for details (GreatRedwoodTrailPlan.org). We are creating a PEIR section to provide more information.

What happens after the public scoping meeting?

This scoping meeting starts a year-long EIR process to evaluate potential environmental impacts and propose mitigation measures. Under AB 52, the GRTA will offer government-to-government consultations to California Native American tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission notice list. Additional public comment will be solicited when a draft PEIR is ready for public review.



Happy trails!