

WHAT IS THE BAY AREA TRAILS COLLABORATIVE?

The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a coalition of more than 50 organizations, agencies and businesses working to complete a 2,590-mile trail network linking the region's nine counties. Chaired by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), the collaborative seeks to improve the overall quality of life in the region by creating more opportunities for recreation and active transportation—thereby addressing health disparities in underserved communities, improving health and wellness, reducing pollution and greenhouse gases and promoting environmental sustainability.

When complete, the trail network will connect millions of additional residents with safe walking, bicycling and wheelchair routes to commute to work and school, travel to everyday destinations and explore world-class attractions throughout the Bay Area.

HOW DOES THE BAY AREA TRAIL NETWORK BENEFIT THE REGION?

JOB + THE ECONOMY: The trail network has the potential to inject billions of dollars annually into the economy and create more access to jobs.

- A recent RTC study attributes \$34.1 billion annually in economic activity across the country to active transportation, with the potential to grow to \$138.5 billion annually as the connectivity of trail and active transportation networks improves.¹
- Based on this study, it's estimated that trail networks like the Bay Area plan could generate as much as \$6.62 billion each year for California's economy.¹
- Almost 9 in 10 Bay Area residents live within 2 miles of the proposed trail network.²
- Nearly 4 million jobs will be accessible within 2 miles of the trail network once it is complete.²

EQUITY: Everyone deserves safe walking, biking and trail access to take them where they want to go.

- The majority of the Bay Area's population comprises People of Color, a collective demographic group that is significantly less likely to own cars, according to a report from PolicyLink and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity.
- The Bay Area regional trail network offers an accessible way to connect to public transportation, as well as jobs, schools and community destinations.
- When the trail network is complete, 68% more residents from disadvantaged communities will have access to safe walking, biking and trails.²



ENVIRONMENT: The trail network is an innovative solution to help reach the state's climate goals.

- Replacing short trips with walking or biking can cut transportation emissions.
- It is expected that the usage of the region's trains, ferries, buses and roads will have increased by millions of people by 2050, according to [Plan Bay Area 2050](#). The trail network offers a transportation alternative.
- Currently about 40% of California's carbon emissions comes from transportation, according to the [California Air Resources Board](#).
- Half the country's car trips are within a 20-minute bike ride and a quarter are within a 20-minute walk, according to a [2017 National Household Travel Survey](#).
- The carbon emissions from cycling is more than 25 times lower than that of cars, according to [Lufthansa Innovation Hub research](#).

TOURISM: The trail network is a popular travel destination and has the potential to have a significant impact on regional tourism.

- According to [Visit California](#), the state's tourism industry contributed more than \$6 billion in state and local tax revenue in 2020.
- The trail network will connect the region's world-class tourist attractions, including wine country, the Golden Gate Bridge and the scenic shoreline with a variety of safe walking, bicycling and wheelchair routes.
- Currently, around 40% of the network is still in development. Once complete, people will be able to walk, bike and explore scenic routes to communities, businesses and attractions along more than 2,500 miles of trail.
- According to the East Bay Regional Park District, which is part of the Bay Area Trails Collaborative, their 73 parks and 1,300 miles of trails had an annual rate of 25 million visitors—more than some amusement parks and entertainment destinations—with visits increasing during the pandemic.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE NETWORK?

- Many of the trails in the network are funded by inconsistent contributions from the state budget, which can vary annually and impact the ability of communities to complete critical trail developments and maintenance.
- Trail networks deliver considerable benefits to residents, businesses and the economy but substantially more funding is needed to complete the Bay Area regional trail network.

To explore the Bay Area regional trail network map and learn more about the Bay Area Trails Collaborative, visit: railstotrails.org/batc.

¹ Data from RTC's *Active Transportation Transforms America* report.

² Figures from a 2021 RTC Bay Area buffer analysis, based on data from the 2020 U.S. Census and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Plan Bay Area 2050 Equity Priority Communities.