BAY AREA TRAILS COLLABORATIVE

richmond to pinole gap

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile trail circumnavigating the San Francisco Bay, running through nine counties and 47 cities, and across seven toll bridges. This multiuse trail—which is approximately 70% complete—is enjoyed by cyclists, pedestrians, birders, runners and families, among others looking to experience the majesty of the Bay. The Bay Trail connects neighborhoods, schools, parks and transit centers, providing unique active transportation options for the region's nearly 8 million residents.

Project Overview

The Richmond to Pinole gap project will construct a 0.9-mile, paved multiuse segment of the Bay Trail that will parallel the shoreline between Point Pinole Regional Shoreline and Wilson Point at the Pinole Shores Park, closing a critical gap between the cities of Richmond and Pinole. The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has concluded its environmental review (Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration) and the preliminary design is complete.

The project will be constructed along and within the Union Pacific Railroad easement, and navigate through freshwater wetlands. The project will include approximately 700 feet of boardwalk to minimize impacts to wetlands, a 70-foot bridge over Garrity Creek and retaining structures to support the trail along a steep slope. Interpretive panels will provide engaging information about local natural and cultural history. The new trail will be accessible via the Point Pinole Regional Shoreline staging area and the Pinole Shores staging area. EBRPD may also add public access opportunities to connect local communities to this new 0.9-mile stretch of Bay Trail.

Project Data

- **Total Project Miles:** 0.9
- **Continuous Bay Trail Miles Linked by Gap Closure:** 33
- **Estimated Project Cost:** $10 million
- **Project Status:** Preliminary design and environmental review complete; raising funds for final design and construction

Courtesy East Bay Regional Park District

Transformative Impact

The adjacent segments of Bay Trail are heavily used and enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors weekly. The project will provide first-time public access to this part of the shoreline and will create an unbroken Bay Trail connection between Hercules, Richmond, Oakland, Berkeley and Yerba Buena Island, and weekend access to Marin County over the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The Hercules Transit Center is a short ride from the Bay Trail in this area and will provide a safe car-free option for those in the vicinity. The trail will provide direct access to the Pinole Point Business Center, which employs thousands of people who could use the trail to commute to their workplace. Thousands of users will also have unfettered trail access to BART stations utilizing the Bay Trail, Richmond Greenway and Ohlone Greenway, providing robust, car-free, active transportation options to residents and visitors.

Project Action Plan

Funding for final design is needed to move the project toward construction. EBRPD needs to secure an easement from West Contra Costa Unified School District and Contra Costa County Public Works to construct the project. Both agencies are currently engaged in public processes to determine the future uses of these properties and would benefit from advocacy assistance. To acquire local or regional funding, advocacy assistance is needed, as is letter writing and development of project marketing materials and graphics to benefit communication with multiple stakeholders and the general public.

Project Leads

- East Bay Regional Park District
- City of Richmond

Primary Stakeholders

- Trails for Richmond Action Committee
- Contra Costa County
- West Contra Costa Unified School District
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Bay Area Trails Collaborative

Project Contact

Suzanne Wilson
swilson@ebparks.org
Senior Planner, East Bay Park District

The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails to Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.