

Bay Trail Richmond New Year 2023 Report

*“There is an inherent legacy in trails – one that honors the past,
enriches the present and provides a gift to the future.”*

– Keith Laughlin, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

This 24th New Year report by TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, summarizes San Francisco Bay Trail progress in the City of Richmond. The City has 36 miles of Bay Trail completed, representing over 10% of the existing 355 miles of the planned 500-mile walking, jogging and cycling route encircling San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Nevertheless, six miles of gaps remain in Richmond as shown on the report’s last page map.

Read on to learn about progress toward completing and improving the Bay Trail in Richmond. Stay healthy and enjoy the Bay Trail!

POINT MOLATE BAY TRAIL

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has partnered with the City to build 2.5 miles of Bay Trail along the shoreline north from the Richmond San Rafael (RSR) Bridge past Point Molate Beach Park to the Winehaven Historic District using over \$6 million in grants secured by the City and the District. Construction bidding is expected in early 2023 followed by construction 2023-2024. The trail will open up a scenic, historic stretch of San Francisco Bay shoreline where there is no public access other than at Point Molate Beach.

EXTENDING THE BAY TRAIL TO PINOLE, HERCULES & RODEO

The Bay Trail now ends one mile north of the Atlas Road Bridge entry to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. EBRPD is developing the preferred alternative for closing this gap to link with [San Pablo Bay Regional Shoreline](#) in Pinole, Hercules and Rodeo. Public engagement for choosing the route will take place this winter/spring.

CARRYING OUT THE FERRY TO BRIDGE TO GREENWAY PLAN

Too many plans sit on a shelf gathering dust. Not so for the award-winning [Ferry to Bridge to Greenway Complete Streets Plan \(F2B2G Plan\)](#) approved by the City Council in 2021. The City secured funds and is building 2-1/4 miles of protected bikeway on Harbour Way South, Hoffman & Cutting Boulevards where the Bay Trail detours inland around

working ports and boatyards. This “quick build” project is 95% complete, despite an unexpected ruling by BNSF Railway and the CA Public Utilities Commission that automated drop gates costing an estimated \$100,000 each would be required at railroad grade crossings for bicyclists traveling counterflow to motor vehicle traffic in the planned two-way bikeway. Plans were revised to avoid this cost by installing one-way bikeways on each side of Cutting Blvd. and rerouting portions of the bikeway on Harbour Way South. Weather permitting, construction should resume in January, including the bikeway on Hoffman Blvd. between Cutting Blvd. and the Castro St. approach to the RSR Bridge Trail. This \$447,000 project includes extending the protected two-way bikeways on Garrard Blvd. & Tewksbury Ave. and improving bus stops.



Harbour Way South Bikeway

Grant funds were secured for pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements through the Point Richmond Historic District between Cutting Blvd. and the Castro St. approach to the RSR Bridge Trail. This \$447,000 project includes extending the protected two-way bikeways on Garrard Blvd. & Tewksbury Ave. and improving bus stops.

RICHMOND WELLNESS TRAIL

The first phase of the **Richmond Wellness Trail** was completed as a collaborative project of Trust for Public Land, the City and local non-profits. It provides an attractively landscaped two-way protected bikeway and wide sidewalk linking the Richmond BART Station with the Richmond Greenway and Cutting Blvd. via Marina Way South. Funding was secured for Phase 2, which will complete the Bay Trail on Marina Way South to Lucretia Edwards Park.



Richmond Wellness Trail

PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING OF BAY TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Seven development projects conditionally approved by the City's Design Review Board and Planning Commission will fund major improvements to the Bay Trail. This includes 0.25 miles of new Bay Trail, \$242,000 for implementing the F2B2G Plan, seven interpretive signs, 500 feet of new shoreline access and 0.4 miles of old trail widened and repaved.

THE BAY TRAIL IS COMMON GROUND SIGNS

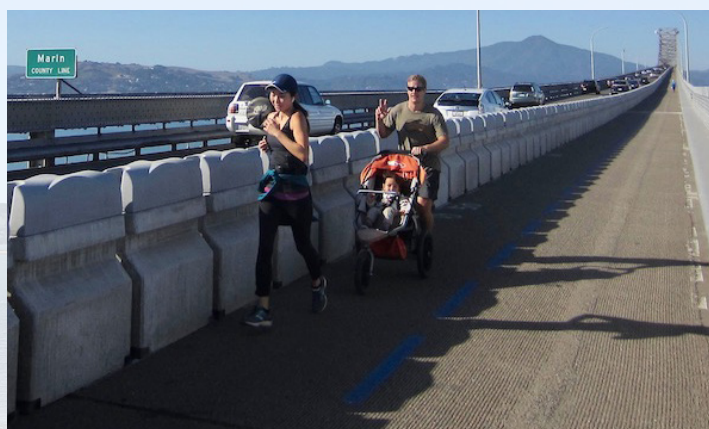
The City's Public Works Department printed, plated and installed 16 "The Bay Trail Is Common Ground - Be Kind" signs along the trail. The signs were developed by the Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee working with Jan Brown of **Spokewise**, who prepared the graphic design. The aim is to improve trail safety and reduce user conflicts.



Learn More About the Bay Trail!
For maps, guides and more information about the Bay Trail in Richmond, visit <https://www.pointrichmond.com/bay-trail/>

RICHMOND SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE TRAIL

There have been over 280,000 bicycle & pedestrian trips across the **RSR Bridge Trail** since it opened in November 2019 as a four-year pilot project. Over 150 bicyclists turned out on November 20 for a ride organized by Rich City Rides to celebrate the third anniversary of opening the trail. A UC Berkeley group published a report analyzing the project and concluded that the trail had no significant impact on traffic congestion. Usage will be pivotal in deciding whether the trail remains open after the pilot ends in late 2023. It's a great trip for both recreation and commuting.



RSR Bridge Trail

NEW ADVENTURE CENTER ON BAY TRAIL

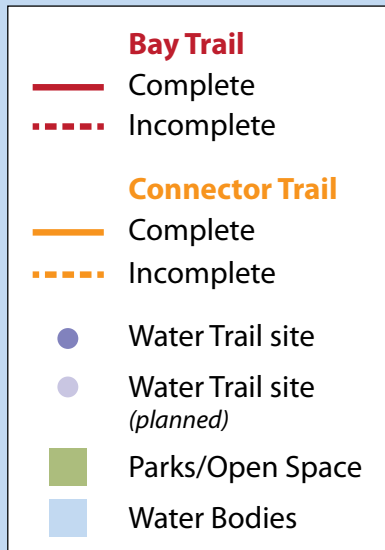
REI Co-Op opened the **Bay Area Adventure Center** at 1387 Marina Way South offering bicycles, kayaks, paddle boards and other gear for rent, as well as outdoor classes and experiences. You may rent a bike for a Bay Trail ride, as well as a kayak or board for paddling along Richmond's 32 miles of shoreline.



REI Co-Op

Thank you for supporting completion of the Bay Trail in Richmond. Please share this report with your friends and neighbors, encouraging them to join the Richmond Bay Trail Network at no cost by e-mailing baytrailtrac@gmail.com.

TRAC Steering Committee : Donald Bastin, Bruce Beyaert-Chair, Bruce Brubaker-Vice Chair, Andrew Butt, Aimee-Flynn-Curran, Claudia Garcia & Michelle Hook



Welcome to Richmond

Over 36 miles of Bay Trail linking a necklace of 12 shoreline parks

January 2023