

# VIRTUAL

*Anywhere & Everywhere*

APRIL 14-16, 2021



## 2020 & 2021 CALIFORNIA TRAILS AND GREENWAYS AWARDS

### 2020 MERIT AWARDS for DEVELOPMENT

#### **Tahoe Pyramid Trail for the Truckee to Reno Segment Completion**

In 2003 the Tahoe-Pyramid Trail (then Bikeway) was formed to create a bike/hike path along the Truckee River from Tahoe City, California to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, the total distance of which will be 114 miles when complete. In 2019, a major milestone was reached with the completion of the trail between Truckee and Reno. Today over 80% of the planned trails is complete.



#### **City of Santa Cruz-Department of Public Works for their San Lorenzo Parkway, Phase III: Trestle Trail Project**

Before May 2019, Santa Cruz cyclists and pedestrians had only a 4-foot-wide walkway to cross the Railroad Trestle Bridge—a core pathway throughout the city. Thanks to the completed San Lorenzo River Parkway Phase III/Trestle Trail Project, they now have a 10-foot-wide ADA-compliant “Trestle Trail” providing improved safety and convenience.



### 2021 MERIT AWARDS for DEVELOPMENT

#### **Marin County Open Space District for their Ponti Ridge Trail Project**

The Ponti Ridge Project is a road to trail conversion project in the Pacheco Valley Preserve in Marin County which was completed by Marin County Open Space District in November 2020. The project converted the Ponti Fire Road, an extremely steep fire road with a history of geological instability, into an immensely popular multiuse recreational trail with minimal impact to the natural resources of the area.



**California State Parks’ Bay Area District for their Redwood Creek Trail Realignment Project**

This project moves the existing Redwood Creek Trail out of the floodplain and onto the hillslope to protect the sensitive riparian habitat corridor along Redwood Creek, improve trail conditions, reduce maintenance needs, and create a more sustainable connection across Franks Valley. California State Parks’ Bay Area District completed Phase One of the project in fall 2020.



**City of San Jose’s Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services for their Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge Project**

This project created a pedestrian bridge to span Los Gatos Creek and connect the Three Creeks Trail to the Los Gatos Creek Trail. This important connection will provide an active transport corridor from residential neighborhoods to downtown San Jose.



**Nature Collective for their Harbaugh Seaside Trails Project**

Nature Collective, the nonprofit land trust stewarding San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, partnered with state agencies, philanthropists, and businesses to restore and open the property now known as Harbaugh Seaside Trails. The three-acre coastal overlook connects coastal cities along historic Coast Highway 101, providing stunning coastal views and important trail connections.



**2021 HONORABLE MENTION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**City of Yucaipa for their Wildwood Single-track Mountain Bike Trail**

A four-year effort by the City of Yucaipa’s Trails & Open Space Committee to create a dedicated mountain bike park achieved a noteworthy milestone in 2020 with the awarding of a contract to build its first phase. When completed, Phase 1 will create approximately 4,800 feet of single-track trail, reinforcing the city’s commitment to expanding trail access for recreational use.



**2020 MERIT AWARD for EVENTS**

**Mariposa County Planning Department for their Creek Week Community Engagement Event**

In 2020, the County of Mariposa used an innovative stakeholder engagement event called Creek Week to ensure input from the community on the Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan. This on-site approach enabled the team to collect feedback from a diverse cross-section of the community, including stakeholders who have historically been marginalized by similar planning efforts, and shaped the project’s goals through a transparent and inclusive process.



## 2020 MERIT AWARDS for KIDS AND TRAILS

### Wendy Gordon for her book **50 Hikes with Kids: California**

This book provides the information and tools kids and their parents need to explore and learn from the state's beaches, deserts, mountains, and forests. Using methods spanning from the old fashion scavenger hunt to modern phone apps, Wendy created a resource for families to engage children in a natural environment.



### Student Conservation Association for their Bay Area Youth Crew at **Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park**

The SCA Youth Trail Crew worked in partnership with Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park in Humboldt County during the summer of 2019 to maintain sections of trail while learning about environmental justice, climate action, and ecological restoration. The crew was entirely philanthropically funded and was provided to the park at no cost.



## 2020 MERIT AWARD for PLANNING

### San Mateo County Parks Department for their **Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail Project**

To commemorate 10,000 years of Ohlone settlement and the 250th anniversary of the sighting of San Francisco Bay by the Portolà Expedition, a plan to create a trail system that would traverse the expedition's route was developed. The Ohlone-Portolà Heritage Trail explores the events of historical significance that led to the development of the San Francisco Bay Area as we know it.



## 2021 MERIT AWARD FOR PLANNING

### Bay Area Ridge Trail Council for their **Bay Area Ridge Trail Gap Analysis and Action Plan**

The Ridge Trail Gap Analysis and Action Plan takes an innovative approach to assessing the remaining 152 gaps in the 550-mile regional trail. Building off a GIS database, it uses graphically compelling annotated maps, graphs, and data tables to tell the Ridge Trail story, facilitate insights, and identify and prioritize strategies and follow-up actions to accelerate the Ridge Trail completion.



## 2021 MERIT AWARD FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

### Superintendent Gerald O'Reilly and Staff at Candlestick Point SRA for their Community Engagement Efforts

Since February 2020, and within COVID safety protocols, newly installed Sector Superintendent Gerald O'Reilly and his team of interpreters, park aides, and maintenance staff at Candlestick State Recreation Area have made significant inroads with the community, offering well-attended birding and wellness walks on park trails, coordinating volunteer clean-up programs, supporting kayak trips on the Bay Water Trail, and contributing to programming at the San Francisco Unified School District's Community Learning Hub.



## 2021 LIFETIME PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Randy Anderson

Randy has nearly four decades of professional trail experience in the public and private sectors including working for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Alta Planning and Design, as well as starting two private firms of his own specializing in open space and trail planning and design. He has been responsible for leading signature trail projects throughout the state from preliminary planning investigations through construction and implementation. The majority of these projects had to overcome controversial public issues and complex technical requirements.



## 2020 LIFETIME VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Jim and Cathy Haagen-Smit

Jim and Cathy Haagen-Smit are active trail advocates that enjoy trail riding and hiking around the world. For more than 25 years they have been involved with trail planning, building, and maintenance on local, regional, state, and national trail projects. Jim and Cathy have been on a mission to encourage people to get out of their cars and use their bikes to commute to work or simply enjoy the outdoors.



## 2021 LIFETIME VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### Ken Wells

Driven by his love of fishing in the high Sierra and the desire to access ever more remote fishing holes, Ken Wells has been working and volunteering on trails since 1985. His volunteer service includes president of Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers, one of the founders of the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and Executive Director of the Sonoma County Trails Council. He was on the State Parks team that developed the current trails system at Annadel State Park where he continues to help maintain trails today.



**Morris Older**

Morris Older is an avid equestrian who has spent decades volunteering in the trails community. He has created, organized, and developed many trail events that have grown into beloved annual traditions including the annual 5-6-day East Bay Hills Equestrian Ride and Hike and Volunteers for Outdoor California Projects.



**2021 TRAIL CHAMPION AWARD**

**Al Lisen**

Al is one of the most important advocates for the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. Over the last 30 years he has been involved with all aspects of the trail from planning to building and maintenance. He has logged in more than 4,000 hours on the trail as Maintenance Crew Leader ensuring that the trail remained open for all to use.



**Dick Riddell**

Active in Yucaipa for more than 30 years, including 25 ½ years on the city council, Dick Riddell has been a visionary leader in the preservation of land and creation of trails for public enjoyment. Mr. Riddell was the leader of the effort to establish the El Dorado Ranch Park, Wildwood Canyon State Park, and the regional Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway.

