Project Partners: The Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail project represents a collaborative effort between the Solano Trail Advocacy Group (STAG), Bay Area Ridge Trail, San Francisco Bay Trail, Great California Delta Trail, Bay Area Water Trail, and the City of Benecia, with technical support provided by the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.
OVERVIEW

The Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail, and Great California Delta Trail come together around the Carquinez Strait to form a 59-mile loop trail. Designated the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail (CSSLT), the trail is unique in the San Francisco Bay Area in that it incorporates portions of three regional multi-county trails and portions of the Juan Batista de Anza National Historic Trail.

In Solano County (Vallejo and Benicia), the CSSLT hugs the shoreline. To the south in Contra Costa County (Martinez, Port Costa, Crockett), the trail splits with the Bay Trail offering sights and sounds along the water and the Ridge Trail providing views of the Strait and the surrounding landscape. The Bay Trail loop is approximately 23 miles while the Ridge Trail loop is approximately 36 miles.

One of the unique aspects of the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop is that it encircles a major Bay Area waterway, crossing two interstate bridges—the Al Zampa Carquinez Bridge (Interstate 80) on the west and the Benicia-Martinez Bridge (Interstate 680) on the east. Both bridges have Class 1 pedestrian / bicycle paths. Beyond the Carquinez Strait area, users of the CSSLT can continue to travel on three multi-county trails (the Ridge Trail, the Bay Trail, and the Delta Trail) to numerous regional destinations.

MILESTONE PROJECTS

Great California Delta Trail – the Delta Trail designated the Carquinez Strait Loop as its alignment in 2017.

Sign Inventory – Ridge/Bay Trail sign inventory completed in 2017 for the Solano alignment.

Benicia State Recreation Area – State Parks and the City of Vallejo repaved much of the trail alignment within Benicia SRA in 2016. SF Bay Trail developed a Vizzit Tour at the SRA in 2017.

Fernandez Ranch – 483 acre Franklin Canyon addition expands John Muir Land Trust’s Fernandez Ranch to 1,185 acres.

Alvarez Ninth Street Park – Designated a Bay Area Water Trail site in 2016, this park provides an effective trailhead.

George Miller Trail – In 2014, a failed roadway was converted to a 1.7 mile dedicated trail in East Bay Regional Park District’s Carquinez Regional Shoreline. The project included new trailhead parking lots on both ends.

Glen Cove Waterfront Park – The park was completed in 2012, and provides a trailhead for the Glen Cove Neighborhood of Vallejo.

Rose Drive I-780 Overcrossing – In 2010, a bicycle/pedestrian path was completed across I-780 to provide safe access from the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Vallejo/Benicia Open Space Buffer to the shared Carquinez Strait Loop in Benicia State Recreation Area.

Park Road – a bikelane and sidewalk were completed between the Benicia-Martinez Bridge and Adams Road in 2012.

Benicia-Martinez Bridge – The bicycle/pedestrian path was opened when the new span was completed in 2007, including a vista location with parking that can function as a trailhead.

Carquinez Bridge – the bicycle and pedestrian path was opened in 2004. There is public parking at the Dead Fish restaurant in Crockett that functions as a trailhead.

KEY BENEFITS

Regional partnership coordination to close existing gaps, prioritize projects, and jointly promote the CSSLT as a regional asset.

Promote tourism and access to local cafes and restaurants, state, local, and regional parks, as well as retail locations.

Provide access to five historic downtowns:
- Benicia
- Martinez
- Port Costa
- Crockett
- Vallejo

Link and provide access to several open space and recreational areas:
- Benicia State Recreation Area
- Benicia Waterfront
- Martinez Regional Shoreline
- John Muir National Historic Site
- Mount Wanda
- Sky Ranch
- Fernandez Ranch
- Crockett Hills Regional Park
- Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline

Provide spectacular views of:
- Carquinez Strait
- San Pablo Bay
- Suisun Bay
- Surrounding hills of Contra Costa and Solano County