



# Bay Area Ridge Trail Council presents...

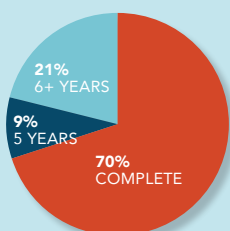
## 50 MILES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

You are a trail lover—and are intrigued and excited by the Ridge Trail Council's vision of a 550-mile long-distance trail at your doorstep. Over the last year, the Council updated, mapped and devised completion strategies on all the "trail gaps" around the region. What did we find?

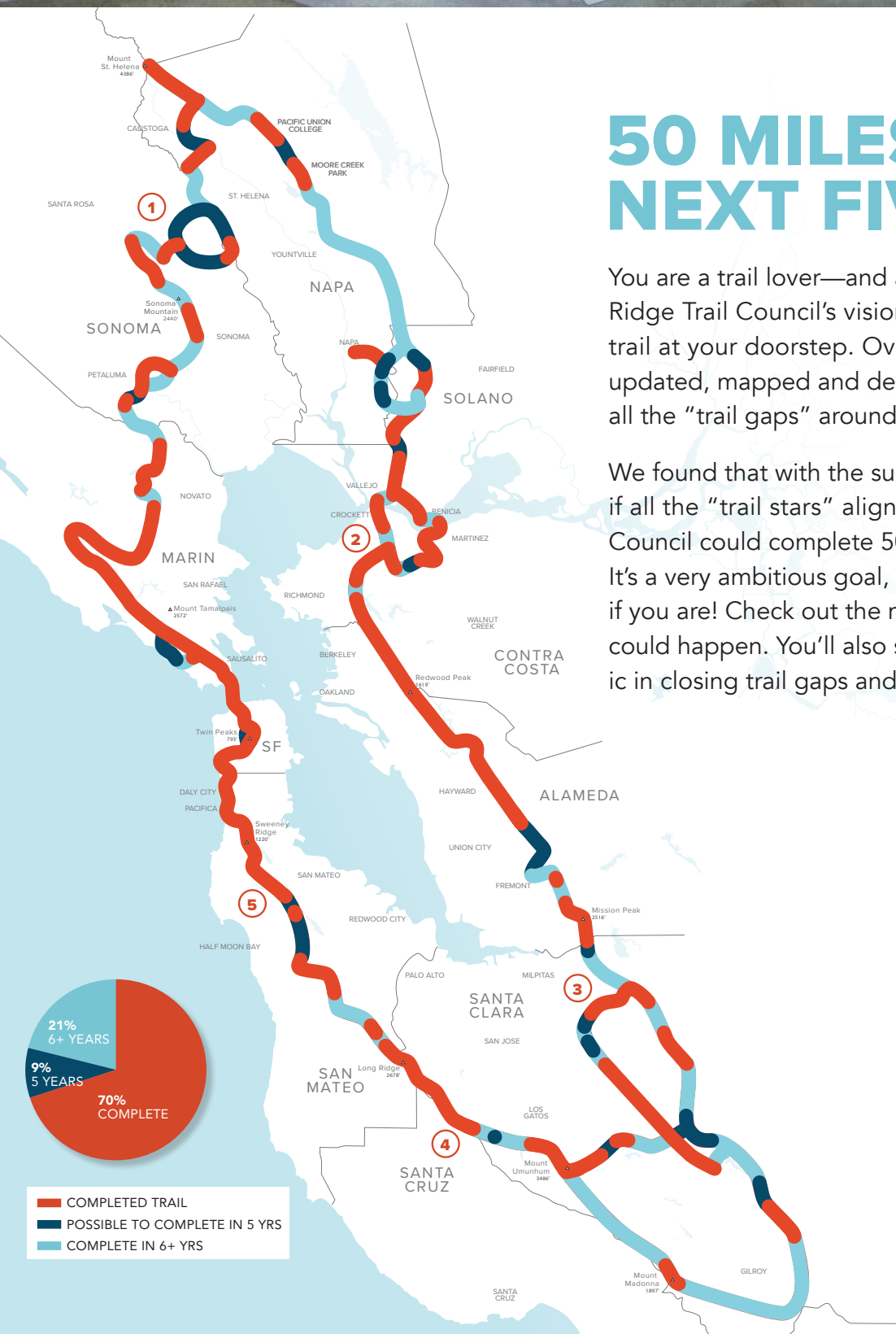
We found that with the support of donors like you—and if all the "trail stars" align perfectly—the Ridge Trail Council could complete 50 miles over the next five years. It's a very ambitious goal, but we are up for the challenge if you are! Check out the map to see where that progress could happen. You'll also see projects that will be catalytic in closing trail gaps and achieving these aspiring goals

### CATALYST PROJECTS

- ① **SUGAR HOOD LOOP**  
Sonoma County
- ② **CARQUINEZ STRAIT SCENIC LOOP TRAIL**  
Solano & Contra Costa Counties
- ③ **NORTH COYOTE VALLEY**  
Santa Clara County
- ④ **HIGHWAY 17 CROSSING**  
Santa Cruz County
- ⑤ **HIGHWAY 92 CROSSING**  
Santa Clara County



■ COMPLETED TRAIL  
■ POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE IN 5 YRS  
■ COMPLETE IN 6+ YRS





# Completing Fifty Miles in Five Years: Challenges, Strategies and Key Findings



The Council's focus on "closing trail gaps" in the Ridge Trail is always front and center. We continually study problem trail gaps and create solutions to overcome obstacles. As mentioned, we have been updating our information and devising completion strategies on all the trail gaps around the region. We coalesced this into a comprehensive 154-page **Trail Gap Analysis Report and Action Plan**. You can view maps and tables at [ridgetrail.org/roadmap](http://ridgetrail.org/roadmap). Read on to see some key findings.

### TOP 3 CHALLENGES

1. **ACCESS:** Getting access across private land
2. **CROSSINGS:** Solving complex highway and railway crossings
3. **SUPPORT:** Increasing political, community and financial support

### TOP 5 STRATEGIES

1. **INTERIM TRAIL ACCESS:** Provide interim trail access to restricted properties with our Very Important Trail (VIT) program
2. **TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS:** Build partnerships to address highway and railway crossings and incorporate the RT into transportation plans
3. **PARTNER FUNDING:** Leverage relationships to direct pass-thru grants to RT park and open space partners
4. **OPPORTUNITY FUND:** Fundraise for the Trail Opportunity Fund to provide seed funding and build momentum for complex projects
5. **PUBLIC AWARENESS:** Build public awareness and relationships that will open political and funding support

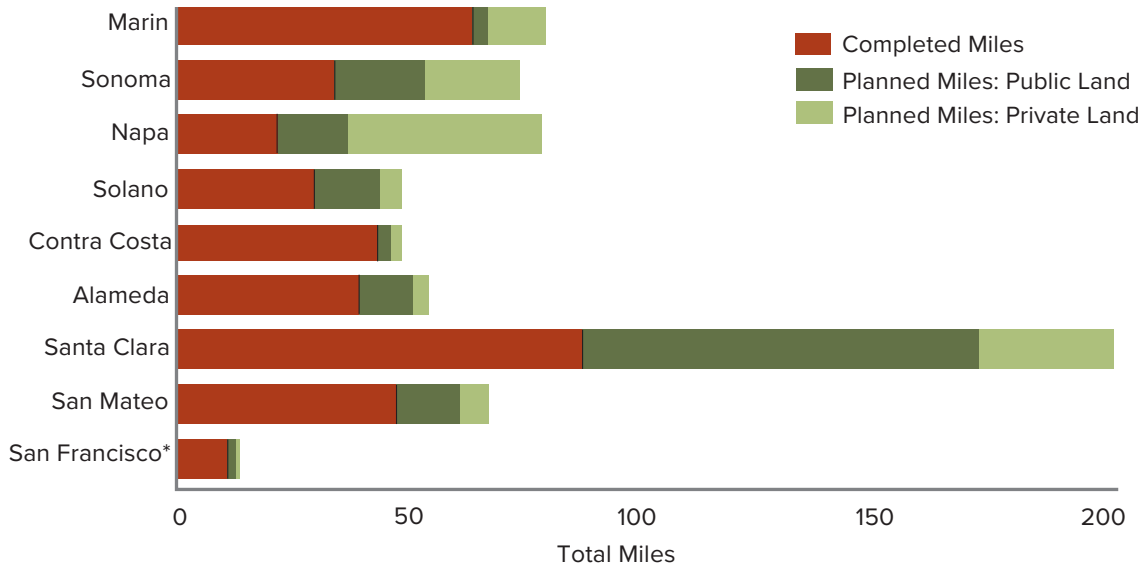






# County Progress and the Link to Parks

## COMPLETING THE FINAL MILES: PLANNED RT MILES ON PUBLIC VS PRIVATE LANDS



Today, 383 miles of Ridge Trail are open for your enjoyment. With 167 miles to go, **trails planned on private land will be the hardest to complete.** Private landowners have fewer resources to build trails and might have concerns about letting people cross their property. Counties that have **longer-standing and well-supported park and open space districts tend to have more miles of Ridge trail.** That is why we love our park partners! They work every day to acquire land, build trails and create wonderful outdoor experiences. Some parks districts are still struggling to get started, while others have been building trails for 80 years.

## NEXT 5 YEARS BY COUNTY: POSSIBLE RT MILES COMPLETED

Although, the northern and southern parts of the region have more unfinished Ridge Trail, they also have a lot coming to fruition in the next 5 years! We are very excited for these areas to catch up to their partners who have more established park systems and longer continuous stretches of Ridge Trail. Central counties have fewer miles to complete, but the remaining gap miles may be some of the toughest.





Completing 50 miles in the next five years is an ambitious goal. The Ridge Trail Council is up for the challenge, but we can't do it alone. We need the help of our land partners, local politicians and donors like you. Here's how you can be part of the team that completes the trail. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

- 1 DONATE:** Donate and become a Ridge Trail member. Participate in fundraising events. Donate to both our **Annual Fund** and our **Trail Opportunity Fund**.
- 2 ADVOCATE:** Vote for park bonds and provide comments on projects in support of the Ridge Trail.
- 3 CONNECT:** Sign up for our e-newsletter and follow us on social media. We'll share opportunities to get out on the trail. Get your friends on the trail and let them know we need their support too.

## HELP A PROJECT IN YOUR BACKYARD

### NORTH BAY



- Launch a **Trail Advocacy Group (TAG) in Napa and/or Sonoma**. TAGs in other regions have been successful in helping accelerate RT projects.



- Introduce RT to funding resources to help Sonoma Land Trust raise 1.4M for the McCormick Ranch acquisition in Napa and Sonoma.

### EAST BAY



- Introduce RT to funders to support a trail providing a local school district with trail access in Crockett.



- Introduce staff to local politicians to obtain approval to cross two railways in Fremont.



### SF/PENINSULA



- Vote for SF park bond in November to help redevelop Twin Peaks Boulevard.



- Give comments in support of the Ridge Trail's **Southern Skyline Extension Project** for a new trail. Go to: [ridgetrail.org/loveyourwatershed](http://ridgetrail.org/loveyourwatershed).

### SOUTH BAY



- Help RT identify foundations to fund up to 200K for a planning grant in North Coyote Valley connecting the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Diablo Range.



- Provide public comments and attend public meetings in support of the Ridge Trail Highway 17 crossing. For more info, see [ridgetrail.org/highway17](http://ridgetrail.org/highway17).

Want to know more about how you can help? Contact Marie Sayles, Development Director, [mariesayles@ridgetrail.org](mailto:mariesayles@ridgetrail.org)