

# Vision, Goals, & Guidelines



*The process of planning any new recreational facility requires acceptance of a vision, with goals and guidelines, which provides direction for the trail development process. The Planning and Core Teams, with the assistance of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, developed and adopted the vision, goals, and guidelines listed below.*

## Vision Statement

*The Great Shasta Rail Trail will link the towns of McCloud and Burney and nearby recreation areas along an 80 mile trail that will feature local heritage, scenic landscapes, and stimulate the economic and social vitality of the region.*

## Goals

The Great Shasta Rail Trail will:

**Goal 1:** Provide year round safe recreation opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, skiers, and other non-motorized uses.

**Goal 2:** Promote user awareness, appreciation, and protection of natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources and promote community involvement in their protection and care.

**Goal 3:** Incorporate trail designs that mimic the natural, historic, and cultural environment along the trail.

**Goal 4:** Promote local stewardship.

**Goal 5:** Feature a well maintained primary trail within the railbanked right of way.

**Goal 6:** Incorporate safe and easy access from local communities and connections to nearby major recreation areas on adjacent public land.

**Goal 7:** Promote healthy lifestyles through exercise, interpretation and education, and trail stewardship activities.

**Goal 8:** Stimulate local recreation that can boost economic opportunities linked to the uniqueness of the area — its environment, culture, heritage, people, and history.



## Guidelines

The following guidelines provide direction to trail planners, managers, stewards, users, and local groups in establishing the Great Shasta Rail Trail.

### Recreation and Interpretation

**Goal 1:** Provide year round safe recreation opportunities for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, skiers, and other non-motorized uses.

**Goal 2:** Promote user awareness, appreciation, and protection of natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources and promote community involvement in their protection and care.

### Recreation Guidelines:

- ◆ Provide safe, well maintained, and easy access within the established railroad right of way for a wide range of users of all ages and abilities.
- ◆ Utilize parallel trail alignments within the right of way to accommodate multiple uses in areas with high use and for improved trail and natural resource management.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for disabled access at major access points.
- ◆ Accommodate motorized use where appropriate to provide interconnected access to local and regional motorized trails and other recreation opportunities, consistent with local policies.
- ◆ Provide visitor facilities at major access areas and other designated points along the trail where feasible, featuring visitor amenities such as kiosks, restrooms, water, picnic tables, benches, bike racks, and hitching posts.
- ◆ Identify and clearly mark trail connections from population centers and to nearby recreation areas and facilities, working with local communities and other entities that own and manage adjacent lands and fully considering adjacent private property interests.
- ◆ Maintain access for existing allowable uses on adjacent lands, such as hunting and fishing.
- ◆ Incorporate emergency access points for visitor safety, wildland fire management, and other resource management needs.
- ◆ Identify and link to new or existing public and private camping (consistent with adjacent landowner policy) and other lodging opportunities along the trail to accommodate multi-day trips.



### Interpretation Guidelines:

- ◆ Define interpretive themes and sites along the trail for outdoor learning, featuring a diverse range of subjects, tools, materials and media (information kiosks, maps, interpretive stops).
- ◆ Partner with local Native American tribes, adjacent landowners, local communities and schools, public agencies, and other entities to capture their stories for interpretive materials.
- ◆ Highlight local heritage including all human history, including railroad history, the development of McCloud and Burney, and associated industries.
- ◆ Protect and interpret sensitive and unique natural habitats, including water resources, plants, and wildlife.
- ◆ Consult with local Native American tribes to interpret where possible, cultural and tribal resources.



## Trail Design and Development

**Goal 3:** Incorporate trail designs that enhance the natural, historic, and cultural environment along the trail.

**Goal 4:** Promote local stewardship.

**Goal 5:** Feature a well maintained primary trail within the railbanked right of way.

**Goal 6:** Incorporate safe and easy access from local communities and connections to nearby major recreation areas on adjacent public land.

### Trail Design Guidelines:

- ✦ Communicate a clear identity linked to the area's unique heritage and natural environment.
- ✦ Incorporate a simple rustic design that invites use and illustrates best management practices in sustainability.
- ✦ Incorporate a natural surface trail (existing native sub grade and cinder ballast) as the trail surface with gentle grades. Replace and improve trail surfaces in the areas of high visitation using local materials.
- ✦ Incorporate bridge and culvert designs, improvements, and replacements to accommodate a 100 year flood event.
- ✦ Utilize environmentally friendly and vandal resistant materials and practices in trail and facilities construction
- ✦ Incorporate a user friendly wayfinding system to easily guide users to and from the trail.
- ✦ Facilitate the development of "downtown" trailheads and appropriate wayfinding for visitors and local residents to begin their journey to the trail.



## Trail Development Guidelines:

- ✦ Develop the trail expeditiously and "open" in phases to promote interest, engagement, and use.
- ✦ Create a trail operation and maintenance plan to guide the investments of partners, volunteers, and the trail manager.
- ✦ Enlist the support of local land managers, community groups, and nonprofit organizations to maintain and steward the trail through partnership agreements, shared services, and volunteerism.
- ✦ Assure the maintenance and, where possible, improve the quality, operation, and integrity of existing facilities within the trail right of way.
- ✦ Promote broad participation in the financial support of the trail for planning, development, maintenance, and stewardship.
- ✦ Consider seasonal closures and adaptive management as part of a comprehensive resource management strategy.

## Community Development

**Goal 7:** Promote healthy lifestyles through exercise, interpretation and education, and trail stewardship activities.

**Goal 8:** Stimulate local recreation that can boost economic opportunities linked to the uniqueness of the area, its environment, culture, heritage, people, and history.

### Development Guidelines:

- ✦ Promote visitor services along or close to the trail and engage local groups and businesses in delivering these services.
- ✦ Strengthen cooperative marketing with regional and local tourism partners to leverage capacity, extend reach, and expand employment opportunities.
- ✦ Develop and promote side trips and loops to local attractions to prolong visitor stays and encourage local resident exploration as a means to increasing revenue potential.
- ✦ Extend seasonal recreation opportunities along the trail through the development and promotion of year round tourism activities, trip packages, and special events that are compatible with the trail's vision & mission.





“Physical Fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.

— John F. Kennedy

