



Session Descriptions

(Subject to change without notice)

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 14, 2021

KEY NOTE

How a Lonely Cougar in Los Angeles Inspired the World

Beth Pratt, California Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation

A lifelong advocate for wildlife, Beth Pratt has worked in environmental leadership for over 25 years, and in two of the country's largest national parks: Yosemite and Yellowstone. As the California Regional Executive Director for the National Wildlife Federation, she leads the #SaveLACougars campaign to build potentially the largest wildlife crossing in the world. Beth will discuss the story of P-22, a lonely cougar who made an extraordinary journey across two major freeways to find a new home in the middle of Los Angeles and how the story is a model for engaging an audience in education and science.

PARTNERSHIPS

Non-Profit Partnership at Wilder Ranch State Park

Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship (formerly Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz) and the Santa Cruz District of California State Parks have been partnering for the last five years to improve the multi-use trails in Wilder Ranch State Parks. Much of the trail network in this park utilizes legacy ranching, logging, and mining infrastructure that often provide a poor trail experience and result in myriad resource issues. Learn how SCMTS and CSP have partnered on the design, fundraising, and construction of sustainable and enjoyable trail routes to replace and restore these legacy routes. Learn how SCMTS trains, recruits, and manages large groups of volunteers, engages different types of trail users, and works closely with the CSP trail crew to implement and manage projects. Learn how we have creatively funded these projects through a combination of grants, events, individual giving, and CSP resources.

- *Drew Perkins*, Trails Director, Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship
- *Emma Ussat*, Trails Program Manager, Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship
- *Chris Pereira*, Santa Cruz District Road and Trails Manager, California State Parks

Mutually Beneficial Partnerships to Achieve Current and Future Trail Planning Objectives

As rural communities struggle with limited resources and capacity, creativity and innovation are essential for advancing complex and challenging trail projects. Through a collaborative multi-year partnership, rural Mariposa County and the California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) Landscape Architecture program are exploring the holistic potential of a sustainable, multi-beneficial trail system in Mariposa County. In addition to contributing to the current trail planning effort, the project provides an arena for emerging landscape architects and planners to engage with local communities on contemporary trail issues. The trail planning effort, which includes a study of the non-motorized multi-use trail along the historic Yosemite Valley Railroad grade through the Wild and Scenic Merced River corridor, contributes to a comprehensive trail system in Mariposa County, providing guidelines for the trail system through community involvement and expert input. Using the “Geodesign Framework,” which considers broad aspects of the project through workshops and a series of reviews with community members and stakeholders, the collaboration team have worked to find suitable alternatives and establish a sustainable trail system. The partnership advances local trail planning objectives, while also providing an engaging and compelling pedagogical environment to help develop future generations of trail planners and geodesign practitioners.

- *Miran Jung Day*, Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture Department, Cal Poly SLO
- *Mikey Goralnik*, Community Design & Development Planner, Mariposa Co. Planning Dept.
- *Aidan Anakin Stofka*, 4th year Landscape Architecture student, Cal Poly SLO
- *Joceylin Figueroa*, 4th year Landscape Architecture student, Cal Poly SLO

The Who, What, and How of Trail Governance

Establishing the right governance structure for a trail organization is one of the most important elements in making a good trail, a great trail. Generally, goodwill and interest can get a trail very far, but realizing the full potential of any system requires long-term governance and oversight. Trail governance brings together the right partners and establishes funding for sustainable operations, maintenance and programming. This session will explore Joint Power Authorities (JPAs), Cooperative Agreements, New Trail Agencies and Non-Profits among others, to educate participants on the wide range of governance structures available to those looking to implement a trail in their community. Pros and Cons will be discussed in reference to existing trail case studies so participants can relate the trails they are currently championing to other systems around the country. This session will include a brief 30-minute presentation and then a small group, “Build Your Own Trail Governance Structure,” activity that will get participants thinking about their own trails and appropriate governance structures for them. The activity will result in 3-4 outlines of potential trail governance structures for actual trails.

- *Deven Young*, Principal, Alta Planning + Design
- *Emily Duchon*, Principal, Alta Planning + Design
- *Jason Spann*, Associate Landscape Architect, California State Parks

PLANNING

Rail Towns to Trail Towns: Leveraging Historical Development Patterns and Realizing Trail-oriented Communities

Rail-trails inherit many aspects of the railroads that came before them: they feature steady grades; they transect diverse environments; and they connect communities. A critical feature of rail-trails is the way they interface with the communities through which they pass. This session presents a framework for understanding the historical spatial relationship between communities and railroads, and strategies for transforming these spaces into thriving trail amenities. The session will then examine the history, advocacy, planning, design, and implementation of the Annie & Mary Rail Trail through Arcata and Blue Lake in Humboldt County (the northernmost spur of the Great Redwood Trail). We will examine the grassroots history of advocacy for the trail, the challenges facing implementation, and the success stories, including the recent completion of the first phase of the trail in Blue Lake and the recommendation of funding for final design and construction of the trail through Arcata. We'll look at the robust community engagement that led to broad support for the project, and the next steps to achieve a fully connected Annie & Mary Trail between the two communities. We'll also look at the expansive view of connectivity that the City of Arcata included in the project, including ensuring connectivity to neighborhoods that have been isolated by adjacent freeways and other development.

- *Sofia Zander*, Principal Landscape Architect, TrailPeople & Zander Design
- *Brian Burchfield*, Group Leader & Design Associate, Alta Planning & Design
- *Mike Foget*, CEO and Senior Environmental and Civil Engineer, SHN
- *Emily Sinkhorn*, Director, Natural Resources Services Division of Redwood Community Action Agency
- *Austin Dunn*, Designer, Alta Planning & Design

Great Redwood Trail Update: The Feasibility Study—Approach and Findings

Senate Bill (SB) 1029 (2018) called for an assessment of the disposition of the North Coast Railroad Authority and its 300 miles of rights-of-way. A trail feasibility assessment and governance/railbanking report, prepared by California State Parks in consultation with several state agencies, is one component of the SB 1029 Assessment. It evaluates the feasibility of repurposing 252 miles into the Great Redwood Trail. The corridor evaluated extends from Healdsburg in Sonoma County to Blue Lake, northeast of Humboldt Bay and Arcata. In this session, learn about the approach used and results of the trail feasibility assessment, which evaluates the condition of railroad infrastructure and physical/environmental characteristics of the corridor. The assessment ranks 57 segments for their level of opportunity or constraint. It considers potential costs to construct the full corridor, and to assess the feasibility of constructing rail-to-trail in the central and northern portions and rail-with-trail in the southern portion. The purpose of the assessment is to inform decision-makers about the factors affecting feasibility of trail development and to identify which portions of the corridor may be more or

less feasible for trail development and use. It was included in the SB 1029 report to the legislature for consideration.

- *Curtis E. Alling*, AICP, Principal, Ascent Environmental, Inc.
- *Jason Spann*, Associate Landscape Architect, California State Parks
- *Nanette Hansel*, Senior Project Manager, Ascent Environmental, Inc.
- *Deven Young*, Principal, Alta Planning + Design

Cache Creek: Gaining Support For New Open Space

Planning for trails and open space in rural parts of the Central Valley have unique challenges and opportunities. Private ownership and mining rights have controlled the interests along many of the open spaces and waterways. As public environmental awareness, demand for access and need for economic drivers all rise, how do we change the perception of these spaces to protect them? How do we show elected officials, mining companies, and landowners that there is value in providing public access? Lastly, with limited funding, how do we plan and design trails so they are economical to build and maintain long term? This session will use Cache Creek as a case study to explore these answers with a panel that represents varied perspectives from planning, design and management. Lower Cache Creek spans over 12 miles, much of which has been or will be mined for gravel. As the mines close, the properties will be reclaimed to agriculture, open space, or habitat and, some will be given to Yolo County to be integrated into a public open space parkway, posing huge challenges for the county. Topics of discussion will include owner negotiations, planning, outreach, approvals, funding, working with varied user groups, and long-term economic sustainability.

- *Ben Woodside*, Principal, Callander Associates
- *Heidi Tschudin*, Principal, Tschudin Consulting Group
- *Elisa Sabatini*, Manager of Natural Resources, County of Yolo

THURSDAY

APRIL 15, 2021

GENERAL SESSION

Designing and Implementing California's First Maritime Heritage Trail

Emerald Bay, situated on the western side of Lake Tahoe, is and has been an American tourist destination for well over 150 years. Translucent blue-green water surrounded by vertical cliffs, green conifers, and granite boulders creates the quintessential Tahoe experience and one that has drawn people to the bay specifically for recreation since the 1860s. The bay is the final resting place of several recreational boats, launches, and barges used on the lake during the early 20th century. In September 2018, California State Parks revealed the location of five submerged vessels in Lake Tahoe to an interested public to create the Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage (underwater) Trail. The intent of the project was to celebrate the history of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe's culture of recreation by way of shipwrecks while also providing an important message about protecting and preserving our submerged cultural heritage. This

session will discuss the trail development and implementation process highlighting anticipated and unanticipated challenges and ways to minimize impacts going forward.

- *Denise Jaffke*, Cultural Resources Division Supervisor and Maritime Heritage Program Manager, California State Parks

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

App-Based Techniques to Survey Visitors in Yosemite

Not unlike many other natural areas, visitation to wilderness in Yosemite has both increased dramatically and changed substantially in recent years. Use of the Pacific Crest and John Muir trails is among the primary drivers of these changes. These wilderness travel patterns may be changing the character of Yosemite Wilderness. Revisiting and revising the model travel patterns was needed to inform and support Wilderness management, and specifically the park's overnight permit program. In 2019, Applied Trails Research (ATR) in support of the National Park Service initiated a study to provide Yosemite managers with an updated model of wilderness travel patterns for Yosemite Wilderness. Leveraging OuterSpatial, an organization powered mobile app, ATR instigated the development of an app-based solution for collecting travel and camping location data from overnight wilderness visitors along with data characterizing wilderness visitors camping experiences and perspectives. Despite the challenges related to fires and the pandemic, the initial pilot rollout occurred in the fall of 2020 and another more expansive plan is in place for 2021. The process, tooling, and approach developed for this effort can be leveraged by other land managers looking to engage their visitors in app-based surveys and data collection.

- *Ryan Branciforte*, CEO, OuterSpatial
- *Jeremy Wimpey PhD*, Principal, Applied Trails Research

Electric Bicycles on Trails: Where Do We Go From Here?

The user base for electric bicycles grows annually and land managers are increasingly faced with electric bicycle management decisions. This session is intended to go beyond basic e-bike information to concentrate on the quickly evolving policies emerging from various agencies with a focus on electric mountain bikes. Observations about the current market, federal and state legislative updates, local management examples in California including pilot programs, and trending issues and opportunities will be included. In closing, some topics will be offered for discussion about what lies ahead to lead us into question and answer session. General e-bike resources will be shared. This session will bring together advocates, industry representatives, and land managers to explore where eMTB management came from, where it is now, where it needs to go, and how to get there.

- *Susie Murphy*, Executive Director, San Diego Mountain Biking Association
- *Steven Sheffield*, Team Leader Product Management and Business Development, Bosch
- *Ashley Seaward*, Regulatory and Policy Analyst, PeopleForBikes
- *Alex Logemann*, Policy Counsel, PeopleForBikes
- *Alex Stehl*, Chief of Strategic Planning and Recreation Services, California State Parks
- *Jason Spann*, Associate Landscape Architect, California State Parks

Recreation Impact Monitoring: Crowdsourcing Trails, Campsite & Visitor Use Data

Collaborative data collection promotes efficient decision making on public lands. The CMC RIMS mobile app and analytics tools help land managers understand the impact and use trends on trails and waterways. Agency staff, stewardship organizations, and the general public can submit reports on trail conditions, campsites, trash, and invasive species, plus visitor use monitoring captures outdoor recreation user types, parking issues, and visitation trends. All reports include GPS coordinates, detailed metrics, and photos. With customized, interactive dashboards, land managers can explore the RIMS data in their area, generate detailed reports, prioritize projects, and deploy staff or volunteers to resolve issues. Learn how over 4,000 data points are already helping managers respond to trail maintenance issues, campsite proliferation, and vandalism. Engaging volunteers in data collection is easy with the free mobile app and provides real-time information for stewardship and planning efforts.

- *Julie Mach*, Conservation Director, Colorado Mountain Club

PLANNING

How to Protect Natural Resources in Trail Planning

Community trail planning often creates a buzz of attention from stakeholder groups and individuals. Environmental and recreational trail advocates can feel like they have opposing goals as they vie for improved access or stronger resource protection. Without a proper forum, stakeholders may feel disenfranchised from the process, and that their issues are not being heard or valued by the trail planners. This disconnect can lead to anxiety, discord, and the potential for project delays and litigation. We will explore an approach to navigate stakeholder concerns, protect natural resources, and create desirable trails. This session will focus on Marin County Parks' recent success in planning and implementing projects such as the award-winning Ponti Ridge Trail. We will explore what has not worked in the past and how we re-imagined our approach to develop shared values with stakeholders as a first step prior to project development. We will discuss specific ways we created a forum that fosters honest and authentic conversations that empowers the community in development of a project.

- *Tom Boss*, Off-Road Director, Marin County Bicycle Coalition
- *Sandy Guldman*, President, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed
- *Jon Campo*, Principal Natural Resource Planner, Marin County Parks
- *Dave Frazier*, Maintenance Equipment Operator, Marin County Parks

Trail Design Details: Wins & Losses

Every trail project has many design details to incorporate to create a functional, well-connected, and attractive project. Features like pavement, signage, furnishings, architecture, striping, landscaping, and irrigation all contribute to a great project. Design details are often well established. There are also opportunities to try new ideas to either update a design detail or address a challenge. Successful design details get added to the Toolkit. We often don't hear about the design details that weren't successful. This presentation will share both the wins and losses, including background on the creative process, testing, problem solving, and evidence of success and sometimes failure.

- *Yves Zsutty*, Division Manager, Capital Improvement Program, City of San Jose, Department of Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Closing a Critical Gap in the Bay Trail

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile regional trail system through 47 cities across a broad spectrum of landscapes that ring the bay. It is a bold vision for recreation, commuting, and stewardship. With 30% of the trail network still to be completed, no simple projects remain. After 15 years of effort, the Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project closed a 0.6-mile gap in the system to connect 80 contiguous miles of shoreline trail. The trail opened a portion of the San Francisco Bay shoreline to the public and offers a commute alternative to the tech campuses in the Silicon Valley. From planning, design, permitting, and construction, this case study will present the complexities of the project and post-construction usership data amid the COVID pandemic.

- *Scott Reeves*, PLA QSD CCM, Senior Capital Project Manager, Engineering & Construction Department, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

FRIDAY

APRIL 16, 2021

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

The Rural and Regional Park Grant Programs

The Regional Park Program competitive grants will create, expand, and improve regional parks to offer new recreational features that provide nature appreciation, athletic activities, historical or cultural enrichment, or other recreational activities in an open space. The Rural Recreation and Tourism Program competitive grants will create new recreation features in support of economic, tourism, and health related goals. Competitive projects will improve the health of residents and attract out of town visitors. Find out about these new grant programs and how to qualify for the tens of millions of dollars available.

- *Richard Rendón*, Supervisor, Office of Grants and Local Services, California State Parks
- *Natalie Bee*, Supervisor, Office of Grants and Local Services, California State Parks

Trail Analytics and Data Storytelling

Data science tools allow for an exploration of trail connectivity, demand, comfort, health, and safety needs. This session will share a spectrum of data analysis and scenario planning tools that can be used to help plan and design new or existing trails. We will share examples from three California trail corridors at three scales: Los Angeles River Path, an 8-mile gap closure, the Iron Horse Trail, a 22-mile regional trail, and the Great Redwood Trail, a 300-mile former rail corridor. We will present the data analysis methods used to evaluate future user demand, assess how much space is required to accommodate various levels of use by people walking, biking, using e-bikes or other electric vehicles and understand network access priorities. These tools are very effective in considering not just existing travel characteristics, but also how changes in mobility options, such as e-bikes or shared autonomous vehicles could change the use of the corridor.

- *Emily Duchon*, Principal, Alta Planning and Design
- *Deven Young*, Principal, Alta Planning + Design
- *Mitali Gupta*, AICP, ENV SP, Manager, Transportation Planning, Mobility Corridors, LA Metro
- *Mike Sellinger*, Planning Associate, Alta Planning + Design

URBAN TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

The Challenges and Successes of Developing Urban Trails

Developing an urban trail can be a challenge but also presents a great opportunity to encourage recreational use in an urban environment. This session will present a case study of the 4.2-mile Virginia Corridor Trail and will highlight how the City of Modesto was able to overcome the challenges and create a very successful urban trail in Modesto. The discussion will include funding, design, volunteer efforts, construction, and operation.

- *Nathan Houx*, Parks Planning & Development Manager, City of Modesto
- *Brian Fletcher*, Principal, Callander Associates Landscape Architecture, Inc.
- *Kelly Gallagher*, Park Operations Manager, City of Modesto

Multi-Benefit Neighborhood Greenways

Suburban communities across Southern California have been designed with oversized residential streets. This design contributes to excessive speed in neighborhoods, leads to increased urban heat island effect, and can produce high volumes of runoff during storm events. In recent years, basic bicycle facilities have begun to appear on these streets, to accommodate a wider range of roadway users, but often are limited to striping and don't inspire confidence for street users of all ages and abilities. By re-evaluating the roadway as a whole, and emphasizing a suite of benefits for neighborhoods, these projects can instead incorporate significant planting, stormwater capture, urban cooling, traffic-separated bicycle facilities and paths, and overall aesthetic improvements. This diversification of design also opens projects up to a broader range of funding sources, while also increasing the project's appeal to surrounding communities. This session will provide insight into the funding, design, and outreach processes for several multi-benefit projects.

- *James Powell*, PLA, ASLA, Senior Design Associate, Alta Planning + Design

- *David Diaz*, Executive Director, Active San Gabriel Valley
- *Eileen Alduenda*, Executive Director, Council For Watershed Health
- *Jason Casanova*, Director of Planning and Information Design, Council For Watershed Health

Goodbye Golf Courses, Hello Public Parks and Trails

Communities are increasingly converting private golf clubs into public parks and nature preserves. See examples of successful transitions from across the nation and hear from one team working to convert a 139-acre course into their city's next great park.

- *Eric Bosman*, Urban Designer, Kimley Horn
- *Mack Cain*, RLA, LEED AP, Landscape Architect, Clark Patterson Lee Architecture, Engineering, Planning
- *Jan Hancock*, BS, MA, Equestrian Consultant, Hancock Resources LLC