When complete, the Bay Trail will be a **continuous 500-mile corridor** that will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo bays, connecting people to each other and to the water. It will link the shorelines of all nine Bay Area counties and pass through 47 cities. To date, 293 miles have been developed. In Richmond, 26 miles of Bay Trail have been completed out of 41 planned miles.

The Bay Trail provides free and easily accessible **recreational opportunities** for outdoor enthusiasts, including hikers, joggers, bicyclists, skaters, and wheelchair users. It also offers a setting for wildlife viewing and environmental education, and it increases public respect and appreciation for the Bay.

The Bay Trail also has important **transportation benefits**: it provides a commute alternative for cyclists, and connects to numerous public transportation facilities, including ferry terminals, light-rail lines, bus stops, and Caltrain, Amtrak, and BART stations. Also, the Bay Trail will eventually cross the major bridges in the region.

The Bay Trail **provides access** to commercial, industrial and residential neighborhoods; points of historic, natural and cultural interest; recreational areas like beaches, marinas and fishing piers; and over 130 parks totaling 57,000 acres of open space. It passes through highly urbanized areas such as downtown San Francisco as well as remote natural areas such as the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Depending on the location of its segments, the Bay Trail consists of paved multi-use paths, dirt trails, bike lanes, sidewalks or signed bike routes.

As much as possible, the Bay Trail overlaps with, and connects to, other trails and local bike routes. The Bay Trail should not be confused with the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a separate **regional trail network** that travels inland, mostly along the Bay Area’s mountain ridges.

Senate Bill 100, authored by then-state Senator Bill Lockyer and passed into law in 1987 with the endorsement of the entire Bay Area legislative delegation, introduced the concept of a “**ring around the bay**.” SB 100 directed the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to develop an alignment for the Bay Trail as well as funding and implementation plans. This plan for the Bay Trail was adopted by ABAG in 1989.

Implementation of the Bay Trail is coordinated by the Bay Trail Project, a **nonprofit organization** created by ABAG and housed at its offices in Oakland. To carry out its mission, the Bay Trail Project provides funds for trail construction and maintenance, ensures consistency with the adopted Bay Trail Plan, provides technical assistance, enlists public participation in trail-related activities, and publicizes the Bay Trail and its benefits to the region.

To learn more about the Bay Trail or to order maps, visit the Bay Trail Project’s web site at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org), call us at 510/464.7900 or e-mail us at BayTrail@abag.ca.gov.