

# TRAIL PLANNING

for California Communities

## PROVIDES ESSENTIAL GUIDANCE

on planning, design, construction, funding, and maintenance of trails in California • Details relevant policies, legislation, and successful projects that lend strong support and provide a variety of tools for the planning and implementation of local trails • A comprehensive guide that can be used at all stages of the trail development process.

**Julie Bondurant** is a licensed landscape architect and certified planner. She has more than twenty years of experience specializing in trail, bicycle, and pedestrian issues, regional park and open space policy documents, feasibility studies, master plans, and management plans. She is a Senior Park Planner with the East Bay Regional Park District. Ms. Bondurant received her Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a B.A. in History/Art History from the University of California at Irvine. She has served on the San Francisco Bay Trail Project Board of Directors since 1990, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council Board of Directors from 1990–1999.

**Laura Thompson** is the manager of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, a nonprofit organization that coordinates the effort to complete a 500-mile continuous shoreline trail around San Francisco Bay. With 300 miles in place, the trail passes through 47 cities and nine counties, connecting communities to each other and to the shoreline. The Bay Trail Project is administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area's regional planning agency. Ms. Thompson received her Master of Urban Planning and Policy degree from the University of Illinois in Chicago.

An important reference  
for planners, advocates,  
developers, and  
managers of trails

## TOPICS INCLUDE

- **PURPOSE AND VALUE OF TRAILS**
- **FEDERAL AND STATE POLICIES**
  - Federal provisions for National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Historic Trails
  - State legislation, including the California Coastal Act, McAteer-Petris Act, and State Trails Master Plan
- **DEVELOPING TRAIL PLANS**
  - Contents of the plan, including mapping and graphics
  - Strategies to gain public consensus
  - Relationships to local general plans, specific plans, redevelopment plans, zoning, and transportation and air quality programs
  - Implementation of trail policies
- **BUILDING THE COMMUNITY**
  - Participants, public involvement, and key ingredients of successful partnerships
- **LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES**
  - Determining the type of ownership, acquiring land or easements, drafting agreements, and resolving liability issues
- **TRAIL DESIGN**
  - Understanding basic design principles, identifying users, managing conflicts through design, and incorporating federal and state transportation guidelines and Americans with Disability Act standards
- **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**
  - CEQA and NEPA requirements, types of permits, permitting agencies, and environmental conditions affecting trails
- **FUNDING**
  - Strategies for capturing the full range of opportunities, determining construction costs, generating revenues directly from the trail, and developing successful grant applications
- **TRAIL MAINTENANCE**
  - Establishing a maintenance program, balancing user needs, assigning responsibilities, and budgeting



## BOOK AT A GLANCE

**CHAPTER 1**  
Purpose and  
Value of Trails

**CHAPTER 2**  
Policies and Regulations  
Authorizing Trails

**CHAPTER 3**  
Building the  
Trail Community

**CHAPTER 4**  
Legal Rights  
and Responsibilities

**CHAPTER 5**  
Trail Design

**CHAPTER 6**  
Environmental Review  
and Permitting of Trails

**CHAPTER 7**  
Funding  
Trail Development

**CHAPTER 8**  
Trail Maintenance  
and Operations

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