

## GREENWAYS: RECLAIMING LOST SPACES

1. Define Greenways
2. Provide Tools to Create Greenways
3. Demonstrate Greenway Case Studies
4. Visualize Greenways in Your Community



### Defining a Greenway

- A linear park
- A landscaped corridor
- Managed for conservation, habitat, and recreation purposes
- A link between community, civic, and public places
- Typically found along **utility corridors/ easements, roads, creeks, and railways**



### Types of Greenways

- **Railway Routes**
  - A linear pathway that is a landscaped & fenced corridor along existing or abandoned railroad right-of-way
- **Urban Connections**
  - An enhanced connected network throughout a City which can provide a land use buffer and link amenities
- **Creek Alignments**
  - A corridor of open space that follows a natural or manmade feature such as a stream, river, floodplain, or irrigation canal



### Benefits of a Greenway

- **Health**
  - Greenways create healthy recreation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible places to cycle, walk, hike, jog or skate.
- **Transportation and Livability**
  - The ability to avoid congested streets and travel through natural areas adds to a community's "livability."
- **Conservation and Environment**
  - Greenways protect plant and animal species, and allow people to experience nature with minimal environmental impact.

(Benefits from Rails to Trails Conservancy)



### Benefits of a Greenway

- **Economy/ Revitalization**
  - Countless communities have experienced an economic revitalization due in whole or in part to trails and greenways.
  - Trails can increase property values and spur development.
- **Access and Safety**
  - Security problems and vandalism decrease with increased trail use
  - Increased use decreases illegal dumping and transient camps
- **Historic Preservation & Community Identity**
  - Trails have become sources of community identity and pride
  - Trails highlight and provide access to historic & cultural resources

(Benefits from Rails to Trails Conservancy)



### HOW TO Create a Greenway

BE THE FIRST...

- **Identify Potential Locations with Interconnecting Linear Spaces in Urban, Suburban & Rural Areas:**
  - Identify Creeks, Irrigation Canals & Open Space Areas
  - Look for Abandoned or Wide Railroad/ Road Corridors
  - Major Utility Corridors & Easements
  - Strong Regional Linkages to Key Destinations within your Community
    - Vacant Land with Park Potential
    - Pedestrian & Bicycle Connections
    - Safe Routes to Schools (2 mile radius)
  - Look for Sites that can Accommodate Commercial Development



**HOW TO Create a Greenway**

- **Develop a Vision Plan:**
  - Set expectations
    - Keep your initiative focused
  - Develop goals & objectives
  - Map the Greenway
  - Create visual imagery
  - Put it in writing
    - Supplement with historical information if relevant
  - Publicize your ideas
    - Form a core group of committed individuals
  - Research funding options




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**HOW TO Develop Connections**

- **Create User-Friendly Entry Points**
  - Enhance Entry Paving & Landscaping
  - Develop Entry Signage
  - Provide Seating Areas & Lighting
- **Enhance Street Crossings and the Streetscape around the Greenway**
  - New Crosswalks and Signage on Roadway indicating Greenway Crossing
  - Lighting, Landscaping & Street Furnishings on the Streets around the Greenway Entries
- **Create Safe and Efficient Linkages to the Greenway**
  - Look for Connections to Neighborhoods, Parks, and Shops
  - Identify Safe Routes to Schools
  - Incorporate Bridge Crossings & Under Crossings




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**HOW TO CREATE Major Greenway Elements**  
ENRICHING THE EXPERIENCE...

- Overlooks & Parks
- Trail Signage Program
- Consistent Fencing, Bridges & Landscaping
- Decorative Lighting & Paving
- Site Furnishings
- Public Art



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**HOW TO Involve the Community**

- Community Cleanup Days
- Community Restoration Projects
- Volunteer Plant Restoration Days
- Focus Groups or Task Force
- Develop Public Art Programs



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**Greenway Case Studies**

- **Greenways along Railroads**
  - San Luis Obispo Railroad Safety Trail
  - Whittier Greenway Trail
  - Santa Paula Branch Line/ Santa Fe Trail
- **Greenways in Urban Areas**
  - Buellton Avenue of the Flags
  - Chula Vista
  - Santa Barbara
  - Morro Bay Harbor Walk
  - Oroville Centennial Plaza
- **Greenways along Creeks**
  - Arroyo Grande Creek Promenade
  - San Luis Obispo Creek Walk
  - Arroyo Simi Greenway
  - Prince Memorial Greenway



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**Greenways along Railroads**

San Luis Obispo Railroad Safety Trail

*Finding the Potential...*





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*Greenways along Railroads* San Luis Obispo

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*Greenways along Railroads* San Luis Obispo

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*Greenways along Railroads* Whittier Greenway

California Trails & Greenways, Project Award, 2010

Rail-Trail Design Recognition Award, Honorable Mention: Creative Design, 2005

California Parks & Recreation Society, Award of Excellence, 2010

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*Greenways along Railroads* Whittier Greenway

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*Greenways along Railroads* Whittier Greenway

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### Greenways along Railroads

Whittier Greenway

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Before

After

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### Greenways along Railroads

Whittier Greenway

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### Greenways along Railroads

Whittier Greenway

Transportation Timeline

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### Greenways along Railroads

Santa Paula Branch Line/  
Santa Fe Trail

Santa Paula Branch Line

Santa Fe Trail

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### Greenways along Railroads

Santa Paula Branch Line

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Before

After

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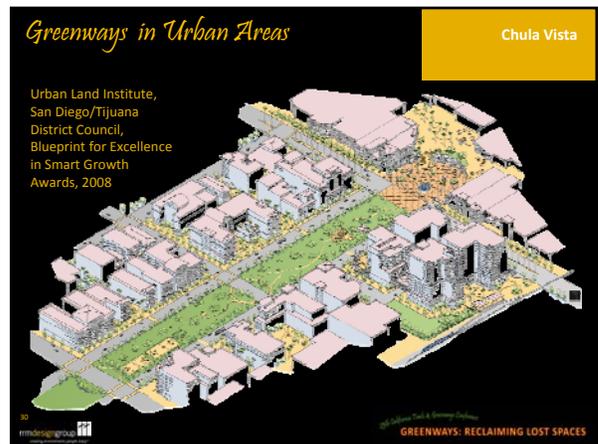
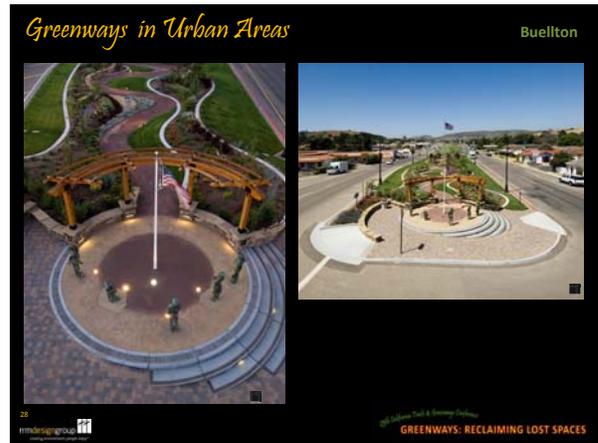
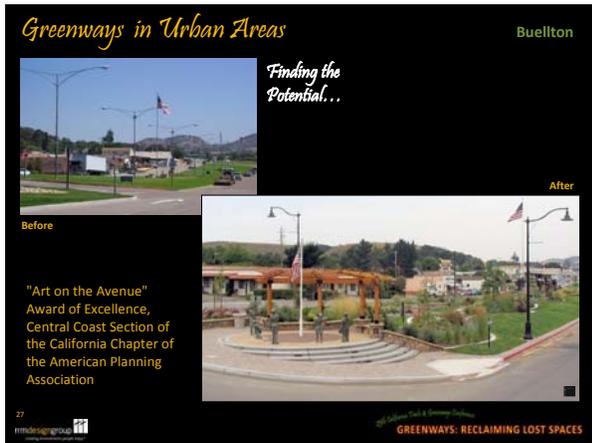
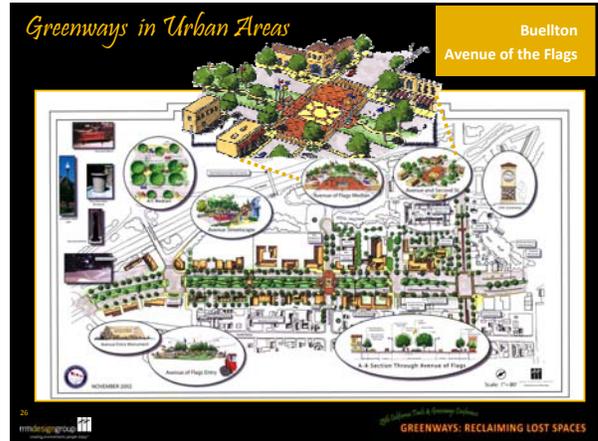
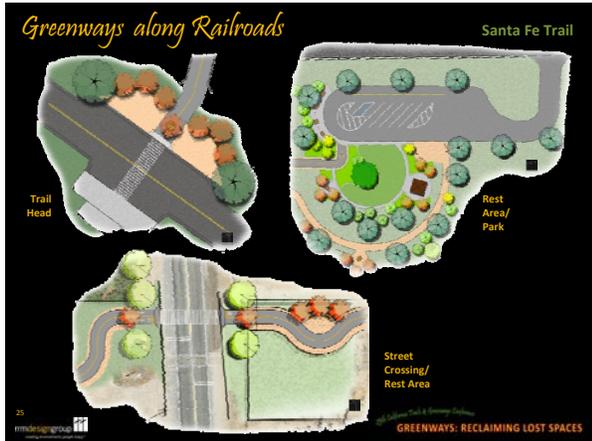
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### Greenways along Railroads

Santa Fe Trail

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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Chula Vista

Before



Finding the Potential...

After



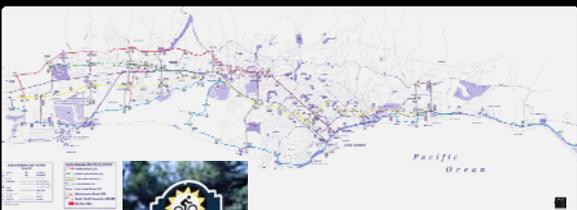
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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Chula Vista



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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Santa Barbara




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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Santa Barbara




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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Harbor Walk Morro Bay




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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Harbor Walk



California Trails and Greenways Conference, Project Award, 2007

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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Harbor Walk

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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Oroville Centennial Plaza

*Finding the Potential...*  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Sacramento Section, Transportation and Development Institute Award, 2007

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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Oroville

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*Greenways in Urban Areas* Oroville

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*Greenways along Creeks* Arroyo Grande Creek Promenade

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*Greenways along Creeks* Arroyo Grande

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*Greenways along Creeks* Arroyo Grande

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*Greenways along Creeks* Downtown San Luis Obispo

Mission Plaza  
Art Center  
Children's Museum

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*Greenways along Creeks* San Luis Obispo

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*Greenways along Creeks* Arroyo Simi Greenway

Tierra Rejada Park  
Corriganville Regional Park

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*Greenways along Creeks* Arroyo Simi

*Finding the Potential...*

After

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*Greenways along Creeks* Arroyo Simi

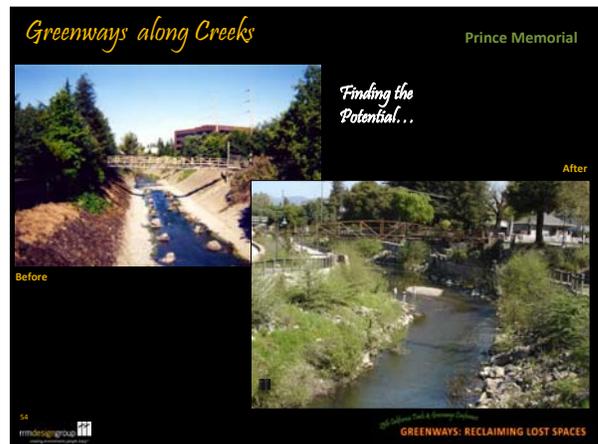
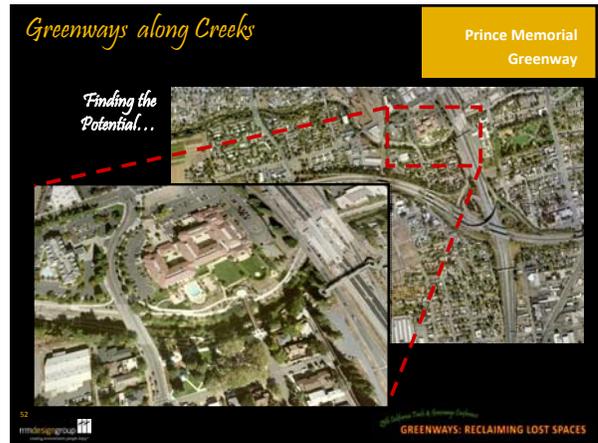
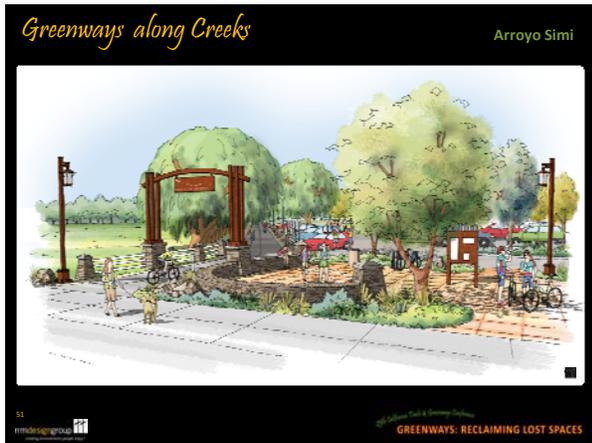
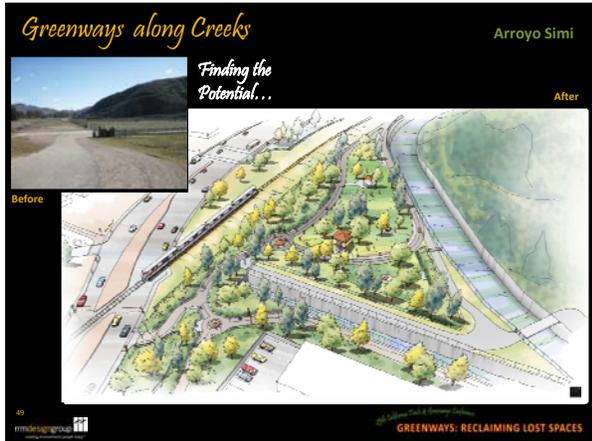
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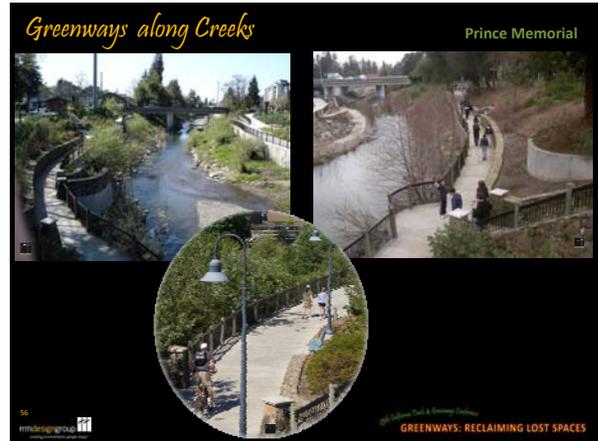
Before

After

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## *Finding your Vision*

- **Apply these ideas to your community**
  - Pick a project that is meaningful to your community
  - Look for community needs, or concern over loss of community character or protection of open space
  - Show City officials how it will benefit the community
- **Start with a simple vision**
  - Greenway projects call for long-term planning and commitment, and your project should reflect this reality
  - Use case study examples and visit these greenways to gain additional ideas
- **Consider the bigger picture**
  - Keep a long-range plan in mind and a
  - Maintain a broad perspective for connecting to a regional network
- **Research funding sources**
  - Be prepared to get your share



with California State & Community Pathways  
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## *It begins with a Vision...*



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