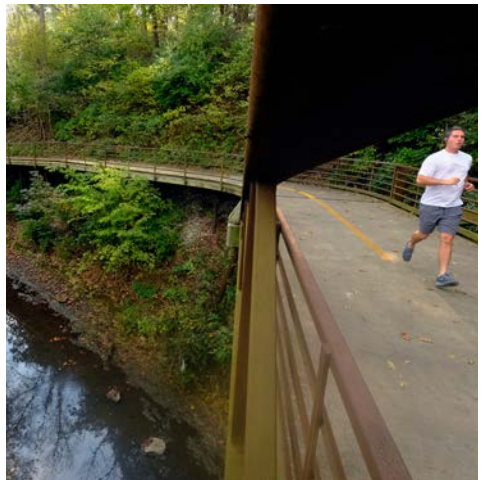
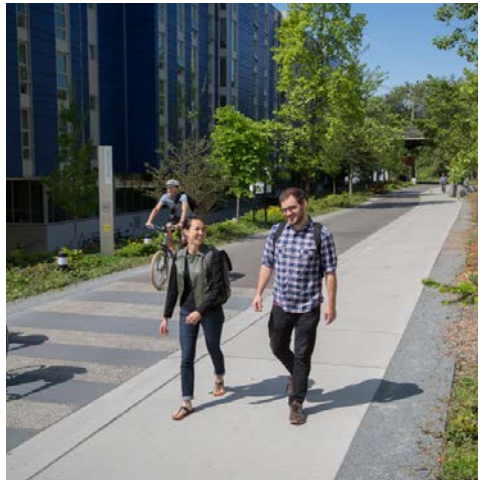
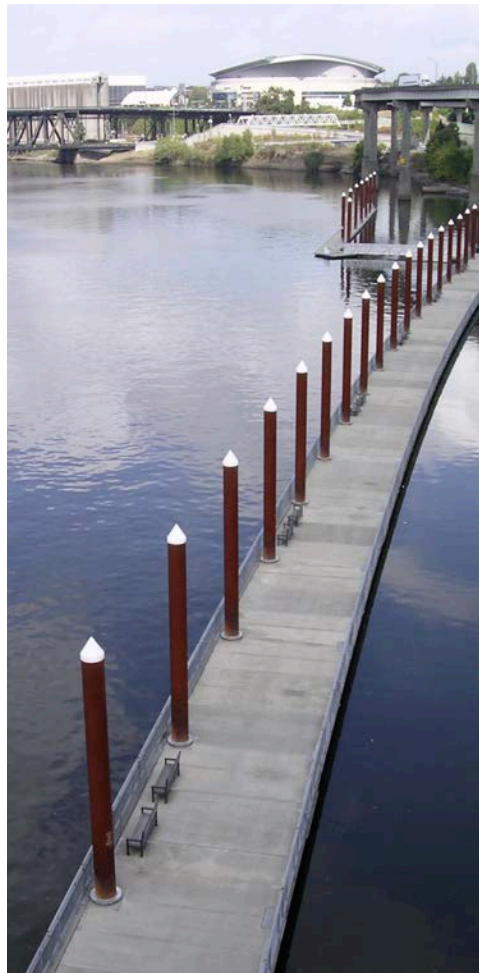
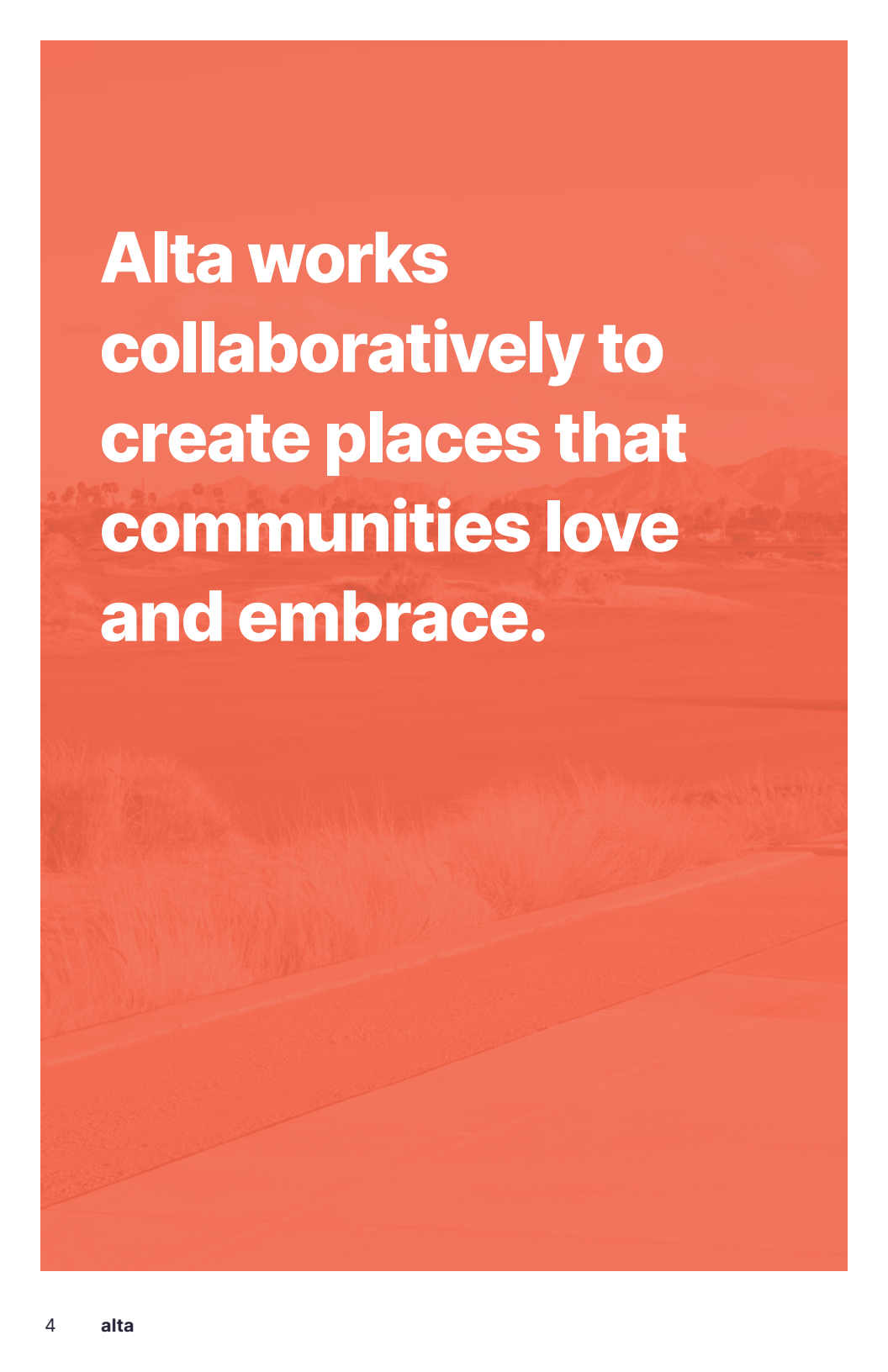


# SIGNATURE TRAILS

*Where communities come together*







**Alta works  
collaboratively to  
create places that  
communities love  
and embrace.**



## Signature Trails

CVLink, Coachella  
Valley, California

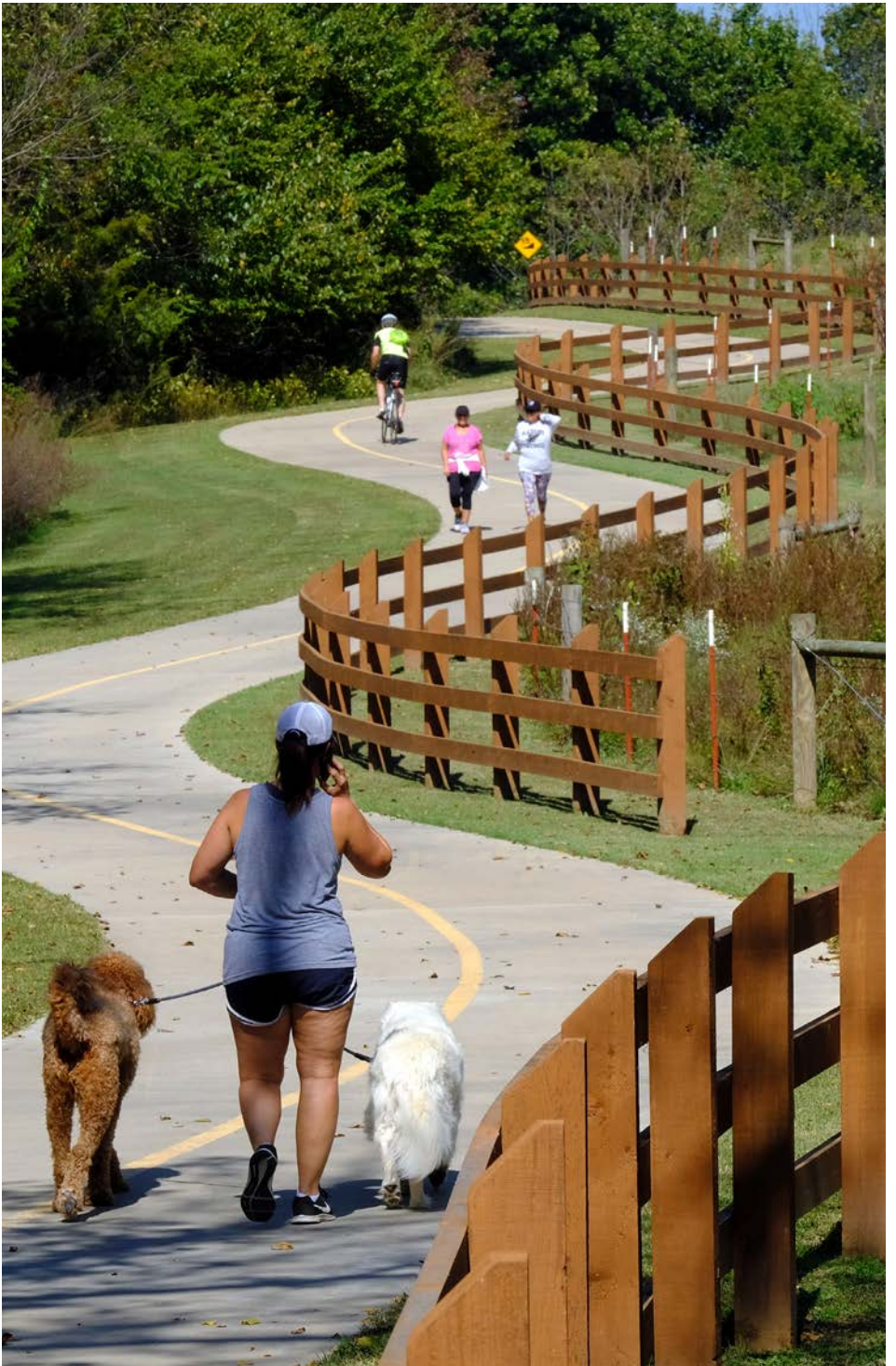
Our trails and greenway experts employ well-developed and tested design criteria to create trails that are places. By working across the disciplines of planning, landscape architecture, engineering, and community engagement, we provide innovative solutions that are simultaneously bold and practical, and anchored in the values of the people they touch. These places are embraced and well loved by their communities. We call them Signature Trails.



## **A Signature Trail Prioritizes a Sense of Place**

The trail is reflective of the geographic region where it is located. The design is informed by the community heritage, the landscape and the environment. It is a way to connect locations, but the trail itself is a destination and experience. The features and materials are determined by the character of the region so people will learn about, and better understand these places.

Razorback Greenway,  
Northwest Arkansas





## A Signature Trail Connects People

The trail is a link to key destinations in the community and region. It is a way to experience the places between the destinations with your friends, family, and neighbors.





Scraper Bike Team, Oakland, California  
Community partner on the Alta-led  
Oakland Bike Plan

The slower pace of trails allows people to get closer to nature and appreciate their surroundings. High quality trail features like wayfinding signs, interpretive sites, shade structures and furnishings all contribute to and create a Signature Trail experience.



## **A Signature Trail Creates Significant Economic Benefits**

Whether making new connections to existing destinations or revitalizing neighborhoods, trails can be the catalyst for community pride and prosperity. A well-planned, designed, and constructed trail will be used by locals for transportation and recreation, and will also become a destination for visitors. Signature Trails also serve as opportunities for exercise and can help improve health and well-being. A healthier community reduces illness and healthcare costs, and keeps people active.





## A Signature Trail Attracts a Broad Range of Use

Designed and built for all generations and abilities, these trails accommodate a wide variety of users. Wide, smooth surfaces, good sight lines, and well-marked and protected crossings make Signature Trails ideal for all.

Santa Monica Beach Trail, California  
▶ photo credit: Scott Jones





## **A Signature Trail Has a High Standard of Design**

The quality of thought and attention that goes into a Signature Trail is readily apparent. The trail uses high quality materials, purpose-built amenities and furnishings that reflect the local context and environment. The lighting, road crossings, and modal mixing zones are all designed with safety as the first priority, while maintaining the aesthetics of the overall design. This high standard makes Signature Trails points of pride among the communities where they are located.

Eastbank Esplanade,  
Portland, Oregon





## **A Signature Trail Promotes Environmental Stewardship**

How a trail functions within the natural environment of a region can be a feature of the trail. Wetlands, wildlife habitat, terrain, threatened species, and cultural sites are often considered barriers and challenges when planning and designing trails. Working with local environmental regulation, Signature Trails embrace and highlight these natural assets.





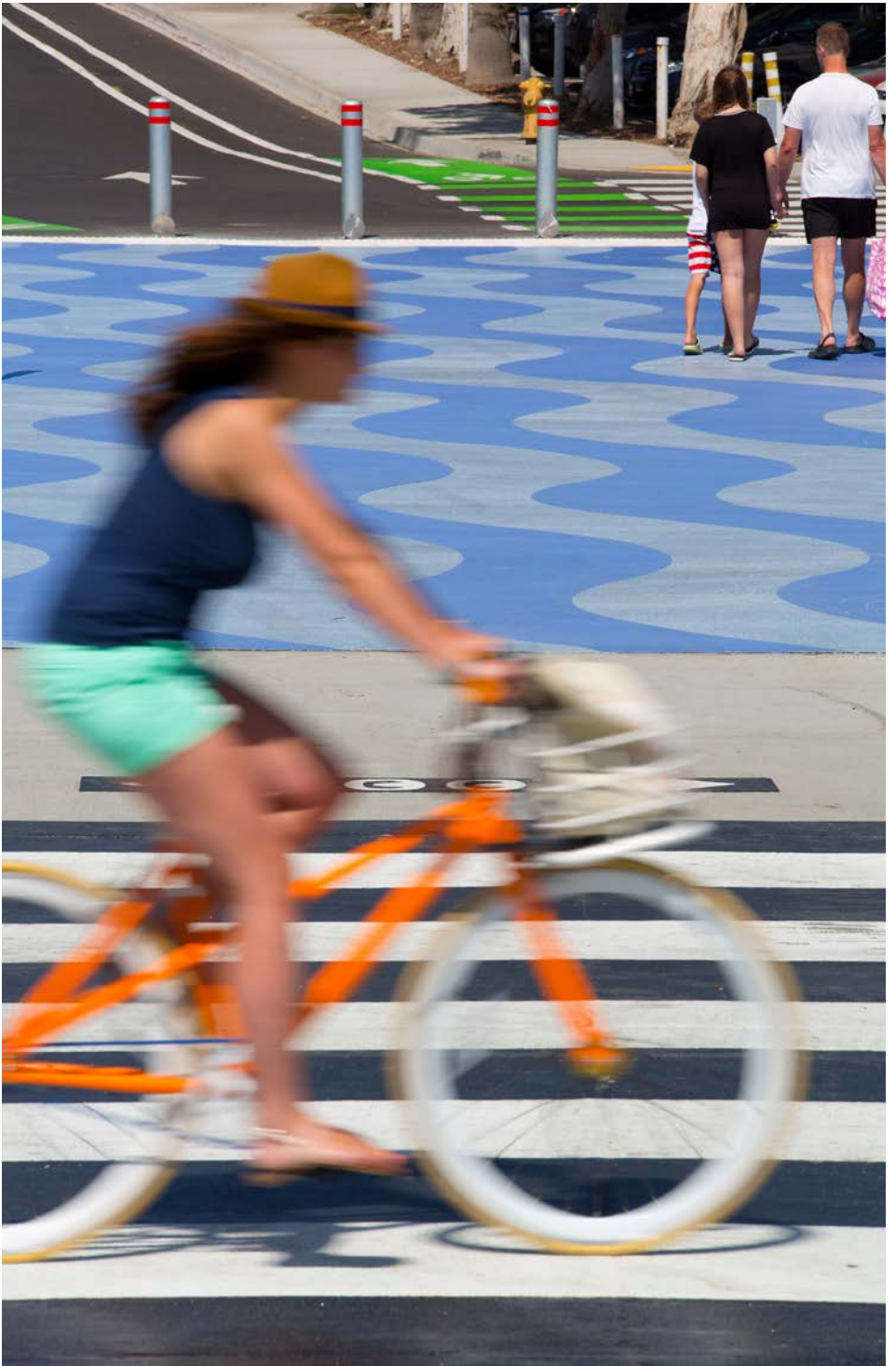
Wolf River Greenway,  
Tennessee

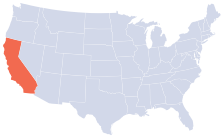
Custom designed boardwalks through wetlands can attract interest and provide an opportunity for environmental education. Natural areas can inspire unique design solutions that maintain wildlife circulation and habitat. Responsible and thoughtful design promotes stewardship and enhances people's understanding of their environment.



# **Signature Trails are worth visiting.**

**What makes a trail worth the visit? You'll see creative solutions to complex design challenges, enjoy a great experience, and learn about the local environment and community. The following pages present examples of Alta-designed Signature Trails.**





## CVLink

CVLink connects seven cities across nearly 50 miles in the Coachella Valley, starting near the base of the San Jacinto Mountains in the northwest and moving to the southeast towards the Salton Sea. This Signature Trail uses color as a wayfinding and branding feature. The selected colors of orange and blue are present throughout all of the trail features. The colors are used on the surface of the pathway, wayfinding signs, furnishings, crosswalks, lights and railings. They are oriented in a way that users traveling to the NW, toward the mountains can follow the orange color and those travelling toward the Salton Sea follow the blue color. It creates a thematic experience that is different depending on your direction of travel and keeps the user confident that they are continuing in the intended direction without having to read signs or other landmarks.

CV Link, Cathedral City,  
California





## Razorback Greenway

The Razorback Greenway is a 37 mile trail that connects the 4 major cities in NW Arkansas. One of those cities is Springdale. Historically known as the center of the poultry industry in Arkansas, Downtown Springdale had become a mostly abandoned downtown with a town square that was empty most of the year. The Razorback Greenway was designed to go right through the heart of downtown. In addition, as an extension of the trail, Spring Creek that ran in a pipe under the downtown was un-capped adjacent to the trail and a new downtown park was built on its banks. Before the park was completed, Downtown Springdale began to come back to life with new shops and restaurants opening near the Razorback Greenway. After the park opened, Downtown Springdale has found new life with its downtown park serving as a hub of activity for residents and visitors alike.

Walter Turnbow Park in  
Springdale, Arkansas





## Empire State Trail

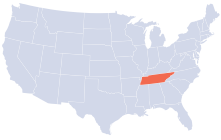
At 750 miles long, the Empire State Trail connects New York City to Canada from south to north and to the west. While connecting missing links in the existing trail network throughout the state to create a unified trail system had been discussed over many years, they were never pursued due to significant environmental, topographical, and funding challenges. With the appropriation of \$200M in dedicated New York State funds and support from Governor Andrew Cuomo, the challenges were overcome. As the program management team for the Empire State Trail, Alta's initial task was route identification. This included several trail feasibility studies that proposed over 60 miles of new off-road shared use trails. The project included over 60 individual projects, each with their own scope, budget, and timeline. Through each step of the process, Alta provided technical design support, project management, and design services for trailheads, gateways, and on- and off-road facilities.





Maybrook Trailway  
at Lake Tonetta,  
Southeast, NY

Following the completion date of December 31, 2020, the focus will shift from connecting the gaps to expanding the entire NY State trail network from the Empire State Trail. Communities that are connected to the trail have experienced economic growth with the creation of local businesses and increased tourism.

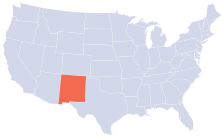


## Wolf River Greenway

The Wolf River Greenway is a 22-mile trail along the Wolf River. Once fully built, Wolf River Greenway will connect neighborhoods all the way from the north end of Mud Island, in downtown Memphis, through the neighborhoods of north central Memphis, connecting to Shelby Farms and then to the cities of Germantown and Collierville, Tennessee. As with many of Alta's other Signature Trails projects, the Wolf River Greenway design team conducted an intensive, multi-day design charrette to groundtruth trail routes; meet with regulators, stakeholders, and the public; and collaborate with owners and partners on the design.

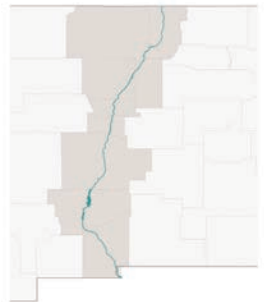
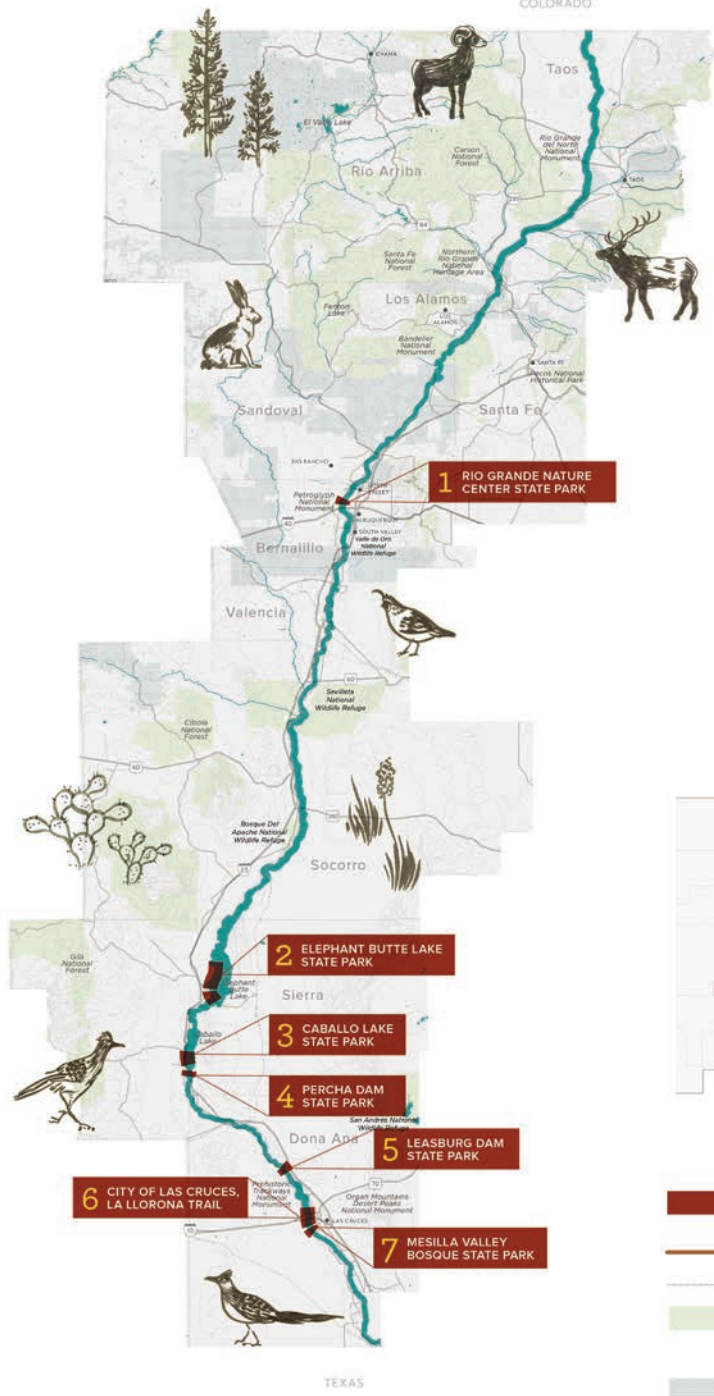
Wolf River Greenway,  
Memphis, Tennessee



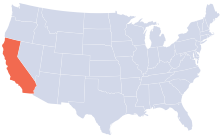


## Rio Grande Trail

The cross-state Rio Grande Trail, stretching over 500 miles from Mexico to Colorado is an ambitious master plan to develop one of the premier Signature Trail experiences in the country. Starting from the High Desert in the north with elevations over 7000 feet, the river and proposed trail descend through the state touching diverse communities including the mountain villages of Taos, the vibrant city of Albuquerque, and the farms and ranches of Las Cruces. Themes of the old west, Native American culture, agricultural traditions, wide open spaces, and the precious water provided by the Rio Grande River that is the lifeblood of the region drove the planning process. The plan included extensive field work, data collection, alignment options, design concepts and an implementation strategy that will be the guidebook for the next 20 years to implement this jewel of the southwest.



- DESIGNATED RIO GRANDE TRAIL SEGMENT
- EXISTING TRAIL
- RAILWAY
- STATE PARK / NATIONAL PARK / FOREST / MONUMENT
- NATIVE AMERICAN LAND



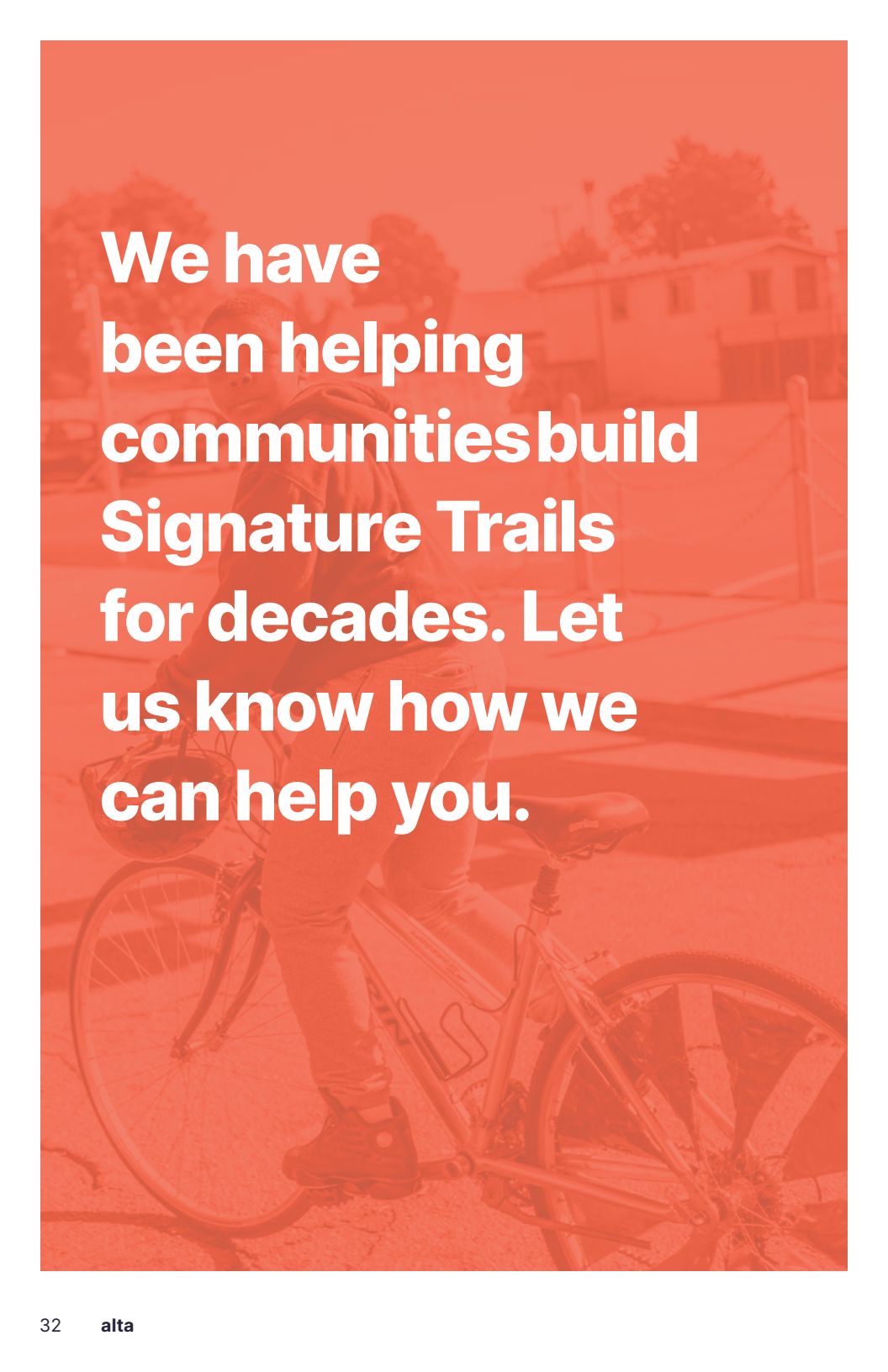
## LA River Path

This project will design and construct an 8-mile walking and bicycling path along the Los Angeles River between Elysian Valley and the City of Maywood through downtown Los Angeles, closing the longest remaining gap in the LA River Path. When complete, this facility will provide a seamless 32-mile grade-separated regional corridor from the San Fernando Valley to Long Beach along the Los Angeles River. It will safely connect over a million residents who live within walking and biking distance to the path, to and from Downtown LA. In order to complete the project the path will navigate over, under, and through eleven designated historic bridges, along the Army Corps and LA County controlled LA River flood control channel, adjacent to high-powered electrical transmission lines and commuter and freight rail lines. These challenges are a reason this gap has been left open for decades. They are also an example of how a high standard of design can lead to creative and innovative solutions in the most complex conditions. The LA River Path will be a game changer for LA County, creating one of the most innovative bicycle superhighways in the country.

Complex conditions  
along the LA River today

LA River Path  
conceptual rendering



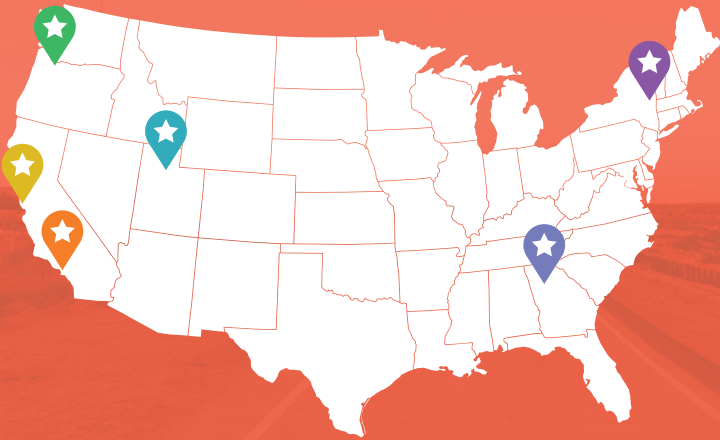


**We have  
been helping  
communities build  
Signature Trails  
for decades. Let  
us know how we  
can help you.**



Alta is at the forefront of trail planning and design, and active in the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. We have authored white papers, best practices, and developed proprietary models for trail and greenway projects across the country. Alta is regularly asked to participate in national panel discussions including the TrailNation Summit, International Trails Symposium, the Collaboration of Regional Trail Initiatives, and American Trails' Advancing Trails webinar series. We have been helping communities build Signature Trails for decades, let us know how we can help you.

# Meet Alta's Signature Trails leaders.





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