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Media Alert

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Ribbon-cutting Celebrating the Hot Springs Valley Preserve Multi-Use Path Greening Project

A Quarter of a Mile of New Multi-Use Path with Native Landscape from the Kern River Valley



What: Kern County Public Works and the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation celebrate the completion of the Hot Springs Valley Preserve Multi-Use Path Greening Project with a ribbon-cutting followed by a Community Resource Fair in Lake Isabella.

Kern County Supervisor Phillip Peters will be hosting the Community Resource Fair inviting the Kern River Valley community to learn about valuable programs and services available to them.

When: **Wednesday, June 22, 2022**
10-10:45 a.m.: Ribbon-cutting
1-3 p.m.: Community Resource Fair

Where: **Ribbon-cutting:** Ceremony held at the Path entrance on Lake Isabella Blvd. at Erskine Creek Road in Lake Isabella *(please park at the shopping center on the Northeast corner of the intersection of Lake Isabella Blvd. and Erskine Creek Road)*

Community Resource Fair: Veterans/Seniors Center at 6405 Lake Isabella Blvd.

Who: Hot Springs Valley Preserve Multi-Use Path Greening Project Ribbon-cutting Remarks and Attendees:

- Kern County Supervisor Phillip Peters, District 1 – *Master of Ceremonies*
- Kern County Public Works Interim Director Samuel Lux & Staff
- Steve Spradlin, Board of Directors, Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation
- Fred Clark, President, Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce

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Background: Join Kern County Public Works, the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation, elected officials, and community members as we celebrate the completion of the Hot Springs Valley Preserve Multi-Use Path Greening Project.

The multi-use path greening project was proposed due to the Kern River Valley community's concerns about pedestrian infrastructure and collisions in the area. The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation was eager to partner to construct a project to increase active modes of transportation in Lake Isabella and invite the community to learn about and enjoy the native landscape of the Kern River Valley.

This project, a quarter of a mile stretch of path, will enhance, and complement Kern County Public Works' upcoming Active Transportation Program grant project, Walk Isabella, which is expected to begin construction in the fiscal year 2023/2024, and received \$5.1 million in grant funding. The Walk Isabella project will construct approximately 3 miles of sidewalks and multi-use paths along Lake Isabella Blvd. and Erskine Creek Road to connect the community to parks, schools, community services, and the post office.

Kern County Public Works and the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation applied for an Urban Greening Grant through California Natural Resources Agency in February 2019 and were awarded the grant in the amount of \$591,800. Funded through this grant and Kern County Public Works, the project faced various supply chain issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The path construction phase began in November 2021 and was completed in April 2022, with the planting of native plants along the pathway finalized in May 2022. In total, the project cost approximately \$567,000.

To fulfill the requirements of the Urban Greening Grant, the planting of native species was also a component of the project. Native plants were propagated and planted by community members, the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation, and the Audubon California: Kern River Preserve staff. More than 450 volunteer hours were spent on plant preparation, planting, weeding, and care for the plants. More than 300 trees were planted, including Fremont Cottonwood, Desert Willow, Gray Pine, Blue Oak, Interior Live Oak, Pinyon Pine, Piute Cypress, Red Willow, Oregon Ash, and Western Sycamore.

For more information, visit our website at www.KernPublicWorks.com and follow us on Facebook [@KernCountyPublicWorks](https://www.facebook.com/KernCountyPublicWorks).

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