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Media Alert

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Ribbon-cutting and Activities Celebrating Rexland Acres Community Sidewalk Project
Approx. 4.75 Miles of New Walking Paths for the Community of Rexland Acres to Safely Enjoy



What: Join Kern County Public Works, elected officials, and community partners Building Healthy Communities Kern and the Greenfield Walking Group as we celebrate the completion of the Rexland Acres Community Sidewalk Project with a ribbon-cutting, Community Resource Fair, and a Color Run/Walk.

The community is invited to come out and connect with local health, COVID-19 services, educational, and valuable community programs and services while enjoying live music, food, Zumba, volleyball, soccer, and Bike Bakersfield's Bicycle Rodeo for free.

When: **Saturday, May 28, 2022**
9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Rexland Acres Community Resource Fair
9-10 a.m.: Color Run/Walk
10-10:45 a.m.: Ribbon-cutting

Where: **Rexland Acres Park:** 315 East Fairview Road, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Who: Rexland Acres Community Sidewalk Project Ribbon-cutting Remarks and Attendees:

- Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez, District 5 – *Master of Ceremonies*
- Kern County Public Works Manager Yolanda Alcantar & Staff
- Wendy Alfson, California Walks
- Mary Lou Martinez, Teacher at Fairview Elementary School
- Jocelyn Cuevas, Greenfield Walking Group
- Jose Pinto, Greenfield Walking Group
- Reyna Olaguez, Building Healthy Communities Kern

Rexland Acres Community Resource Fair Organizations and County Departments:

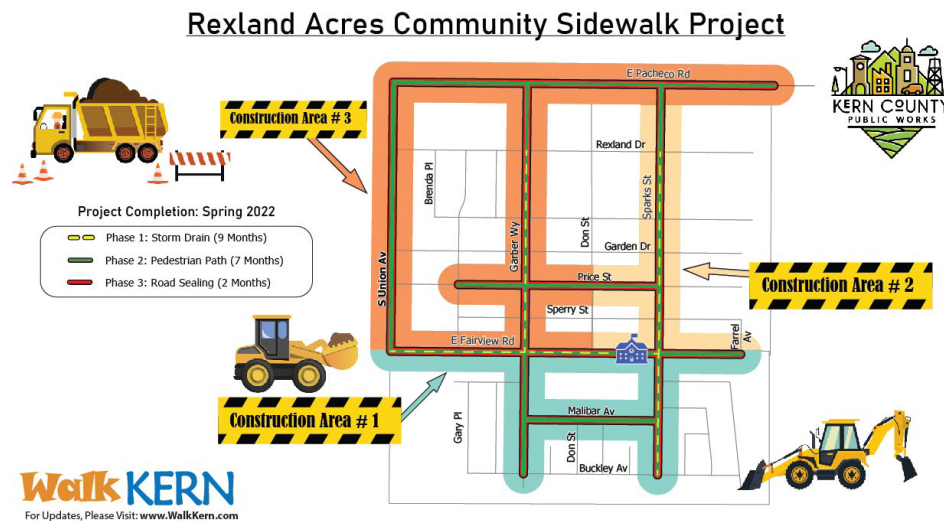
- Bike Bakersfield – Bicycle Rodeo
- CAPK Rental Assistance
- Dolores Huerta Foundation

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- Farmworkers Institute Education Leadership and Development (F.I.E.L.D)
- Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
- Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services – Volunteer Senior Outreach Program
- Kern County Aging & Adult Services
- Kern County Animal Services
 - *Will offer low-cost Rabies vaccinations and a free Parvo/Distemper vaccine combo for dogs as well as a free Feline combo for cats.*
- Kern County Library – Wilson Branch Library
- Kern County Public Health Services
 - *Will offer free COVID-19 rapid antigen testing, PCR testing, and vaccinations.*
- Kern County Public Works
- Kern County Sheriff's Office – Crime Prevention Unit
- Kern County Veterans Service
- South Kern Sol

Background: The sidewalk improvement project was proposed due to an outpour of community concerns regarding safety and lack of pedestrian infrastructure in the community of Rexland Acres, where there was no existing active transportation infrastructure and prone to pedestrian and bicycle collisions.

This project constructed approximately 4.75 miles of sidewalks, including new storm drain lines, curbs, curb ramps, drive approaches, and higher-visibility crosswalks to ensure a safe, ADA-accessible environment. Safety was the number one reason why residents didn't walk to the local school, park, bus stops, and nearby markets.



The community of Rexland Acres was eager for infrastructure that would transform their community into an active, healthy neighborhood, where residents could walk and bike to improve their health, reduce vehicle trips to improve air quality, and reduce vehicle collisions due to traffic calming strategies and improved higher-visibility crossings.

Kern County Public Works submitted a grant application to Caltrans' Active Transportation Program (ATP) in 2016 and ranked #13 in the statewide competition out of nearly 450 statewide applications submitted.

Primarily funded through grants, the project faced various delays in construction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The construction phase began in April of 2020 and cost approximately \$11 million in total, with approximately \$4 million being contributed by Kern County Public Works.

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