

# The Redmond Central Connector

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# THE REDMOND CENTRAL CONNECTOR BERGER PARTNERSHIP

The Redmond Central Connector (RCC) reimagines 4.1 miles of former BNSF rail corridor through the heart of downtown Redmond, Washington. The corridor is shared-use trail, linear park and infrastructure corridor, realizing the city's planning goals of creating an urban trail like no other. The result is a place as much about shaping culture, experience, and art as it is about forging physical connections. Phase 1 is complete and reshaping the character and culture of downtown Redmond. A second phase is now underway.

While achieving visionary outcomes, the project is rooted in careful planning and engineering, including five street crossings, two street extensions, two mid-block connections, three bridge renovations, a regional stormwater facility, and the footprint of future light rail.

Phased implementation looks to the distant future while allowing the trail to be completed to today's conditions. Planning stretches from today to 2025 laying the groundwork for the eventual arrival of an East Link light rail terminus, a more dense population, and an even more vibrant city.

While at its heart a transportation and urban open space project, the city embraced the Connector as an experiment to maximize art integration into a public works project, empowering the project with artist participation at all stages. The team was selected with an artist as an integral member to shape the master plan. In design development, another artist's voice was added to shape the overall character and create site-specific works. Now physically complete, the corridor hosts performances and ephemeral art installations by the city's artists-in-residence, will welcome local "maker-marts," and will be home to an artist-designed Mobile Art Center hosting both performances and studio events.

Three installed site works by artist John Fleming: Redmond's Erratic: Forged of shoulder plates and

railroad ballast salvaged from the site, the piece explores Redmond's transformation from geologic history through the industrial revolution to the city's technology age.

**Signals:** A reimagining of decommissioned train signals into a gateway sculpture that serves as a performance venue.

**Sky Painting:** Reconsidering what trailhead parking can be, a bold pattern radiates from existing trees on the site, designed to be leveraged as a car-free venue for roller skating, bike polo, markets, and more.

The corridor is also home to civic festivals, and recreational and tourism events. The corridor hosts adult and youth fun-runs, senior walks, cultural events such as the Redmond Lights luminary walk, which draws 10,000 walkers down the light-filled trail; and Redmond So Bazaar, an outdoor social that provides market stalls, food trucks, music, performances, and fun for the whole family on summer nights. Year-round, the trail is a community-building destination that energizes the city center.

RCC is viewed as a regional model, having successfully engaged adjacent properties and developments, reconciling competing agency guidelines with innovative design, and inspiring community expectations for exceptional placemaking.

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REDMOND, WA, USA

Design Firm | Berger Partnership  
Client | City Of Redmond Parks And Recreation

Project Team (And Discipline) |  
Berger Partnership (Landscape architecture, urban  
design, planning)  
John Fleming (Artist)  
Perri Howard (Arts master planning)  
Toole Design Group (Non-motorized transportation  
planning)  
KPG (Civil engineering)  
KPG Consulting Engineers (Engineering)

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