

the McCloghrie family and the Fortuna Senior Hiking Group to the Humboldt Trails Council are set aside in an encumbered fund. This fund is to be used for bench maintenance and purchase of a replacement bench as needed. The McCloghrie family, HTC, Rees Hughes, and Hammond Trail VTS coordinator Stacy Becker worked closely with Mike Orr of Humboldt County Parks on the placement of the plaque honoring Keith and planning for bench replacement.

Keith and Lesley, his wife of 50 years, relocated to Humboldt County in 2012 following Keith's retirement to be closer to their daughter, Sally, and her family. Keith quickly fell in love with the trails and little used roads of his new home and was well on his way to walking every mile when he died. Keith worked hard to find the seldom-used route, was always the last to be ready to start back, and devoted countless hours to trail work. Keith had a special weakness, as do many of his fellow hikers, for views, so the location of his bench could not be better situated than it is.



Figure 1 Keith's Plaque

The bench is located on the Hammond Trail, north of Vista Point off Highway 101, midway between Vista Point and the southern Clam Beach access. Please come visit and enjoy the view.

He remains in our hearts and much missed.

Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) Update

The Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) provide an “eyes and ears” presence on local trails – they report observations and trail maintenance issues, perform basic litter collection, and participate in maintenance work days.



The VTS take on this task with enthusiasm and grit! There are currently eight active crews – soon to be nine with the addition of the McKay Community Forest – that meet on a monthly basis for work days. It's amazing how much can get done when people work together, and we work safely with limited group size, masks, and outdoor distancing. 2020 was a challenging year for our community, our nation, and the VTS program, but the trails in Humboldt are in use more than ever and we are dedicated to maintaining them!

VTS is recruiting people willing to co-coordinate some of our VTS locations. It requires 5 – 10 hours a month including the work day (especially if you are sharing the responsibility). Coordinators are responsible for notifying volunteers, organizing the work plan for the monthly work day, coordinating with the appropriate City or County partner, and supervising work days. It is particularly nice to be able to share these responsibilities with another person. We could use the help! We'll provide the support and training – you bring the enthusiasm for trails in Humboldt. Contact Renee at renee@humtrails.org for more information.

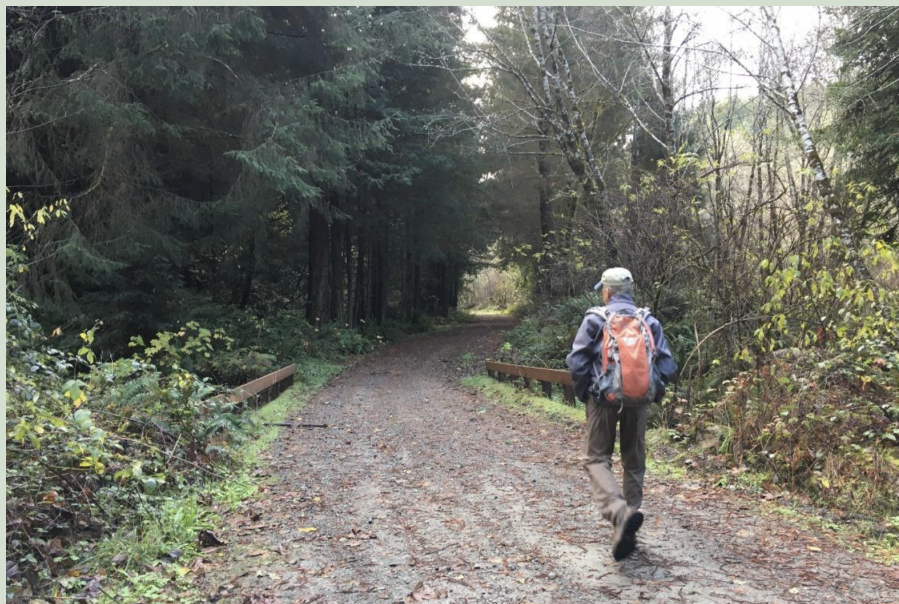


News of the Trails

The trail community in Humboldt County has much to be thankful for in 2020. We are fortunate to have so many trails to get out on and safely distance on, and to surround ourselves with nature all in one go-round. Also, we are thankful that our public agencies continue to work on plans, legislation, and construction of new trails that meet the needs of multiple users. Keep enjoying our trails and a healthy new year to you!!!

Humboldt County

On December 16th Humboldt County Public Works released the final “**McKay Community Forest Trail Plan**” along with the associated environmental report for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The review period for the CEQA Initial Study extends from December 17, 2020, through January 19, 2021. Public comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of the initial study is invited. [Please review the document here and make comments here.](#)



McKINLEYVILLE

In December the McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) shared the news that the Trust for Public Land was awarded funding to purchase 553 acres of forest land from Green Diamond Resource Company for the purpose of creating a community forest for McKinleyville to be managed by MCSD. All very early in the planning, but also very exciting.

FRIENDS OF THE DUNES - DOG RANCH

In mid-October with funding and collaboration from several public agencies, Friends of the Dunes became the interim landowner and manager of the Samoa Dunes and Wetlands for the purpose of conservation and public access. This 357-acre property includes coastal dune and bayfront property and the former Dog Ranch. This diverse area, composed of coastal dune forest and freshwater wetlands, is an exciting addition to our hiking trails and preserves. We look forward to hiking in the enchanting coastal dune forests and exploring the open dunes.



EUREKA – Broadway Corridor Plan

On December 15th the **Draft Eureka Broadway Multi-Modal Plan** was released for public review. The plan was presented to the Humboldt Association of Governments meeting on 12/17. Earlier, on December 1st, it had been presented to the Eureka City Council. Everyone agrees that something needs to be done quickly to improve the safety and usability for pedestrians and bicyclists along this route. At the urging of the Eureka City Council Caltrans has come back with a couple of designs for safe crossings near the Broadway Cinema and by the Pantry restaurant. People were

urging for more, especially near the bowling alley and the In-and-Out restaurant. [Please visit the plan here.](#)

Great Redwood Trail:

Starting with the last item that occurred for the GRT in 2020: On December 17th, at a special board meeting of the North Coast Railroad Authority, the board approved the Lease Agreement with the County of Humboldt for the Bay Trail South Project. This is one more step in building the “final four” miles of the Humboldt Bay Trail, which will eventually be a part of the Great Redwood Trail. There was extremely strong support for this step. The current estimated date for completion is fall of 2022.



On November 14th the [“Assessment of the NCRA and Viability of a Great Redwood Trail” document](#) was released. This assessment was required by SB 1029. This is a lengthy document that outlines appropriate ways to dissolve the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), dispense with its assets and liabilities, and includes a preliminary assessment of the viability of constructing a trail on the railroad right-of-way.

On November 16th as part of the above assessment, the North Coast Railroad Authority’s executive director presented the [NCRA Draft Strategic Plan Update 2020-2025](#) to the NCRA at a board meeting. The relevant information for our county is the beginning of the process of railbanking the rail line north of milepost 89 through Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties; and to preserve the rail corridor for possible future rail use and for creation of the Great Redwood Trail.

On December 13th the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted and approved the transfer of NCRA’s freight contract and rights south of the Sonoma-Mendocino county line to Sonoma-Marin Area Rapid Transit (SMART). Also, the transfer of real property from Healdsburg to the Sonoma-Mendocino county line, and the railbanking of portions of its right of-way north of Willits; in essence the CTC approved the [NCRA strategic plan](#).



On December 8th Senator Mike McGuire introduced the next legislative step in creating the Great Redwood Trail, Senate Bill 69. The part relevant for Humboldt County calls for renaming the NCRA to the Great Redwood Trail Agency, and for the appointment of the agency's board of directors. For the northern right-of-way this agency will:

- inventory any parcel, easement, or contracts
- complete an environmental assessment of the conditions of the right-of-way
- plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain a trail in, or next to the right-of-way
- complete a federal railbanking process

This bill will also create the Great Redwood Trail Program Fund.

[Visit this first version of the bill](#), keeping in mind that bills can change a lot over the course of a two-year cycle.

My Awesome New Bike Bell



It's quite obvious that pandemic restrictions have vastly increased local trail usage! On multi-use trails that increases the chances for conflicts between different user types. Being both a hiker and a cyclist, I'm sensitive to both sides of this and realize that hardly anyone likes being surprised by a faster-moving user coming up behind you or from up ahead.

I have a couple of handlebar bells that work fine on the bike paths, but not as well on the single-track trails. When I'm coming downhill, I don't know when to use them as the sightlines are obstructed.

My solution was the Timber Bell (<https://www.mtbbell.com/>), a miniature switched cowbell that mounts on my handlebars. When on, it rings constantly as my bike bounces over obstacles. It's just like a bear bell except that in this case the bear is wearing the bell! I turn it off when I'm on the double-track because I like silence too.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive on the busy trails of the Arcata Community Forest. I'll come around a corner to see other trail users corralling their dogs to the side of the trail. I've been thanked on numerous occasions for not "sneaking up" on someone.

It has also been a success on the Bay Trail and the Hammond Trail with this caveat:

Sometimes the trail is too smooth to activate the clapper! I have found that I can aim for the gravel shoulder or one of the root heaves on the Hammond Trail to get a jingle out of my bell. Adjusting the angle can also help.

All in all, it was a successful and timely purchase. Ask at your local bike shop.



Bicycle bell designed specifically for mountain biking. Features an on/off switch for awareness when you need it, and silence when you don't. Slide the lever down for on, up for off or set it in between for a quieter sound. Fits 35-22mm bars. Click the video below to see how it works!



GENEROUS PERSONS



Thank you to the anonymous folks who visited our website in December (<https://humtrails.org/donate/>) and contributed about \$1500 to the Humboldt Trails Council. One generous individual donated \$1000 of that amount. For obvious reasons we were not able to have our fundraiser this last year so please know that your gifts are much appreciated and will help support the Volunteer Trail Stewards program and the Trails Summit on June 5th. You are all ultimate trail stewards.

Support Humboldt Trails Council via AmazonSmile



If you shop at Amazon.com, then ...

Have you heard about AmazonSmile? Did you know that if you sign-up, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of every eligible product you buy to the Humboldt Trails Council?

Sign-up with AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com/>.

You will have the opportunity to choose the direction of your charitable donation by entering an organization's name in the lower right box. Type in Humboldt Trails Council and AmazonSmile will support our trails work with their contribution.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Humboldt Trails Council is to serve as a unified voice to support development, maintenance and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County

OUR VISION

The Humboldt Trails Council envisions a well-maintained network of accessible community pathways traveled by walkers and riders of all abilities, ages and means in the pursuit of unfettered kinetic joy. We are advocates, educators, and coordinators working to enhance the county's active transportation and recreation options, community wellbeing, economic vitality, visitor captivation and appreciation of open spaces.



Copyright © 2019 Humboldt Trails Council, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Humboldt Trails Council
2906 F Street - Box 7164
Eureka, CA 95502

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Humboldt Trails Council · 2906 F Street - Box 7164 · Eureka, CA 95502 · USA



