



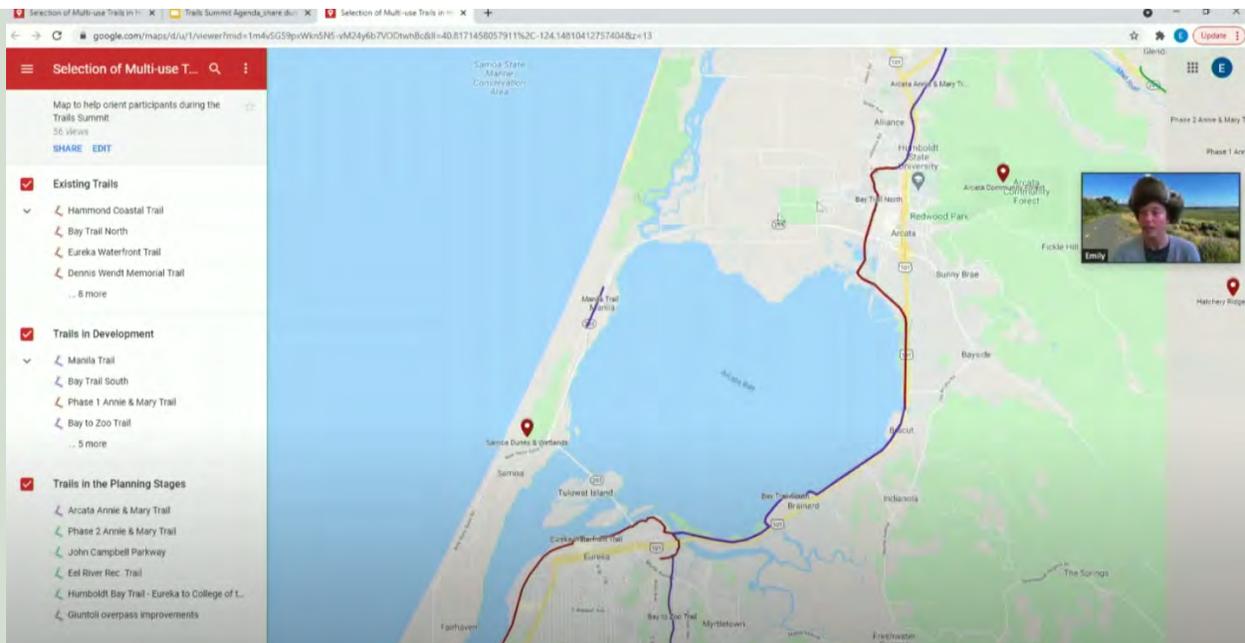
The mission of the Humboldt Trails Council is to serve as a unified voice to support development, maintenance and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County

How to Enjoy and Engage with Humboldt's Growing Trail Network

by Jonny Maiullo

National Trails Day is held the first Saturday of each June and Humboldt Trails Council celebrated this year by holding its fifth annual Trails Summit. Watch the entire event on [YouTube](#).





The virtual event was well-attended, with hundreds there on Saturday morning. The recorded event can also be watched from our Humboldt Trails Council Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/humboldttrailsCouncil/> Trail updates were featured from Deputy Director of Environmental Services Hank Seemann and Senator Mike McGuire; and we heard reports from many diverse trail organizations, volunteers, and associated interest groups, all of whom communicated their desire to maintain, develop, and extend Humboldt County's beautiful trail system.

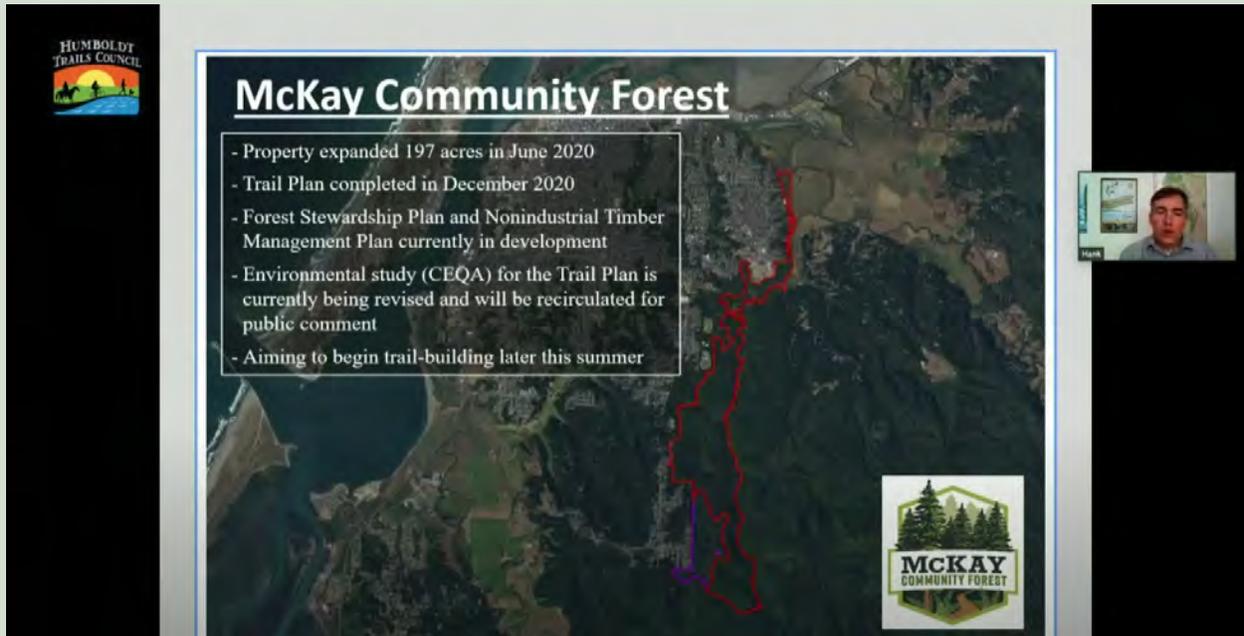
The theme of the event, "Enjoy and Engage", defined the discussion of trails and their increased use during the Covid-19 pandemic. As Senator McGuire noted, recent developments have ushered in a period in which Northern Californians can begin to "think differently" about trails and their ability to connect communities and nature.

On this score, the most exciting announcement concerned the Great Redwood Trail, the rail-trail which will one day connect San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay and become the longest rail trail in the country. Senator McGuire cautioned that a great deal of work still needs to be done, although a lot has already been accomplished. One of these accomplishments was the unanimous, bipartisan passing of Senate Bill 69, which created the Great Redwood Trail Authority (GRTA), an agency which will be tasked with assessing, planning and designing the trail. As the NCRA transitions to the GRTA, continued support is needed for this project. Senator McGuire referred Trails Summit attendees to his chief of staff Jason Lilies to draft letters of support to the Surface Transportation Board. He is available at Jason.lilies@sen.ca.gov.

The Great Redwood Trail wasn't the only important trail announcement. Hank Seemann kicked off the event with a recap of some of the exciting trail developments in the county. Among them:

- The Humboldt Bay Trail: Negotiations for right-of-way over the levy continue and the required coastal development permit will be sought this fall. Construction is tentatively scheduled for fall of 2022.

- The Hikshari Trail Extension: A one-mile trail extension will begin construction in 2022 along the Elk River and connect to the Humboldt Hill undercrossing.
- The McKay Community Forest: The project will feature 30 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Trail integration with historic logging roads is in the final portion of study with trail building expected to begin later this summer.



- Manila Trail: A coastal development permit has been approved for a ½ mile long class 1 trail along Highway 255 in Manila. Construction is expected to start in 2022.
- The Annie and Mary Trail: Funding has been approved to design the Arcata portion of the trail which would connect to Pump Station #1 on West End Road. Arcata is partnering with Humboldt County to include unincorporated areas and river access. The design for the section to connect to the completed Blue Lake section B will be examined over the next two years.

Other trail organizations provided videos and descriptions of important trail developments including: the Little River Trail which will connect Clam Beach to Scenic Drive, the Hatchery Ridge Trail System, new equestrian trails in the Samoa Dunes and near Dow's Prairie on the Mather Tract, a new trail to the Centennial Tree and beyond in Redwood National and State Parks, the Bay-to-Zoo Trail in Eureka, and an exciting preview of an interactive online trail map.

Humboldt Trails Council board member Steve Jones noted that many of these trails are maintained by the Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) and that volunteers contributed 3,600 hours to trail maintenance in 2020 despite pandemic restrictions. Among the accomplishments of the VTS this past year were removal of invasive pampas grass from the Wharf Trail, and re-working of the Peanut Butter Trail with the RCMBA in the Arcata Community Forest. The VTS expects to take on maintenance of trails in the McKay Community Forest after completion, and they are currently looking for volunteers—not only for this trail, but for all trails. Jones highlighted the desire of many VTS volunteers to “give back” to the trails they enjoy. More information on volunteering with VTS is available at www.humtrails.org

Senator McGuire noted that outdoor recreation was one of the few industries to grow during the

COVID-19 pandemic;. As California prepares to reopen on June 15th, trails will continue to be a viable means for Humboldt County residents to enjoy our natural splendor in a safe and healthy way and, with so many developments on the horizon, residents truly had reason to mark National Trails Day this year.



Jonathan (Jonny) Maiullo realized the utility of bike trails at the young age of 11 when riding to the mall for the first time in his hometown of Jackson, Michigan. After nearly being run off the road on a busy street, the young Maiullo stopped into the township offices and requested a bike path be put in. While this plan never reached fruition, Maiullo has made extensive use of trails elsewhere. In Armenia, he hiked the Janapar Trail in the Artsakh region; in Thailand, he followed a trail on the island of Koh Tao to discover an abandoned resort hidden in the jungle and in the U.S. he through-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2016.

Maiullo is currently an associate English Professor at The College of the Redwoods. When biking from his Arcata home to work, he makes use of the Humboldt Bay Area's extensive trail network and eagerly anticipates the conclusion of the Bay Trail.

Volunteer Profile on John Sullivan

by Rees Hughes



Many in our community know John Sullivan from his 43 years of serving as a local pediatrician. But I know John as a dedicated volunteer with the Arcata Volunteer Trail Stewards program, where he first appeared at our second workday back in 2013 with his teenage son, Peter.

Peter and John quickly endeared themselves to the crew because Peter would always bring a batch of delicious homemade peanut butter bars covered with chocolate. For a while I thought that John was attending strictly to support Peter's interest in working with his hands and building trail but John has attended more than 50 work days, most of which have occurred since Peter moved on from the VTS program and made a career of working in the backcountry.

So I asked John to tell me more about his own interests. John, whose father was also a doctor, said that when growing up he "had moved constantly". Born in Minneapolis, John, his five siblings and parents had stops in Milwaukee, Detroit, Bremerton (Washington), Ann Arbor, and a number of places in Southern California. Because of this peripatetic childhood, once John moved to Arcata in 1978 he hasn't moved a mile since. Community is important to John and anyone who has spent much time around John knows that this community in particular is important to him.

For someone like John who enjoys nature, the North Coast has been an easy place to love. Our wonderful access to beautiful beaches, redwood forests and rugged mountains makes this a perfect fit for John.

There is much that pulls him back month after month, year after year to work on local trails. "The camaraderie. Working together to achieve a goal. There is real satisfaction in seeing a completed section of

single-track trail emerge from a steep, densely wooded slope. The physical labor,” John continued, “helps me be totally in the moment. And where else can I network with such fascinating people as my fellow volunteers.” (He said that he had recently worked with a retired professional racecar driver, a molecular biologist, HSU natural science students, and a water plant operator.) “I love being outdoors,” he noted as his list grew longer, “and even if I get wet and cold on a work day [we work rain or shine] it is not like I am backpacking and can’t go home and get warm and dry. Plus, it is all for a great cause.”

John and I both believe that there is an honor in doing physical labor although John takes it a step further and refers to the Zen of doing trail building. Regardless of your motivation, consider joining John and the rest of the Arcata Volunteer Trail Stewards (the fascinating volunteers – the beer brewer, photographer, civil engineer, high school student, teacher, author, etc.) on the 4th Saturday of every month except December. We start at 9 am and really do work rain or shine!

Rees Hughes walked his way through some of the most stunning regions on Earth — from the top of Kilimanjaro to the arid interior of Australia, from the pilgrimage route up Sri Pada in Sri Lanka to the picturesque Cornish coast, from the Himalayas to the Andes — but has found little that compares with the magic of the Klamath Knot. Co-editor of The Pacific Crest Trailside Readers and author of a guide to Humboldt County walks, Rees serves as a volunteer trail steward coordinator, and an advocate for the Humboldt Bay Trail.

Rees retired from a career in higher education after more than three decades at Humboldt State University, Seattle University, and the University of Kansas.

Ted Humphry's Trail Notes From Redwood National and State Parks Pure and Unfiltered Observations From the Trail

7/25/2021 - Boy Scout Tree Trail

On the weekend, Last Chance Grade has a 10 minute max wait all day. I made a trip to the North District on Sunday.

I parked along Howland Hill Road at the Boy Scout Tree trailhead, walked to Fern Falls, stopped at the Boy Scout Tree, and returned to the vehicle.

Howland Hill Road is in prime shape after recent grading, and is easily drivable in any car or light truck. Trailers and RVs are not advised due to narrow, sharp turns. It is dusty.

Boy Scout Tree Trail is easily passable and obstruction free.

There were many people on the trail, and four dogs, one off leash, with 3 with parties. All of the irresponsible humans said they were unaware dogs are not permitted on trails. There is a sign at the trailhead,



but maybe we need a second, bigger sign.

Fern Falls has little water, kinda dribbling over the rocks. Does it go dry in September or October?



Visitors were disappointed.

The stairs that are pooling and muddy in winter are completely dry in July...



And the forest is as peaceful and beautiful as ever.



7/22/2021 - Tall Trees (TT) . . . & LBJ

Hi -

I parked at the TT trailhead and walked to the grove, around the loop counterclockwise to the gravel bar on the downstream edge of the grove, then on around and out on the gravel at the mouth of Tom McDonald, then back to the vehicle.

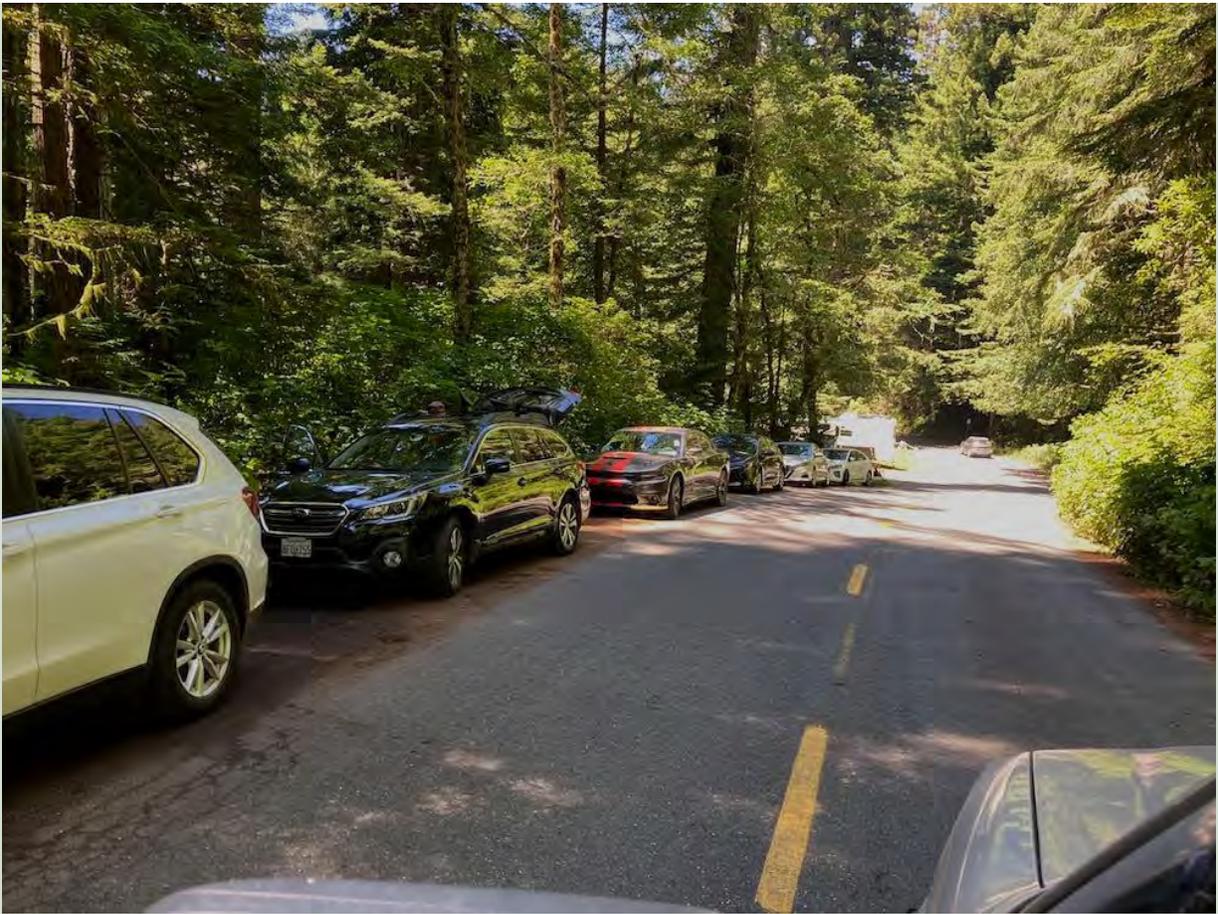
The **TT Access Road** is passable in any vehicle, but it is dusty with sections of moderate washboarding on inclines.

The **TT Trail and Loop** are easily passable and obstruction free.

I decommissioned several fire rings including an elaborate campsite on the gravel north of the grove, right by the bridge over Redwood Creek.

For visitors, and me, the TT Grove remains alluring as ever.

On the way down Bald Hills Road I encountered 3 cars in a wide spot a quarter mile above LBJ parking area. A little further on there were four vehicles. And here I'm approaching TT parking.



That's a posted no parking area on the left side of the road. The LBJ parking lot was full.

What to do about LBJ parking ?

Ted is a retired pediatrician who volunteers at Redwood National and State Parks. See and hear Ted talk about the new Centennial Trail [here](#).

Directional Trails: One Way to Reduce User Conflicts

by Steve Jones

From the Draft Arcata Community Forest Management Plan Update 2020:

2. New trail routes will be planned to meet the growing dispersed recreation demands

quality of the recreational experience for all user types.

HTC: Where did you first hear about the one-way concept?

Mark Andre: From IMBA and riding trails myself in Bend, OR and in Utah.

HTC: How do directional trails reduce user conflict?

Mark Andre: Directional trails can take the load off the larger shared-use trail network by providing for a more challenging experience for cyclists. The goal was to try it on a smaller scale section of downhill trail and to minimize the potential for collisions.

HTC: Were you surprised at the pushback from the few who protested? I recall some of this playing out in the local media.

Mark Andre: City staff tries hard to please everyone. That said, yes, I was a bit surprised at some pushback from a small minority of forest recreational users. At that time we were building miles and miles of new multi-user trail at the same time the short-directional trail segment was established. The directional trail was either going to be one-way or decommissioned. As for an two-way multi-user uphill trail, given the grade of that ridge, it was not going to meet any trail design standards.

HTC: Once the dust settled both figuratively and literally, was it obvious that this had been the right solution? Or in hindsight might you have done anything differently?

Mark Andre: You can always look back and learn from each project how to improve the public process and work harder for transparency. Also, as I said before, managing forest recreational use is an adaptive process so trail use standards and guidelines can change over time. For example, trails can be re-constructed, closed seasonally or permanently etc.

HTC: Tell us about any more directional trails that were in the pipeline before you retired.

Mark Andre: The new trails on the 49-acre ACF expansion areas (Forsyth) were being planned and designed in 2020. Aka Peanut Butter, and Jump Trail.

HTC: Thank you for all that you've accomplished for trail users in your career with the City, Mark. Enjoy your retirement!



Emily Sinkhorn

Emily Sinkhorn took over as the Director of Environmental Services for the City of Arcata earlier this year. She spoke with us on the subject of directional trails and shared other steps the City is taking to encourage safe use of trails by multiple user groups.

HTC: Emily, thanks for taking the time to talk about the trails during this busy transition time for you. Has any of the initial controversy about directional trails carried over into 2021?

Emily Sinkhorn: No, it hasn't.

HTC: Okay, we'll assume that ran its course in 2017.

HTC: We've seen a tremendous upswing in trail usage over the last year. What other tools and methods does the City have for easing potential user conflicts on our local trails?

Emily Sinkhorn: I have heard concerns about cyclist's speed on the multi-use trails, especially on the steeper downhill pitches and around curves. I think that directional trails and more challenging features are part of the solution. There are many different types of cyclists using the Community Forest and diverting the users who are more interested in a downhill experience to the directional Sunny Brae, Peanut Butter and Jump trails eases user conflicts. We're also looking at different types of signage to educate users, as well as putting out trail etiquette Public Service Announcements and press releases to the community. We also use trail forks to split off some users onto an alternative route to reduce crowding and conflict. A good example of this is at the Sunny Brae Forest Margaret Street Trailhead where the trail forks almost immediately and then rejoins a bit further up with another singletrack or service road choice. There's also a similar choice on the northern end of the Ridge Trail that was put in last year. We believe in working with our community partners such as the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association, the Humboldt Trails Council and equestrian groups in an effort to make all user groups feel safe using the Community Forest.

HTC: We appreciate all you've done for trail development, safe usage and maintenance over the years Emily, and wish you every success doing the same in your new job!



Steve Jones is an avid cyclist and hiker who would like to see a network of trails in every neighborhood. A retired Operations Manager, Steve lives with his wife in Sunny Brae and is often found on the surrounding trails.

Favorite hiking trail: Emerald Ridge/Tall Trees loop in Redwood National Park

Favorite Mountain Bike trail: Hugger-Mugger at the Hatchery Ridge Trail System in Blue Lake

Humboldt Trails Council Establishes Volunteer Committee

by Michael Proulx



The Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) has established a Volunteer Committee to assist the organization in recruiting volunteers for the Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) program and for other HTC events and activities. The HTC Board has previously created an Advocacy Committee and Community Engagement Committee. While the HTC Board of Directors sets policies for the organization, most of the work is accomplished through the committees and the VTS program.

Board President Michael Proulx said “It is important for HTC to support the many volunteers active in the organization; to recognize their hard work and contributions.” Last year the VTS program volunteers provided more than 3600 hours of trail development, maintenance, and cleanup work on seven Humboldt County trails.

The Volunteer Committee will be responsible for:

- Organizing tabling events to recruit VTS volunteers;
- Planning and organizing recognition events for our VTS volunteers;
- Assisting in development of volunteers for roles as VTS Trail Coordinators, Auxiliary Board members, and members of the Board of Directors
- Developing a volunteer handbook

Previously, HTC committees have always been comprised of board members only. However, the Board has

decided to expand committee assignments to include any HTC volunteer. We will be seeking recommendations for current VTS volunteers who want to serve on one of the HTC committees. Participation in a committee entails a monthly meeting plus additional time spent on activities related to the committee assignments.



Michael Proulx worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor for 22 years at the California Department of Rehabilitation, retiring in 2011. He continues to teach part-time in the School of Business at HSU.

Michael's volunteer activities include Arcata Economic Development Corporation, Making Headway (disability organization), American Field Service (exchange program for foreign high school students) and Humboldt Trails Council. He joined the Humboldt Trails Council Board of Directors in 2015, regularly participates in the VTS trail workdays in the Arcata Community Forest and currently takes care of one section of Bay Trail North through the VTS program.

While my favorite trail on the planet is the hike to the Tall Trees Grove in Redwood National Park, my most frequent hiking trails are those in Arcata Community Forest. In addition to hiking, I love backpacking and like to visit the Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps Wilderness areas. The North Coast has so much to offer in outdoor recreation and adventure!

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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.



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