



The Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, connection to, and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County, California.

## Save the date: Humboldt Trails Council's June 4th National Trails Day Celebration

**Saturday, June 4th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live at three locations**

The Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) invites you to get out and celebrate National Trails Day on June 4th and stop by one of their three activity stations to learn more about the important role community plays in protecting and promoting trails. HTC will be hosting activity stations at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, the Eureka Waterfront Trail North near Blue Ox Mill (accessed via the end of Y Street), or on the Hikshari' Trail off Hilfiker Road. Participate in a Trail Treasure Hunt, share what trails mean to you, or sign up for a mailing list and be eligible to enter a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate from Pacific Outfitters. Activity stations will be offering light refreshments, information on local trails, bike maps to share, and other ways to access and get involved with supporting our local trails. Community members can also choose to participate in the June 4th Volunteer Trail Stewards work day, from 9-11 **on the Hammond Trail** and be entered in the drawing. Contact Stacy at [sbecker@reninet.com](mailto:sbecker@reninet.com) to sign up for the work day event

For more information about local trails and National Trails Day activities, visit: [humtrails.org](http://humtrails.org)



Photo by Nancy Spruance

# TRAILS SUMMIT

*Save the Date!*

**Saturday Sept. 24, 2022**

Trail updates with local experts  
and Senator Mike McGuire

For more information visit:  
• [Facebook.com/HumboldtTrailsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HumboldtTrailsCouncil)  
• [humboldttrailinfo](mailto:humboldttrailinfo@humboldttrails.org)



Many know Jessica Heiden by her bright, friendly, and consistent appearance at Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) workdays on the many different trails in Eureka. In my role as VTS Coordinator, Jessica stands out as a sincerely kind and dedicated volunteer whom I very much enjoy spending time with out on the trails. She is one of those people that's brimming with enthusiasm and has a kindhearted devotion to not only completing trail work, but ensuring that other volunteers are seen and recognized for their work. For the past six years, Jessica has been volunteering at Wigi Wetlands, the Waterfront North, Hikshari', and Wharfinger trails in Eureka. She has an extensive collection of photos she's taken at workdays that capture the teamwork and charismatic spirit of volunteers as well as the before-and-after effects of their work.

Jessica got involved with VTS while working for the City of Eureka, and since that time has been a regular. As an active community member she also volunteers with the Eureka Bike Kitchen, the California Native Plant Society Nursery, the Eureka Police Department Volunteer Walk Patrol, Pac Out Trash Bash, Project Eureka Garden Group, and others. She says her favorite part about volunteering with the Trail Stewards is "all of the nice people, good times and good fun" and remarked on how much she's learned about plants, animals, birds, and trails.

When asked about her favorite local trail, she acknowledged that they're all amazing, with Ma'lél Dunes North being especially unique – and of course, Wigi Wetlands (Wigi being the Wiyot word for Humboldt Bay), which is where we stood together during our interview. Jessica commented on the natural beauty that lies there just behind the Bayshore Mall and the night-and-day difference that's been made by volunteers working in the area which used to be known as the Devil's Playground due to high crimes and homeless encampments. The City has since cleared the area and maintains its safety, while the Volunteer Trails Stewards along with the Redwood Region Audubon Society continue to monitor the transformation of the wetlands and beautify the trail by regularly removing trash and a high volume of invasive plants. Jessica remarked that so much has changed with just a small core group of volunteers, and imagines what greater impacts can be made with increased awareness, volunteer support, and resources dedicated by governments as well as private companies. She would love to help establish a trailhead sign so that more mall visitors can access this hidden gem to see the natural scenery and wildlife that one might not normally expect to find during a mall shopping trip.

When asked about the most peculiar things she's encountered during volunteer workdays, she said it's always funny to find a plant growing out of an old boot or trash piece. We concluded our chat by reminiscing on favorite foods to eat after workdays, the vegan breakfast burritos were a favorite. Jessica also recommends Winco's fajita pizza, a hidden menu item! They use pico de gallo instead of marinara sauce, with bell peppers, onions, and tortilla curls. Sounds like I need to bring some along for everyone! We'd love for more folks to join us at Wigi Wetlands workdays on the 4th Saturday of every month or during other VTS workdays throughout Eureka. To learn more about VTS workdays, visit the [humtrails.org](http://humtrails.org) volunteer page and event calendar.

*Rachael Garcia serves as the Volunteer Trail Steward (VTS) Coordinator. Since late last summer, Rachael has been a regular presence at volunteer workdays as well as working behind the scenes in her office at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center. She is a graduate of Humboldt State University's class of 2019 with a B.S. in Environmental Science Management and emphasis in Environmental Education & Interpretation. She is passionate about working within the community to complete trail projects and educating youth about local ecology.*

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## HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL

by Bruce Silvey



California Keeps the GRT on Track

On March 14th Chair Hagele made final closing remarks regarding the long history of the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA), and its successful efforts to keep it's valuable public corridor intact. Then with a touch of emotion in his voice he gaveled the NCRA into permanent adjournment.

A half hour later a new state State agency, the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) sprung to life in its place with an introduction by Senator Mike McGuire. Senator McGuire highlighted the important positive impacts that the GRT will have on the North Coast socially, environmentally, and economically. This first Board of Directors meeting for the GRTA included electing Caryl Hart from Sonoma County as Chair, and Steve Madrone from Humboldt County as Vice Chair.

From this point forward the GRTA will be responsible for the old NCRA corridor from the Sonoma/Mendocino county line near Cloverdale to around Humboldt Bay. In concert with the State Coastal Conservancy, who is also responsible for the California Coastal Trail, their job will be to create a master plan for the construction of the GRT.

From that same county line the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) will be responsible for creating a rail with trail for the southern section of the GRT from Larkspur on the SF Bay to Cloverdale.

In Humboldt County, the County and most cities along the corridor have passed ordinances to help block coal trains from trying to take over the corridor to ship coal out of Humboldt Bay to Asia. However, given the power of Federal railroad laws it is possible that the most important ordinance was just passed by the Humboldt Bay Harbor District on April 14. The Harbor District found that "there is substantial evidence that storing or handling of coal on District owned property poses a danger to the health and safety of people living, working, visiting, and recreating on that and adjacent properties."

The District adopted Ordinance 20 which would "ban the establishment and/or expansion of storage and handling of coal and/or petroleum coke on District owned property." Another west coast port was able to block coal export in court because it would cause 'unavoidable and irreparable damage to the environment'.

### Federal Surface Transportation Board Still at the Station

In order for the GRT to become a reality, the STB must grant the railbanking request that the NCRA filed with them on May 14, 2021 to railbank it's corridor north of Willits. The STB could grant the request, or could accept an offer from another railroad that they believe have sufficient capital to rebuild the line and operate a financially viable

railroad on it. The history of every railroad that has tried to operate successfully in the unstable Eel River canyon hopefully leans in favor of the GRT. Stay tuned.

*Bruce is an HTC Board Member. His bio is found [here](#).*

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## **Bay Trail South Another Step Closer with California Coastal Commission Approval of Coastal Permit**



On April 7th the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved Coastal Permit Application #1-20-0560 for the Bay Trail South Project. Three members of the Humboldt Trails Council board telephoned in to the meeting in support of the permit and were delighted with the outcome. Humboldt County Public Works has one less hurdle enroute to connecting the Bay Trail North coming south out of Arcata to the Eureka Waterfront Trail. This section of the California Coastal Trail will be 14 miles long. This 4.25 trail section may be built as early as the summer of 2023.

Trail users and bicycle commuters have been working for this outcome for over twenty years and will celebrate when it opens.

<https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2022/apr/8/coastal-commission-says-its-cool-move-forward-humb/>

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# **Humboldt Trails Council will participate in Eureka Natural Foods' Change4Change program**

From June 5 - 11, Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) will be sponsored by Eureka Natural Foods (ENF) Change4Change program at both the Eureka and McKinleyville stores. HTC will set up tables with informational handouts, trail maps and much more to provide information to ENF customers about local trail events. ENF will ask customers to "round up" their grocery purchases to make small donations to HTC. The Change4Change program allows ENF to sponsor many local organizations and help them to promote their services, while also raising funds for their operations.

Humboldt Trails Council will have volunteers tabling at the Eureka site:

Tuesday, June 7 from 12 - 4PM

Friday, June 10 from 12 - 6PM

Humboldt Trails Council will have volunteers tabling at the McKinleyville site:

Tuesday, June 7 from 12 - 4PM

Saturday, June 11 from 12 - 6PM.

So please come visit us to:

1. talk to volunteers about local trails projects
2. sign-up as a volunteer for trail workdays at one of the 8 VTS trail worksites
3. find giveaways such as decals and HTC pens
4. learn more about what HTC is doing for trails in Humboldt County!

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## **Arcata Community Forest Videos**

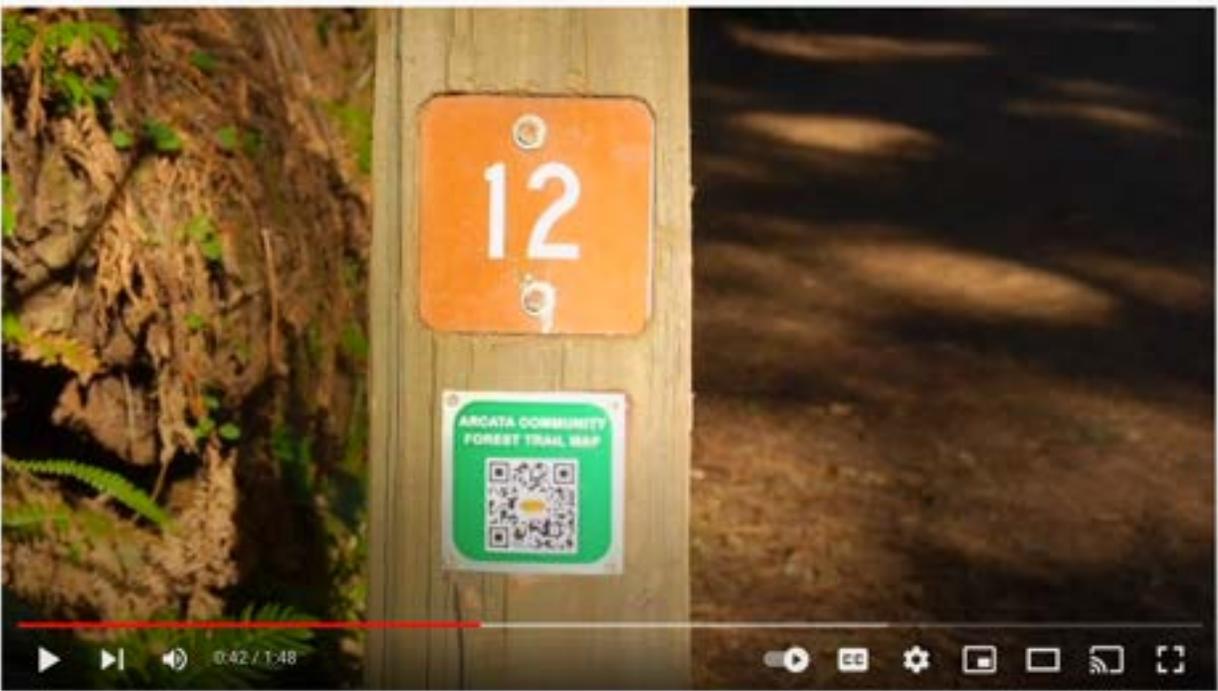
From the City of Arcata via YouTube, some informative videos about a great community trail resource!



[Arcata Community Forest Virtual Tour: Environmental Services Overview](#)



[Arcata Community Forest Virtual Tour: History of Arcata Community Forest](#)



[Arcata Community Forest Virtual Tour: Avenza Virtual Tour](#)

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

Good Morning,

I parked at the Flint Ridge section of Coastal Trailhead, near Marshall Pond, off Alder Camp Road, and walked up to the Flint Ridge Primitive Camp, and back.

The Flint Ridge section of Coastal Trail is passable with multiple step-over, leave-the-trail to bypass, or climb-over obstructions.

Flint Ridge Backcountry Camp is generally in order. One camper was present, and I removed about 15 pounds of trash from 3 of the 8 bear lockers.

The Flint Ridge is my new favorite trail. . . . for this week. The trail goes along the edge of Marshall Pond on the north then west side for the first half mile.



There are multiple places where you can watch the ducks or check out the vegetation. Then it goes into old growth Redwood for over 2 miles miles before emerging into an alder forest,



then reaching the primitive campground.



Along the trail there are many, BIG, redwood trillium.



and patches of Pacific bleeding hearts,



and the candy flower.



It was a cool but sunny day.

I wanted to visit Enderts Beach to go through a hole in the rock at the south end of the beach. I tried several months ago, but it was high tide and I couldn't get onto Enderts Beach. Today I checked the tide and was there with plenty of beach to walk on,



but Nickel Creek was running full and wide after the rain in the last few days,



and I didn't bring muck boots to cross it. Defeated again!

The short section of Coastal Trail and Enderts Beach access trail are easily passable.

The ADA Simpson-Reed loop is easily passable for wheelchairs, but there is one duck-under obstruction for walkers.

The Peterson Memorial Trail is easily passable.

There are some big trees standing, and on the ground on Simpson-Reed.



That's my 78 inch long walking stick leaning on this "little", ancient log.

On the Peterson Trail is one of my favorite trees.



It's a big leaf maple, and it's rooted at both ends.





Every time I see it, I debate with myself whether it is one tree or two . . . . .

What do you think?

*Ted is a retired pediatrician who volunteers at Redwood National and State Parks.*

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**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 Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, connection to, and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County, California.

### 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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**Our mailing address is:**

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