

Fall Happy Trails eNewsletter



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.

Lam Tran - A Valued Volunteer

If you are traveling along the Wharf Trail in Eureka between C Street and Del Norte during the weekdays, you might pass by a man with a weed whacker or some clippers trimming around the trail. That man just might be Lam Tran, who has been volunteering with the Volunteer Trail Stewards since 2020.



Photo by Gail Popham

Tran traveled to the US in 1981 as one of many “boat people” after the Vietnam War. He came from Huê, a coastal Vietnamese city, when he was 18 or 19 years old. Being from a fisherman’s family, he was familiar with working on the water, and was able to get passage by helping on the boat. The small wooden fishing vessel was not built for long voyages and was very crowded. The trip ended up taking three months due to stormy weather and engine failure. Forty-five people traveled in a small fishing boat. Although there were many tragic stories about boat people lost at sea during that time, no one died on this trip.

“The first time we had to stop was to get a different engine. The next stretch of the trip landed on an island. The engine was once more broken. The people on the island gave us a new engine,” recalls Tran.

The boat finally landed in Macau, an island in the Republic of China (often considered to be the gambling capital of the world). From there, they were ferried to Hong Kong where they stayed in a refugee camp for more than a year.

Finally, Tran and other family members arrived in Washington, ending up in Yakima where they worked picking apples and cherries. For people from a warm, tropical climate, the state of Washington was very cold in the winter. So, a year and a half later, Tran and his brother moved to Stockton, California, then to San Jose. There he worked on an assembly line in the tech industry through the mid 80's. He then moved northward to Fairfield in Solano County and started a landscaping business mostly doing mowing and trimming for five years.

In 1991, he moved to Santa Rosa where he met his partner and started a family. Eventually they made their way up to Humboldt where they opened a nail and hair salon in Arcata. Tran is now retired.

While riding his bicycle along the Wharf Trail in Eureka, he saw volunteers working and wanted to join in. With time on his hands, and plenty of experience with landscaping tools, he decided to volunteer with the Volunteer Trail Stewards.



Photo by HTC

"I enjoy riding my bike on the trail. I also enjoy meeting the volunteers and working with them."

If you see Tran while you are riding or walking by, be sure to thank him for his work on the trail. If you would like to join in the effort, email Gail Popham at gailpopham@gmail.com or Maureen McGarry at vtscordinator@humtrails.org.

A special thank you to Quynh Schafer for translating from Vietnamese to English for this interview.

Article by Maureen McGarry, VTS Coordinator

Los Bagels on the Humboldt Bay Trail!?!

Los Bagels has partnered with Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) to provide a new trail user experience. Every 3rd Sunday of the month (commencing July 20th from 9AM – Noon), Los Bagels sets up a table near Gannon Slough and provides bagels, water, and coffee (free!!) to people using the Humboldt Bay Trail. HTC also sets up a table and provides handouts, information, swag, and trail advice.



Photo by Mark Mauer

Gannon Slough is located on the Arcata portion of the Bay Trail where the trail exits the Arcata Marsh and near where South G Street enters Highway 101. The location has three benches and an excellent vista of the bay. The concept was developed by Dennis Rael, owner of Los Bagels and a long-time trail advocate. The plan emphasizes the following goals:

- Encourage increased use and appreciation of the Humboldt Bay Trail.
- Educate the public about local trail systems including existing and future opportunities.
- Create a welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere that draws both new and returning users to the trail.

So, come join Los Bagels and HTC on the third Sunday of the month to have a unique trail experience and learn more about the Humboldt Bay Trail!

Article by Michael Proulx
HTC President

Trail Celebration Time!

Celebration Time!!!! June 28 was the official opening of the Bay Trail South, and people cannot stop smiling. Superlatives do not do this opening justice. People have worked literally for generations to make this trail a reality. Trail use each day has been heavy with the gorgeous summer weather continuing, and people still cannot stop smiling. There is a wonderful synergy out on the trail, and it is because a dream is realized.

Our boundless gratitude to the County and to all those who worked so hard to make this trail a reality. The Humboldt Bay Trail South is the latest section of the Great Redwood Trail to be completed, but not the last! The next section is the Annie & Mary Connector Project from Arcata to the Pump Station #1 recreation area off West End Rd., which should begin construction sometime in September and be completed next year. After that will be the trail to College of the Redwoods. Onward!

* * *

Keep on smiling and join our team for an hour or two of work. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Trail Steward for the Humboldt Bay Trail, contact the VTS Coordinator at vtscordinator@humtrails.org, or Pete Carlson at pccarlson@gmail.com

This will be some of the most satisfying work you ever do!





*Photos by Rick Saria and Pete Carlson
Article by HTC board member Karen
Underwood*

Completed Humboldt Bay Trail Usage

Predictably, the newly-finished Bay Trail is very popular with hikers, bicyclists, roller bladers and other trail lovers. Things kicked off with the Grand Opening Celebration on 6/28/2025 when thousands of users joyously flooded the trail.



Photos by Peter Carlson

After that initial flurry of activity user counts went to a level that still showed significant daily usage with numbers peaking on weekends.

The Humboldt County activity shows here:

Humboldt Bay Trail						
06/28/2025 – 08/25/2025						
Summary of Averages and Totals						
1 periods						
Site	Total	Daily Average	Average week days	Average weekend traffic	Peak day of the week	
Humboldt Bay Trail - Bracut	23,911	405	318	604	Saturday	
Humboldt Bay Trail - Bracut Cyclist	21,970	372	296	547	Saturday	
Humboldt Bay Trail - Bracut Pedestrian	1,941	33	22	57	Sunday	
Humboldt Bay Trail - Brainerd	30,044	509	395	770	Saturday	
Humboldt Bay Trail - Brainerd Cyclist	25,677	435	343	646	Saturday	
Humboldt Bay Trail - Brainerd Pedestrian	4,367	74	52	124	Sunday	

More County numbers can be viewed [here](#).

The City of Arcata counts show a large increase in usage (because Arcata has had counters in place we can see before and after totals:

May to June

Between May and June, the CorpYard counter recorded a total of 6,439 pedestrians and 5,180 cyclists traveling toward Samoa Blvd. On average 106 pedestrians and 85 cyclists traveled per day during that period. The highest single-day counts were 230 pedestrians and 943 cyclists. The busiest days for both pedestrians and cyclists were Saturday. (Table 4)

During the same period, the counter recorded comparatively lower travel toward the Arcata Marsh, with 5,309 pedestrians and 4,521 cyclists. Daily averages were also lower, at 49 pedestrians and 44 cyclists. Both pedestrian peaks and cyclist peaks were 86 and 95 respectively. The busiest day for cyclists remained the same; however, the peak day for pedestrians shifted to Monday. (Table 4)

Both pedestrian and cyclist traffic experienced a notable peak on June 28th. Compared to the previous quarter, there has been a significant increase in cyclists. When compared to Quarter 1, Quarter 2 has already seen a substantial rise in cyclist numbers, surpassing the previous quarter's total with half the quarter remaining. These increases appear to correlate with the opening of the Humboldt Bay Trail. (Table 4)

Table 4: Summary for CorpYard Counter for May and June.

Flow	Total	Daily Average	Daily Median	Peak Day	Peak Count	Peak day of the week
Pedestrian IN (Southeast towards Eureka)	6,439	106	100	6/28/2025	230	Saturday
Pedestrian OUT (Northwest towards AMWS)	5,309	87	88	6/28/2025	159	Monday
Cyclist IN (Southeast towards Eureka)	5,180	85	61	6/28/2025	943	Saturday
Cyclist OUT (Northwest towards AMWS)	4,521	74	54	6/28/2025	766	Saturday

The complete Arcata report may be viewed [here](#).

The City of Eureka's counter is awaiting repairs.

The numbers from all locations continue to show robust usage. Commuters, recreationalists and through-travelers are finding the Bay Trail to be a safer and more enjoyable alternative route between Eureka and Arcata.

Note: Number totals will reflect a lot of out and back activity.

Steve Jones is a retired Operations Manager who loves hiking and biking trails.

Meet our Trail Leader for the Bay Trail & Join the Team

Now that the Humboldt Bay Trail is available for everyone to use, it has rapidly become a regular part of our lives here in Humboldt. Even if you haven't ridden, walked, skated, or jogged along the six-and-a-half-mile stretch, most residents have probably driven by on Hwy 101 and seen trail travelers along the way. This long-awaited trail now provides safe passage between Arcata and Eureka, and is fossil fuel free. However, it will require some maintenance, and the Volunteer Trail Stewards are looking for helpers.



Volunteer Trail Stewards cleaning up Bay Trail on grand opening day, June 28, 2025

Photo by Pete Carlson

The coordinator of this effort for at least the first year of this trail is Pete Carlson, a long-time Volunteer Trail Steward and board member of the Humboldt Trails Council. For over three decades, Carlson has lived in Humboldt County and worked as a wildlife biologist on long-term field research of the northern spotted owl. His knowledge of the local redwood and Douglas-fir forest habitats is extensive. He is now retired. An avid hiker, his favorite places are Canyon Creek in the Trinity Alps and trails surrounding Prairie Creek in Redwood National and State Parks. Photography

has been a hobby of his since he was ten or eleven. He has regularly photographed events for local groups such as the Humboldt Trails Council and Friends of the Dunes. It was volunteering at the dunes where he began doing trail work, and where he connected with the Volunteer Trail Stewards. He has quickly become a regular user of the Humboldt Bay Trail and wants to help maintain it.



*Humboldt Bay Trail opens up new views of the bay
Photo by Pete Carlson*

“The inspiration to become a Trail Crew Leader for the Humboldt Bay Trail started the day of the grand opening,” said Carlson. “Not only was it great to see people enjoying it, but I was also impressed with the carefully placed information signs and the views of the bay that it opened up. I knew I wanted to be using the trail more often. With the experience I have had over the years as a Trail Steward, I knew this was something I could do.”

Carlson is hoping to recruit a few volunteers who will regularly check along the trail for trash or those pesky blackberry vines that reach out over the trail, as well as keeping an eye open for any issues like damage or misuse. He is anticipating that the Humboldt Bay Trail volunteers will be bicyclists who will carry in tools and carry out trash in their backpacks or bike bags. Eventually, he hopes to have a bike trailer provided by VTS to transport tools and collected trash.



Pete Carlson riding on the Arcata Ridge Trail

Photo by Pete Carlson

“When I have a few recruits, we can meet up as needed. Because it is so new, we don’t know what all the needs will be just yet and won’t plan regular workdays like with the other trail sections. Ideally, a volunteer will bike the trail each month and report conditions,” said Carlson.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Trail Steward for the Humboldt Bay Trail, contact the VTS Coordinator at vtscordinator@humtrails.org, or Pete Carlson at pccarlson@gmail.com

Article written by Maureen McGarry, VTS Coordinator

SEEDS FOR CHANGE - Vote for HTC

If you shop at the North Coast Co-op, you’re already familiar with its Seeds for Change Round-Up Program. Every month, Co-op shoppers have the option to have

their purchase totals rounded up to the next dollar to benefit a designated local nonprofit organization. Nine of these organizations are selected every fall by Co-op members.

The Humboldt Trails Council will be in the running this year for a 2026 Seeds for Change month, and the competition will be fierce. Proceeds are typically in the \$7000-\$9000 range, so as you can imagine, many more organizations apply than can be selected.

If you're reading this, you probably don't need to be reminded of all the good things we do, but just in case, we:

- Run the Volunteer Trail Stewards program, maintaining and building trails throughout the Humboldt Bay area,
- Advocate for development of trails, active transportation, trail connectivity, and trail amenities,
- Encourage safe trail use,
- Organize the biennial Humboldt Trails Summit, and
- Produce this newsletter to keep the community informed of developments in the local trail scene.

Among the many uses to which we could put the money if we are so fortunate as to be one of the top nine vote-getters are buying tools for use in the McKinleyville Community Forest, our newest VTS site; paying the VTS Coordinator, Maureen McGarry, for her hard work; purchasing recognition items for our 200+ VTS volunteers; and putting on the 2026 Trails Summit.

If you are a Co-op member and believe in our mission, please show your support by voting for the Humboldt Trails Council to be one of the nine organizations selected to be a 2026 Seeds for Change beneficiary! THANK YOU!!

Volunteer Trail Stewards in McKinleyville Community Forest

The Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) commenced operations in the McKinleyville Community Forest in September to develop multi-use trails for recreation. VTS provides trail maintenance for numerous trails throughout Humboldt County under agreements with the City of Arcata, City of Eureka, County of Humboldt, and several land trusts.

The McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) has entered into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) and its VTS program to provide monthly *trail development*. Unlike the other MOUs, the agreement with MCSD

will focus on development of trails in the 599-acre property which MCSD acquired from Green Diamond. The McKinleyville Community Forest is located on the east side of McKinleyville north of North Bank Road to Murray Road.



Photo by Karen Underwood

The MCSD plans to develop approximately 20 miles of multi-use trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians in the community forest. The MCSD has established committees composed of McKinleyville residents who will participate in the trail design, development of trail amenities, and other aspects of the program.

VTS monthly workdays in the McKinleyville Community Forest will be held on the third Saturday of each month (beginning on October 18th) from 9AM – Noon. The VTS program is composed of local volunteers who want to contribute to trail-building and trail maintenance in Humboldt County. Anyone may volunteer for the program at the McKinleyville Community Forest (under 18 needs to be accompanied by parent/guardian) and the sign-up process is simple.



Photo by Karen Underwood

Anyone interested in participating in developing trails in the McKinleyville Community Forest can contact Jess at jess@mckinleyvillecsd.com or show up on October 18th at 9AM at the trailhead (about ¾ mile east on Murray Road from Central Avenue intersection).

Information about VTS workdays can also be accessed on the Humboldt Trails Council website: <https://humtrails.org/>

Michael Proulx
HTC Board of Directors

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

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

8/30/2025 - Lyons Ranch and Home Place

Hello,

I parked at the Lyons Ranch Trailhead just off the Bald Hills Road, and walked to Home Place, then back to the vehicle.

Bald Hills Road is paved with asphalt and chip seal beyond Williams Ridge Road. There are a few areas where the asphalt or chip seal have broken up and become rough. The older asphalt with a few chuck holes is below the fire station. Beyond the fire station, with newer asphalt, the road is generally smooth.

The Lyons Ranch Trail (road) is easily passable for walkers or vehicles.

On the trail (road) going to Home Place I encountered 3 fire people. They were cutting fire breaks in the dry grasses.



They plan to burn these Lyon's Ranch prairies in about a month, when conditions are right. As I walked on to the barn and bunk houses, I realized there was a lot of fire preparation all around.





The barn had an extra wide fire break all around it.



In the barn, there are? Rabbit? Cages.



This shelf fungus has been on this living bay tree for at least 5 years.



It was a warm day with temperatures around 78 degrees.



Going down Bald Hills Road in the early afternoon, I counted 24 vehicles parked along the road around the full LBJ parking lot.



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

HUMBOLDT TRAILS COUNCIL & VOLUNTEER TRAIL STEWARDS WANTS YOU!!!

Currently, the VTS program needs Trail Crew Leaders for some of its trail sites. The Trail Crew Leader is the person who organizes the monthly workday in advance by contacting the volunteers by email and gathering the tools/materials that will be needed for the workday activities. The Trail Crew Leader then directs the volunteers during the workday.

Most workdays are scheduled monthly on either Saturday or Sunday in the morning. This is a volunteer position requiring a couple of hours monthly in addition to the time on the monthly workday.

Currently, the VTS program provides trail development and trail maintenance on 11 sites (with #12 McKinleyville Community Forest that came on this past September).

So, the question is "Can you become a Trail Crew Leader and help the Humboldt County trails community to maintain the current trails?" If you have an interest, please contact the VTS Coordinator at VTSCoordinator@humtrails.org

Article by Michael Proulx, HTC board president

Our Website



Our Mission

The Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, and connection to, and use of the 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.

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