



The Trail Starts Here!

HUMTRAILS.ORG

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.

The Humboldt Trails Council (HTC) consists of a ten-person volunteer board of directors, a dozen dedicated trail crew leaders, one phenomenal part-time staff member, over 200 trail volunteers, and a whole lot of community support for trail stewardship!

In the past year, HTC has accomplished the following:

We helped to plan the Humboldt Bay Trail Celebration which highlighted the completion of the Bay Trail; a project that has been a goal of HTC, County of Humboldt and many other trail entities for many years. The Celebration included tabling by local trails organizations, many people hiking and bicycling along the Bay Trail, and speeches and photo ops at the Adorni Center to commemorate the occasion.

The Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) program logged more than 8,000 hours of work on twelve local trails. VTS maintains the trails, builds new trail segments, rehabilitates sections of trail, and keeps the trails clear of trash and graffiti. HTC has contractual agreements with McKinleyville Community Services District, Humboldt County, City of Eureka, City of Arcata, Bureau of Land Management, North Coast Regional Land Trust, and McKinleyville Land Trust to assist these organizations in developing and maintaining trails on their lands. HTC also has a contractual agreement with Redwood Invasive Plant Eradicators (RIPE) which focuses exclusively on removal of ivy as an invasive species.

In August 2024, HTC held a volunteer recognition event to celebrate, recognize, and thank its VTS volunteers for their dedication to trail maintenance for the past 13 years!! The event was held at Redwood Park in Arcata and featured lots of food, games, and swag; various outdoor activities; speeches by local trail advocates; and prizes, prizes, and more prizes! It was attended by 72 volunteers, a *great* turnout! ***HTC and VTS will hold another similar event for our volunteers in 2027.***

Another task that has kept the VTS Coordinator and board members busy is launching a new VTS workday site at the McKinleyville Community Forest. Working in conjunction with McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD), the VTS commenced trail workdays on September 13. Monthly workdays will continue with the Trail Crew Leader Jess Elm who is a MCSD staffperson. The McKinleyville Community Forest committee and subcommittee is busy designing the proposed 15-20 miles of multi-purpose trails that will eventually comprise the community forest.

HTC, along with other trails organizations, held an in-person Trails Summit in 2024, highlighted by presentations from Senate Pro Tem Majority Leader Mike McGuire and Hank Seemann, Public Works Deputy-Director of Environmental Services, who presented updates on local trails with emphasis on the Humboldt Bay Trail and the McKay Community Forest. The summit also included a trail resource fair with organizations and agencies speaking to the public about new trails coming on-line in Humboldt County. The video recording of the entire 2024 Trails Summit can be viewed [HERE](#) on our YouTube channel. It may also be viewed on Access Humboldt.

The next Trails Summit is scheduled for May 30, 2026.

HTC's Advocacy Committee members attended numerous meetings and wrote countless letters to support trail development, advocated for safe transportation, collaborated with other trail organizations, and supported legislation promoting trail development.

The Advocacy Committee advocated for and provided public input on the following trail projects:

- Baduwa't portion of the Annie and Mary Trail connecting Blue Lake and Glendale

- Sunset Interchange project in Arcata
- Annie and Mary Connectivity Project - trail from the Arcata Skate Park to the Water District Pump Station #1 Park on West End Road
- McKay Community Forest
- Bay-to-Zoo Trail
- City of Eureka Bike Plan
- Eureka's Waterfront Area Plan
- McKinleyville Community Forest
- Rio Dell - Eel River Trail
- Eureka to CR Trail that will extend south from Humboldt Hill to College of the Redwoods
- Great Redwood Trail
- GRT Friends Coalition [HERE](#)
 - River Access from GRT – Fisher Road

HTC maintained its website (<https://humtrails.org/>) to provide information about trail workdays, upcoming trail events, profiles of its volunteers, pending legislation that affects trail users, trail reports, and more.

Supported the HTC Facebook page [HERE](#)
As of 11/1/2024 - 2,892 Facebook followers:

- Eureka – 563
- Arcata – 510
- McKinleyville – 226
- Fortuna – 101

and the HTC Instagram Account with 774 followers [HERE](#)

HTC continued to inform subscribers through its eNewsletter, ***Happy Trails***, which is distributed four times annually to over 1,300 trail supporters.

Join our emailing list [HERE](#).

HTC provided support for the McKay Community Forest, which has organized its Saturday workday so that each month there is a regular crew of volunteers that is supplemented by volunteers from local service clubs and non-profit organizations. Each month includes a different organization assisting the VTS program with developing the McKay trails.

Recently, McKay Community Forest has been the recipient of two generous donations from private citizens who want to encourage the work being done at McKay. Donations will augment the expenditures made by the County to provide for trail-building tools and food for the hard-working volunteers for this forest trail system.

The slate of officers for the Humboldt Trails Council Board of Directors for 2026 is:

Treasurer – Kemset Moore

Secretary – Korina Johnson

President – Michael Proulx

Vice President – Mark Mauer

Several new board members recruited