

# Spring 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.**



**SATURDAY,  
MAY 30, 2026**

**HUMBOLDT  
TRAILS  
SUMMIT**

*Featuring new trails on the horizon!*



Pictured above clockwise from upper left: Hammond Trail looking towards the future Little River Trail, future Bay to Zoo Trail, future Eureka to CR Trail, Annie and Mary Connectivity Trail, northern end of the future Eureka-CR Trail, at Tooby Road.

**Sequoia  
Conference  
Center:**

**10 am - 1 pm:**  
Trail Partners Fair

**11 am - 12 pm:**  
Updates from  
Humboldt County  
and the Great  
Redwood Trail  
Agency.

**New: Guided  
Field Trips!**

**1 - 5 pm:**  
Multiple trips  
planned with a  
focus on trails on  
the horizon. Visit  
Humtrails.org for  
details.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:**



[humtrails.org](http://humtrails.org)

**Humboldt Trail Summit Expands to Include Field Trips**

**May 30, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

The 2026 Humboldt Trails Summit Saturday, May 30th, is expanded this year to include a kick-off event at the Sequoia Conference Center, and also an afternoon of guided field trips, many providing a sneak peek of new trails on the horizon. The event begins at the conference center at 10:00 a.m. with a trail partners fair, where attendees can connect with trail supporting organizations. At 11:00 a.m. brief presentations from the County of Humboldt and the Great Redwood Trail Agency will highlight the exciting progress that is being made in developing our trails including those under construction, in the planning phase, and the new trails you can visit today. The trail fair tabling will continue until 1:00 p.m.

Starting at 1:00 p.m., the public is invited to attend guided trail field trips offered at a variety of locations. Visit <http://humtrails.org> [Humboldt Trails Council](http://humtrails.org) for details and to sign up for the following hikes:

- Annie and Mary Connectivity Trail between Arcata and Pump Station #1 on the Mad River
- Eureka to College of the Redwoods in Fields Landing
- McKay Community Forest
- Loleta portion of the Great Redwood Trail
- Cooper Gulch Trail – City of Eureka
- Little River – Hammond Trail
- McKinleyville Community Forest
- Freshwater Reserve Nature Trail

Do not miss this opportunity to learn about, celebrate, and be inspired by the progress that makes shared paths and trails possible. Refreshments provided. More details about the event, and the guided hikes (sign up) are at our website [Humboldt Trails Council](http://humtrails.org) and our Facebook page: [Facebook - HTC](#)

The Humboldt Trails Summit is sponsored by the Humboldt Trails Council, with support from the Humboldt Trail Fund, in collaboration with the County of Humboldt, the Great Redwood Trail Agency and the many organizations, jurisdictions and agencies working on behalf of expanding Humboldt's County's non-motorized trail access.

Article by Karen Underwood, HTC Board Member

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## **Volunteers Help Preserve the McKinleyville Land Trust Trails**

When Vicki Ozaki and Duncan McNeill moved to McKinleyville in 1990, the community was smaller with room to grow and change. As they raised their children, the demographics did change over time, shaping the community in new ways. Environmental awareness increased because of a greater diversity of people, backgrounds, and interests. Now retired, both Ozaki and McNeill have been able to focus on volunteering to help maintain and preserve some of the areas where they hiked with their children and continue to use every day. Ozaki serves as one of the Trail Crew Leader for the Volunteer Trail Stewards, and McNeill is Vice President of the McKinleyville Land Trust. The two groups partner together on four volunteer workdays throughout the year, usually in January, April, July, and October.



Picture by Vicki Ozaki

The two McKinleyville Land Trust sites where volunteer opportunities occur are at the Mad River Bluffs, (a stretch of land along the coast starting at Hiller and Ocean Drive, and extending north,) and Chah-GAH-Cho, a former pasture behind the Mill Creek Shopping Center.

The birth of the McKinleyville Land Trust began in the early 90's with the construction of the Mill Creek Shopping Center along Central Avenue. The large retail development motivated community members to partner with the Jacoby Creek Land Trust to protect the land directly behind the shopping center. "Many large, old trees lining Central Avenue got cut down in that development," said McNeill. "Environmental concerns focused on the threat to natural habitats, and wanting to preserve local flora and fauna in McKinleyville."

The land directly behind the shopping center was named Chah-GAH-Cho, a Wiyot name for "Not far away." This 9.5-acre area is now protected from development. With the help of volunteers, the land is transitioning back to its origins with many volunteers planting native plants during workdays. The coastal bluff area is made up of 74-acres of land. A 1.7-mile loop trail with scenic views includes stairs that lead down to the Mad River flowing by, parallel to the beach and the ocean. Back in 2001, the Coastal Conservancy helped save the area from residential development by purchasing the site and giving it to the McKinleyville Land Trust. "Many people in the community use this trail including dog walkers, hikers, runners, bicyclists, and horseback riders," says Ozaki. "It is a well-used trail." McNeill added, "As work to preserve more land continues, the sphere of influence grows and spreads."



Mitch Reid, Trish Watson, Vicki Ozaki, Steve Kerr, Meighan O'Brien, and in front, Duncan McNeill  
Picture by Maureen McGarry

The McKinleyville Area Fund helped pay for re-building both the north and south stairs on the bluffs. Donations to the McKinleyville Land Trust help pay for some of the expenses which arise including insurance, dog bags, and new signage. Volunteer workdays are also set up for special groups such as the Cal Poly Natural Resources Club, students from Arcata High, the local Rotary, or local businesses such as Stillwater Sciences. “These groups come according to their available schedule,” reports Ozaki. “All the workdays are really fun. Everyone has a good time.”

For more information, or to volunteer, email [volunteer.mlt@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer.mlt@gmail.com)

Article by Maureen McGarry, VTS Coordinator

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## **Making a Difference – Community Volunteers Help Maintain Trails**

Back when the Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) first started working in Arcata around 2012, the volunteer workdays were primarily in the Arcata Community Forest. Now, if you sign up to volunteer for Arcata, you might also be helping to maintain trails along Bay Trail North (the section within city limits), in the Arcata Marsh trail network, at Shay Park below the high school or at Carlson Park in Valley West. The Annie and Mary Trail at the north end of Arcata will soon become another site.

Patrick Owen, co-leader of the VTS Arcata sites, works with Rees Hughes (who has been the Trail Crew leader for Arcata since the beginning of VTS.) Owen moved to Humboldt County from Los Angeles in 1997 to continue his career in environmental health and to spend more time outdoors. Coming from a more arid climate, he loves venturing into the redwood rainforest, happy that there are more nature-centered things to do here, and local trails to enjoy. He lives with his family in Sunny Brae. It is a very short walk from their house to the edge of the forest.



Patrick Owen, co-leader of the Trail Crew Volunteer Trail Stewards in Arcata, lives a few blocks away from the Sunny Brae Forest and hikes there regularly. Photo by Maureen McGarry.

“I hike the Sunny Brae loop once a week,” said Owen. “It’s almost a meditation being in the same place each time, yet seeing the subtle differences as plants grow, seasons change and the years go by.”

Removing English ivy, a highly invasive plant which spreads aggressively and competes with native plants, is one of the maintenance activities he enjoys participating in.

“You can really see a difference after just a few years. Sometimes, you work on a small area, then hike back at a later time and see the impact of what you’ve done. It can be very satisfying and rewarding to see that you’ve made a difference.” Owen said. “The trails don’t maintain themselves. We need volunteers to help with the work so the community can enjoy them.”

While some volunteers pull out invasive plants, others clip back brush or use weed whackers and mowers to cut grass along the edges of the trail.

“It’s nice that there are different ways for volunteers to participate,” he said.

Along the Bay Trail, Owen enjoys seeing families out using the trail, often with a combination of strollers, bikes with training wheels and/or with wheelchairs or walkers. He is glad families are out and about, and not sitting indoors looking at their screens.

“Most people seem upbeat when they are on the trail. I know I am,” he said.

The Arcata Volunteer Trail Stewards meet on the fourth Saturday of every month, with the exception of December. It is recommended that volunteers bring work gloves, a water bottle and wear shoes for hiking. The workday occurs from 9 a.m. to noon, and lunch is always provided. To find out which location will be the meeting place for the day, go to the Humboldt Trails Council calendar at <https://humtrails.org/events> and click on the listing for Arcata. To find out more about volunteering, email [vtscordinator@humtrails.org](mailto:vtscordinator@humtrails.org), [rees.hughes@humboldt.edu](mailto:rees.hughes@humboldt.edu), or [o.patrick2@gmail.com](mailto:o.patrick2@gmail.com).

Article by Maureen McGarry, Volunteer Trail Stewards coordinator for the Humboldt Trails Council.

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## Bay to Zoo Trail Update – City of Eureka

The Bay to Zoo Trail will connect the Waterfront Trail at the north end of Eureka to the Sequoia Park Zoo via two miles of Class 1 Trail. The City was awarded almost eleven million dollars in grant funding for the project. The trail will typically be 10’ wide and comprised of asphalt pavement with an additional 2’ of gravel shoulder on either side for a total of 14’ in width at most locations. It will have a slope of up to 5%. Visit this exciting [Story Map](#) to explore this ongoing process.



Photo of Second Gulch provided by City of Eureka staff

On February 5 three board members from the Humboldt Trails Council met with City of Eureka staff Jesse Willor, Brittany Powell, and Katie Marsolan to discuss and receive an update on the Bay to Zoo Trail. There has been a great deal of planning this past year. They are at the 60% design stage and shared a map of the section of the trail north of Buhne Street. That section will include a new roundabout at Myrtle Avenue and McFarlan Street, a trail parking lot, and a bus stop.



Photo provided by City of Eureka staff

We understand that there are concerns among the homeowners along the trail corridor. Planning always takes longer than anticipated. The trail project has not reached the phase when City of Eureka staff will actually reach out individually to landowners, but that time is coming. That is the Right of Way segment and is the part of the project where the City meets with individual property owners to discuss, appraise, and purchase easements for trail access from willing property owners. The City anticipates another public informational meeting in late spring or early summer. Construction of the trail is not expected until 2028.

Meanwhile, you can visit [Bay to Zoo Trail FAQ](#) for answers to many of your questions. Please email or call Project Manager, Brittany Powell for further question or discussion at

[bpowell@eurekaca.gov](mailto:bpowell@eurekaca.gov) or (707) 441-4127.



Article by Karen Underwood, HTC board member  
Reviewed by Brittany Powell, Project Manager, City of Eureka

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

### **3/27/2026 - Emerald Ridge Tr and Tall Trees Tr and Loop**

Good Morning,

I parked near the TT Trailhead and walked down the Emerald Ridge Trail to Redwood Creek, and back up to and down the TT Trail. Then around the loop trail, out onto the gravel bar, and back to the vehicle.

**Tall Trees access road** is dusty in places and there are a few chuck holes. It is drivable in any car or pickup truck.

**Emerald Ridge Trail.** is passable with several obstructions to step through.

**TT Trail** is passable with also several stems across the trail to step over or scoot under.

The **Loop Trail in the TT Grove** is easily passable.

It was a bright, clear blue sky day when I got to the foot of Emerald Ridge Trail.



Here is looking up Redwood Creek

In the TT Grove, this redwood always intrigues me. I can't decide if it is a broken off widowmaker



or the remains of a rooted tree. No sprouts present. It's probably a widowmaker.

The adventitious roots were in full sunlight as I came by.



Redwood Creek was flowing about 260 cfs, and it was reportedly a "little" chilly. The ambient temperature was 64 degrees, but this family was swimming in Redwood Creek!



Nobody stayed in for very long.

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

## INTRODUCING

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY Bike Route and Trail Application

Scan QR code  
to see map or  
visit [hcaog.net/map](http://hcaog.net/map)



#### Interactive Map

Discover bike shops, tool locations, and routes to safely get to your destination

#### Mobile-Friendly

Use on your mobile device and easily find your location

#### Easy to Use

Simply visit the website on your computer or mobile device

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[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.

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