



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 2025, HTC has accomplished the following:

Participated in the planning and implementation of the Humboldt Bay Trail Celebration which highlighted the completion of the Bay Trail. That project 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, people hiking, bicycling, skating, etc. along the Bay Trail, with 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.

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 an MCSD staff person. The McKinleyville Community Forest committee and subcommittee are busy designing the proposed 15-20 miles of multi-purpose trails that will eventually comprise the community forest.

HTC has board members are on many trail committees including the Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Committee, McKay Community Forest Advisory Group, McKinleyville Community Forest subcommittee (TIC), and the Eureka – CR Advisory Committee.

Annual Financial Report

Thank you to these Trail Angels for their generous financial support and encouragement.

Lesley McClogrie in Memory of Keith McClogrie Elaine Astrue for her support of McKay Community Forest Danny Soklosky for his support of McKay Community Forest Dennis Rael Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Los Bagels McClain Foundation Lorraine Dillon Anonymous Eureka Natural Foods Pacific Outfitters Humboldt Bay Marathon City of Eureka City of Arcata Humboldt County North Coast Regional Land Trust McKinleyville Community Services District McKinleyville Land Trust Rotary Club of Eureka grant to Arcata Community Forest and Freshwater Farms.

Smart Dumpsters.co and James Morrison
for help with ivy removal
Wes Chesbro for Bay Trail Bike Trailer

We could not do our work without you.

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

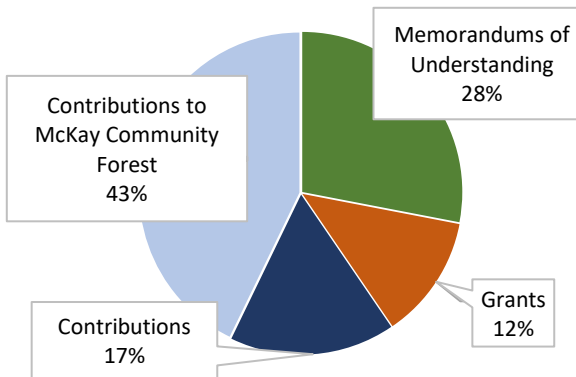
REVENUE *

Memorandums of Understanding	\$10,500
Contributions	\$6,437
Grants	\$4,797

Subtotal	\$22,034
-----------------	-----------------

Contributions to McKay Community Forest	\$16,500
---	----------

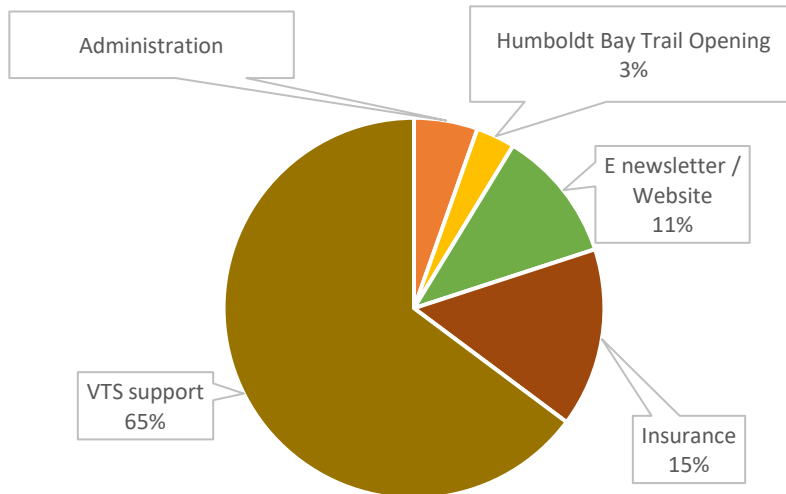
TOTAL	\$38,534
--------------	-----------------



EXPENSES *

VTS Support	\$13,913
Insurance	\$3,267
E newsletter/website	\$2,420
Administration	\$1,162
Humboldt Bay Trail Opening	\$710

TOTAL	\$21,472
--------------	-----------------



* October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025

Advocacy

In the past year, committee members attended numerous meetings, wrote many 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:

The Great Redwood Trail (GRT)

- Attends bimonthly Great Redwood Trail Agency meetings.
- Follows status of Mendocino Railway request (adverse discontinuance) at the Surface Transportation Board. Waiting on that board's decision to railbank the last section of the GRT between Hopland and Ukiah.
- Attended State Coastal Conservancy meeting (via Zoom) in public support of the GRT (specifically their efforts to collaborate with the tribes and receive financial support).
- Attended (Zoom) Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire's GRT Town Hall in August.
- Following CEQA exemption for GRT. Sent concern letter to GRTA.

- Following HR 4924. This bill will kill new rail trails as it requires the approval of all landowners along a rail right-of-way to agree for it to be converted into a rail trail [HERE](#). Attended Zoom meeting put on by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - Letter of support for removal of the Eel River dams (pending).
- Member of Great Redwood Trail Friends. This coalition holds monthly meetings and advocates for and supports GRT development that enhances environmental values, honors Indigenous communities and Aboriginal territories, provides safe recreation and transportation opportunities, and connects communities from Humboldt Bay to San Francisco Bay. [HERE](#)
 - Attended Spring fieldtrip with Friends to the Eel River Canyon Preserve (Wildlands Conservancy).
 - Support for Revitalizing Opportunities for the Alderpoint Region's (ROAR)
- Carlotta Spur - Continues work on river access from GRT along Fisher Road. Followed up directly and with letter to the Board of Supervisors on keeping this road easily accessible to the public down to the Van Duzen River; only location along the trail where public can access the river.
- Met with and advised Pat Higgins to connect with Fortuna regarding his proposed GRT section name: "Lower Eel River Salmon Parkway."

County of Humboldt

- On planning committee for Celebration of Bay Trail South opening on June 28, 2025. Focal point was the Adorni Center. Participated in that day with tabling and helping with management of the event. Donated money for bicycle trailer.
- McKay Community Forest Advisory Group – one HTC board member on that group. [McKay Community Forest](#)
- Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Committee – one board member on committee.

City of Eureka

- Eureka Waterfront Trail - Attended meeting with staff and city council meetings with concerns for safety of trail users regarding homeless camps along the trail. City staff put forward an ordinance that council did not pass.

- Developed a Trail Safety Questionnaire and interviewed along Wigi Trail and Bay Trail North.
- Bay to Zoo Trail – Attended meeting with staff and public outreach meeting in May. Expressed concerns about safety of southern section (Zoo Section) – needs to look more like a trail.
- Attended public hearing on the draft Waterfront Eureka Plan. Concern with the GRT gap between Y St and C St. (1.9 miles long). It is acknowledged once in the draft plan.

City of Arcata

- Following Annie and Mary Connectivity Trail Construction Project
- Following Sunset Avenue Interchange project.
- Grant letter of support - Michael

McKinleyville Community Services District

Met with staff to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for VTS crews.

Met with volunteer leader

Began VTS workdays

Two board members on Trails Plan, Security, and Cleanup, Infrastructure Subcommittee (TICS)

Provided letter of support for MCSD for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan Phase

City of Rio Dell

Attended opening of the Eel River Train In mid-June.

.

Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

Wrote grant letter of support for a Trail Capacity grant through American Trails.

North Coast Regional Land Trust

Attended and supported annual fundraiser

Trinidad Coastal Land Trust – provided a grant letter of support for a Trail Capacity Grant from American Trails

.....

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 much more.

Supported the HTC Facebook page [HERE](#)

As of 11/1/2024 - 2900 Facebook followers:

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

and the HTC Instagram Account with 831 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](#).

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

President – Michael Proulx

Vice President – Mark Mauer

Treasurer – Kemset Moore

Secretary – Korina Johnson

We are looking for new board members so please consider joining an extraordinary board. We could use your help.

FUTURE EVENTS:

HTC along with other trail organizations will hold an in-person Trails Summit on May 30, 2026, at the Sequoia Conference Center in Eureka. Highlights will be updates on local trails, along with a trail resource fair with organizations and agencies speaking to the public about new trails coming on-line in Humboldt County. View the video of our 2024 summit [HERE](#)

HTC and VTS will hold a volunteer recognition event in 2027 to celebrate, recognize, and thank its VTS volunteers for their dedication to trail maintenance since 2011.