

To Our Dear Supporters of the Humboldt Bay Trail Fund,

For those of you who have traveled between Eureka and Arcata on US 101 lately, we are certain that you will have noticed the final four miles around the bay being constructed! This is just some of 2023's great news.



Bay Trail South supporters celebrate the formal groundbreaking on May 17, 2023. Trail building began in July, led by Arcata-based McCullough Construction, who built the Bay Trail North in 2017. Construction will include building several new bridges, shoring up the old rail prism, routing the trail along the Brainard levee on the bayside of the old Arcata Redwoods mill site, and improving the Eureka Slough bridge to accommodate both walking and the THA's Speeder cars. Construction is expected through two construction seasons, to be completed by October 2024.

We are happy to highlight more good news for trails in 2023:

- ☆ Early in the year, the City of Eureka extended the Bay Trail south one mile to Tooby Road near Humboldt Hill, along the restored Elk River estuary.
- ☆ Arcata's Annie & Mary Connectivity Project is in the design and right-of-way phase. Construction, expected to start in 2025, will extend the existing Class 1 trail another 3.5 miles north from Larson Park to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Park No. 1 along the Mad River.
- ☆ Eureka's Bay to Zoo Trail project received \$10 million to complete design, permitting, right-of-way, and construction. Construction is estimated for 2026-2027.
- ☆ The Great Redwood Trail project has initiated significant planning and other developments.

Your donations to the Humboldt Bay Trail Fund have made it possible for us to allocate \$98,160 to trail support over the life of the Fund. Although the value of the Fund fluctuates, it remains just under half a million dollars. Recent allocations contributed to purchasing trash receptacles for the Waterfront Trail, and to supplement local government and private funds (including a major donation from the Rotary Club of Eureka) to purchase a 'flail mower' that is shared by multiple agencies doing local trail maintenance. Funds also continue to support the Volunteer Trail Stewards and the very part-time volunteer coordinator, achieving an active presence along the length of the trail. For the year ending June 30, 2023, alone, nearly 2,000 trail volunteers contributed more than 6,700 hours of service. The VTS have regular workdays at six locations along the trail.

It is so gratifying to all of us to witness the high rates of people using the Bay Trail from Elk River to Arcata. The automatic trail counter installed on the Eureka Waterfront Trail behind Target recorded 200 to 300 daily counts in the spring before it was vandalized in May (prior to the peak summer months).

As you can see, thanks to community support, we are making great strides in developing a network of trails around Humboldt Bay. We so appreciate your past generosity and hope that you might join us again in making a year-end donation, arranging for a regular monthly donation, or donating in the name of a family member or friend during the holiday season. Your contributions help ensure that the Fund will continue to make a significant difference each year in the expansion and long-term maintenance of this wonderful community asset, for all of us and for future generations. Thank you!

The Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Working Group