

Hi, This is Dennis Rael for Community Comment

It has been a long time coming but now there is great momentum building for the completion of the Humboldt Bay Trail.

By now, most of you have heard of the Humboldt Bay Trail,

When complete, the 13-mile long section will run from south Eureka to Arcata, serve as an anchor for a network of adjacent trails that connect surrounding communities and will be part of the California Coastal Trail. Finally you will be able to get from Ek to Arcata and vice versa safely on your bike or walking, or pushing a stroller for that matter. The trail will increase road safety, expand recreational opportunities, improve community livability, and promote active, healthy transportation. Construction is underway now, both in Eureka and Arcata

- The 6.5-mile Eureka Waterfront Trail will be completed later this year. and
- The Arcata-to-Bracut trail section is underway and will also be complete this fall.

Construction funding is secured for all but the "final four" miles of the trail,– connecting Eureka to Bracut. Funding has been secured for design and engineering and the County will seek construction funds next year.

To make sure this community vision becomes reality, a Humboldt Bay Trail Endowment Fund has been established by local community individuals and businesses to support trail stewardship and maintenance. This fund, held at the Humboldt Area Foundation, is key to attracting state and federal grants for trail construction at a time when grants are getting much more competitive. The fund will help ensure that the trail is welcoming and attractive to our community and visitors alike, by supporting volunteer stewardship efforts, creating a reserve for emergency repairs, and providing trail amenities like signs and benches.

This is a community driven and managed fund, started just a few months ago and now we are close to raising over \$100,000 thanks to community members and local businesses like you.

We invite you to become a stakeholder in our community trails fund.

Not only will this trail provide recreation and get used by our local community, but will be a big draw for folks from outside the area. As they say, Build a Trail and they will come.

People are drawn to places with high quality outdoor recreation opportunities – and they spend money! The national outdoor recreation economy contributes \$646 billion in spending annually.

The public is invited to get involved and learn more about the Humboldt Bay Trail at

the upcoming Trail Summit on Saturday, June 3rd, from 10 am to 12 at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka. Come celebrate our successes and gear up for the completion of the final four miles of trail. The event kicks off with an open house highlighting local organizations involved in supporting trails, followed by trail updates. After the presentations, staff from the City of Eureka will lead a brief walk, just outside the door of the Wharfinger to preview the next phase of the waterfront trail currently under construction. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more and get involved in making the completion of the Arcata to Eureka Section of trail a reality.

Learn more about how you can support the Humboldt Bay Trail
at: hafoundation.org/humbolddbaytrail

Thanks and seeing out on the Bay Trail.