

McKay Community Forest 2023 Annual Report

February 7, 2024

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2023 Highlights

- The Northridge parking area and trailhead became a popular access point for the first set of official trails in the Community Forest.
- Trail-building efforts focused on the Redwood Acres trail unit. Approximately 2.5 miles of trails received shaping and grading and approximately 0.5 miles of trails received surfacing with aggregate rock to support year-round use. A motorized wheelbarrow was acquired to assist with moving rock to the work areas.
- Surfacing work was completed on the Huckleberry Trail loop at Northridge to provide a firm and stable trail surface that is accessible to people with wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
- The Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) sponsored monthly work-days and the Delta Force provided a group of dedicated weekly volunteers. The VTS Partner Program was initiated to recruit community organizations to sponsor a VTS work-day and mobilize a large number of volunteers. The County worked with the Humboldt County Office of Education to expand trail volunteer opportunities for students in the Court & Community Schools program.
- Plans for the logging road and trail network were updated in response to comments from regulatory agencies on the initial submittal of the Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP). Updates included: reducing the total length of roads; re-routing segments of roads and trails where feasible to avoid wet areas and unstable ground; developing more detailed improvement plans where appropriate; and enhancing proposed treatments for controllable sediment discharge sites. An engineering geologic evaluation report was updated based on additional field work and analysis to evaluate slope stability near proposed roads and trails, to help minimize sediment delivery to watercourses.
- The Basis of Design Report (October 8, 2023) for the Lower Ryan Creek Off-Channel Habitat and Floodplain Enhancement Planning Project was completed by Michael Love & Associates and Redwood Community Action Agency. This project would re-connect Ryan Creek with a large wetland complex in conjunction with creating four ponds to provide over-wintering refugia.
- The County received a donation of \$25,000 for development of equestrian trails in memory of former Humboldt County Supervisor and Planning Commissioner Seferino (Sef) Raul Murguia. A plaque will be installed at the trailhead of the Northridge parking area in memory of Sef.
- The McKay Community Forest Advisory Group met quarterly and helped advise the Humboldt County Department of Public Works on managing the Community Forest.



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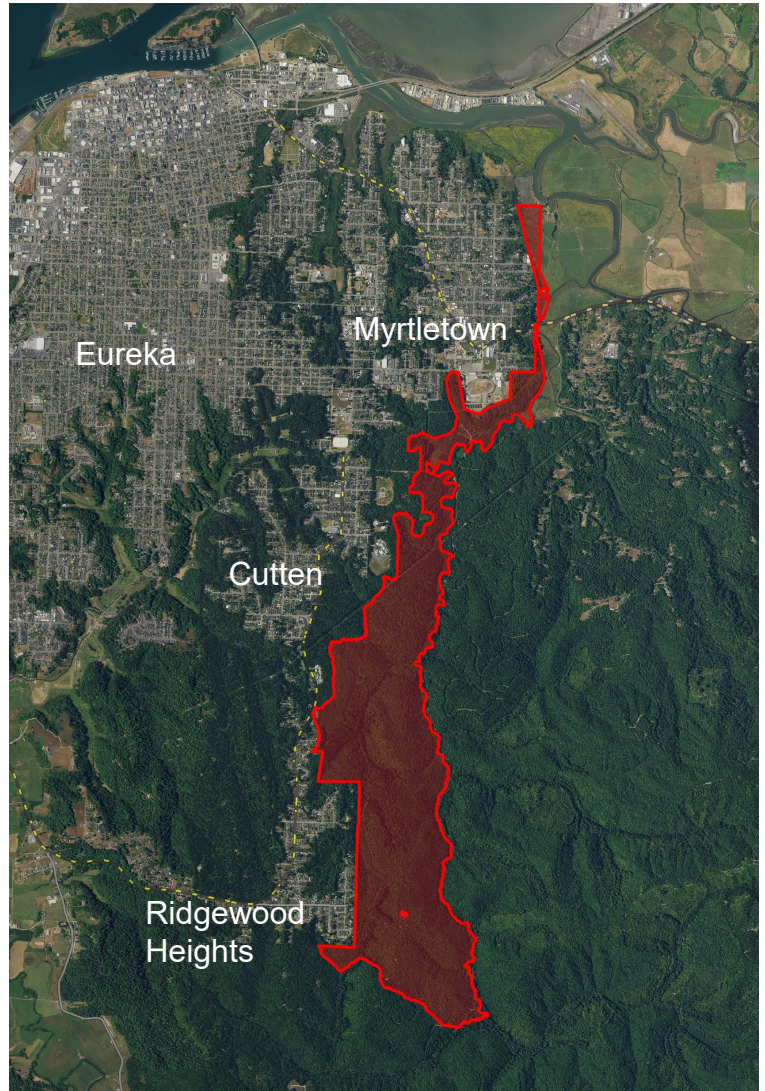
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2024 Goals

1. Re-submit the updated NTMP and receive approval from regulatory agencies. Complete the first timber harvest operations in the Mid-McKay management unit east of Winship School.
2. Complete the build-out of the Redwood Acres trail unit including rock surfacing, trail signs, 35-foot-long bridge, and new trailhead at Harris Street.
3. Install a permanent bridge across Ryan Creek for management, emergency response, trail development, and timber harvest (not for public access).
4. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding and trail easement with Hospice of Humboldt for a new access point near the Ida Emmerson Hospice House.
5. Complete a trail easement on the eastern portion of the McKay Ranch subdivision near Redwood Fields.
6. Complete the design plans for the Lower Ryan Creek habitat enhancement project.
7. Work with Redwood Acres, Humboldt Composite Mountain Bike Team, and NorCal Interscholastic Cycling League to plan a regional mountain bike event in 2025.
8. Initiate a draft ordinance to regulate public use of the Community Forest. Coordinate with a new task force working to develop tools and programs for addressing unauthorized camping on public property.
9. Commission a video project to highlight the progress being made with the Community Forest and opportunities to provide support and get involved.
10. Develop a policy for memorial benches.

2024 Advisory Group Meetings

Dates: Feb. 13, May 14, Aug. 13, Nov. 12
Time: 3:30-5:00 pm
Location: Adorni Center Conference Room



Planning Documents

Forest Stewardship Plan (Sept. 13, 2022): This plan addresses how silviculture, fire risk reduction, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, monitoring, and adaptive management will be implemented during the next 10-15 years.

Trail Plan (Dec. 16, 2020): The Trail Plan provides a blueprint for development of trails, access points, and amenities to support recreational and educational activities.

Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) (In prep.): The NTMP demonstrates compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules.