



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | July 2019

Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway approved by City

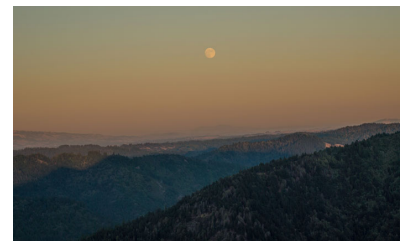


After a decade of community organizing and planning, the Southeast Greenway Project is no longer just a dream for creating a greener, more connected Santa Rosa. For over 50 years, a two-mile Caltrans right of way, originally purchased to become an extension of Highway 12, has sat vacant in Santa Rosa's eastern residential area. In 2014, the state rescinded the right to build the highway extension, setting in motion a five-year effort to develop a vision and reuse plan for the property. On July 9, the City Council voted unanimously to rezone the right of way for open space, environmental restoration, community gardens and walking/bike paths, with land also set aside for housing and mixed-use development. We applaud the city council, city staff, [Sonoma Water](#), [Caltrans](#) and the [Southeast Greenway Campaign](#) for this tremendous accomplishment. This decision also allows the project to move to the next phase: negotiations led by Sonoma Land Trust for the purchase of the Greenway.

Welcoming our next executive director

[DONATE NOW](#)

Full moon hike



Come join us at Sears Point on August 13 as the sun sets and the moon rises across the landscape! For this and other summer activities, see our [outings page](#).

Photo contest



Love photographing nature? Have your work featured by Sonoma Land Trust! Share your nature pics to win a \$50 REI gift card and basket of Land Trust swag — PLUS, the winning photo will be featured in our eNewsletter and on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

[Read contest rules](#)



In case you missed it, Eamon O'Byrne of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been hired as the next executive director of Sonoma Land Trust! On September 9, Eamon will succeed current executive director Dave Koehler, who is retiring. During Eamon's tenure with TNC, he led a team of scientists, conservation practitioners and partners in the ecological restoration and recovery of the Conservancy's 52,000-acre Santa Cruz Island Preserve. Prior to that, he served as executive director of the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association. "Eamon's breadth and depth of experience in conservation and nonprofit management, and his personal commitment to protecting biodiversity and engaging culturally diverse communities with the land will continue the Land Trust's upward trajectory in protecting the land for everyone's benefit," says Dave of his successor.

Read more about Eamon in the [Press Democrat](#)

Stewarding our Estero Americano Preserve with Assemblymember Jim Wood

Families Outdoors



Join in our free bilingual outings for families as we get to know the land and nature. In August, we'll be making string and beads from plants and rocks, and going for a swim at Morton's Warm Springs!

[Learn more](#)

Farewell, Trevor



We are sad to say goodbye to [Trevor George](#), stewardship project manager, who is moving with his family to Idaho where he's accepted a position with the Idaho Department of Lands. Trevor has been integral to our stewardship team for five years, managing several preserves in northern Sonoma County. *We will miss you, Trevor!*



Local volunteers joined California Assemblymember Jim Wood and his staff on June 29 for a rewarding day of hard work at the Land Trust's Estero Americano Preserve. Twenty-six volunteers rolled up their sleeves and spent the morning removing old decommissioned fencing — almost 3,000 feet! — to allow for easier movement for wildlife and also for the cows who graze there for wildfire suppression and native coastal grassland health. The workday, co-organized by Sonoma Land Trust, is one in a series that Assm. Wood coordinates throughout his district to promote stewardship and community engagement. Collaborations like this are a great way to introduce the community to the Land Trust's land protection and stewardship work, complete important maintenance projects and further our mission.

Celebrating art in nature



Love art and the land? Come enjoy beautiful artistic interpretations of protected land at the 18th annual Sonoma Plein Air Festival from September 9—14. The festival brings acclaimed artists to Sonoma to paint, show and sell their work to benefit youth art education. Last year, we were

manager

Want to work on the land? We're hiring for a full-time stewardship project manager for our properties in the Russian River watershed.

[Learn more](#)

Cheers to our co-workers!



Please join us in congratulating the following Land Trust staff on their well-deserved promotions:

- **Heather Ah San** to Communications Project Manager
- **Shanti Edwards** to Stewardship Senior Project Manager for the Sonoma Coast
- **Frances Lum** to Staff Accountant
- **Kendall Webster** to Land Acquisition Program Manager for the Sonoma Baylands

SDC's true humans



A still from the documentary.

who used the stunning landscapes as their muse. Special thanks to plein air artist [Tara Will](#), who donated an incredible painting of Glen Oaks Ranch (pictured above) to the Land Trust. This year, we're opening our Sears Point and Glen Oaks Ranch preserves for the artists to paint and invite the public to check out the finished results on Saturday, September 14 for the Art Show and Sale on the Sonoma Plaza. Hope to see you there

Theater is hosting a special screening of "True Humans" — a new film directed and produced by Sonoma County filmmaker Malinalli López and XQL Media — which tells the story of the last residents of the Sonoma Developmental Center and the closure of the facility in 2018.

[Get tickets](#)

Partner spotlight: LandPaths Teen Trek



A group of intrepid teens were provided an opportunity to trek from the rugged coastal hills of Cazadero to the sea through [LandPaths](#) Intro to Backpacking program, which teaches young people backcountry hiking skills for a lifetime of adventure in nature. The group launched from the Land Trust's Little Black Mountain Preserve, traversed to the summit of Pole Mountain at 2,204 feet, and meandered through oak woodlands and coniferous forests to the coastal bluffs of the Jenner Headlands — a 10+-mile excursion across a 6,300-acre protected landscape acquired and stewarded by [Sonoma Land Trust](#), [Sonoma Ag + Open Space](#) and [The Wildlands Conservancy](#).