



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | June 2022

Rx Burn at Laufenburg Ranch



Thanks to our partners and volunteers at Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, CALFIRE, the Good Fire Alliance and Jackson Family Wines, who helped achieve this milestone.

The Land Trust believes—and current science supports the idea—that fire is an important element in a healthy, natural landscape in Sonoma County. One of our primary goals is to bring what’s called “good fire” back to our lands for the betterment of nature and to reduce the impacts of catastrophic wildfires on our communities.

On June 6, we took a significant step in that direction by completing our first-ever prescribed burn on a Land Trust preserve—Laufenburg Ranch in Knights Valley. The purpose of the burn was to restore grassland health by removing invasive species, including Yellow Star Thistle and Medusahead grass, before they could set seed. Doing so promotes a more biodiverse ecosystem; improves forage conditions for grazing; enhances wildlife movement; and reduces fine fuels, such as dry grasses and twigs, which can carry fire into the forest.

DONATE NOW

Summer newsletter
online now



The Land Trust’s summer newsletter is in the mail and now online. Stories have a California 30x30 focus and include features on the restoration of Lakeville Creek and progress on three important parks. Find out what our Conservation Council teens have been up to and what California is doing to streamline the process for land management permits.

closely with the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, CALFIRE and the Good Fire Alliance. In partnership with the community, the Land Trust is returning fire to its ecological role, using “good fire” to build a healthier and more fire-resilient Sonoma County—one acre at a time.

Exciting findings of ongoing rangeland monitoring



The Land Trust’s partnership with [Point Blue’s Rangeland Monitoring Network](#) continued across our coastal conservation lands this spring. Point Blue’s scientists—building on three rounds of monitoring (every three years)—assessed the health of our [Pole Mountain](#) and [Estero Americano](#) preserves as well as The Wildlands Conservancy’s [Jenner Headlands](#) preserve.

In these coastal rangelands, conservation grazing is being used to improve native flora and soil health, maintain diversity of grasses for optimal grassland habitat, and reduce fuel by removing thatch and suppressing encroaching brush.

The scientists—who are engaged in detecting breeding bird presence and identifying vegetation composition across a broad swath of California—are helping land managers better understand how various livestock grazing practices can improve ecological function and maintain grassland habitat for a multitude of wildlife species.

Language of the Land summer videos!



Just one of many topics to explore: The California Serengeti.

This summer, take some time to view a few of our most popular Language of the Land presentations. We’ve curated a playlist for you, which includes the California Serengeti, the Fall Hawk Migration and A Peek into the Wood-Wide Web.

[Visit here](#) to enjoy the playlist!

Language of the Land playlist in Spanish

OBSERVED.

- Pole Mountain: [Mountain Quail](#), [Western Screech-Owl](#), [Northern Pygmy-Owl](#)
- Estero Americano Preserve: [Grasshopper Sparrows](#), [Savannah Sparrows](#) and [Western Meadowlarks](#)—indicators of a healthy grassland

June is Pride Month



This year, Sonoma Land Trust hosted a booth at the annual Sonoma County Pride Festival. The idea was to celebrate our community's LGBTQIA+ individuals and send a message about the importance of inclusion and allyship in our conservation work.

With a well-positioned booth and about 5,000 attendees, the Land Trust was set to greet old friends and meet new ones. "We filled page after page of new email signups," said Kyle Pinjuv, conservation easement program manager. "It was wonderful to connect with hundreds of our community members. We shared the mission of our organization and discussed the intersection of social justice and the environmental movement."

This summer, be A Force for Nature!



In 2021, we began offering Spanish interpretation for all our Language of the Land webinars. These have been recorded and are available for viewing on a special playlist we've created on YouTube.

[Visit here](#) to watch!

Lenguaje de la tierra

En 2021 empezamos a ofrecer interpretación en español para todos nuestros seminarios virtuales del "Lenguaje de la tierra". Han sido grabados y se pueden ver en una lista de reproducción especial que hemos creado en YouTube.

¡[Visita aquí](#) para verlos!

Sonoma Land Trust
Honors Juneteenth and
Martin Luther King Park



Summer is about being outdoors. Whatever your activity, be it hiking, camping, picnicking, communing with nature or just walking your dog, it's all about enjoying the health and wellness benefits of nature. The Land Trust's A Force for Nature Campaign is expanding access to the outdoors for more of us in Sonoma County. To learn more, [check out our summer newsletter](#), which includes an article on three great parks that are in the works. These efforts, and the 11,000 acres the Land Trust has already transferred to parks, are all due to the generosity of individuals like you, plus that of businesses, foundations and government partners who have joined A Force for Nature. Find out how to make a special campaign gift, pledge or planned giving commitment by contacting Shannon Nichols, director of philanthropy, (707) 526-6930 ext. 140, shannon@sonomalandtrust.org.



Fifty-two years ago, local college students protested to stop a street from being built through Santa Rosa's South Park. The protesters prevailed, and the park was saved and renamed Martin Luther King Park. The students decided to commemorate their victory every year with a festival, eventually uniting their event with the celebration of Juneteenth.

[Click here](#) to see how the 52nd Annual MLK/Juneteenth holiday was celebrated.

In the News

[A water-stressed valley needs to curb development](#)



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