



Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway



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March 2015 eNews

Please visit our booth at the upcoming Earth Day Celebrations. We hope to see you there!

Earth Day Santa Rosa

Saturday, April 18, 2015
12 noon - 4 pm
Old Courthouse Square



The Day on the Green At the Village

Saturday, April 25, 2015
11 am - 4 pm
Montgomery Village



Southeast Santa Rosa Meets Southwest!

Touring two diverse neighborhoods was the imaginative idea of Sonoma County Health Department and LandPaths to introduce *A Portrait of Sonoma County*, an in-depth look at how the residents of Sonoma County are faring in three fundamental areas: life expectancy, education, and income – all measures of

the Human Development Index.

You can read the report *A Portrait of Sonoma County* [here](#).

A group of neighbors from southeast and southwest Santa Rosa hiked the hills of East Bennett Valley and the flatlands of

Roseland, looking at schools, roads, sidewalks, parklands, and housing. This gave us a view of places in Santa Rosa many of us had never explored before. While there is great disparity in many areas, I was struck by two sites that cry out for collaboration. Roseland Creek weaves through the community, borders a school, and will potentially offer a bike and pedestrian trail. Sound familiar?

The community's vision and participation are strikingly similar to our Greenway project. Perhaps we can join hands with our friends on the west side of town to make community connectivity a reality.

Our day of walking and making new friends ended with the amazing hospitality of volunteers at Bayer Farm, a project of





Thanks to our Challenge Grant Sponsors

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The Flowers Family Fund
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Photos from Caltran Visit

November 2014



LandPaths, as they served us a delicious luncheon in their garden. Bayer Farm is truly a hub for their neighborhood: providing community gardens, Spanish lessons, cooking classes, workdays, and a beautiful place to

hang out. We also toured the medicinal garden they are planting that will encourage the benefits of healthy living. It is a wonderful example of enabling citizens to increase their Human Development Index. ~ Thea Hensel

2014 Fall Fund Drive "Over The Top"

Thanks to the generosity of almost 200 supporters, we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$30,000 by raising over \$39,000!

We want to recognize the Santa Rosa Cycling Club and the Empire Runners for making significant contributions that helped us exceed our goal. The eight individuals and 3 organizations that stepped forward to offer a \$7500 Challenge Grant deserve special thanks for their visionary leadership.

Much to our surprise, we received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 to start an acquisition fund for the Southeast Greenway. We are working with the Sonoma Land Trust to establish a dedicated fund for acquisition and are thrilled to launch this fund with this generous donation.

In addition to funding our annual operating costs, this year's fund drive was dedicated to helping meet the pre-acquisition costs that we anticipate in 2015. These include 2 professional appraisals required by Caltrans and paying for additional professional help that may be required as we work with Caltrans to establish a fair price for the property. Finally, we want to thank the many Greenway volunteers who helped with our annual mailing and phonathon. Their enthusiasm and dedication made it all happen!



Caltrans Visits Greenway Team

On February 12, two officials from the Caltrans District 4 Right of Way Department met with representatives of the Southeast Greenway Campaign and our community partners – the City of Santa Rosa, the Sonoma County Water Agency, and the Sonoma Land Trust. During the meeting we reviewed a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that lays out



agreements for how we will work together to establish a value for the property, to negotiate a fair price, to gain the approval of elected officials and the California Transportation Commission and to transfer the property to the City and Water Agency. This was a very helpful and encouraging meeting. The City of Santa Rosa's Legal Department is currently reviewing the MOU. After the MOU is finalized, Caltrans, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the Santa Rosa City Council, and the directors of each partner agency will need to approve it. Finalizing this key document is a big step forward on the road to acquiring the Greenway property.

Linda Proulx Thea Hensel

Linda Proulx

Campaign Co-Chair

Thea Hensel

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The Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy, a 501(c)3 public charity, is the fiscal sponsor of the Southeast Greenway Campaign. Contributions to the Southeast Greenway Campaign are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway Campaign
P.O. Box 9122
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Email: Info@southeastgreenway.org

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