

Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway



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February 2020 eNews



Save the Date!

Measure M Parks for All
Community Meeting for SE
Santa Rosa

Date: Thursday, March 26

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Montgomery HS



We Did It!

A big shout out to all of the supporters who donated during our year end fund drive. Your generosity has helped us reach our goal of raising \$250,000 for the SE Greenway Acquisition Fund.



Gov. Newsom Offers State-Owned Sites for Homeless Shelters

On Monday morning, while reading the Press Democrat, many of us were greeted with the news that Governor Newsom has offered Sonoma County the opportunity to lease 49 state-owned parcels for emergency homeless shelters. They are offered as part of Newsom's package of emergency measures meant to address the homelessness crisis. One prominent parcel in the City of Santa Rosa is the 57-acre Southeast Greenway. Read the full article here: <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/10732193-181/newsom-offers-up-santa-rosa>

The paper quotes a spokesman for Newsom's administration as saying, "It doesn't mean that we're requiring the city to use them or that we even want the city to use them." This offer gives communities more choices of where to place emergency services and shelters, but it is up to local leaders - the City Council and Board of Supervisors - to select the most appropriate sites. We applaud Governor Newsom for focusing on the homelessness that is affecting so many California communities.

Where Does the Greenway Stand?

Our colleagues at the City of Santa Rosa's Real Estate Services Department are communicating with Caltrans to find out more about how this development will affect our work on acquiring the Southeast Greenway. The Greenway Partners - City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma Water, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma Land Trust, LandPaths, and the Southeast Greenway Campaign - have a current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Caltrans that gives us the first right of refusal to purchase the property and stipulates that the Greenway property will be sold intact and not divided into parcels.

Since the approval of the General Plan Amendment, Rezoning Plan and EIR for the Greenway in July 2019, staff from the City's Real Estate Services Department, Sonoma Water and Sonoma Land Trust have been working with Caltrans to prepare the information needed to support an appraisal of the property. This process is moving forward, as is fundraising for acquisition of the Greenway land. Our goal for this next year is to finish all necessary preparations and negotiate a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) with Caltrans for the Greenway transfer. As our Co-Chair Thea Hensel was quoted as saying in the article, "We've been at this for 11 years and we don't intend to change anything at this time."

We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Sonoma Land Trust, 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 to the extent allowed by law.

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