



P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org)

## **SEA Newsletter December 2022**

### **SOUTH CITY PARK VOTE AT CITY COUNCIL**

The Redding City Council will be voting on whether to apply for a \$3.5 million grant to develop South City Park (SCP) into a multi-use family-oriented park. The City already has \$2.5 million set aside for the Park's improvements. The deadline to apply for the grant is December 15, 2022. At the November City Council meeting, the council was divided in a 2 to 2 vote on allowing Parks and Recreation to apply for the grant. Council Members Dacquisto and Mezzano were opposed to the grant because of concerns about the homeless and the cost of maintenance. Councilmembers Schreder and Winter were in favor of moving forward.

Redding Community Services which oversees the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a City-wide survey with a response of 1300 people advocating for a multi-use park for all ages. It would repurpose the tennis courts into pickleball courts and other uses. A private group in support of the park has a website showing the proposed future park at [www.southcityparks.com](http://www.southcityparks.com).

The Redding Colt 45s Baseball Club has proposed to the city council during a meeting in November of last year to put in a new baseball park in SCP directly west of Tiger Stadium at the corner of South Market Street and Cypress Street. That proposal would also include upgrades to Tiger Stadium and would include a stage at one end of the ballpark. It can be found here:

While the new stadium would not use all of the Park, the trees there do not fit in the baseball park's plans. If trees were to be removed, it would reduce Redding's tree canopy and increase the heat island effect. This is the opposite of what SEA is working towards.

The tall, shady trees in SCP have long been a draw for city residents until the upsurge in drug use and homelessness. The park is now fenced off and available only by reservation.

There are many people advocating for this section of the park, which is already fenced off, to get new funding so the park can have multiple uses for people of all ages. There is a website that explains all of the changes that

the Parks and Recreation Department will make to the park if the grant is awarded. To see plans explaining the all of the proposed improvements go to: [www.southcitypark.com](http://www.southcitypark.com).

This important vote will be on the City Council agenda for the Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, meeting. The meeting starts at 6:00 p.m., although the first 45 minutes will be taken up with installing the new council and recognizing the retiring council members. If you feel strongly about improving this park, the most effective action you can take is to speak out at the meeting. If you can't make it, you can also email the city council at [council@cityofredding.org](mailto:council@cityofredding.org) but showing up and speaking in person is the most effective.

### **WELCOME SEA'S NEW EMPLOYEE**



With a generous grant from the Patricia L. Kimball and David T. Kimball Fund, SEA has been able to hire its first employee - please meet Shannon Hunter!

Shannon has a bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations and a master's degree in wilderness therapy. She has worked for many years with organizations to preserve nature and create change.

After growing up in Redding and attending both Shasta College and Chico State, Shannon lived in the Bay Area, Boulder, Colo., and Portland, Ore. before deciding to move back to the Redding area to experience the beauty of the North State once again, through a renewed and mature lens.

As our new assistant and writer/editor, Shannon will be writing and editing articles for our website and newsletters, posting to Facebook, and working on various behind-the-scenes tasks for SEA.

## FREE SHADE TREE PROJECT

Would you love to have a nice, shaded front yard?! Do you already have one but know someone else that might want one for free? SEA is excited to announce that we've received a grant from The Bower Charitable Foundation to plant 50 free shade trees in the front yards of 50 residents in the North State during 2023!

Residents wanting a free, front yard shade tree will need to fill out an interest form on SEA's website and commit to water the tree for the first three years to ensure the planted tree can adequately root into the ground and stabilize for future growth.

The planting of these trees will help not only shade homes and provide lowered energy costs, but will also sequester carbon and provide a lush habitat for wildlife. In addition, planting trees can help prevent the "heat island effect" which is when structures are highly concentrated, greenery is limited, and become islands of higher temperatures (i.e. "heat islands").

We will be asking that homeowners help SEA volunteers prepare the yard and help plant the trees. There will be several specific tree-planting weekends in the fall and possibly one in the spring of 2023. Some, but not all, of the trees will be native and SEA will be needing to ensure specific trees will be the right fit for different yards and areas where they will be planted.

Trees will be supplied for free and planted by SEA volunteers and the help of the homeowners receiving them in the fall of 2023. To express interest in having a tree planted in your front yard, please visit [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org) and fill out an application (to be posted soon!). If you would like to volunteer to help plant these shade trees, please contact [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org).

## PG&E to Decommission More Dams on Battle Creek

At a Nov. 15, 2022 meeting of the Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group in Manton, a discussion was held about PG&E's plans to decommission several small hydroelectric dams on Battle Creek upstream of the Coleman Fish Hatchery. Most attendees were from various agencies, however, CalTrout, Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy, American Whitewater, and other nonprofits led the morning discussion.

The Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project, located in Shasta and Tehama Counties near Manton, Calif., is among the largest cold-water anadromous fish restoration efforts in North America. The project is restoring approximately 42 miles of habitat on Battle Creek and an additional 6 miles on tributaries to Battle Creek. The many small PG&E hydroelectric dams and various diversion canals on Battle Creek have blocked threatened and endangered Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout from migrating upstream to spawn.

This process started in 1999 and since then, one PG&E dam has been removed, several diversion channels for power production have also been removed and fish ladders have been installed at some dams.

PG&E is now decommissioning all of its hydroelectric dams, submitting their proposals on Dec. 2, and will soon have an open comment period on this. The plans are for all PG&E dams to be removed by 2026, however, a few private dams will still be in place.

SEA will provide updates on this next month. Marily Woodhouse of Battle Creek Alliance and David Ledger of SEA were present at the morning session of this meeting.



## UPCOMING SEA EVENTS!

For more info or to attend any of the SEA events, contact David Ledger at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

### Oak Seedling Planting

When: Saturday, December 17, 9:00 a.m. meet up

Where: Oregon Gulch

Join us in helping plant small blue and valley oak seedlings! This won't be super hard as the cages are already installed. We will be planting about 20 seedlings and if we have extra time and energy, we will plant a few on the Westside Trail. Weather permitting.

### New Year's Day Field Trip Westside Trail

When: Sunday, January 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m. meetup

Where: Meet at the end of Kilkee Drive near Mary Lake

Length/Terrain: 4 miles roundtrip, easy to moderate hike

Start the New Year off with a hike up the Westside Trail to the "Top of the World" with views of Mt. Shasta, Trinity Alps, Mt. Lassen, and the Yolla Bolly Mountains.

Field trip leader David Ledger has led this hike for the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for over 10 years and is continuing on as a SEA field trip.

We will identify some of the native plants as we hike up the hill and observe the regrowth of plants on the trail that burned in the Carr Fire. All are welcome!

**Iron Mountain Mine Updates:** In February or March representatives of the EPA Superfund cleanup site will be giving an informational overview of the work they are doing there. Location and date/time TBA.

### Redding Water Treatment Plant

A representative from the Redding Water Utility will give SEA a tour and talk about Redding's drinking water at the plant north of old Shasta and above the power plant at Keswick Lake and the Spring Creek Reservoir.

### Wintu Audobon Bird Walk

Caldwell Park and Lake Redding Park

December 8, 2022 at 9:00 am

Join Wintu Audubon Society for a bird walk on the Sacramento River Trail as it crosses through Caldwell Park and Lake Redding Park. We will cover about a mile and back of the waterfront as we identify "Winter Waterbirds of Redding," the theme for this month's adventure in our city parks. This will be the third in a series of eight walks, one per month from October through May.

(cont.) Wintu Audubon Education Chair Tricia Ford will lead the easy and accessible one-and-a-half-hour trip along the cement walkway. Meet at 9 am on Thursday, December 8th, in the parking lot behind North Valley Art League, located at 48 Quartz Hill Road. Restrooms and drinking fountains are available at the boat launch. For more information, email [triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com)

## YANA TRAIL FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

As we ventured out on the most recent Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) field trip to the BLM Sacramento River Bend Area, we were greeted with cool air biting our noses and the reminder that nature is always so fascinating and beautiful, even as the year continues to wane.

Our five-mile out-and-back hike started at the new bridge on Jellys Ferry Road, which is within the old pre-dam floodplain on an old levee with incredible views of the Sacramento River. Adjacent to this berm is an ongoing restoration area with 20- to 30-year-old valley oaks, as well as some younger plants.

About 1½ miles into the hike the trail separates from the river across a much older, higher floodplain, dipping down to a small creek and up a hillside to a where the trail traverses ancient volcanic mudflows, now lithified into solid rock. Evidence of an old, rocky stream bed lying between two different layers of rock clearly shows that there were once two different volcanic mudflows over two different eras!



One of the gifts of our part of California is the interesting flowering plants that we can still find in November! Some native plants spotted by our group included gum plants, nightshade, and mugwort.

In addition to the identified plants, we also saw many tree species, including Fremont cottonwood and blue oak, as well as shrubs such as coffeeberry and common manzanita, all native to the area.

As our group approached our turn-around point, we were greeted by beautiful California juniper, blue skies, and sweeping views. Breathing in the fresh air, we headed back with a similar but new perspective of the trail.

## FALL COLORS FIELD TRIP SUMMARY



Shasta Environmental Alliance's (SEA) Fall Colors Hike on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) was a colorful and fun hike! While about 40 degrees when we started, we warmed up as the weather did slightly as well. Seven of us enjoyed this hike together, six of whom are Shasta Chapter CNPS members.

After identifying several plants along the lake (including duckweed and mosquito fern found by botanist Don Burk), we walked on the PCT for about 2 miles to a lookout point over the Hat Creek Valley. The trail traverses Oregon oak woodlands with scattered western juniper, ponderosa pine, and black oaks. This is an incredible site for enjoying fall flora and fauna.

## North State Giving Tuesday Donations

Thanks to the generosity of 37 individuals, we received \$2200 in donations for Giving Tuesday! We so appreciate your support of SEA! We will be sending out individual thank yous via email in the next few days and your name will be included on our next donations list in January. Thank you again for your support!

**Please consider a donation to SEA!**

**Thank you to those listed below who have donated!**

### \$25 to \$99

James Aven, Mari Enis-Applegate, Margaret Beck, Muffy Berryhill, Becky Bestwick, Dawn Bieser, Brady Family, Melinda Brown, Steve and Cathleen Callan, Richard Christoph, Jim & Gayle Citta, Allan Craig, Lang Dayton, John Deaton, Shirley Flynn, Jonathan Foster, Kathy Grissom, Penny Harris, Sandy Harrison, Diane Hawthorne, Jose Hernandez, Belinda Higuera, Bruce Hillman, Sabrina Hofkin, George Horn, Janice Hunter, Buck & Sue Lang, Alan Lefler, John Livingston,

\$25 to \$99 (cont.) Bob Madison, Catherine McKnight, Linda Miller, Tom Morehouse, Mary Mitchell, Geneva Omann, Brigitte Robertson, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielman, Denise Williams, Linda Samuels, Rick Ramos, Cathy Resfelt, Cathy Scott, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielmann, Hugh & Denise Williams, Julie Winter

### \$100 to \$249

Aleta Carpenter, Gary Christopher, Richard Christoph, Bea Currie, Cherie Gans, David Haskell, David Klasson, David Korman, Kathy & Joe Lefler, Diane Madgic, Doug Mandel, MaryAnn McCrary, John Springer, Connie Word, Linda Wright, Shasta Group of Sierra Club

### \$250 to \$499

Don & Laurie Burk, Bea Currie, Barbara Featherstone, Lisa Ross & Ray Pfister, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of CNPS, Wintu Audubon, Shasta Group of Sierra Club.

### \$500 to \$999

Becky Bestwick, Mark Martinek, Karen Little

### \$1000 & Up

Chris Harvey, Bob and Diane Madgic

You can donate to SEA by mail at P.O. Box 993777, Redding, CA 96099, or online at [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org). Donate \$25 or more and we will send you a SEA removable bumper sticker, and your choice of native plant seeds: Coyote mint, Silverbush lupine, or California Goldenrod or all three.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SEA has many volunteer opportunities for you to come out and help! If you see any that interest you, please let us know by contacting David at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org). Some of our opportunities for you to get involved!

**Acorn and oak seedling planting:** Help out on our acorn and oak seedling planting days or get oriented and do it on your own schedule. And we always need assistance in follow-up watering.

**Shade Tree Planting Project:** Help plan and distribute free trees for residential front yards in Redding as well as conduct surveys, education, and/or tree planting and follow-up monitoring.

**City Councils:** Redding, Shasta Lake, or Anderson: Follow Council agendas and attend meetings involving environmental issues.

**Creek Pollution:** Check out local creeks and the Sacramento River to see if there are any pollution issues. This includes runoff from construction sites.