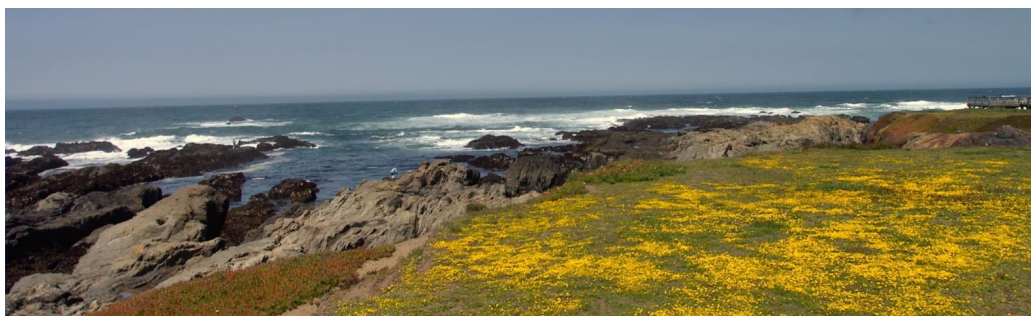




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### EARTH DAY

is coming up on April 22nd!

We will be ahead of Earth Day, and leading our [Beach Cleanup at Shell Beach and the adjacent Kortum Trail on April 15th](#)—and that is because on April 22 we will be in three places at once: We will be talking with people at events at Safari West, [Downtown Santa Rosa](#), and in [Fort Bragg’s Noyo Food Forest!](#) Don’t miss taking action on Earth Day—Join us ahead of time on the 15th! Or, if you cannot, then we hope you will be taking action on the 22nd by grabbing a trash bags, gloves and a picker-upper then heading off to a beach or trail near you in need of cleanup!

### MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE & IN OUR REPORTS

[All Reports](#)

[Turkey Tail Fire Resiliency](#)

[Drought Actions](#)

[Monarch and other Pollinator Protection](#)

[Grasslands Restoration](#)

[Join Our Team: Vacancy Announcements](#)

[www.conservationworksnc.org](http://www.conservationworksnc.org)

## LAKE COUNTY POMO YOUTH RETURN TO FORT BRAGG TO EXPLORE THEIR COASTAL HERITAGE

### MACKERRICHER BEACH Fort Bragg

Our *Exploring Coastal Pomo Nation Lands* project is launching, and provides youth and their families from the inland Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California (MRPIC), located in Lake County, with engagement at MacKerricher State Park for camping, exploration and recreation in coastal lands. Camping along the coast at MacKerricher State Park is a unique experience where youth can see many diverse ecosystems in one place. This June, MRPIC participants will explore the dunes, fen, beach, and rocky coastline of this 2,300-acre state park and participate in fishing, tidepooling,

edible kelp gathering, fun environmental education modules, and dune restoration related to invasive beachgrass. The MRPIC participants will camp for several nights at MacKerricher State Park north of Fort Bragg and be immersed in exploring and recreating in this large State Park that covers 9 miles of coastline with several types of coastal habitat, including beaches, dunes, headlands, coves, wetlands, tide pools, forest, and a freshwater lake. In addition to the recreational experiences, participants will receive fun educational modules relating to the native flora, fauna, geology,

Continued on page 2

### ART MEETS CONSERVATION: Micromural Project



Youth from southwest Santa Rosa participated in art lessons as part of our innovative Kids Creek Care project to create micro murals in the Colgan and Roseland Creeks watersheds. Our conservationist and local artists provide the participating youth with art lessons—at left are mural panels for lessons in progress with closeups—

Continued on page 2

## Pomo Youth (continued)



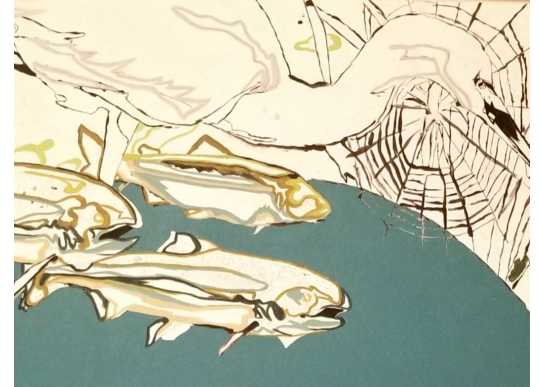
and coastal habitat restoration needs.

Restoration areas at the park are underway removing invasive plant species at sites within the park,

and youth participants will learn about the impacts of invasive species on wildlife at the Park and participate in restoration activities for a short session. In addition, campfire smores, camping pancake breakfast, lunches, and barbecued salmon plus other dinners will be provided to participating youth, their families, and other attendees.

## Micromural Project (continued)

to involve them in creating permanent art that can be placed within Roseland Creek and Colgan Creek in their neighborhood watersheds. The youth also learn about wildlife habitat, threats to watersheds, and watershed functions. They have hands-on experimentation with a watershed model to demonstrate pollution and restoration influences.



The final [micro art pieces](#) will be created and installed with the assistance of our staff and local artists to tell a story about the native habitat in the watersheds of Colgan and Roseland Creeks, which are part of the Russian River Basin in Sonoma County.

## PROMOTING FRESH LOCAL FOODS IN OUR SCHOOLS FARM TO SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



Conservation Works is coordinating a [large, multi-partner effort](#) funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to help bring more fresh local foods to schools in our communities and engage youth in learning about their food production. This multi-year program launches in April 2023 as we collaborate with the School Garden Network, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Sonoma County Office of Education, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), Farmers Exchange of Earthly Delights, and Shared Plate Consulting to provide Sonoma County schools with local food sourced from small farming operations and those using climate-friendly, regenerative practices. School gardens languished during the pandemic, and these important fresh food sources will be revitalized with new plantings and

improved irrigation as youth are also educated on gardening to produce nutritious and enjoyable local foods. This partnership program also is aimed at identifying solutions to barriers to farm-to-school models. Students will participate in both farm trips and classroom modules. Connecting youth with the outdoors and local food production can increase ongoing healthy lifestyle choices as youth grow into adulthood. Students learn where their food comes from, why sustainable farming is important, and potential future career opportunities. Farm environmental education experiences help build knowledge to make healthy choices that are lasting, and passed down to future generations.

## WORKING TOWARD SOLUTIONS FOR LAND ACCESS

On March 3rd, Conservation Works helped facilitate a [workshop](#), *The Land Access Checklist: What Do You Need to Be Ready*, presented as a part of Community Alliance with Family Farmers' wider 2023 Small Farm Conference North Bay Gathering at Shone Farm. The workshop was a land access-centered series of presentations for aspiring and current land stewards in the North Bay, and brought together land access policy experts and advocates from across local, regional, and statewide organizations, including Sonoma Ag Preservation and Open Space, UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma, Kitchen Table Advisors, California FarmLink, and CAFF. Equitable land access continues to be one of the biggest barriers facing farmers today, and is a challenge that disproportionately affects BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) land stewards due to institutional inequities and other factors





## PLANTING REDWOOD TREES IN OTIS R. JOHNSON WILDERNESS PARK

We are “taking action” in watershed restoration stewardship work in the Otis R. Johnson Wilderness Park. Since 2020, Fort Bragg High School students and teachers have been taking hands-on action in our adopted Park which is threatened by growth of exotic plants that have escaped from neighborhood gardens and established themselves in the park, threatening the native Coastal Redwood Forest Ecosystems. Many of these plants, like Acacia trees and English Ivy, are invasive species and need to be manually removed and replaced by native species including redwood trees and understory plants. Despite the weather this year, we have been holding several community events in Fort Bragg to remove invasive plants and replace with redwood trees at our the park. Both tourists and local residents have jumped in to help us restore the native vegetation at the Park, and we have more work planned this spring.

Interested in joining us? Contact us at [admin@conservationworksnc.org](mailto:admin@conservationworksnc.org)

## MUSIC CAN HEAL, INSPIRE, & COMMUNICATE ACROSS CULTURES

Contributions from the Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community have helped shape our way of life in Sonoma County. Conservation Works is recognizing the AAPI culture and heritage in Sonoma County by hosting a free community Healing Concert at Paradise Ridge Winery on May 19 from 6 - 9 PM. The event will feature a wide variety of AAPI performing groups including: Sonoma County Taiko (traditional Japanese wooden

drumming), Wu Academy Tai Chi (Chinese martial arts), Bay Area Kulintang (Filipino metallic percussion), Vietnamese Fan Dance and Fashion Show, and Shakuhachi performed by Elliot “Kanshin” Kallen (traditional Japanese wooden flute), and more. Wine and light food refreshments will be served as well. This event is funded by the Sonoma County Vintners Foundation, and County of Sonoma. Paradise Ridge

Winery has generously donated the venue for our event. Click on the QR code below for a free ticket. Interested in donating, volunteering, or [learning more](#) about this event? Please contact: [Brian@conservationworksnc.org](mailto:Brian@conservationworksnc.org)



## THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS Oct 1, 2022—Mar 1, 2023

- |                              |   |                             |
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## PAID CLIMATE ACTION CORPS FELLOWSHIPS

Conservation works has two [positions](#) available for individuals interested in becoming Climate Action Corps Fellows. Fellows serve 1,700 hours from September 18, 2023 - August 15, 2024., and receive up to \$30,000 stipend, \$10,000 in education awards (upon completion), & health benefits.



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*Building a Better Future for Marin, Sonoma,  
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*We thank our generous sponsors helping us with conservation programs including  
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Thanksgiving  
Coffee



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