



Shasta Environmental Alliance

June Newsletter



Watershed Moment: The Future of the Redding Riverfront

At the May 20th City Council meeting, Redding advanced the draft **Riverfront Specific Plan**, moving it forward despite strong public opposition to key development proposals. The Council voted to continue refining concepts that include dismantling the Civic Auditorium, converting part of Highway 44 into a city boulevard, and allowing high-density housing and commercial development on sensitive riverfront land.

While city planners frame the plan as revitalization, many community members see a different story: a push to convert public natural spaces into private real estate. Proposals include dismantling the Civic Auditorium, re-routing Highway 44, and opening the door to private construction in ecologically sensitive areas.

What's at Stake

- **Wildlife & Riparian Habitat:** North riverfront parcels provide essential cover and connectivity for native species. Development here would be a permanent ecological loss.
- **Greenwashing vs. Green Space:** Landscaping and trails can't

want public access, trees, and quiet space—not condos and traffic.

What's Next

- The City will prepare a **Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** analyzing potential effects on wildlife, water quality, traffic, and community character.
- Public review and comment on the EIR are expected later this year, with additional community meetings planned.
- Final Council approval will follow, likely in late 2025 or early 2026.

Read the full plan and maps:

reddingriverfront.org/documents

Events

Oak Woodland Meet and Greet (Redding)

Sunday, June 8, 8:00am – 10:00am



Summer heat is coming for us so let's take a shady morning walk to discover and discuss the numerous and wondrous ways our beautiful oak trees contribute to a rich tapestry of life. From the water-loving valley oaks to the heat-loving blue oaks, these woodlands support more living organisms than any other terrestrial ecosystem in California. Shasta Environmental Alliance's hike leader and naturalist, Juliet Malik, will guide you on this walk to observe and discuss both plant and animal residents of the oak community. From the raucous acorn woodpecker and impertinent California ground squirrel to the ubiquitous manzanita and poison oak, there is no shortage of "did you know" facts Juliet can throw at you!

This is a flat 1.3-mile loop trail located in Redding and features ample shade (thank you oaks!!). Dogs on a leash are allowed. We will get started at 8am to avoid the heat, but please bring water to stay hydrated.

The meeting location and subsequent updates will be provided only to those who sign up using this [form](#).

Please contact juliet@ecoshasta.org

Spring Hill Trail Field Trip (Mt. Shasta)

Sunday, June 29, 8am-2:30pm



Come join SEA hike leader Juliet Malik to get out of the valley heat and head up to Mt. Shasta for some cooler mountain air! The moderately difficult Spring Hill Trail is an out-and-back route totaling about 3.25 miles with an elevation gain of 650 feet from the trailhead to the top. It winds through a mixed conifer forest and hosts several stopping points with fantastic views of the mountain and surrounding area. We'll be on the lookout for blooming plants and anything else that sparks our curiosity. Pack a lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, and hiking poles if you use them. Juliet encourages and will organize carpooling.

To sign up and receive the finer details, such as time and place to meet to carpool, you must fill out this [form](#) and agree to the waiver.

Only those who have filled out the form will receive notice of cancellation or change of plans should that be necessary.

We will meet at 8am at the Mt. Shasta Mall near Chase Bank to organize carpools. Reach out to juliet@ecoshasta.org if you have any questions.

Free hazardous and electronic waste collection

June 7th, 9am to 1pm

Shasta County residents can drop off items like paint, motor oil, batteries, and electronic waste.

However, items such as trash, appliances, and explosives will not be accepted at the event.



No Shade, No Relief: The Cost of Losing Our Urban Forest



As temperatures climb and Redding faces longer, hotter summers, preserving urban shade should be a top priority. But on May 20, the Redding City Council voted unanimously against implementing mitigation fees for removing native oaks during development—choosing not to hold developers accountable for canopy loss.

This vote wasn't just procedural. It was a clear message: pavement and profit come before cooling shade and clean air.

Despite overwhelming evidence that trees reduce urban heat, improve air quality, and support wildlife, the Council declined to adopt even modest compensation for the removal of mature trees. Only Councilmember Erin Resner expressed openness to fees tied to replacement or preservation.

- The draft ordinance will be sent back to the Tree Management Ordinance Committee, a group that hasn't met since 2023.
- Without pressure from residents, few, if any, meaningful protections are likely to emerge from this process.

Why This Matters:

- Trees are the city's first line of defense against extreme heat, and a vital part of climate adaptation.
- Once mature trees are gone, they're gone for good. Replanting young trees won't replace ecosystem functions for decades.
- Developers can cut down heritage trees without being fined or required to plant new trees.

What You Can Do:

Contact the Redding City Council. Tell them trees are essential infrastructure—not optional landscaping.

<https://www.cityofredding.org/council>

This isn't just about trees. It's about the kind of city we want to live in and whether future generations will have shade, clean air, and wildlife in their neighborhoods.

Something to Howl About: Balancing Nature and Ranching



Gray wolves have made a remarkable comeback in Northern California, with three new packs—Ashpan, Ishi, and Tunnison—now roaming Shasta, Tehama, and Lassen Counties. This natural return is a milestone for biodiversity, signaling healthier ecosystems and restored predator-prey dynamics.

However, the return of wolves also brings challenges. On May 13, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors declared a local state of emergency, citing concerns about livestock losses and requesting state and federal assistance. It's important to note that there has been only one confirmed livestock loss due to wolves in Shasta County.

Balancing the needs of ranchers with wildlife conservation is no easy task, but successful examples from other regions offer hope. In Montana and Wyoming, where wolves have also returned after decades of absence, ranchers and wildlife agencies have worked together to develop non-lethal deterrent strategies such as fladry (flagging lines), guard animals, and range riders. These tools help protect livestock while allowing wolves to roam freely.

California's wolf recovery is still in its early stages, and the state's population remains small and vulnerable. Establishing coexistence here will require continued dialogue, scientific research, and fair compensation programs for ranchers affected by wolf depredation.

As an environmental organization, we believe that protecting biodiversity and supporting rural communities are complementary goals. Wolves are a vital part of a balanced ecosystem, and with thoughtful management, we can create a future where both wildlife and ranchers thrive side by side.

[🔗 CDFW Gray Wolf](#)

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