

Southern Humboldt Community Park Newsletter

MEET THE STAFF!



SHCP Executive Director: Laura Cochrane and daughter Hazel

The Park's Executive Director, Laura Cochrane, has been with the Park since 2018. Laura came to us after a decade at the Mattole Restoration Council, and she brought with her a love of nature and a strong sense of community. Laura works hard behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly but don't be surprised if you see her out attacking scotch broom, training tomato plants, or checking out the abundant wildlife here at the Park. Stop by the office and say HI next time you're down at the Park!

SHCP USER GROUP EXPOSÉ: BIRDERS

One of the many groups that enjoy regular use of the Park are birdwatchers. Specific species of bird observed here at the Community Park are the Western Bluebird, Tree Swallow, and Violet-Green Swallow. All 3 of these bird species nest in cavities and, due to historic logging and agriculture, there is a shortage of holes in trees suitable for nesting. As a solution to this issue, in 2010, a local birder built 6 boxes installed on fence posts, to allow a space for these birds to nest right here at the Park. In the subsequent 11 years, other birdwatchers have built/purchased and installed more boxes throughout the Park for these species to inhabit and enjoy. The Violet-Green and Tree Swallows migrate in the winter and

return, often to the same boxes, in the spring. The swallows are known to migrate as far south as Latin America! The Western Bluebirds rarely migrate long distances and some of the Park bluebirds overwinter here at the Park, sheltering in the boxes. The bird boxes here at SHCP have been a big success and almost all of them are used for nesting each year, with the skies and fields abound with swallows and bluebirds. Thank you to Jay Sooter and Robert Sutherland for your informative contributions about some of the bird species at the Park.



Violet Green- Swallow

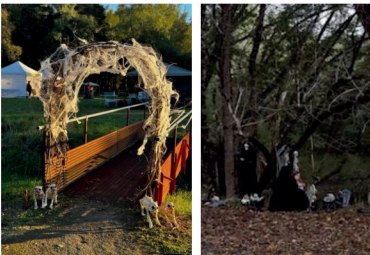


Western Bluebirds



Past Event Photos

Check out what we've been up to! 2023 brought the community together at the Park for events such as The Annual Egg Hunt, Trails Fundraiser, Picnic in the Park, and The Haunted Hoop.

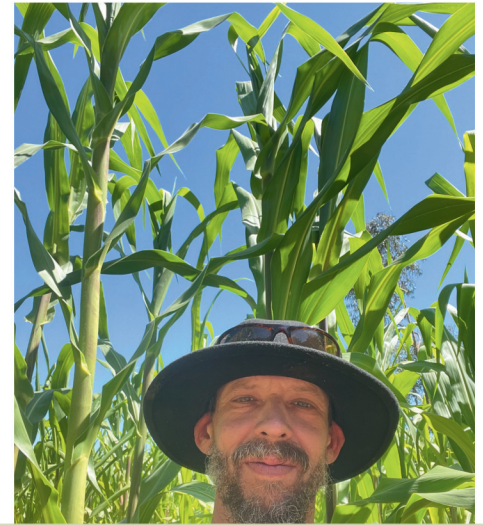


Robert Brunet: SHCP Farm Manager

Robert Brunet joined forces with our community to farm the SHCP land in 2022. Rooted in a transformative journey, Robert's commitment to organic farming began with his education at the Salinas based ALBA Program {Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association}. Robert is a long time California farmer, coming to us after a stint as a 5-acre farm owner in Aromas, CA from 2013-2017.

Now at the helm of the Community Park's agricultural endeavors, Robert's holistic approach to agriculture exemplifies resilience and dedication. Navigating through obstacles since his arrival, he has grown an array of crops including carrots, onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and watermelon.

Robert was one of the 3 farmers SHCP contracted with this year for our CalFresh Park to Plate Program, providing seemingly endless heirloom tomatoes week after week. His produce has also found its way to Chautauqua, and into the kitchens of nearby businesses



Farm Manager: Robert Brunet

and schools. Robert's sustainable farming practices and goals include community engagement with our schools, and fostering job opportunities within the community. With an eye toward collaboration, Robert aspires to join hands with the local Native American community, cultivating native plants and wild food resources, thereby honoring and preserving the region's rich heritage.

In his pursuit of sustainability, Robert is steering toward obtaining organic certification and exploring cost-share grants with the National Resource Conservation Service. His commitment to ecological responsibility sets the stage for a flourishing future where farming, education, and community collaboration converge here at the Community Park.



From the Board:

The SoHum Community Park Board of Directors is pleased to announce that after years of navigating all of the regulatory requirements, it has received the long awaited re-connection to GSD for Water Service!

The Park Board is immensely grateful to Ralph Emerson, Jennie Short, and the GSD Board of Directors for their dedication to this project. Their full understanding of the need and benefits for the Park to provide safe drinking water made this project a reality. The Park Board also wishes to acknowledge and thank the numerous individuals, businesses and organizations who wrote letters of support, as well as the 152 park users who signed our petition in 2019.

Nearly 20 years in the making, this has been a long, expensive, and time consuming process for our Park, a registered 501c(3) non-profit. Fortunately, approval was finally granted, in spite of continued vehement opposition from four individuals and one organization based in Redway.

Because the Park, formally part of the Tooby Ranch, has long standing riparian water rights, the only remarkable change resulting from this hookup is that the Park will be able to provide safe drinking water to Park users.



Pictured left-right, back-front: Jesse Hill, Carolyn Hino-Bourassa, Mike Egan, Laura Cochrane, Meghan Joyce, Alex Hulbert, Matt Banning, Ed Clark
Not pictured: Lindsay Giffin, Karl Terrell

The Park's re-connection to GSD will not result in additional water removal from the river aside from 4 proposed drinking fountains, which, once installed, are estimated to use a combined daily amount equivalent to one personal shower.

As the Park evolves to meet the needs of our community, there will be occasions when not everyone is satisfied, but we will do our best to please all.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our generous Park supporters, donors, and volunteers. Our community wouldn't have this 'soul rewarding' Park without each and every one of you!

Please consider making a donation to the SoHum Community Park to support this precious community gem. Any amount will make an impact and every dollar will be appreciated!

WAYS TO DONATE:



- **Vocality Community Credit Union Acct # 10771**
- **Mail check to: PO Box 185 Garberville, CA 95542**
- **PayPal: SEE QR CODE!**



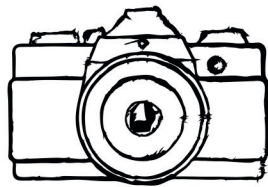
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 185
Garberville, CA 95542

UPCOMING EVENTS

- COMMUNITY EGG HUNT: 3/30/24
- CALFRESH WORKSHOPS @ The Farm
--FRUIT TREE PRUNING--
3 PART MONTHLY SERIES:
Tentative 1st Date: 1/27/24 10am-2pm
BOLO for the Flier on social media and in town!
- TRAILS EVENT & FUNDRAISER: 6/1/24

Photo Contest!



Do you take beautiful pictures at the park?
Submit them to alexis@sohumpark.org to enter our
Spring 2024 Photo Contest! The winning pic will be
featured in our next issue, along with other surprise
prizes TBA.



SoHum Community Park is a
community based organization for
the CalFresh Program. For more
information, or assistance with
enrollment, contact us at
info@sohumpark.org or
707-923-2928

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