



Land connects us all – protecting it today, saving it for tomorrow

January 15, 2023

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Chairman John Vasquez
Solano County Board of Supervisors
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

Sent via email to: jmvasquez@solanocounty.com and clerk@solanocounty.com

Dear Chairman Vasquez and Solano County Supervisors,

We write to you today with an urgent ask for \$500,000 to support the construction of public access amenities at Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park with ARPA funds. We have continued to push the project forward over the winter, despite increased costs and funding delays. **However, the project is currently stalled due to the need for additional funding.**

The project is clearly aligned with ARPA funding goals and local priorities:

- Impacted by COVID-19
- Integrated with local programs and both agency and non-profit community partners
- Focus on inclusion and equity
- Sustainable plan and on-going funding in place
- Serves a high priority community need: mental health
- Requested funding will be matched with more than \$5M dollars from other sources
- The property will draw tourism into Solano County and support economic development

The project has been severely impacted by COVID-19 including decreased revenue from limited in-person fundraising opportunities during lock down and increased costs due to supply chain issues and rapidly rising gas, material, and labor costs.

Yet, the need for open space and natural areas was clearly highlighted through the pandemic as our community went outside in droves and outdoor recreation was deemed an “essential” service. Getting outside and spending time in nature is widely recognized



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to support our community’s **mental health** – identified as a high priority community need in Solano County.

The \$500k will be leveraged with more than \$5 million dollars raised through public and private grants, donations, and other funding still to be raised, and the park will be integrated into the land trust’s existing programming. It is our sincere hope that the park is also integrated into the County’s parks system.

The park has been specifically designed with inclusion and equity in mind, including a first class “All People’s Trail,” to provide a high quality and beautiful trail for small children, seniors, people in wheelchairs, and others with limited mobility, giving them a rare opportunity to get into nature.



The “Welcome Plaza” and native plant sensory garden will include signage developed in partnership with local early childhood educators to support trauma informed programming – a key strategy to support mental health in our community.

Interpretive signage, developed with local educators, and bus parking will support field trips for school children throughout the County. Solano Land Trust will provide bus funding to ensure that all school children in our county can access this beautiful space.



We are so close to completing this decade-long project!

Please help us finish the remaining improvements to open this new natural park in our community and to support:

- seniors who faced increased isolation during COVID-19
- kids and families who carried the stress and anxiety of the pandemic
- local businesses who need the economic boost that more tourism can provide

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nicole Braddock,
Solano Land Trust Executive Director



Deborah Dur-Ferras,
Solano Land Trust Board President

CC:

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