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Sustainable Solano to host Community Day along Rocky Hill Trail





Come learn about

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ON THE ROCKY HILL TRAIL

Come learn about native plants, the benefits of rain/stormwater capture in urban areas and about our EJP Fellowship Program

**Saturday, August 20th
11am - 3pm
715 Markham Ave**

Join the Environmental Justice Leadership Fellowship:

Open to all Solano high school students:
study local environmental data, discuss challenges and potential solutions for your communities, and participate in hands-on native plant workshops.

Stipend available!

[TINYURL.COM/RHT2022](https://tinyurl.com/RHT2022)



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For residents in the Markham area, the Rocky Hill Trail is highly utilized: a paved walking and biking trail that connects from Rocky Hill Road to Markham Avenue that provides safe walkable access to the Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, a shortcut when walking to and from area schools, and a place to get some exercise in.

It is also an area for opportunities to address environmental challenges, which Sustainable Solano plans to go over when it hosts its Community Day at Rocky Hill Trail Aug. 20.

Sustainable Solano, a Benicia-based 501(c)(3) aimed at offering solutions for Solano County to have more sustainable environmental practices, will talk about environmental challenges that face urban spaces such as poor air quality, water quality and the heat-island effect. Interns will talk about two possible solutions: more native plants and rainwater capture, the latter of which harvests rain to restore it into the ground.

The talks will take place at noon and 1:30 p.m. respectively. The rest of the day will feature family-friendly activities, and high schoolers will have an opportunity to learn about Sustainable Solano's Environmental Justice Leadership Fellowship, starting in the fall.

"Through the Fellowship, high school students interested in exploring environmental issues will be able to study environmental and health information for the local community, discuss challenges and potential solutions, and participate in four hands-on workshops to help beautify the Rocky Hill Trail while planting native plants and capturing rainwater to mitigate some of those challenges," officials wrote in a news release.

Vacaville students will be given the highest priority, but the program is open to all Solano high school students able to attend in-person workshops in Vacaville and help beautify the Rocky Hill Trail. Students who complete the fellowship will receive a stipend. The program was funded through the California Environmental protection Agency's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

The event is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 20 at the south trail entrance, 715 Markham Ave. People can register at [Eventbrite.com/e/rocky-hill-trail-community-day-tickets-392631179427](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rocky-hill-trail-community-day-tickets-392631179427).



For many decades, the Rocky Hill Trail was a dirt path primarily utilized by students going to and from Vacaville High School and Willis Jepson Middle School. Because of the uneven flooring and the fact that the road got very muddy during and after rainfalls, it was identified by middle schoolers in a 2008 Vacaville Reach Youth Coalition survey as an area of concern for bikers.

The path was designated as a bike trail in the city's General Plan and was replaced with a paved trail in 2016. Earlier this year, the city unveiled artwork consisting of a mural of community members enjoying the trail, inspirational quotes and a monarch butterfly wings selfie station. The work was funded through a National Endowment for the Arts grant and designed by Leslie Molera and a team of local artists.

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Nick Sestanovich

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