

June 2025 Newsletter

# ECO-LOGIC

The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



ECO-LOGIC

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Half the year is over! Spring flowers have bloomed and gone to seed. Our pitted fruit season is starting to yield another crop. It's time to take stock and look ahead at the many tasks at hand. Look back to see what you've accomplished and what is left to do. TCEC started with a group of local people who wanted to preserve our wetland and stop the wasteful practice of throwing recyclable materials in dumps next to the bay. Many years later, much progress has been made. I looked last night at the bay trail and saw the ability for me to bike home from my club's new lapidary shop in the Mulford neighborhood of San Leandro along trails on the bay's edge including passing over the San Mateo bridge approach using a bike/ped overpass. But then I get stuck trying to get through Alvarado and Newark. There is so much more work to do. Yet, I realize I'm enjoying the benefits from the hard work of many ordinary people who in the early 1970's said the bay needs to be saved for wildlife as well as for the next generation to use and enjoy. Work is needed on all fronts. We all joined TCEC to make a difference in our community and this newsletter will try to help do that. This month we have articles on recycling with a prospective from Europe, a need to increase cooperation between Fremont and East Bay Regional Park District along with a concern regarding vacating public land the hills above Fremont and a lookback at Bike Month. Of course, there are standard updates on the unhoused and an update on municipal budgets.

Just around the corner is one of TCECs important events. The Fremont Art and Wine Festival Lemonade sale. This event raises the funds that support many ecological projects in our Tri-cities and especially supports active engagement of our youth. Please volunteer to help at this event. Information is below and all are invited to help!

As I write this and take a break to look at the news, I'm reminded that today (June 6<sup>th</sup>) is the anniversary of D-Day. A day when 100's of thousands of ordinary people did extraordinary things working together to overcome obstacles at all costs. Today, the things ordinary people can do are different and thankfully are far more peaceful than that day. But the need for coordinated action still exists. Take steps to reduce climate change. Volunteer or donate to causes that relieve suffering in our community or preserve nature. Use your voice to let leaders know that you care and will vote to see real and constructive actions taken by our government. The timeline and call to action may not be as dire as D-Day 1944, but the long-term consequences of inaction are nearly as great.

Come join the fun! Fremont Festival of the Arts August 2&3



Calling all members. Come help run the TCEC lemonade stand. Help is needed for a variety of tasks and all ages and abilities will find a place. Contact Caroline at [info@TCEC.org](mailto:info@TCEC.org) to ask how you can help and signup. And even if you're not able to commit to a time slot, be sure to stop by, see if you can help or just purchase a cup of lemonade, of course in a fully compostable cup and lid!!



## Bike Month Recap

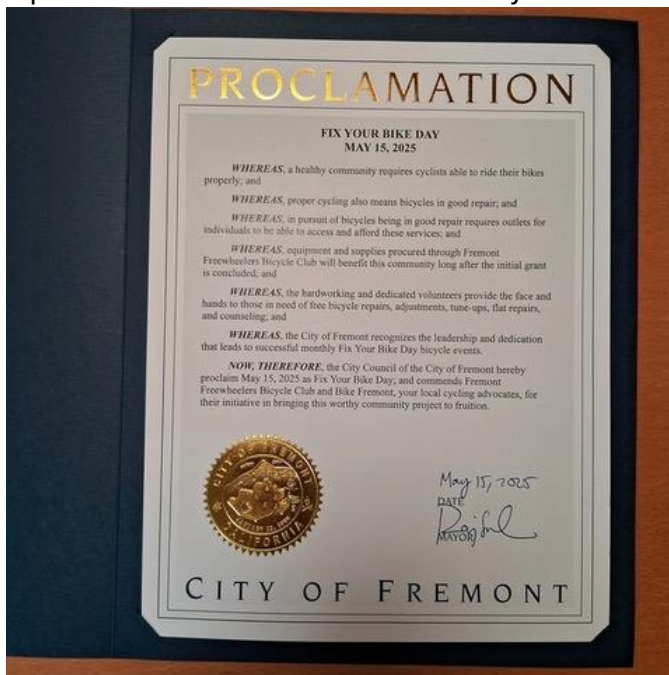
By Andreas Kadavanich of Bike Fremont

Bike Month is over, but we're cheating and extending May to June 1<sup>st</sup> for our Irvington Fixit (see below). That said, here's our tally for the Month of May:

36 bikes repaired at our Irvington Fixit on May 4



1 proclamation received from the City of Fremont for Bike Fixits



## Bike to workday Events and Counts:

- Energizer Station at Centerville Train Station – 70 cyclists and scooterers. Special thanks to Council Member Kathy Kimberlyn for biking over and helping!
- Energizer Station at Warm Springs BART – 200 cyclists and scooterers. Special thanks to BART Director Liz Ames for taking BART over and helping! Both Centerville and Warm Springs saw over 10% increases from last year.
- ½ dozen bicycles fixed at the Newark Energizer Station
- 42 people on 36 bikes came to the special bike to work day party valet parking event at Fremont Street Eats and each person received a \$10 voucher for use at the food trucks. Special thanks to Council Member Yajing Zhang for coming to support as well as Fremont Staff for logistical support.



For all the pictures and details as well as information on future bike fixit events, swing by our web page at <https://bit.ly/BikeFremont>.

Also coming up in June, FFBC is starting a series of FREE training rides for people who want to learn about group cycling. These events are open to anyone and are a great way to take your bike out with other cyclists. First one was June 1<sup>st</sup>. See the Events section for dates of more rides and always check our web page at <https://bit.ly/BikeFremont>.



## **Thinking of taking that bike out from the garage and putting it to use?**

Bike Fremont can help. A few easy steps. Pump up the tires and see if they hold air. Sign up for a Bike Fixit event and bring it over – bring it in your car if the tires go flat or you're not sure how rideable it is. We will fix any problems and make sure the bike is rideable. Then sign up for one of the Free training rides listed above and in the Event section. We can also help identify safe and fun places to ride in the Tri-City area for anyone of any ability. Bike Fixit is typically in Irvington Farmer's market the first Sunday of the month and in the Newark Farmer's market the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, but always check the Bike Fremont webpage or Facebook page to make sure.



## Recycling – we can do it too

By Steve Skala

Imagine clean streets free of trash. No cups or plastic lids littering the street. What will it take? A few observations the Editor made while in Europe can give a few points of action. First, we need clearly labeled and consistent receptacles for waste items that encourages recycling. Nice examples include a kiosk for e-waste waste seen near Warsaw Poland.



Clear labeling for recycling is standard all over Poland. Big cities have kiosks to dispose of common e-waste.

Can we do it here and increase the visibility of recycling? Yes we can. A recent trip to JPL in Pasadena show bins with clear labeling for recycling similar to those in Europe.



We can have clear labeling in California. This example from JPL labs in Pasadena.

Another observation leading to a cleaner environment is frequent street sweeping. Trash naturally collects in curbs and cities in Europe are frequently sweeping it up. I saw a number of street sweepers while walking around in European Cities.



Barely a day goes by without seeing a street sweeper in Europe. You'll see street sweepers, but not trash.

Can we do better here in Fremont? Of course we can. We can lobby for clear signage at waste collection sites as well as street sweeping intervals that are sufficient to collect trash especially plastic. Our voices make a difference. TCEC members pointed out to staff that the Fremont event center didn't have compost bins. City staff listened and now there are compost bins at the event center. Need exists for installing clearly labeled refuge bins around the tri-city area and we can change our street sweeping schedules to reduce the amount of trash in our city. Speak up if you see a location that needs improvement. In Fremont, you can send an e-mail to Sustainability Manager, Allyn McAuley at [amcauley@fremont.gov](mailto:amcauley@fremont.gov).



## **Building Fremont's Green Transportation Future: Opportunities and Obstacles**

By William Yragui

Fremont recently took a step forward by approving its Active Transportation Plan, a strategy to enhance bicycle infrastructure and pedestrian pathways throughout our community. This plan recognizes what environmental advocates have long understood: our city's corridor assets present wonderful opportunities for recreation and transportation solutions. Our city is interwoven with underused corridors—aqueducts, flood control channels, high-voltage transmission easements, and abandoned railway lines—that form the backbone of a potential network of multimodal trails. These underutilized spaces could improve quality of life while reducing vehicle dependence and carbon emissions.

The possibilities are exciting. A two-mile stretch of the abandoned Union Pacific rail line could connect Vallejo Mill Park with Central Park, creating a car-free corridor through the heart of our city. Similarly, a two-mile segment of the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct running from Warren Avenue to the Milpitas border offers another prime opportunity for trail development. Perhaps most visible is the potential transformation of Auto Mall Parkway between South Grimmer and Fremont Boulevard into a true "parkway"—complete with multimodal trails and native landscaping that would serve both transportation and recreational goals.

The East Bay Regional Park District is working to connect Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks with Niles Canyon and the forthcoming Vallejo Mill Park. Incorporation of the Morrison Canyon Trail into our city's Active Transportation network will protect this trail and increase the availability of funding. This demonstrates the regional vision for interconnected green spaces whereby the Bay Ridge Trail can connect parks like Mission Peak, Vargas Plateau, the Alameda Creek Trail, Quarry Lake and Coyote Hills to each other.

Significant obstacles remain as the city's strained relationships with neighboring cities and regional partners, particularly EBRPD, threaten these collaborative opportunities. The EBRPD Liaison Committee has been dormant for a year and a half, while the city has restricted parking access at key trailheads including Coyote Hills, Vargas Plateau, and Mission Peak—limiting public access to these local treasures. The adversarial attitude undermines environmental goals and community health. While the city invests in upgrading park restrooms at Central Park and other locations, Mission Peak visitors continue to endure inadequate portable facilities, symbolizing the broader dysfunction in regional cooperation.

Contact city council members responsible for your district and ask them to protect our regional and local parks. A park developed with minimal parking creates conflict with neighbors. Moving forward, Fremont's environmental future depends on leadership that prioritizes collaboration over conflict, recognizing that sustainable transportation and park access require partnership across jurisdictional boundaries. Our new mayor and city

council should embrace this regional vision for a greener, sustainable city. Attend city council meetings and let your voice be heard, write your city council member or take them on walks to show them how our parks are used by residents. Let them know you care about public access to our parks.

## **Alameda County and City of Fremont about to vacate the last 1000 feet of Morrison Canyon Road to private interests.**

By William Yragui and Steve Skala

In a case of déjà-vu from the 1970s when industry and municipalities were taking SF Bay wetlands to build trash dumps, a segment of public road and trail in our hills seems to be on track to be removed from the public domain. Vargas is a new park rising from the plains of Fremont to a wonderful plateau. The plateau includes parts of the Bay Ridge Trail and is a complex mix of park land, private interests and SF Public Utility Commission land. Through this patchwork are old roads and trails that go from Walnut Ave, up to the plateau. EBRPD's original plans for Vargas Plateau Regional Park included a trail tying the park to the Sunol Water Temple. EBRPD is moving forward with plans to connect Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park to Garin Regional and then to Niles Canyon. The vision of connecting parks starts with keeping critical lands in the public domain.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is moving to give up 1,000 feet of Morrison Canyon Road which the county owns in partnership with the city of Fremont. They have called for a meeting at the county Planning Commission on June 16th, 2025 ([Planning Commission Meeting](#)) to discuss the giveaway.

Please attend and voice your opposition to losing this public asset.

Both the city and county have to agree to vacate the road. They must demonstrate the road is not in public use and establish a clear public interest in the vacation. The law states that lack of demonstrative evidence may suggest fraud or a gift of public funds. There is a high threshold to vacating a public roadway. In the case of vacating Morrison Canyon Road, there are no safety improvements, no elimination of dangerous conditions, nor elimination of hazardous conditions. The county's Public Works Agency 2024/2025 budget is set at \$388.9M and \$35,209 is spent annually to maintain Morrison Canyon Road (data from county records). The county is responsible for maintaining this section of road.

EBRPD and the city of Fremont have stated in writing that they have not taken a position regarding the road vacation application.



Vargas Plateau and surrounding areas are a wonderful mix of oaks, grasses that are filled with spring wildflowers and plentiful wildlife. There are many opportunities to expand public access if our leaders choose to do so as opposed to privatizing this natural resource.

The SFPUC has easement rights and has stated in writing that they are opposed to the road giveaway. Over 200 people that use Morrison Canyon Road signed a petition calling for the road to be added to the city of Fremont's Active Transportation Network and they voiced their opposition to giving up the last 1,000 feet of Morrison Canyon Road.

We call upon the county and city to add the petition to the public record, hold public meetings in Fremont and recognize how giving up this public asset is not in the public interest. Please choose to attend the 6:00 p.m. meeting on June 16, 2025 either in person or via zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95946946292>). Add your name to the petition to save the road: [Petition to save Morrison Canyon Road](#)



## East Bay Regional Park District Plan Update and Survey

Some may have received an email from the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) announcing the launch of a new District Plan and the opening of a Survey open to all to collect inputs on your desires for the Park District. See email and links below. We just had two articles that involve EBRPD. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and give inputs to EBRPD. Please emphasize the need to maintain and expand the local parks within the Tri-City area and ensure there is adequate access to these parks.

The East Bay Regional Park District is embarking on a transformative journey to create our next District Plan, a high-level document to guide the Park District into its next century. It provides a strategic roadmap with key priorities to move toward the vision of an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Your voice is important. We want to hear from you about your vision for the Park District, community needs for parks and recreation, and how to make the parks welcoming for all.

Please share your ideas by taking the survey: [The District Plan | East Bay Parks](#).

Thank you for your participation.



This email was sent on behalf of East Bay Regional Park District at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, telephone number: (888) 327-2757x2

**Palm Avenue Community Park community input process and survey**

The City of Fremont is moving forward with Phase 1 to develop Palm Avenue Community Park. This project was funded as part of the 2023 CIP. The flyer below and link list a number of community events hosted by the City of Fremont Parks and Rec Dept to community plans and solicit inputs. Included is an on-line survey that will be open June 19<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>. Link for information here:

<https://www.fremont.gov/government/departments/parks-planning-design/design-projects/palm-avenue-community-park/public-input-process>

Be involved. Attend one or more of the meetings and please complete the survey.

**Fremont**

# PALM AVENUE COMMUNITY PARK

## PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Share your vision for Fremont's newest park!

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

- JUNE 20** **Table at Fremont Street Eats**  
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Downtown Event Center
- JUNE 24** **Community Input Meeting**  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Downtown Event Center
- JUNE 26** **Table at Summer Concert Series**  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Central Park Performance Pavilion

**MyFremont Community Survey**  
Available Online  
June 19 - July 6

The City of Fremont invites community members to help shape the future of Palm Avenue Community Park—our newest planned community park. Situated on a scenic 12-acre site with hillside views and nearby neighborhoods, the park is expected to feature sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, open lawns, and walking paths. Your input will help guide the design and ensure the park reflects community needs. For questions, contact Connie Chao at 510-494-4742 or email [cchao@fremont.gov](mailto:cchao@fremont.gov). Learn more at <https://bit.ly/PalmAvenuePark>.

If you are a qualified person with a disability and you need accommodation to participate, contact Community Services at (510) 494-4300 at least two (2) working days in advance.

## LEAF update

Submitted by Bettina Grab

### LEAF's annual seedling sale is now on!

Fremont's urban farm at LEAF (Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont) is selling a variety of vegetable seedlings in 4-inch pots for \$5 each, grown with love, no synthetic fertilizers, right here in Fremont. Seedlings include: Amaranth, Arugula, Broccoli, Bunching Onion, Cauliflower, Edamame, Fenugreek/Methi, Kale, Mung Bean, Mustard, Okra, Pak Choi, Purslane, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnip & Yard Long Bean.

You can [shop online](#) and pick up or buy directly at the LEAF Urban Farm at 38339 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536, during the following times:

- Every Monday and Thursday until June 26, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Every Saturday until June 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Few Spots Remaining for 'Students for LEAF' Summer Program - Sign Up Now!

Do you have a middle or high schooler and are looking for last-minute summer vacation activities? LEAF has a few open spots remaining for its 'Students for LEAF' immersive seven-week summer program designed for a small group to get their hands dirty and explore regenerative agriculture, food justice, and environmental conservation.

- Location: LEAF Urban Farm, 38339 Mission Blvd, Fremont
- Dates: June 9 to July 28, 2025, Mondays & Thursdays, 9 a.m. - Noon
- Fee: \$490 for a 7-week summer session

[Find out more and sign up here.](#)



LEAF  
FAMILY DAY  
AT THE  
FARM



## **Discover Farming Fun at the Family Days at LEAF**

LEAF (Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont) is inviting families with kids of all ages to explore its Fremont Urban Farm during its upcoming Family Farm Days on **Saturday, June 28, and Saturday, July 26, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**. Join the local non-profit for a day of hands-on fun for all ages, including meeting wriggly worms, discovering colorful pollinators & veggies, creating garden-inspired crafts and experiencing LEAF's herb garden with all your senses. [RSVP Here.](#)

## **Unhoused status.**

The implementation of the anti-camping ordinance seems to be on-hold with the exception of aggressive enforcement of the 72-hour parking limit to remove RVs. People living in tents and in cars are not experiencing significant actions moving them from their locations of habitation. We don't know why. The injunction against the City to stop enforcement of the ban is moving slowly. Court dates have been moved out. We'll continue to monitor. One thing is for sure. The current situation is dire. Consider to help any way you can. Donating to Abode or other local non-profit can help the many people in need within the Tri-City area.

## **Money Matters**

Fremont continues the budget process in this special year where the City will approve both an annual operating budget as well as a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the next 5 years. The best description of the budget and CIP is austerity. The general fund anticipates only minimal revenue increases so don't expect any increases in services or new capital other than what can be funded from external grants or funded from the 2023 CIP. Transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Fund are greatly reduced starting in 2025 including all transfers to support street pavement maintenance. The CIP proposal includes only a handful of new recreation projects. Replacement of existing restrooms at parks will continue as it was funded in 2023. Major sustainability projects of EV charging and building HVAC upgrades are also carried over from the 2023 CIP. Tree planting is funded primarily from the previous Cal Fire grant, but funding after the Cal Fire grant is depleted is unknown. Worth noting is a high amount of uncertainty for the near-term future. There is considerable concern over the health of the economy and consistency of future revenue streams. Labor negotiations with City Unions are ongoing and place uncertainty of operating expenses. Staff may have to come back and ask for a budget revision that cuts services. . Police, Fire and Street Maintenance take the lion's share of revenue from the City and must be chopped if the economy tanks. However, elected

officials always face blow-back if they cut Police Fire or Street Maintenance, so any needed cuts will likely disproportionately affect Parks and the Environment. It's fair to say that anything new or different we want from the City of Fremont needs to be revenue neutral. In addition, Mayor Salwan and Council will explore raising revenue (taxes) to support operations and perhaps additional CIP items. Any tax increase will primarily support the three core functions of Police, Fire and Streets. An open question is if a tax increase will provide support for other functions like planting trees, expanding parks or protecting the environment. Now is the time to watch the budget and consider what function you need to see supported before you vote for a tax increase and communicate that to our City leaders.

## **Upcoming Events**

Every Monday, Thursday and Saturday until June 28<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to 1:00 PM. LEAF vegetable plant sale pickup and direct buy. LEAF Urban Farm 38339 Mission Blvd. Fremont.

June 14 10:00 – 4:00 Washington Township Local History Museum is open and Caroline and Phil will be in the garden. 190 Anza Street, Fremont.

June 15, 8:30 – 11:30 AM Open Group Bike Ride - Fremont Loop starting at Centrapedal Bike Shop. Check <https://bit.ly/BikeFremont>. For more information

June 22. 8:30 – 11:30 AM Open Group Bike Ride – Alviso starting at Warm Springs Community Center. Check <https://bit.ly/BikeFremont>. For more information

June 24 10:00 – 11:30 Newark's Big Truck Day. Mel Nunes Sportsfield Parking Lot next to the Silliman Center. <https://www.newarkca.gov/departments/recreation-and-community-services/upcoming-events>

June 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Community meeting for Palm Ave. Park. Fremont Event Center.

June 28<sup>th</sup> 10AM – noon. Family Day at LEAF. Fun for all ages. LEAF Urban Farm 38339 Mission Blvd. Fremont. [RSVP Here.](#)

June 29 8:30 – 1:00 PM Open Group Bike Ride –Family Fun Ride starting at Palms Pavilion Picnic Area. Watch <https://bit.ly/BikeFremont>. For more information

July 3 7:30 PM – 9 PM. TCEC board meeting. See section on TCEC board below.

August 24 - Save the Date. TCEC annual picnic this year at Shinn House.

## **TRI CITY ECOLOGY BOARD**

Chair	Caroline Harris	(415) 377 9200
Vice Chair	Elizabeth Ames	
Secretary	Janis Stob	
Treasurer	Beth Rasler	
Publicity	Steve Skala	
Membership	Gail Blalock	
Media	Steve Evans	
At-Large	Lynn Miller, Patricia Schaffarczyk, Dan O'Donnell	
Newsletter	Steve Skala (co-Editor) Rich Godfrey (co-Editor), Hiran Rajagopalan (Asst. Editor)	



## **SPECIAL For TCEC Members! World Centric compostables**

**7" plate - was \$3.70 - now \$3.20**

**10" plate - now \$5.16**

**11.5 oz bowl - was \$2.70 - now \$2.95**

**8oz no tree hot cup - now \$3.45**

**9" cold cup - now \$3.84**

**10 oz cold cup - \$6.25**

**16 oz cold cup - now \$5.98**

**Teaspoon, fork or knife - now \$1.60**

**3 gal kitchen pail bag - now \$2.85**

**and 13 gal kitchen pail bag - \$3.15**

Orders May be picked up at 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, on Thursdays between 11 AM – 2 PM, or by special arrangement. When purchasing please fill out an order form and pay by cash or check. Sorry, we don't have change. This benefit is for TCEC members only.

Questions? Please text Bill Palleschi at 510 396 6694 or email her at [billpalleschi@gmail.com](mailto:billpalleschi@gmail.com), and please cc: Caroline Harris at [caroline.harris@earthlink.net](mailto:caroline.harris@earthlink.net)



### **WANT TO JOIN TCEC?**

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To learn more about TCEC please visit our website at <https://tricityecology.org/>. The Board meets on the first Thursday of each month 7:30 to 9:00 PM on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84244552454?pwd=ekNQbnZQVkJ5WUxKazlsQitrSUVvQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 4455 2454 Passcode: 407039

We'll love to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please use [THIS](#) form.