

Opinion

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Letters to the editor

TRESTLE VISIONING MOVING FORWARD

EDITOR: Thank you to the more than 100 people, including Congressman Mike Thompson, who attended an event on Aug. 19 hosted by Timo Rivetti Real Estate and the Petaluma Trestle Promenade Now Steering Committee.

The event allowed us to acknowledge donors and update attendees on our progress since May's kickoff. Our mission is to drive the action needed to establish a community vision for a rehabilitated trestle and public promenade. Without a community-supported vision, we cannot succeed in moving forward — and we won't have a project that can be funded. Doing nothing is not an option — that was made clear by the entire City Council at its March 23 meeting.

Yes, issues remain, but city staff are addressing them in parallel. Our sole focus is on public input resulting in a single community vision. We have a rare opportunity to transform a historic asset — one featured in countless promotional materials — into an amazing urban park: A promenade that will revitalize the riverfront, enhance downtown recreation, honor Petaluma's authentic river and rail heritage, and create a public gathering space with real environmental, economic and social benefits.

Recognizing that realizing that vision requires collaboration between the city and the public, we've now successfully raised the funds to hire a nationally recognized firm specializing in urban planning, landscape design and community engagement. The consultant will start in the fall.



Petaluma Trestle Promenade Now steering committee member Rosemary Hart talks about the history of the downtown railroad trestle at a community kickoff event on May 28. **JOHN BURGESS — THE PRESS DEMOCRAT**

Our work builds on a foundation laid by many others, including 2011 Good Egg Christopher Stevick and the Petaluma Woman's Club's "Time to Trestle" campaign, launched in 2022. Now with your involvement, the trestle will become the centerpiece of Petaluma's next great public space.

For more information and to stay updated, please visit trestle-promenadenow.org.

—The Trestle Promenade Now Steering Committee: Kevin McDonnell, Rick Burg, Warren Dranit, Katherine Gregor, Rosemary Hart, Elece Hempel, Bill and Katherine Rinehart, Greg Sabourin