

Since we moved to Petaluma in 2017, my wife and I have enjoyed walking Schollenberger Park and reacquainting ourselves with sea birds. We spend the past dozen years in the Foothills of the Sierras and did birding with a group up there.

When Diane was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer last December, we were shocked, but wanted to continue our relationship with walking, birds, and the coastal community.

While walking the park in January 2020, we commented on the benches and plaques, and I thought it would be a great idea to place a bench there for Diane, ourselves, and others. A place to sit and rest while enjoying the wetlands of Petaluma, and in view of our ponds & river. We filed in late January with Petaluma Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments, and after several back and forths, came up with a bench choice and plaque.

Then Covid happened and we had been shut down since.

In mid-July, Diane and I walked the path with the Director and Assistance of Parks & Recreation and found a suitable site.

A month ago I talked with the Assistant Director and she was finally able to get a qualified sub on board to clear ground, lay concrete pad, and city to install the bench & plaque.

Yesterday, Dec 15, I was called and told the bench was in. I had taken my wife to San Rafael for her Chemo infusion, but in the afternoon, I went over to check it out.

This morning, both Diane and I visited the site, and am very pleased with the results.

We hope if you are walking the pathway out in Shollenberger, you will stop and rest awhile on this bench.

Jerry & Diane

