



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

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NEWS RELEASE

Local nonprofit hires new executive director

PALO ALTO, CA –Environmental nonprofit [Committee for Green Foothills](http://www.GreenFoothills.org) announced today that the group has hired San Mateo resident Holly Van Houten to lead the organization. Ms. Van Houten will take the reins of this 40+ year old advocacy and education organization, overseeing its programs and fundraising as its new Executive Director. The Committee for Green Foothills, headquartered in Palo Alto, works for open space and natural resources protection throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Ms. Van Houten's extensive environmental leadership has been demonstrated most recently as Executive Director of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. While at the Ridge Trail Council she led the organization to accomplish opening over 60 miles of trail reaching their 300th mile this June. Previously she was a Senior Planner at the Presidio Trust where she worked on the daylighting of an urban creek. Her other work experience includes seven years as an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the National Park Service and a Grassroots Coordinator with the Appalachian Mountain Club.

She earned a M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA and then went to work for the US General Accounting Office in Washington, DC. She followed that position with a two-year stint as a Senior Legislative Aide in the U.S. House of Representatives Interior Appropriations Subcommittee where she successfully organized efforts to pass water conservation, wild and scenic river, and national park boundary expansion legislation.



Chris Powell, the President of the Committee's Board of Directors stated: *"Holly is a proven leader in the environmental field and we're blessed that she has chosen to join the Committee for Green Foothills. Her expertise in land-use planning will allow the Committee to continue to be a major player in protecting the foothills as the peninsula becomes more crowded."*

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Holly, who makes her home in San Mateo with her husband, Patrick Laprocina, said, "*I have long admired the work of the Committee for Green Foothills and wanted the opportunity to work on a broader land-use and environmental agenda on the Peninsula, my new home. I'm proud of what I was able to accomplish during my time at the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and look forward to continuing to work on critical environmental issues.*"

About Committee for Green Foothills

Committee for Green Foothills is a regional grassroots organization working to establish and maintain land-use policies that protect the environment throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Committee for Green Foothills, established in 1962, is a Bay Area leader in the continuing effort to protect open space and the natural environment of our Peninsula and Coast. For more information about the Committee, visit www.GreenFoothills.org.

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