

Who's saving local open space?

The sheer number and variety of organizations devoted to the protection and management of open space can be dizzying. Why do so many organizations appear to be working toward the same goal? The answer is simple: the challenges of protecting, preserving and managing open space are complex and long-term; extraordinary amounts of time, expertise and energy are required to protect our natural resources from poorly planned development and profiteering.

Nonprofit organizations and government agencies involved in saving local open space work on a number of fronts; the following table describes some of these groups. This is based on public information collected by Committee for Green Foothills.

Nonprofit organizations

Acterra

3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 962-9876 · info@Acterra.org · www.Acterra.org

Works to protect and restore our local natural environment through stewardship, information, and leadership.

Bay Area Open Space Council

c/o Greenbelt Alliance, 631 Howard Street #510, San Francisco, CA, 94105
(510) 654-6591 · john@openspacecouncil.org · www.OpenSpaceCouncil.org

A collaboration of public and nonprofit land management agencies and organizations dedicated to providing regional leadership and expertise for the preservation and stewardship of important open spaces in and around the cities of the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

1007 General Kennedy Avenue, Suite 3, San Francisco, CA 94129
(415)561-2595 · info@ridgetrail.org · www.RidgeTrail.org

The Council works to plan, promote, and construct the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a 400-mile multiple-use trail connecting parks and preserved open spaces along the ridgelines surrounding San Francisco Bay. The Council organizes group hikes, bike rides, and volunteer activities.

California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 941-1068 · gstigall@aol.com · www.cnps-scv.org

Dedicated to preserving, understanding, and appreciating native plants and habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and stewardship; chapter works in southern San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter

2471 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116
(415) 759-7448 · jakesigg@earthlink.net · www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

Dedicated to preserving, understanding, and appreciating native plants and habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and stewardship; chapter works in San Francisco and northern San Mateo Counties.

Coastal Open Space Alliance (COSA)

P.O. Box 3721, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 728-2823 · zoekt@sbcglobal.net · www.CoastalOpenSpace.org

An alliance of organizations and individuals working to protect coastal open space and agriculture, particularly by supporting the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD's) Coastsides Protection Program.

Committee for Green Foothills

3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 968-7243 · info@GreenFoothills.org · www.GreenFoothills.org

A regional grassroots organization working to protect open space throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, through grassroots education, planning, and legislative advocacy.

Friends of Edgewood

PO Box 3422, Redwood City, CA 94064-3422
(866) 463-3439 · outreach01@FriendsOfEdgewood.org · www.FriendsOfEdgewood.org

A volunteer group working to preserve, protect, and restore the natural resources of Edgewood Park and Preserve.

Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

P.O. Box 451, Moss Beach, CA 94038
(650) 728-3584 · webmaster@fitzgeraldreserve.org · www.FitzgeraldReserve.org

A volunteer group created to protect and preserve the Marine Reserve and promote educational activities in the Reserve.

Advocates sound land use	Purchases / accepts gifts of land	Manages / restores open space	Supports pro-environment candidates
Y		Y	
Y			
		Y	
Y		Y	
Y		Y	
Y			
Y			
		Y	
		Y	

Nonprofit organizations

Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

P.O. Box 884, San Carlos, CA 94070-0884
(650) 851-2660 · friends@parksupport.org · www.parksupport.org

Organizes community volunteers to assist park rangers with park maintenance and educational programs; provides financial support for park programs and volunteers within the parks to supplement staff and promote accessibility and enjoyment by all.

Friends of San Bruno Mountain

(415) 334-4711 · dougsr@earthlink.net · www.supportparks.org/links.html

Provides educational opportunities at San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, restores habitat for endangered plants and animals, creates a botanical garden of local native plants, and builds appreciation and scientific understanding of the San Bruno Mountain ecosystem.

Greenbelt Alliance

631 Howard Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 543-6771 · info@Greenbelt.org · www.Greenbelt.org

Works to make the nine-county Bay Area a better place to live by protecting the region's greenbelt and improving livability of cities and towns. Partners with diverse coalitions on public policy development, advocacy and education.

Half Moon Bay Open Space Trust (HOST)

P.O. Box 3205, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-4343 · contact@host.sanmateo.org
host.sanmateo.org

Works to acquire and preserve environmentally sensitive open space within the city of Half Moon Bay.

Los Altos Hills Open Space

(650) 941-4808 · www.lahopenspace.com

Volunteer organization dedicated to ensuring the protection and management of public open space and recreation lands in Los Altos Hills.

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

PO Box 1287, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1287
(831) 429-6116 · landtrust@ltscc.org · www.ltscc.org

Protects and manages lands of significant natural resource, agricultural, open space and cultural value in Santa Cruz County.

Midcoast Park Lands

PO Box 1754, El Granada, CA 94018
(650) 635-6888 · mpl@sanmateo.org · www.mpl.sanmateo.org

Works to provide public access to Quarry Park, a 40-acre community park in El Granada, and to maintain the beauty of its natural surroundings.

Native Habitats

17287 Skyline Blvd - #102, Woodside, CA 94062-3780
NativeHabitats@aol.com · www.nativehabitats.org

Participates in and supports efforts to restore and preserve native ecosystems, ecological processes and biodiversity.

Pacifica Land Trust

P.O. Box 988, Pacifica, CA 94044
(650) 359-7034 · info@pacificalandtrust.org · www.pacificalandtrust.org

Working to preserve, protect and enhance the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural, historic and open space environment of Pacifica and the surrounding community.

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)

3000 Sand Hill Road, Bldg. 1, Suite 155, Menlo Park CA 94025
(650) 854-7696 · post@openspacetrust.org · www.openspacetrust.org

A land trust dedicated to preserving open space in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area

3627 Clement St., San Francisco, CA 94121 · (415) 752-2777

A coalition of conservation and civic-minded groups and individuals that coordinated the establishment of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Works to protect, acquire parklands, and plan for the GGNRA, Point Reyes National Seashore, Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site.

San Bruno Mountain Watch

PO Box 53, Brisbane, CA 94005
(415) 467-6631 · mountainwatch@earthlink.net · www.mountainwatch.org

Works to preserve and protect San Bruno Mountain's cultural sites and endangered habitats from non-native plants and urban sprawl through educational programs and watchdogging.

Advocates sound land use	Purchases / accepts gifts of land	Manages / restores open space	Supports pro-environment candidates
		Y	
		Y	
Y			
	Y	Y	
Y		Y	
	Y	Y	
		Y	
		Y	
	Y	Y	
	Y	Y	
	Y	Y	
Y		Y	

Nonprofit organizations

San Mateo County League for Coastside Protection

PO Box 3560, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-9280 · info@lcp.sanmateo.org · www.lcp.sanmateo.org

Supports candidates for public office who will defend and enforce Local Coastal Programs against encroachments.

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation

215 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 321-5812 · info@supportparks.org · www.supportparks.org

Provide additional financial support for the recreational, environmental and educational programs and projects of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department.

Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters

P.O. Box 2079, San Jose, CA 95109
LCV@scclcv.org · www.scclcv.org

This chapter of the California League of Conservation Voters promotes local environmental protection by supporting and electing environmentally responsible candidates in Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 252-3747 · scvas@SCVAS.org · www.SCVAS.org

Promotes conservation of native ecosystems, educates the public and supports research aimed at preserving, enjoying, restoring, and fostering public awareness of native birds and their ecosystems, mainly in Santa Clara County.

Save Our Shores

North Office, PO Box 1163, El Granada, CA 94018
(650) 560-9533 · infohmb@saveourshores.org · www.saveourshores.org

Protect and promotes the ecological integrity of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary through policy research, education, and citizen action.

Save The Bay

1600 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612
(510)452-9261 · savebay@saveSFbay.org · www.saveSFbay.org

Works to protect and restore San Francisco Bay and its watershed.

Sempervirens Fund

P.O. Drawer BE, Los Altos, CA 94023-4054
(650) 968-4509 · info@sempervirens.org · www.sempervirens.org

Works to preserve and protect the natural character of California's Santa Cruz Mountains by acquiring land, working to complete Big Basin Redwoods and Castle Rock state parks, and organizing volunteer efforts in reforestation and trail projects.

Sequoia Audubon Society

P. O. Box 755, Millbrae, CA 94030-0755
office@sequoia-audubon.org · www.sequoia-audubon.org

This chapter serving San Mateo County participates in environmental education and conservation, and in the restoration, preservation, protection and enjoyment of our native natural resources, with emphasis on birds and their habitats.

Sierra Club – Loma Prieta Chapter

3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 390-8411 · loma.prieta.chapter@sierraclub.org · www.lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

This chapter serving San Benito, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties advocates for policies that protect our natural environment, offers hikes and outdoor recreation and supports environmental candidates for public office.

Stanford Open Space Alliance (SOSA)

P.O. Box 19742, Stanford, CA 94309
(650) 223-3333 · info@sos-alliance.org · www.sos-alliance.org

A network of Stanford affiliates, alumni, neighbors, and citizens working to prevent development in the Stanford foothills.

Surfrider Foundation, San Mateo County

PO Box 654, El Granada, CA 94018
edmund@SurfriderSanMateoCo.org · www.surfridersanmateoco.org

This chapter works to protect the wetlands, bird life, beaches and surf spots of San Mateo County.

Advocates sound land use	Purchases / accepts gifts of land	Manages / restores open space	Supports pro-environment candidates
Y			Y
		Y	
			Y
Y		Y	
Y			
Y	Y	Y	
Y		Y	
Y			Y
Y		Y	
Y		Y	

Advocates sound land use	Purchases / accepts gifts of land	Manages / restores open space	Supports pro-environment candidates
			Y

Nonprofit organizations

Vote the Coast

P.O. Box 1022, Malibu, CA 90265
 (310) 456-5674 · executivedirector@votethecoast.org · www.votethecoast.org

A grassroots political action organization whose purpose is to achieve coastal protection and conservation by supporting coastal-friendly candidates for public office.

Government organizations

California Coastal Commission

45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94105-2219
 (415) 904-5200 · www.coastal.ca.gov

Works throughout the state to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance coast and ocean resources, and to plan for and regulate land and water uses in the coastal zone consistent with the policies of the Coastal Act.

California Coastal Conservancy

11th Floor, 1330 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612
 (510) 286-1015 · sschuchat@scc.ca.gov · www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov

A state agency established in 1976, the Conservancy works in partnership with local governments, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources and provide access to California's shore.

California Department of Parks and Recreation

P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296
 (800) 777-0369 · info@parks.ca.gov · www.parks.ca.gov

Statewide, manages more than 270 park units and works to preserve the state's biological diversity, protect natural and cultural resources, and create opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022
 (415) 561-4700 · George_Su@nps.gov · www.nps.gov/goga

One of the most popular units in the National Park Service, the GGNRA includes Marin Headlands, Fort Funston, Fort Mason, Muir Woods and the Presidio, among other sites. GGNRA lands offer multiple uses, activities, and interpretive programs; total park area is 75,398 acres of land and water.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)

330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022-1404
 (650) 691-1200 · info@openspace.org · www.openspace.org

A special district formed in 1972 to acquire, permanently protect, and restore lands forming a regional open space greenbelt. The District currently manages nearly 50,000 acres of land in 26 public open space preserves throughout the San Francisco Peninsula. Offers multiple use, interpretive programs, and volunteer activities.

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

50 California Street, Suite 2600, San Francisco, CA 94111
 (415) 352-3600 · info@bcdc.ca.gov · www.bcdc.ca.gov

Regulates development, fill, and dredging the Bay and some of its tributaries, within 100 feet inland from the Bay to ensure public access, and administers the federal Coastal Zone Management Act within the San Francisco Bay segment of the California coastal zone.

San Mateo County Parks and Recreation

455 County Center, 4th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063-1646
 (650) 363-4020 · ParksandRecreation@co.sanmateo.ca.us · www.eparks.net

Manages 16 parks, three regional trails and numerous other county and local trails encompassing 14,119 acres throughout San Mateo County.

Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation

298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032
 (408) 355-2200 · parkinfo@mail.prk.co.santa-clara.ca.us · www.parkhere.org

Manages 27 public park units encompassing nearly 45,000 acres throughout Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

6830 Via Del Oro, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95119
 (408) 224-7476 · pcngdon@openspaceauthority.org · www.openspaceauthority.org

A special district formed in 1994 to preserve open space and create greenbelts throughout Santa Clara County. The Authority recently opened its first public trail and offers volunteer opportunities.

Regulates land use	Purchases / manages land for public use
Y	
	Y
	Y
	Y
	Y
Y	
	Y
	Y