



LANDSCAPES

Peninsula Open Space Trust **Fall 2015**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW
LANDSCAPES



When the POST community speaks, we listen. We particularly love to hear about your favorite open space experiences. It's part of the reason we're focusing this issue on getting outside and enjoying many of the 75,000 POST-protected acres firsthand. (If you haven't already, check out our new hikes guide at openspacetrust.org/stroll-hike-trek.)

You've also told us that, along with the physical and psychological benefits of protecting open space, you care about positive impacts on the environment. In that spirit, we took a look at how the little things we do fit into the bigger picture of who we are.

This modernized *Landscapes* uses 35% less paper, has 300% more recycled content and uses natural soy inks. We hope you enjoy this new look and our new focus on telling more stories that connect what we do with why it's important. At the same time, we hope our photography inspires and refreshes you while it brings a bit of the outdoors into your home this fall.

Enjoy the season—we look forward to seeing you on the trails!

Walter T. Moore

POST President



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** From Vision to Reality:
Pillar Point Bluff
- 5** Cowell-Pursima Trail:
Cultivating Connections
- 7** Opening Spaces and
Expanding Access:
Rancho San Vicente,
Ancient Oaks Trail and
Journey to Mindego Hill
- 9** Tribute Gifts
- 10** Ways to Give:
Matching Gifts and
Legacy Gifts

FROM VISION TO REALITY

PILLAR POINT BLUFF

What was just a vision in 1976 became reality when POST purchased 21 acres in Moss Beach in March 2015.

The property was the final piece in a four-property puzzle that now connects 161 acres of POST-protected land and completes the portion of the California Coastal Trail running along Pillar Point Bluff. Pressure to develop large coastside communities made protection of this area a priority for POST and our partners for more than 30 years.

With Fitzgerald Marine Reserve to the west, and Montara Mountain to the east, hikers, joggers and cyclists can escape to spectacular ocean views and a gentle, dog-friendly 1.6-mile loop trail that runs through incredible open space. It is a testament to POST donors, foundations and public agency partners that we were able to link and protect this land for the greatest positive impact on water, wildlife and habitat.

For more information on what it took to protect Pillar Point Bluff and see what you've helped save, visit openspacetrust.org/blog/ppb-vid.





©Paolo Vescia 2012 / TOP RIGHT ©Paolo Vescia 2012 / BOTTOM RIGHT ©Karl Kroeber 2006

THE COWELL-PURISIMA TRAIL

CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

For 3.6 miles just south of Half Moon Bay, the Cowell-Purisima Trail winds through coastal prairie and active farm fields while the Pacific Ocean rolls below. It's the perfect intersection of working land, natural landscape and recreational use, and a great example of the character and way of life on the San Mateo Coast.

BIRTH OF A TRAIL

In 1985, the Cowell Foundation put the 1,270-acre Cowell Ranch up for sale so the proceeds could benefit their work. Developers were eager to buy it, but, a couple of years later, the Foundation agreed to sell it to POST for \$2 million if we could raise the money in a year. We did it. In 1988, we completed the transaction and saved the ranch from becoming a luxury estate subdivision.

In the early 2000s, POST and the California State Coastal Conservancy began planning for a trail on the property as part of the California Coastal Trail. In July 2011 the trail opened to the public, complete with bathrooms and parking at both ends. Through the powerful combination of generous donors,



Enjoy POST-protected Cowell-Purisima Trail Firsthand!

POST expertise and close partnerships with the Coastal Conservancy and California State Parks, everyone can experience the ocean views, coastal habitats and agricultural character that would otherwise have been lost.

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION

Farming has a long history on the San Mateo County Coast, and POST is committed to protecting that heritage. We sold the farmland on Cowell Ranch to the Giusti family, who operate North Cowell and Purisima farms adjacent to the trail. A fourth-generation farmer, John Giusti and his family produce over 1.6 million pounds of Brussels sprouts, half a million pounds of beans and more every year on the property.

A conservation easement owned by POST protects the natural resources and farmland from negative impacts while allowing for public access. Signage along the trail provides hikers with information about the area's natural features and the importance of the local farming legacy.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The Cowell-Purisima Trail is a popular spot for busy Bay Area people to get outside and escape from it all. The \$3M Coastal Conservancy grant used to fund trail construction included provisions for POST to manage the property until we can transfer it to a public agency. As we work towards this goal, we keep the trail open and maintained for weekend and holiday use until a permanent steward is found.

GETTING THERE

Take Highway 1 south from Half Moon Bay for 3.6 miles and look for the Cowell Ranch State Beach parking area.

LENGTH

3.6 miles one way, 7.2 miles round trip

DETAILS

Flat and fully exposed. Enjoy stunning vistas and look for harbor seals, dolphins, hawks, pelicans and migrating whales.

OPENING SPACES AND

EXPANDING ACCESS

NEW SOUTH BAY TRAIL ACCESS EXPECTED FALL 2016

Rancho San Vicente sits like an other-worldly oasis overlooking San Jose. Its 966 acres were an attractive target for developers before POST stepped in and, in 2009, purchased the land and transferred it to Santa Clara County Parks. Currently open for hiking via permit, fall is a perfect time to enjoy the unique plants on rare serpentine soils and stunning panoramic views. Work is underway on a new trailhead staging area that will provide full public access to the property in late 2016.

Visit openspacetrust.org/whatwesave to learn about the history of this incredible property.





ANCIENT OAKS TRAIL

Imagine walking through a dense quiet forest, crossing a bridge carefully crafted to blend into the landscape, and emerging into a panorama of wildflowers, foggy hills and centuries-old oaks. The one-mile extension of the Ancient Oaks Trail at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve makes that dream come true.

As the final phase of the Mindego Gateway Project funded by POST, the Ancient Oaks Trail connects with the Russian Ridge trail network, completing a four-mile loop for hikers, bikers and equestrians to take in panoramic views that feel remote but are mere minutes from the heart of Silicon Valley.

Enjoy a cool hike on a warm fall day!
Visit openspace.org/preserves/russian-ridge for trail route and hours.

JOURNEY OF A TRAIL

- 2007
POST launches Go Mindego Campaign to save Mindego Hill
- 2008
POST transfers Mindego Hill to the Midpensinsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) to become part of Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve
- 2010
POST purchases 97.5-acre parcel along Skyline Ridge
- 2011
POST transfers Skyline Ridge parcel to Midpen for use as Mindego Gateway
- 2013
Midpen begins construction of Mindego Gateway
- 2014
Midpen opens Audrey's Way at Mindego Gateway
- 2015
Target for opening trail to the top of Mindego Hill

GIFTS RECEIVED MARCH 1 - JUNE 30, 2015

TRIBUTE GIFTS

IN HONOR OF

Mark Aaker
All dedicated past
& present POSTies!
Gerry Andeen
Christy Armstrong
Steve Blank
Norma Burchard
Kara Caselas
Mrs. Frankie Chios
Morgan J. Chivers
Chuck Daiss' 90th birthday
Rene & Peter Fenerin
Ethan & Madeleine Garside
Chris Grimaldi
Kathryn Hargrove
Dr. George Hogle
Walter & Barbara Hudson
Sylvie Joy
Dorothy Lunn
Cindy S. Miller
Jesse Moss & Amanda
McBaine
Gordon Mullin
Marilyn Proffitt

Alexis Smith
Katharina &
George Stromeyer
Sandi & John Thompson
The Thomson Family
Marilyn Walter

IN MEMORY OF

Jeffrey Abel
James William Ackley
Gary Baldwin
Jack H. Beebe
Caroline "Brownie"
Hart Bergh
Trisha & Frank Bloomfield
Hans & Grunia Buettner
Lowell Burklund
Robert Carvalho
Jeanne Carevic
Norman Clyde
Bill Cohen
Doug Curtis
Jacobus & Sona Derksen
Jeff Doyle
Dr. Duane K. Edmunds

Ruth J. Edwards
Merle Evers
Stephen M. Fine
Donna McIntosh Foster
N. Bruce Frazee
Walter Gill
Andy Guscom
Loretta L. Hartley
Virginia Hartman
Christian C.E. Hoebich
Mary Power Hood
Evelyn Hunt
Harriet Johnston
Darlene B. Jones
Bob Jordan
Don Kobrin
Bill Lane
Jean Lauer
Linda Newhall Lautner
Esther M. Zimmer
Lederberg
Helen Robinson Leppert
Rose & George Mackay
Constance Morgan
Donald Oaks

Carl Olander
Kay Blitzer Olson
Bob Pease
Joel Pencer
Joan Perris
Ruth Porter
Hank Riggs
Stas Sila-Novitsky
John R. Skelton
Elise Stone
Joseph Tanner
Warren Thornthwaite
Gary Von Waaden
Matthew Walters
Edwin Wells
Robert Wendell
Leon Wentz
Molly Westrate
Christopher J. Wood
Jennifer Wread
June & Eddie Ziff



SAVE OPEN SPACE

WAYS TO GIVE

DOUBLE THE IMPACT
OF YOUR GIFT!

Many companies match donations their employees make to charities and some match gifts made by retirees. Is your employer one of them?

Learn more:

openspacetrust.org/matching

JOIN OUR OPEN SPACE
LEGACY SOCIETY:

To join our society, or learn about gifts through your will or IRA, please contact Jeanine Crider, Director, Planned Giving:

jcrider@openspacetrust.org

(650) 854-7696 x312

POST'S TAX ID NUMBER IS 94-2392007

Landscapes is printed on 30% post-consumer paper with soy inks.

Published by: Peninsula Open Space Trust
222 High Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301 (650) 854-7696 openspacetrust.org

Editor: Michelle Mellon, **Contributing Writer:** Lily Hartzell, **Design:** The Point Collective, Inc., **Printing:** Trademark Graphics, Inc.

POST is a public benefit California corporation and is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to POST are tax-deductible.



“ We can think of no finer legacy than helping to protect the spectacular wild lands that surround our community. We know our gift will be wisely used by POST. ”

— Bracey and Richard Tiede

JOIN US FOR OUR

ALL DONOR HIKE

Saturday, October 3, 10am-12pm

Driscoll Event Center / La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Come see the lands you help save! Learn about POST's role in protecting 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch, a working cattle operation that is now part of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The ranch is adjacent to another POST-protected property, Driscoll Orchards, and together these stunning landscapes of chaparral, ponds and redwood forest illustrate POST's vision of creating a network of protected land in the region. We look forward to sharing this special place with you on a strenuous hike that will include steep climbs and rewarding views.

Sign up to reserve your spot
and receive directions:
postalldonorhike.eventbrite.com

©Paolo Vescia 2014



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 925

LANDSCAPES

Fall 2015

PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST
222 HIGH STREET
PALO ALTO, CA 94301
(650) 854-7696
OPENSACETRUST.ORG