



San Mateo County

MINDEGO HILL IN THE RUSSIAN RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

San Mateo County straddles the San Francisco Peninsula with the Santa Cruz Mountains running down its spine. On the east, 14 densely developed cities border each other along or near San Francisco Bay. On the west, urban development in the north gradually gives way to a few scattered rural communities and large areas of scenic natural lands, working forests, farms, and ranches.

Although much of the County's eastern shoreline has been filled, large areas of Bay wetlands remain. These wetlands are home to abundant wildlife and offer protection to nearby communities from sea level rise and other effects of climate change. The San Francisco Bay Trail offers people easy access to most of the Bay Shoreline.

The County's coastside contains many city and county parks, 15 State Parks and Beaches, and the southern extent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The California Coastal Trail brings people close to the spectacular shoreline and the Bay Area Ridge Trail offers panoramic views from the heights of the central mountains. The natural lands provide clean water, clean air, and a home for wildlife, and the working lands provide local food, timber, and employment.

The Coastal Conservancy has worked for 35 years with the people of San Mateo County to sustain the area's quality of life and economic viability and intends to continue that work well into the future.

POPULATION: >740,000

SIZE: 286,982 acres

PROTECTED LANDS: 117,267 acres

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: >100

CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >\$70 million

Land Protection

The Conservancy has teamed up with the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District, Peninsula Open Space Trust, the National Park Service, and others to protect a good portion of the County's natural and working lands. Goals include expanding and connecting the current network of parks and keeping working lands in production.

- Two glorious new national park units were created when the 4,000-acre **Rancho Corral de Tierra** and the 105-acre **Mori Point** were added to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- Mindego Hill's 1,000 acres of open lands were added to **Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve**, giving hikers the chance to scale the hilltop and enjoy fantastic mountain and ocean views.
- The 3,681-acre **Driscoll Ranch** was a key addition to **La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve** along the Skyline Ridge corridor. Farther north, 676 acres were added to the **Miramontes Ridge** preserve.
- Along the ocean's edge, **Cowell Ranch** and **Purisima Farms** were preserved to protect agriculture and create new segments of the **California Coastal Trail**. These 1,800 acres support three miles of completed Coastal Trail just south of Half Moon Bay.
- Agricultural protection and Coastal Trail development were also the goals for purchase of the 210-acre **Bolsa Point Ranches** and 268-acre **San Gregorio Farm**.
- The 39-acre blufftop **Mirada Surf** property near Pillar Point Harbor was added to San Mateo County Parks lands and enabled a one-mile addition to the Coastal Trail that is heavily used at all times of day.
- The Coastside Land Trust's acquisition of the 50-acre **Wavecrest** property in Half Moon Bay protected habitat for owls and other raptors and provided a prime site for a segment of the Coastal Trail.

Wetlands & Creek Restoration

The Conservancy has worked with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and others to improve the County's creeks and wetlands.

- The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project** is the largest wetland restoration effort on the West Coast of the United States. More than 15,000 acres of former commercial salt ponds are being restored or enhanced to a mosaic of wetlands habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife. The restoration of these wetlands will enhance the health of San Francisco Bay and contribute to flood protection.
- Improvements to **San Francisquito Creek**, on the border between San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, are improving habitat for steelhead trout.
- Surrounded by the waters of the Bay, **Bair Island** has long been a natural refuge for birds. A new reserve protects 77 acres and planning is underway for projects to enhance the island's habitats.
- The Conservancy has worked with the City of Pacifica to restore the natural functions and habitat of **San Pedro Creek**. Projects have removed barriers to steelhead trout migration, restored wetlands and floodplain, and allowed for managed retreat at **Pacifica State Beach** in the face of sea level rise.



PIGEON POINT LIGHT STATION



HANDS ON LEARNING AT AÑO NUEVO MARINE EDUCATION CENTER



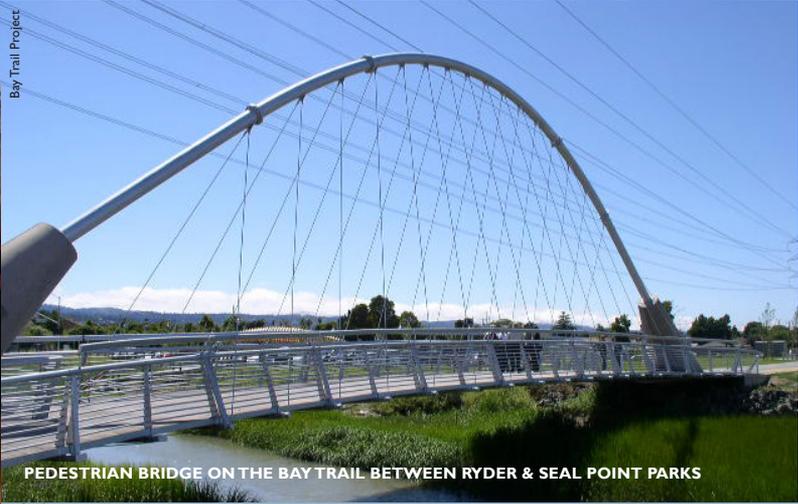
BREACHING A LEVEE AT OUTER BAIR ISLAND



NEW ROUTE FOR THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL AT DEVIL'S SLIDE



HIKING ON THE BOARDWALK AT MORI POINT



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ON THE BAY TRAIL BETWEEN RYDER & SEAL POINT PARKS



WHEELING ALONG THE BAY TRAIL IN FOSTER CITY



PIGEON POINT LIGHT STATION AND NEIGHBORING BOLSA POINT RANCHES

Trails and Recreation

The Conservancy has helped to add a remarkable number of miles to the **California Coastal Trail**, the **San Francisco Bay Trail**, and the **Bay Area Ridge Trail** in San Mateo County. Projects include:

- **Pacifica Coastal Trail:** A heavily used wheelchair-accessible trail that runs from Rockaway Beach to Pacifica State Beach in Pacifica.
- **Mori Point Coastal Trail:** 4 miles of Coastal Trail in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Pacifica.
- **Devil's Slide Coastal Trail:** Taking the place of Highway 1 at Devil's Slide, a new 1.2-mile segment of car-free Coastal Trail.
- **Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail:** 3 miles of protected trail running beside the State Beach.
- **Bair Island Bay Trail:** A new pedestrian/bicycle bridge now links the Bay Trail to Inner Bair Island in Redwood City.
- **San Mateo Shoreline Park Trail:** Improvements to the shoreline parks system trails in the City of San Mateo include an award-winning bicycle/pedestrian bridge between Ryder Park and Seal Point Park and a 335-foot boardwalk called the Bay Marshes Trail.
- **Coyote Point Park Bay Trail:** 1.2 miles of Bay Trail improvements were constructed through Coyote Point Park.
- **East Palo Alto and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve:** Several segments of Bay Trail have been completed, including a new spur to Cooley Landing Park.
- The **Bay Area Ridge Trail** winds southward and upward from Daly City through open grasslands, forests, and oak woodlands, many of which the Conservancy has helped to protect.
- The **Crystal Springs Regional Trail** adjacent to Crystal Springs Reservoir is getting a new trail surface, benches, and a restroom.
- Repairs to the **Pacifica Municipal Fishing Pier** made it possible for people to continue to enjoy an easy place to fish, watch surfers, or just catch the sunset.
- A new parking lot and blufftop paths at **Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park** allow visitors a great view of whales. Plans are underway to repair the lighthouse itself so the public can once again climb its stairs for one of the best views in the county.
- Conservancy support helped two education centers get a complete makeover: the **Año Nuevo Marine Education Center** at the popular marine reserve, and the new interpretive center at **Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve** in Redwood City.

"I'm so grateful to live in a place where I can travel for miles and miles along an undeveloped coast, with beautiful open space, agriculture and public trails at every turn. I have the Conservancy to thank for that — for their critical partnership with POST over the years, for their contributions to the Peninsula, the Bay Area, and across our beautiful state."

Walter Moore, President
Peninsula Open Space Trust



WAVECREST

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS :

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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