



SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION

The State Coastal Conservancy is working for a beautiful, healthy, and productive California coast and San Francisco Bay Area, accessible to everyone.

We have undertaken many projects in Santa Clara County, including efforts to grow and connect natural lands, restore wetlands and creeks, complete trails, and protect working farms and ranches.

POPULATION: 1.8 million

SIZE: 826,385 acres

PROTECTED LANDS: 241,486 acres

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: 43

CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >\$25 million

Santa Clara County, once home to the Valley of Heart's Delight and now home to Silicon Valley, is an economic engine for the state and nation. The County is also home to working farms and ranches, trails and parks, open space and natural areas, and wetlands, creeks, and rivers. These resources enhance the quality of life for the large number of people living and working in the County, providing clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, local food, and places to hike and enjoy.

Flanked on the east by the Mount Hamilton Range and on the west by the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Santa Clara Valley runs from the farmlands around Gilroy and Morgan Hill to the wetlands of the South San Francisco Bay. Creeks and rivers run from the mountain ranges through the city of San Jose and surrounding cities and to the Bay. Protected lands include numerous City and County Parks and Open Space Preserves, along with Henry Coe State Park and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The San Francisco Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail traverse the County and are linked to lengthy hiking and biking trails along the County's creeks and rivers.

Greenbelt Protection

The Conservancy has teamed up with MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, Santa Clara County Parks, The Nature Conservancy, and others to protect natural lands in Santa Clara County. A focus has been on expanding and connecting the current network of parks and open space.

- Protection of **Nolan Ranch** added 1,155 acres to Joseph D. Grant County Park, near the summit of Mt. Hamilton.
- Adjacent to Alum Rock Park, the 534-acre **Kirk Property** was acquired to help complete a section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail between Alum Rock and Ed Levin parks.
- **Stevens Canyon Ranch** is a 238-acre property that was added to the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve. The property is located at the heart of over 6,600 acres of protected lands in the upper Stevens Creek watershed.
- **Silacci Ranch** is a 1,400-acre working ranch adjacent to Henry Coe State Park that has been permanently protected for farmland and wildlife habitat through an easement with the landowner.
- A 358-acre property adjacent to **Uvas Reservoir** was added to Uvas Reservoir County Park to protect wildlife habitat, protect the watershed, and provide for trail connections.
- Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve is a 1,071 acre preserve in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The **Presentation Center** property acquisition added 198 acres of forest and meadow habitat to the preserve.
- The 865-acre **Blair Ranch** was added to the Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve in the southwestern Santa Clara County foothills, expanding wildlife corridors and providing the opportunity for a future staging area.
- **Arastradero Gateway** is a critical 13-acre property located along Arastradero Road that was added to the Pearson-Arastradero Gateway Preserve in the City of Palo Alto.
- The 490-acre **Della Maggiora** property was a key addition to Mt. Madonna County Park at the southern end of the Santa Cruz mountains.
- In addition to these acquisitions, the Conservancy has funded a feasibility study for conserving agriculture in **Coyote Valley**.



BLAIR RANCH



MOFFET FIELD BAY TRAIL

Ron Herli



Judy Irving

Wetlands and Creek Restoration

The Conservancy has worked with the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Santa Clara Valley Water District, the City of San Jose, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and others to improve the wetlands and waterways of the South Bay.

- The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project** is the largest wetland restoration effort on the West Coast of the United States. Over 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 for Silicon Valley.

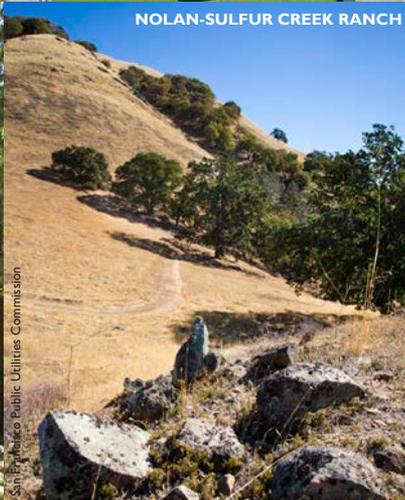
VOLUNTEERS HELP RESTORE THE SOUTH BAY SALT PONDS



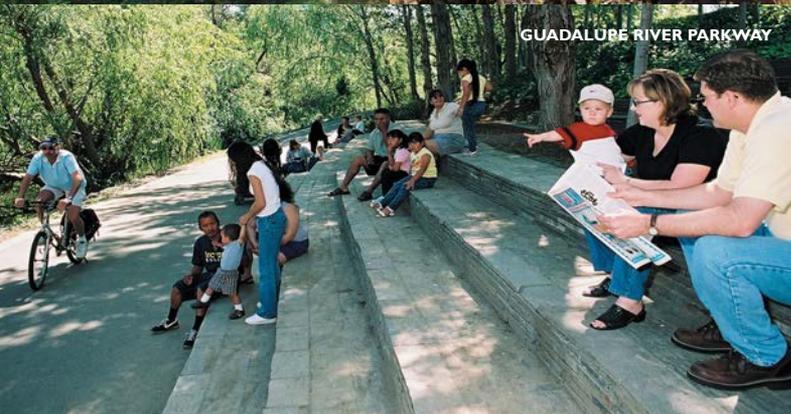
CONFLUENCE EAST IN GUADALUPE RIVER PARK



BEAR CREEK REDWOODS



NOLAN-SULFUR CREEK RANCH



GUADALUPE RIVER PARKWAY



SIERRA VISTA RIDGE TRAIL

Wetlands and Creek Restoration *continued*

- **San Francisquito Creek**, which defines the border between Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, provides important riparian habitat and is an anchor watershed for steelhead trout. The Conservancy has supported the removal of barriers to fish migration and efforts to combine flood protection and habitat restoration.
- Where the Guadalupe River flows through downtown San Jose has become the site of the **Guadalupe River Park**, the most visible element of a multi-objective project to reduce flooding, restore habitat, and provide trails and recreation for residents and visitors.

Trails and Recreation

Completion of the San Francisco Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail are high priorities for the Conservancy and considerable progress has been made in Santa Clara County, including the following projects.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL

- A 2.4-mile gap in the Bay Trail was completed at **Moffett Field**, linking Sunnyvale Baylands to the Mountain View Shoreline.
- A segment of Bay Trail was constructed at the Sea Scout House in the **Palo Alto Baylands**.
- Bay Trail sections and other recreational amenities were constructed at **Alviso Marina County Park**, including boardwalks and picnic areas.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL

- A heavily used section of the Ridge Trail that runs along Coyote Creek through **Hellyer Gap County Park** in southeastern San Jose was widened and improved.
- Two new Ridge Trail staging areas were constructed at **Almaden Quicksilver County Park**, improving trail access and safety.
- Several sections of the Ridge Trail along **Penitencia Creek** have been constructed along a 4-mile corridor leading to Alum Rock Park.
- Two new staging areas and 3.6 miles of trail were constructed at **Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park**, helping to open this new park to the public.
- Segments of the Ridge Trail in **Sanborn County Park** in western Santa Clara County have been constructed or improved.
- A new 5.8-mile section of Ridge Trail was constructed at **Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve** just east of Milpitas, opening up stunning views of the Valley and beyond.
- After extensive planning, a spur of the Ridge Trail will be built to provide access to the top of **Mt. Umunhum**.

“The Coastal Conservancy is a tremendously effective conservation agency and critical partner to the South Bay’s park and open space organizations. The Conservancy has enabled us to significantly leverage local funding to enhance the region’s quality of life.”

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority



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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