



AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Highlights from 27 Years of Land Conservation

- 1990** – Measures A and C are approved by the voters, creating the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District and allowing the agency to be funded by a quarter-cent sales tax. (2)
- 1992** – The District acquires its first property when Dean Marty sells a conservation easement over his 223-acre property along Highway 101 between Cotati and Petaluma. (2)
- 1994** – The District acquires a conservation easement over Fitch Mountain in Healdsburg, kicking off a 20-year process to dedicate the majority of the mountain as a City of Healdsburg Open Space Preserve. (4)
- 1995** – The Lang property, also known as Safari West, is added to the District’s list of protected lands. (4)
- 1996** – The District buys Alman Marsh in Petaluma and begins its first project of the Matching Grant Program. (2)
- 1997** – In its first joint project with the Sonoma Land Trust, the District acquires the Hepper property, which together with the Dewar property makes up the Estero Preserve. (5)
- 1998** – The District buys Haroutunian – North, now the site of Tierra Vegetables on Airport Blvd, and initiates its first small farm lease to farmer Wayne James. (4)
- 1998** – White II, the last in a cluster of properties including Alba Lane, White I, St. Luke’s, and Schopflin Ball-fields, is acquired, achieving an effective community separator on the northern edge of Santa Rosa. (3/4)
- 1998** – The Bath-Watt property is purchased, marking the first acquisition to protect Taylor Mountain. (3)
- 1999** – The District buys Mom’s Beach in Forestville and transfers it to Sonoma County Regional Parks to provide recreation along the Russian River. (5)
- 2000** – The District purchases 3.3 acres in Windsor and initiates one of its most high-profile Matching Grant Program projects – the Windsor Town Green. (4)
- 2000** – Red Hill, a 911-acre property along the Sonoma Coast, is purchased and is eventually transferred to the state as an addition to Sonoma Coast State Beach. (5)
- 2001** – The District hits the 50,000 acre mark! With the acquisition of a conservation easement over Cooley Ranch, a 19,000-acre property straddling Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, the District helps to protect over one-quarter of the upper Dry Creek Watershed, which supplies drinking water for over 600,000 people in Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties. Fun fact: the landowner donated roughly half of the value of the easement.
- 2002** – The Bianchi family sells a conservation easement to the District and uses the funds to build the Valley Ford Cheese Company, maker of the popular Estero Gold, Estero Gold Reserve, and Highway One cheeses. (5)
- 2003** – The District buys Jacobs Ranch, a 168-acre property on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain – the first of several acquisitions leading to the creation of North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve. (1)
- 2004** – Pat and Ted Eliot generously donate a conservation easement over their property on the east slope of Sonoma Mountain for a potential trail connection to Jack London State Historic Park. (1)
- 2004** – The District provides funding to acquire Dickson Ranch, which makes up a portion of the Sonoma Land Trust’s Sears Point Wetlands Restoration Project. (2)
- 2005** – To create more urban open space, the District provides \$405,000 in grant funding to the City of Santa Rosa to construct Prince Gateway Park, the starting point for the Prince Memorial Greenway multi-use path along Santa Rosa Creek. (3)

- 2005** – The District protects the Montini property adjacent to General Vallejo’s home in the Sonoma Valley and the scenic backdrop to downtown Sonoma. (1)
- 2006** – The District hosts Open Spaces & Public Places, a two-day public event to showcase its diverse portfolio of protected lands and stewardship projects across Sonoma County.
- 2006** – The District gets reauthorized as Measure F passes with 76% of the vote to extend the sales tax until 2031.
- 2009** – The 282-acre Walsh property, which covers the top of Sonoma Mountain, joins Skiles, Wilroth, Cooper’s Grove, and the Sonoma Mountain Woodlands as the last property acquired to make up North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve. (1)
- 2009** – Working with a consortium of partners and funders, the District contributes over \$9 million to acquire Jenner Headlands – a majestic 5,360-acre property along the Sonoma Coast. This project is the District’s largest fee acquisition to date. (5)
- 2010** – The District partners with the City of Santa Rosa to buy 5.84 acres in the Roseland area of Santa Rosa and provides matching grant funding to LandPaths to create the Bayer Neighborhood Park & Garden. (5)
- 2013** – In partnership with the Conservation Fund, Coastal Conservancy, and the Moore Foundation, the District helps to protect Preservation Ranch, or Buckeye Forest – nearly 18,000 acres near Gualala. This acquisition helps the District hit the 100,000-acre mark! (5)
- 2013** – Along with partner Sonoma County Regional Parks, the District celebrates the opening of Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve – the culmination of five property acquisitions and 18 years of work. (1/3)
- 2014** – The District contributes \$1 million to protect Pole Mountain – the highest peak on the Sonoma Coast. (5)
- 2014** – After 20 years of planning and perseverance, the District transfers Fitch Mountain to the City of Healdsburg and LandPaths to open it as a public park and preserve. (4)
- 2015** – The District celebrates the opening of North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve, as well as the completion of the East Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail. The North Sonoma Mountain trail connects to an existing trail through Jack London State Historic Park, and eventually to the East Slope segment, to form eight more miles of the larger Bay Area Ridge Trail. (1)
- 2015** – Working with a consortium of government agencies, non-profits, the Trust for Public Land, and the Kashia Pomo Tribe of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, the District contributes \$2.9 million towards the \$6 million acquisition of Kashia Coastal Reserve. (5)
- 2015** – The District joins forces with Sonoma Land Trust, The Wildlands Conservancy, California Coastal Conservancy, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to acquire the 547.8-acre Estero Ranch along the Estero Americano, south of Bodega Bay. (5)
- 2017** – The District contributes \$2 million toward the \$6 million purchase of a conservation easement on Save the Redwoods League’s Stewarts Point property, resulting in the protection of 700 acres of redwood forest, over 100 acres of coastal grasslands and habitat, and a 1.7-mile stretch of the Gualala River. (5)
- 2017** – One of the last old-growth forests containing two of the five main tributaries to the Gualala River is preserved forever with the acquisition of 1,380-acre Howlett Forest. The District provides \$4.5 million in funding, with the remaining \$1.63 million secured by Sonoma Land Trust. (5)