



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

May 23, 2024 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PLEASE CALL IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

The May 23, 2024 Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee meeting will be held in person at Ag + Open Space's office located at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA. The public may also participate virtually through Zoom.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the two following methods:

1. **Zoom:** Join the Zoom meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking:
<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/98316944769?pwd=MURud1o3TDVRWStOSEF5Z2Z5MmElZdz09>

If you have the Zoom app or web client, join the meeting using the Password: 778144

Call-in and listen to the meeting: Dial 1 669 900 9128 Enter meeting ID: 983 1694 4769

2. **In Person:** Members of the public may attend in person at Ag + Open Space's office at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA in the large conference room.

PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING: You may email public comment to Michelle.Nozzari@sonoma-county.org. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all Committee Members and read aloud for the benefit of the public. Please include your name and the relevant agenda item number to which your comment refers. In addition, if you have joined as a member of the public through the Zoom link or by calling in, there will be specific points throughout the meeting during which live public comment may be made via Zoom and phone.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative format to assist you in observing and commenting on this meeting, please contact Michelle Nozzari by email to Michelle.Nozzari@sonoma-county.org by 12pm Wednesday, May 22, 2024 to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

Comments on items not listed on the agenda. Time is limited to 3 minutes per person/item.

3. Correspondence / Communications

4. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2024

Attachment A

ACTION ITEM

5. General Manager's Report

Misti Arias, General Manager

6. Vegetation Management Update

INFORMATIONAL

Kim Batchelder, Vegetation Management Coordinator

7. Projects in Negotiations Attachment B

8. Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

9. Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled for 6/27

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

6/27/24

Budget Overview

Acquisition Update

7/25/24

No Meeting



SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

747 Mendocino Avenue – Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

April 25, 2024 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thembi Borrás, Michelle Whitman, John Shribbs, Paolo Tantarelli, Emily Albert, Wendy Eliot, Ladi Asgill, Josh Proctor, Don McEnhill

Call to Order

Chair Borrás called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Public Comment

Chair opened comments on items not listed on the agenda. No public comment.

Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2024 Attachment A ACTION ITEM

Committee Action:

Chair Borrás called for a vote to approve the advisory minutes.

Aye: Ladi Asgill, Thembi Borrás, Wendy Eliot, John Schribbs, Don McEnhill, Josh Proctor, Michelle Whitman

Abstain: Paolo Tantarelli, Emily Albert

Absent: Paul Martin, Kevin McDonnell, Dayna Ghirardelli, Jan McFarland, Steve Rabinowitsh, Mark Stapp, Bill Smith

General Manager's Report

Misti Arias, General Manager

- Welcome new Advisory Committee members Paolo Tantarelli and Emily Albert!
- **Upcoming Board Items:** 4/30 Procedures to Implement the California Environmental Quality Act; 5/14 Keiser Park Expansion 2 Conservation Easement, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Vital Streams and Forests: Technical Assistance – Enhancement Supplemental Agreement, Matching Grant Program Technical Assistance Awards; 5/21 Vegetation Management Grant Recommendations, Spring Hill Ranch Conservation Easement
- Two new active projects on the list: Bucher-Russell Ranch and, - Sonoma Mountain .
- Jen Kuszar, Acquisition Manager, will be providing an acquisition update at your June meeting.
- **Community Spaces Matching Grant Program:**
- **Vegetation Management Grant Program:**
 - Ag + Open Space easements are being monitored both on the ground and remotely.

Public comment:

PROPOSED Minutes



- Susan Kirks

Community Relations Update – Information Only

Lauren Alpert, Community Relations Specialist

Carly Cabrera, Community Relations Assistant

Irma Cuevas, Community Relations Assistant

12-Month Work Plan Overview & Planning WORKSHOP

Misti Arias, General Manager

Projects in Negotiations

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

- John Shribbs gave an update regarding the City of Petaluma.
- Josh Proctor said that summer is upcoming and he will be going to college, so a new youth advisory committee member will be needed to fill his position.

Adjournment

Chair Borrás adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: May 23, 2024.



Attachment B

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+ indicates change in phase since last update

On Hold - On Hold projects

	Oak Ridge Angus (LaFranchi)														On-Hold	On hold	
	Terrilinda Dairy														On-Hold	On hold at request of owner	
	Lafranconi														On-Hold	On hold at request of owner	
	Fornage Ranch (move to inactive)														On-Hold	On hold	
1	Abril Ranch	1,929	4												On-Hold	Stalled due to federal mineral rights ownership	
	Russian River Habitat Restoration	63	4												Initiating Project	Initiating project	
	Petersen Rd Dairy														On-Hold	On hold	

Attachment B

			Project Evaluation Initiating Project Due Dilligence Project Structure CE Negotia-tions Appraisal Process FOC BOD Escrow/ Closing Implementation + Tracking Match											
Matching Grant Project Name	Acreage (approx)	Sup. District	Step 1	Step 2				Step 3			Step 4	Step 5	Status	Comments
A Place to Play	87	5											Initiating Project	Initiating project
AmeriCorps Trail	12	5											Other	Implementation - CE and Rec Covenant will be recorded following trail construction
Badger Park	20	4				+							Initiating Project	Letter of Intent and Matching Grant Agreement drafting pending review
Bayer Farm Development ***	6**	3			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Completed Project	Final improvements and reimbursement ongoing; grant extended
Bodega Bay Trail	178	5											Initiating Project	Letter of Intent and Matching Grant Agreement drafting pending review
Colgan Creek Phase 4 MG	4	3											Initiating Project	Project structure launching
Crane Creek Regional Trail	75	1											Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE and Rec Covenant; meeting to align around Matching Grant Agreement
Denman Reach	2	2											Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE
Geyserville Community Plaza	1	4		+									Initiating Project	Board accepted 8/22/2023
Guerneville River Park Phase 2	3	5											Initiating Project	
Healdsburg Montage Park	36	4											Initiating Project	Letter of Intent and Matching Grant Agreement drafting pending review
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension	56	2						+					Negotiating CE	Revised Letter of Intent underway; appraisal review
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension Phase 2	47	2											Negotiating CE	Letter of Intent, Matching Grant Agreement, and CE initiating
Keiser Park Expansion 2	2	4												
Mark West Community Park	1	4				+							Approvals/Baseline	Baseline under review. Anticipated BOD date: June 4 or July 9
Maxwell Farms	79	1											Initiating Project	Initiating project
Maxwell Farms	79	1											Negotiating CE	Drafting Documents
Petaluma Bounty Community Farm	3	2											Initiating Project	Board accepted 8/22/2023
Petaluma River Park	20	2												
Petaluma River Park	20	2											Initiating Project	Letter of Intent in negotiation
River Lane***	1	5											Escrow/Closing	10/25/25 extension, proceeding to closing
Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c	3	3											Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE, Rec Covenant, Draft EIR Public Notice
Sonoma Schellville Trail	21	1											Initiating Project	Board accepted 8/22/2023
Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway***	49	1											Escrow/Closing	City of Santa Rosa got State approval 5/16 to acquire property
Steamer Landing Park Development (McNear Peninsula)	27**	2				+							Initiating Project	Initiating project
Tierra de Rosas Plaza	1	3											Initiating Project	Board accepted 8/22/2023; Groundbreaking Ceremony 5/3
Total Acres		701												

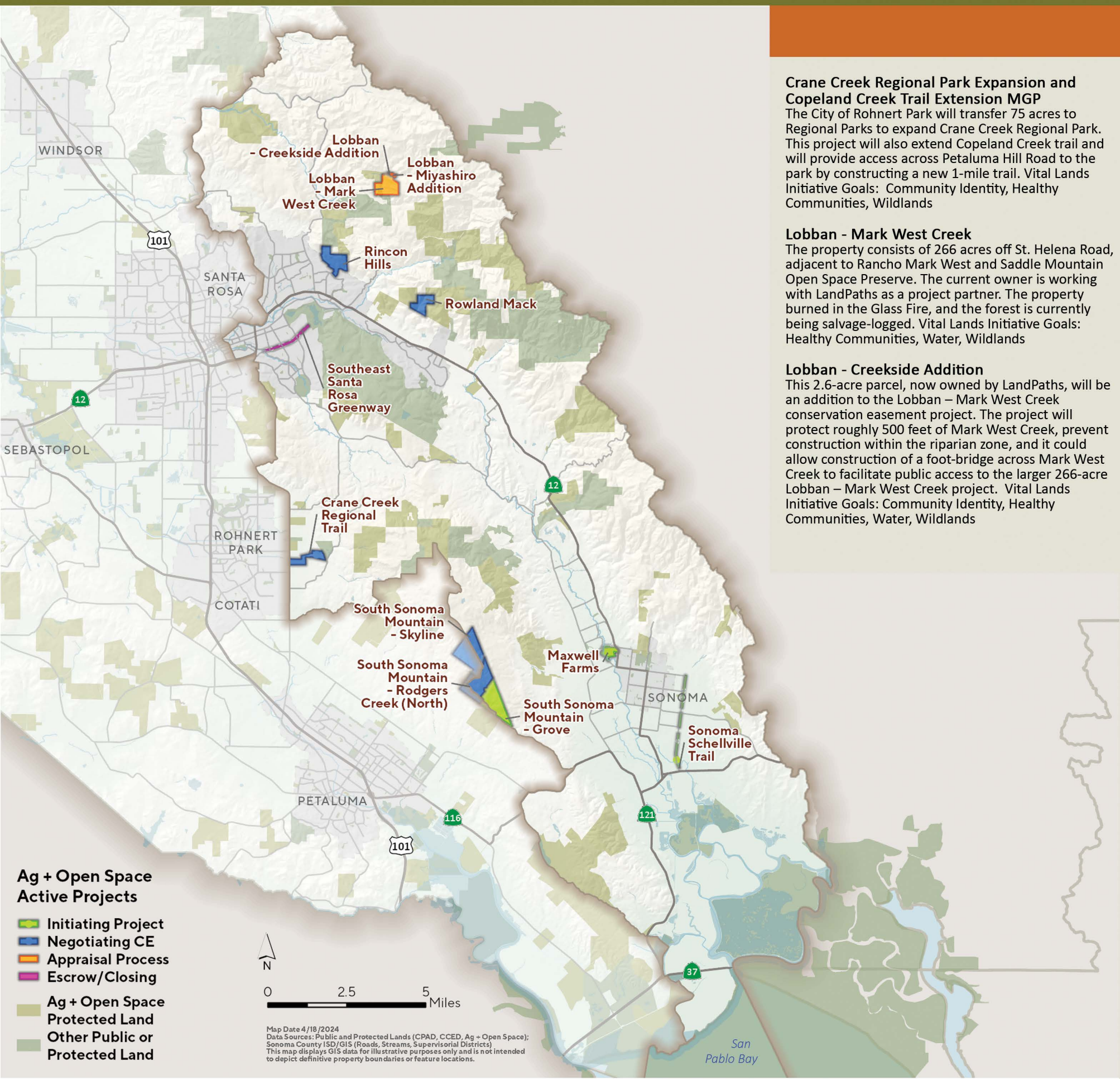
* District approved a 2-year extension

** Restoration/Development Project on previous acquisition.

*** District approved 5-year extension (MGP 2 year, fire 3 year)

+ indicates change in phase since last update (October 2023)

Active Projects



Crane Creek Regional Park Expansion and Copeland Creek Trail Extension MGP
The City of Rohnert Park will transfer 75 acres to Regional Parks to expand Crane Creek Regional Park. This project will also extend Copeland Creek trail and will provide access across Petaluma Hill Road to the park by constructing a new 1-mile trail. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Wildlands

Lobban - Mark West Creek
The property consists of 266 acres off St. Helena Road, adjacent to Rancho Mark West and Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve. The current owner is working with LandPaths as a project partner. The property burned in the Glass Fire, and the forest is currently being salvage-logged. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Lobban - Creekside Addition
This 2.6-acre parcel, now owned by LandPaths, will be an addition to the Lobban – Mark West Creek conservation easement project. The project will protect roughly 500 feet of Mark West Creek, prevent construction within the riparian zone, and it could allow construction of a foot-bridge across Mark West Creek to facilitate public access to the larger 266-acre Lobban – Mark West Creek project. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Lobban - Miyashiro Addition
This 5.4-acre parcel, now owned by LandPaths, will be an addition to the Lobban – Mark West Creek conservation easement project. The project will protect roughly 500 feet of Mark West Creek, prevent construction within the riparian zone, and it could allow construction of a foot-bridge across Mark West Creek to facilitate public access to the larger 266-acre Lobban – Mark West Creek project. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Maxwell Farms MGP
Regional Parks will construct park improvements to create new recreational opportunities at this existing park. Park amenities such as restrooms and trails will be constructed. Regional Parks is also partnering with the Sonoma Ecology Center to implement restoration on a 0.25 mile stretch of Sonoma Creek. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water

Rincon Hills
Ag + Open Space would purchase a conservation easement on this 218-acre property within the Santa Rosa City Limits. The property is adjacent to Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve to the northeast, and City zoning could allow subdivision into more than 200 residential lots. The property is in the wildland-urban interface, and with appropriate vegetation management, could serve as a fire buffer for the City. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Rowland Mack
This project includes a conservation easement over a 168-acre property south of and adjacent to the El Recreo conservation easement and the Lawson Addition to Hood Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve. This acquisition would expand protection along the southern Mayacamas Mountains and possibly facilitate expansion of the park. This property is in the Badger Creek watershed – a tributary to Santa Rosa Creek, a steelhead stream. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Sonoma Schellville Trail
In the mid-1980's, Sonoma County Regional Parks began their work to buy a railroad right of way in Schellville to fill a critical gap in the local and regional trail system. Regional Parks will be able to leverage Matching Grant funds to finally purchase the remaining land and build a trail that will connect local and regional trail systems, including the San Francisco Bay Trail that connects 47 cities across 9 counties.

South Sonoma Mountain - Grove
This 369-acre property, near the summit of Sonoma Mountain, shares a boundary with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. The property is located at the terminus of Grove Street and is entirely within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing and limited residential development. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

South Sonoma Mountain - Rogers Creek (North)
This 813-acre property is comprised of two parcels. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit and the southeastern boundary is Stage Gulch Road. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing, some vineyard use, and limited residential development. The northern part of the property is contiguous with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. Ellis, Lafferty, and Rodgers Creek, all intermittent, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

South Sonoma Mountain - Skyline
This project will place a conservation easement on a 491-acre property so it remains as open space for wildlife habitat, grazing and limited residential use. The property is contiguous with George Ranch and quite visible given its location near the summit of Sonoma Mountain. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. Rodgers and Lafferty Creeks, two intermittent creeks, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead and is potential habitat for yellow-legged frog. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway MGP
In 2016, the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma Land Trust were accepted into the Matching Grant Program for a project to establish an urban greenway park in the heart of Santa Rosa. The project is located on what was originally intended to be the Caltrans Highway 12 expansion project, which Caltrans has since abandoned. The project would connect downtown Santa Rosa to Howarth Park, Spring Lake Regional Park, and Trione-Annadel State Park via a 2-mile multi-use trail corridor. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Ag + Open Space Active Projects

- Initiating Project
- Negotiating CE
- Appraisal Process
- Escrow/Closing

Ag + Open Space Protected Land

- Other Public or Protected Land

Map Date 4/18/2024
Data Sources: Public and Protected Lands (CPAD, CCED, Ag + Open Space); Sonoma County ISD/GIS (Roads, Streams, Supervisorial Districts)
This map displays GIS data for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to depict definitive property boundaries or feature locations.

Active Projects

Bianchi Family
Bianchi Family dairy is a 632 acre property which seeks the protection of an agricultural based conservation easement over three contiguous ranches. Presently, Ag + Open Space is working with the owner on an NCRS application for grant monies

Deniz Ernest & Beverly Trust
This project includes a conservation easement on a 217-acre property on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. Adobe Creek, a tributary to the Petaluma River, crosses the property. A conservation easement would preserve the land for agricultural production. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water

Deniz Family Farm
This project includes a conservation easement on a 315-acre property on the western slope of Sonoma Mountain within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. A mile of Lynch Creek, a tributary to the Petaluma River, flows across the property. Based on existing legal lots and zoning, the property could be subdivided into nine separate ownerships.Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water

Denman Reach MGP
The City of Petaluma seeks to acquire a 2.1-acre parcel that is pivotal to the completion of a larger 23.5-acre riparian restoration, public trail, environmental education, and flood control project on the Petaluma River. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Diamond W Ranch
This is certified organic 850-acre dairy near Valley Ford and Two Rock. It has a small stretch of Stemple Creek and is highly visible along Bodega Ave/Valley Ford Rd and Roblar Rd. The family would like to retire all but two of the nine development rights. A conservation easement would protect a large and highly productive agricultural property from parcelization and potential conversion out of agricultural use. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Water, Wildlands.

Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension MGP Phases 1 & 2
The Kelly Creek Project of the Earth Island Institute will acquire 44 acres and transfer fee title to Regional Parks to expand Helen Putnam Regional Park and provide a new access point off of D Street. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Ielmorini Ranch - Sonoma Mountain
This 417-acre cattle ranch is located northeast of Petaluma on the lower slopes of Sonoma Mountain. There is a year-round stream, Washington Creek, on the property, and the landowner has expressed interest in riparian conservation as well as continued

Limping Turkey Ranch
This 158-acre ranch is located between the Mattos and Camozzi conservation easements. The property's grasslands, terrain, abundant water, and adjacency to other agricultural lands make it a critical addition to a large block of agricultural conservation easements in the area. It is at high risk of conversion to rural residential homes because it has already been subdivided and prepared for development with wells, perc tests, and defined legal lots. A conservation easement on this property would likely consist of an amendment to the Camozzi easement to add this land with protection of its natural resource values. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

McClelland Dairy
This project includes a conservation easement on a 348-acre dairy in the Two Rock area. This well-known dairy hosts an annual pumpkin festival each fall and portions of the property are highly visible from Bodega Ave, a designated Scenic Corridor. There is strong interest from the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) program to fund an easement on this property. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

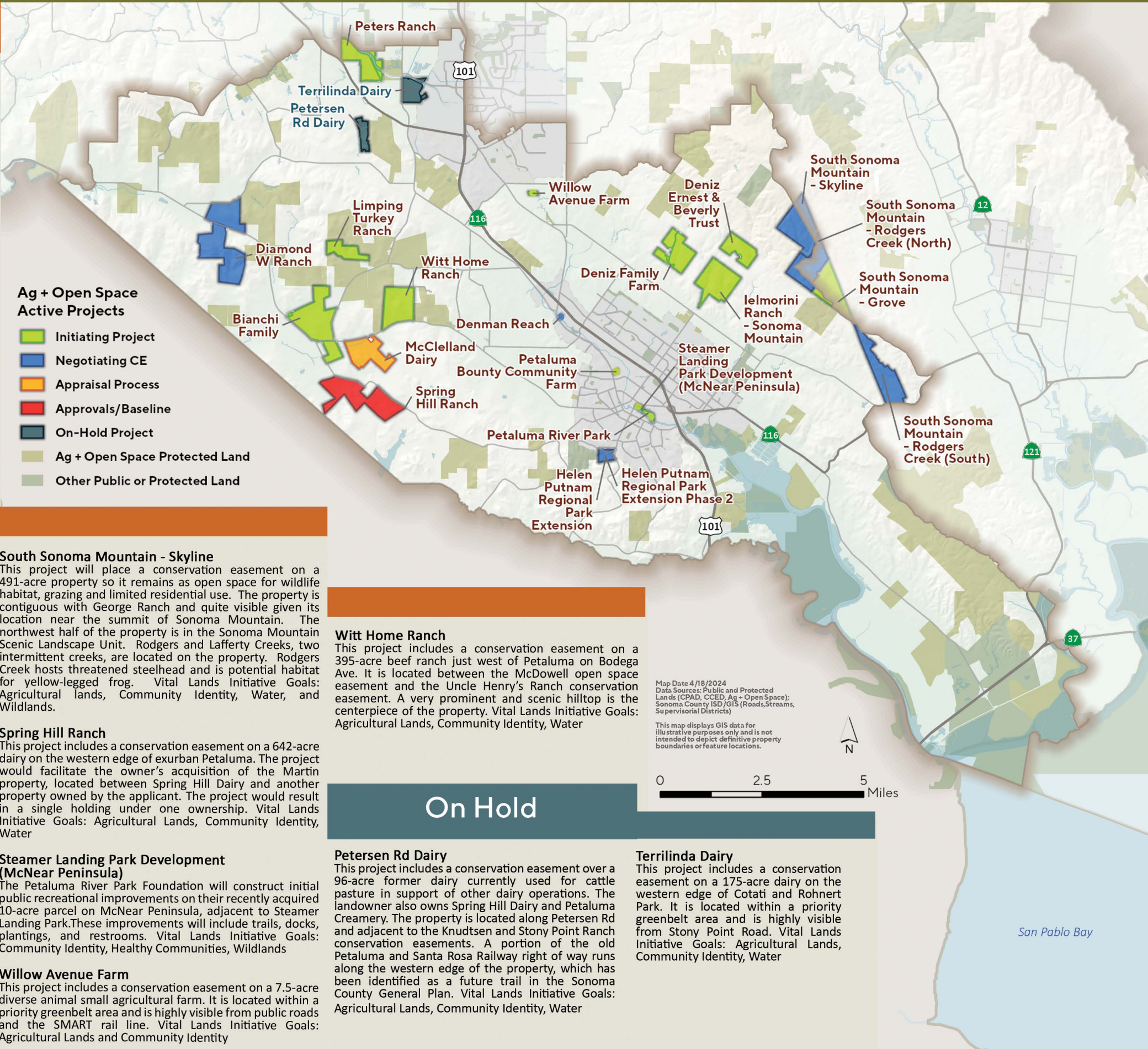
Petaluma Bounty Community Farm
For over 15 years, Petaluma People's Services' Bounty Community Farm has grown and sold affordable, locally-grown fruits and vegetables in the center of Petaluma, while prioritizing the creation of opportunities for low-income and vulnerable community members to have fresh and healthy food. Matching Grant funds will help them purchase the land they've long farmed and continue their work of bringing fresh, healthy food and sustainable agricultural education to their community

Petaluma River Park MGP
The Petaluma River Park Foundation will construct initial public recreational improvements on their recently acquired 10-acre parcel on McNear Peninsula, adjacent to Steamer Landing Park.These improvements will include trails, docks, plantings, and restrooms. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Wildlands

Peters Ranch
This project would include a conservation easement over a 277-acre dairy farm, located on Llano Road near the Laguna Treatment Plant. The property consists of rolling hills with mature oaks, woodlands, wetlands, and riparian habitats. Split by Laguna de Santa Rosa, it supports an active wildlife and recreation corridor. George McClelland, the owner and a respected Sonoma County dairy operator, intends to maintain and expand dairy operations whilst preserving the natural resources of a complex pasture, wetland, woodland, and riparian parcel. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agriculture Lands, Community Identity and Water.

South Sonoma Mountain - Grove
This 369-acre property, near the summit of Sonoma Mountain, shares a boundary with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. The property is located at the terminus of Grove Street and is entirely within the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing and limited residential development. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands

South Sonoma Mountain - Rogers Creek (North & South)
This 813-acre property is comprised of two parcels. The northwest half of the property is in the Sonoma Mountain Scenic Landscape Unit and the southeastern boundary is Stage Gulch Road. A conservation easement will further the landowner's goals of having this property remain as open space for grazing, some vineyard use, and limited residential development. The northern part of the property is contiguous with Moon Ranch and George Ranch. Ellis, Lafferty, and Rodgers Creek, all intermittent, are located on the property. Rodgers Creek hosts threatened steelhead. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural lands, Community Identity, Water, and Wildlands



Active Projects

Colgan Creek Phase 4 MGP

This project is for the acquisition of a 4-acre parcel adjacent to the existing Colgan Creek restoration, park development and trail project. This additional parcel will allow increased creek meander in the ongoing creek restoration effort, and will provide additional land for additional recreational development, including a neighborhood park. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water

Crane Creek Regional Park Expansion and Copeland Creek Trail Extension MGP

The City of Rohnert Park will transfer 75 acres to Regional Parks to expand Crane Creek Regional Park. This project will also extend Copeland Creek trail and will provide access across Petaluma Hill Road to the park by constructing a new 1-mile trail. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Wildlands

Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c MGP

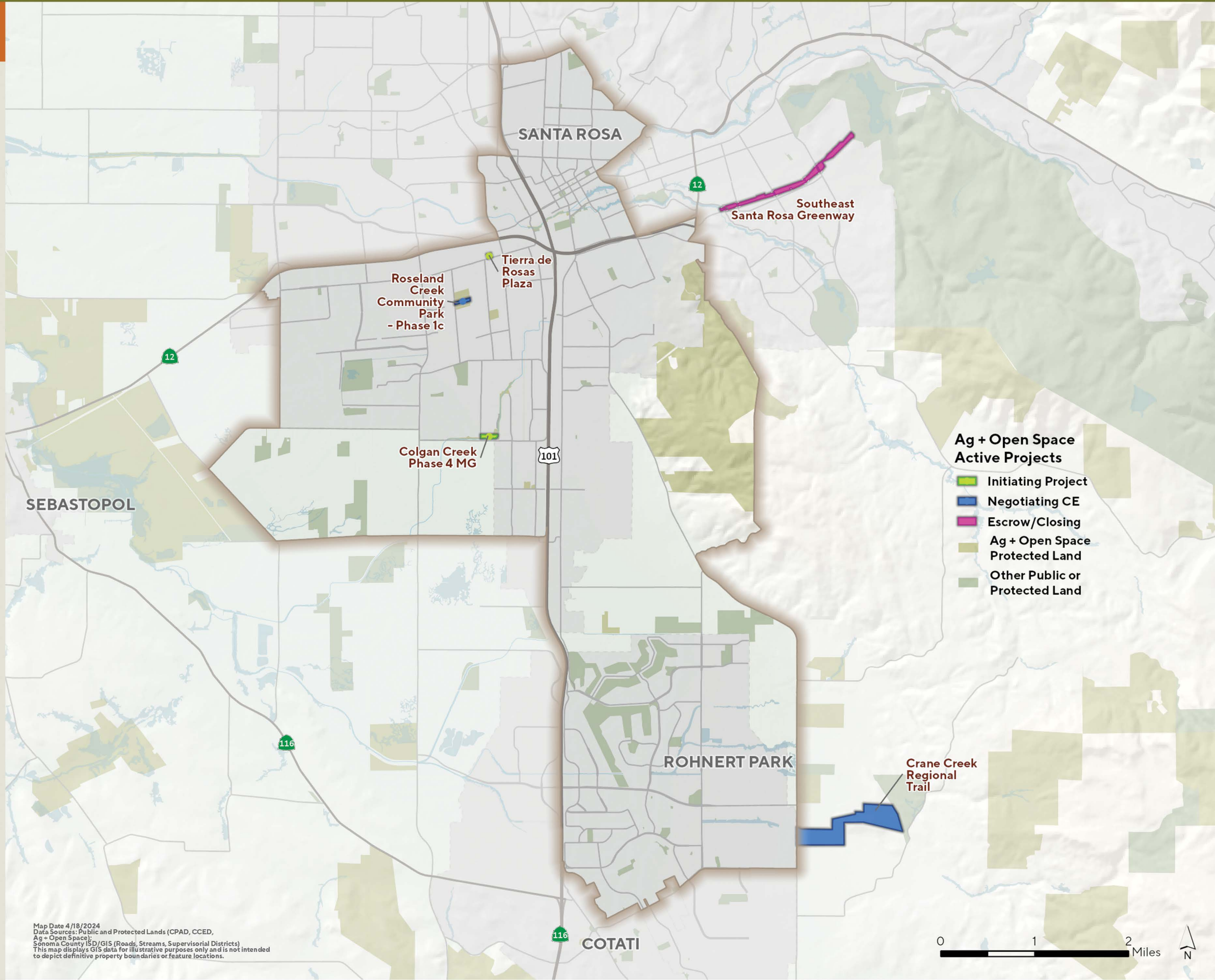
This project is a 3-acre addition to Roseland 1a and 1b Community Park Matching Grant projects. We are working with the City of Santa Rosa to amend and replace the 1a and 1b conservation easements, so that there is one easement over the new park. This park is located between Burbank Ave and McMinn Ave in the Roseland neighborhood of Santa Rosa. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water

Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway MGP

In 2016, the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma Land Trust were accepted into the Matching Grant Program for a project to establish an urban greenway park in the heart of Santa Rosa. The project is located on what was originally intended to be the Caltrans Highway 12 expansion project, which Caltrans has since abandoned. The project would connect downtown Santa Rosa to Howarth Park, Spring Lake Regional Park, and Trione-Annadel State Park via a 2-mile multi-use trail corridor. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Tierra de Rosas Plaza MGP

As part of long-term dream of the Roseland community, the Sonoma County Community Development Commission's Tierra de Rosas project will create an open green space in the heart of a major mixed-use development. In addition to the beloved Mitote Food Park, this park will be a core element of the plan to convert what is mostly parking lots and empty storefronts into a vibrant gathering, celebration, and recreation hub for Roseland residents



Map Date 4/18/2024
Data Sources: Public and Protected Lands (CPAD, CCED, Ag + Open Space)
Sonoma County ISD/GIS (Roads, Streams, Supervisorial Districts)
This map displays GIS data for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to depict definitive property boundaries or feature locations.

Active Projects

Badger Park MGP

This Matching Grant Program project will protect via conservation easement up to 20 acres of parkland within the City of Healdsburg. The Badger Park Improvements and River Access project will officially incorporate the Russian River into Badger Park, providing the City's first authorized river access point. The project will also construct improvements and infrastructure needed to accommodate river access. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Bavarian Lion Vineyards

This 1,858-acre conservation easement project in Knights Valley supports a mix of vineyard, grazing land, and moderately rugged wildland adjacent to the Pepperwood Preserve. It is positioned within an important wildlife corridor and hosts valley oak woodland, Coast redwood, and freshwater marsh. Franz Creek, a steelhead creek, and Redwood Creek, a steelhead and coho creek, flow across the property. Foothill yellow-legged frog, Kenwood Marsh checkerbloom, red-bellied newt, western pond turtle, and Sebastopol meadowfoam have all been observed on the property. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Wildlands, Water, Agricultural Lands, and Community Identity

Big Sulphur Creek (Krasilsa)

This project is in partnership with the Sonoma County District Attorney's office, who proposes that as part of a settlement of a criminal case related to a Water Board violation on this property, a portion of this 507-acre ranch, south of Big Sulphur Creek, be placed under conservation easement negotiated and held by Ag + Open Space. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Bucher-Russell Ranch

The Bucher-Russell Ranch comprises a pair of properties totaling 561.56-acres in Sonoma County, just off Westside Road and west of the Town of Windsor, and a short way east of the Pryor Ranch Conservation Easement. The Bucher portion of the ranch has been operated as a dairy in the recent past but is now used for cattle grazing and vineyards. If conserved, the two properties would protect a large block of farmland, mature oaks, and steelhead habitat

Geyserville Community Plaza

With our first Matching Grant project in Geyserville, the Sonoma County Public Infrastructure Department and the Geyserville Municipal Advisory Council will help create the community's first public park. Centrally located, and alongside the planned Smart Trail tracks and Great Redwood Trail, this park will create a more accessible way for residents to get outside and serve as a gathering space for beloved annual events. The park will also support the town's climate resilience with designs that will offer flood protection and a shaded areas for residents to cool down during hot weather

Healdsburg Montage Park MGP

With funding from the Matching Grant Program, the City of Healdsburg will construct new park facilities on their recently acquired 33-acre property in northern Healdsburg. The park will eventually provide connectivity via a public trail to Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Keiser Park Expansion 2 MGP

With funding from the Matching Grant Program, the Town of Windsor will acquire new parcels adjacent to the existing Keiser Park to expand public recreational opportunities and offer a new access point from an adjacent neighborhood. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Mark West Community Park

In one of Sonoma County's communities most impacted by wildfires, the Mark West Community Park is a unique opportunity to purchase one acre of land burned in the 2017 Tubbs Fire and turn it into a community park. The park will offer an outdoor gathering place of healing for residents, nature-based recreation opportunities, and include restoration of native habitats. Sonoma Land Trust is leading the acquisition phase of the project, and once secured the Mark West Community Fund will coordinate the planning and long-term stewardship of the park

Mark West Wikiup Preserve

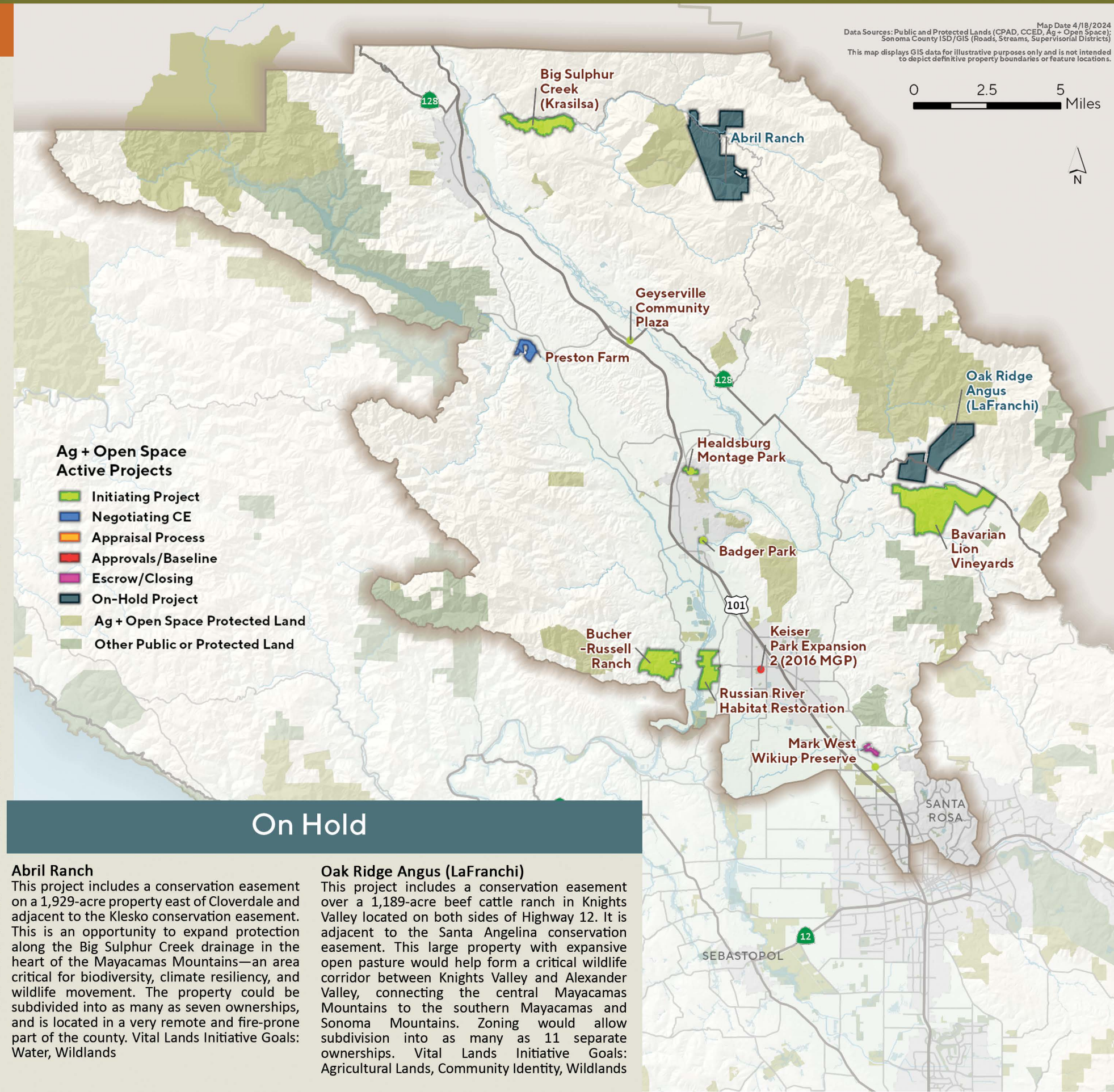
This project would include a conservation easement on up to 31 acres in the Wikiup/Mark West neighborhood. The project provides an opportunity to preserve 0.5 miles of the north bank of Mark West Creek, as well as facilitate public recreational use. The project is a partnership with the Banke-Jackson Family (landowners), Sonoma Water, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. Sonoma Water will own the property after closing. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Community Identity, Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Preston Farm

This project includes a conservation easement on 120 acres of agricultural land on the southwest side of Dry Creek. There is a narrow band of riparian habitat along Dry Creek and Pena Creek, but most of the property is developed or under intensive agricultural use. The landowners would like to convert more of the property to natural resource restoration and transition ownership to a community-based, education-focused farm. Staff is developing a complex project structure that will protect the agricultural values while enabling restoration of riparian habitat. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Russian River Habitat Restoration

This project is in partnership with Endangered Habitats Conservancy and Hanson Aggregates. There are several parcels that were mined for gravel by Hanson Aggregates, which are now proposed to be part of a restoration project. The land will eventually be conveyed to Regional Parks and Ag + Open Space will hold a conservation easement over all or a portion of the 63 acres of the proposed restoration project. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands



Abril Ranch

This project includes a conservation easement on a 1,929-acre property east of Cloverdale and adjacent to the Klesko conservation easement. This is an opportunity to expand protection along the Big Sulphur Creek drainage in the heart of the Mayacamas Mountains—an area critical for biodiversity, climate resiliency, and wildlife movement. The property could be subdivided into as many as seven ownerships, and is located in a very remote and fire-prone part of the county. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water, Wildlands

Oak Ridge Angus (LaFranchi)

This project includes a conservation easement over a 1,189-acre beef cattle ranch in Knights Valley located on both sides of Highway 12. It is adjacent to the Santa Angelina conservation easement. This large property with expansive open pasture would help form a critical wildlife corridor between Knights Valley and Alexander Valley, connecting the central Mayacamas Mountains to the southern Mayacamas and Sonoma Mountains. Zoning would allow subdivision into as many as 11 separate ownerships. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Wildlands

Active Projects

A Place to Play MGP
With funding from the Matching Grant Program, the City of Santa Rosa will construct the first all weather multi-sport fields at the existing park. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Blucher Creek Headwaters
This 212-acre cattle ranch is located on the southwest edge of exurban Sebastopol, near the Dougan Dairy conservation easement. The property is visible from much of the valley floor and the central and southwestern arm of the Mayacamas Mountains. A portion of the property drains into Atascadero Creek and there is a healthy population of American badger on the property. The landowner put the property on the market; however, the listing agent is talking to prospective conservation buyers. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Agricultural Lands, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Bodega Bay Trail, North Harbor MGP
With funding from the Matching Grant Program, Sonoma County Regional Parks will construct a 0.6-mile trail from the Bodega Bay Community Center to the Bay. This will extend existing trail connections and provide pedestrian and bicycle access off of Highway 1. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Camp Meeker Forest Open Space Preserve
This project includes a conservation easement and recreation covenant over approximately 375 acres of property around Camp Meeker. The Camp Meeker Recreation & Parks District will secure ownership of the property from St. Dorothy's Rest, a camp owned by the Episcopal Diocese. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Water, Wildlands

Chanslor Ranch
This is a conservation easement acquisition over the 378-acre Chanslor Ranch in partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks to establish more parkland on the Sonoma Coast. Chanslor Ranch is adjacent to the Colliss conservation easement, Sonoma Coast State Park, and Carrington Coast Ranch Regional Park and OSP. The property hosts a variety of habitat types including Western North American Freshwater Marsh and native grasses. A portion of Salmon Creek runs through the property and hosts steelhead and freshwater shrimp. The property helps conserve a highly scenic piece of the Sonoma County coastline that is visible from Highway 1 and Carrington Coast Ranch Regional Park and OSP. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water, Wildlands, Community Identity and Healthy Communities

Crawford Gulch
This 92-acre acquisition is a partnership with Sweetwater Springs Water District and the Monte Rio Recreation and Park District. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water, Wildlands, and Healthy Communities

Laguna Edge
This riparian easement project over a limited extent of the property is located just outside of the Santa Rosa city limits and adjacent to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The property has been identified as a priority for riparian restoration. The property is highly visible and from Highway 116. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Water, Agricultural Lands, and Community Identity

Nolan Creek 1
This project contemplates a multi-benefit conservation easement on 317 acres and potentially 5 parcels which form the headwaters of Nolan Creek, a salmonid stream. CA Department of Fish and Wildlife reports the largest known population of fairy shrimp in Sonoma County on this property. Mixed hardwood and conifer forest, including redwoods have also been managed and stewarded by the owner family since first settled in the 1880's

Nolan Creek 2
This project consists of 171 acres on the mid-section of Nolan Creek, a deep V-shaped canyon with rugged terrain and habitat providing a connectivity corridor for wildlife including a known cougar den. Steelhead swim to spawn up stream to a natural dam and waterfall on this property

Nolan Creek 3
This project consists of 49 acres and conserves the most downstream portion of Nolan Creek that has been in the same family since the late 1800's. Forming a prominent knoll overlooking the town of Bodega and the Pacific Ocean in the distance, this property enhances Community and Scenic Values as well as the lower portion of the creek

River Lane MGP
With funding from the Matching Grant Program, the Russian River Recreation and Parks District will acquire a 0.67-acre parcel along the Russian River for public access to the river. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities

Russian River Redwoods
This 394-acre conservation easement project in Guerneville is located along the Russian River. The property supports mixed conifer forestland featuring second growth and old-growth redwoods, including the Clar tree, and Douglas fir, as well as oaks and riparian hardwoods. The property is visible from Highway 116. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Wildlands, Water, Community Identity, Healthy Communities

Starrett Hill
This 319-acre fee acquisition is located between Torr West (Regional Park) and Sonoma Coast State Park. The property is owned by the Sweetwater Springs Water District and is a partnership with the current landowner and Monte Rio Recreation and Park District. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Healthy Communities, Community Identity, Water, Wildlands

Wolf Creek Ranch
This 1,195-acre ranch is located off Skagg Springs Road. Host to a mosaic of conifers mixed-conifer hardwood forests and with diverse topography, this property is a stronghold for climate change. This natural resources conservation easement would extinguish some of the development rights and ensure that the landscape will continue to provide essential resources to plants and animals now and into the future. Vital Lands Initiative Goals: Wildlands, Water, and Agricultural Lands

