

# Woodside Open Space Preservation



Woodside's bucolic character depends on many valuable open space and natural resource areas which lie within its Planning Area. This natural heritage is important for our current use and enjoyment and will also be a marvelous legacy to pass to future generations.

## **What is a Conservation Easement?**

A conservation easement is an agreement that allows a landowner to permanently limit the type and amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership.

## **Benefits:**

- A charitable contribution tax deduction may be available for the reduction in value of the property.
- The opportunity to provide "nature corridors" that benefit both wildlife and native vegetation
- Maintenance of the historic natural character of our Town
- Enhanced recreational use if agreed upon by all parties

## **Conservation Easements and the Open Space Committee**

The Open Space Committee of the Town of Woodside (OSC) facilitates the donation of conservation easements by acting as liaison between property owners and the Town.

Responsibilities of the OSC include:

- Advise the Town Council and Staff in their efforts to follow Woodside's General Plan, specifically with respect to creating conservation easements and preserving open space and natural resources.
- Provide information to the community regarding the benefits of land left in its natural state.
- Publicize financially beneficial options for protecting open space on private property.

## **What agency will govern/maintain the easement?**

Conservation easements are donated to and held by the Town of Woodside. The Town has the obligation to monitor and enforce the easement in perpetuity.

## **More Information**

For more information please visit [www.woodsidesidtown.org/open\\_space\\_committee.html](http://www.woodsidesidtown.org/open_space_committee.html) or to arrange a meeting with a member of the Open Space Committee please call Kevin Bryant at 650 851-6790.

**Keep the "Woods" in Woodside!**

## **Selection Criteria for Conservation Easements or Land Acquisitions**

To qualify for land acquisition, or equestrian trail or conservation easement consideration by the Town of Woodside, the property must meet ALL FOUR minimum eligibility criteria listed below, and at least ONE of the “Public Benefit/Natural Resource criteria” following.

### **MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

*(all four must be met.)*

- The property is located within the Town of Woodside (County of San Mateo) California.
- The protection of this property (by acquisition or by donation or purchase of a trail or conservation easement) is consistent with the Woodside General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
- The property is in a relatively undisturbed natural, scenic, or historic condition; OR has recreational value; OR augments Woodside’s equestrian trail system; OR is in active agricultural use or has agricultural value.
- Protection of this property promotes land conservation, aids sound land use planning, and encourages careful stewardship of the land.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT/NATURAL RESOURCE CRITERIA**

*(at least one must be met.)*

- Contributes to protection of lands or conservation values in accordance with Town’s General Plan goals and policies.
- Provides an important link in or addition to Woodside’s network of equestrian trails.
- Provides habitat for endangered, threatened, or rare species of wildlife, as identified in the California Endangered Species Act.
- Provides important wildlife habitat, corridor, or connection for avian, terrestrial, and/or aquatic wildlife species, prevents natural areas from becoming isolated “islands” of habitat.
- Provides protection for important natural plant communities or forest.
- Contains natural features or ecosystems of educational, scientific, or historical value.
- Is in active agricultural use or provides an example of historic agricultural use.
- Has forestry significance.
- Contains wetlands, floodplains, lakes, streams, riparian corridors, aquifer recharge areas, watershed or other lands necessary for protection of water supply, water resources or wetland habitat.
- Shares a common boundary with publicly or privately preserved lands or other significant open space areas.
- Protects scenic views or is part of a scenic vista visible to the general public.
- Will permit public access for education or recreation.
- Sets an important precedent for resource or open space protection in Woodside.
- Provides connection to other natural areas or open space lands that are important for movement of wildlife between habitats or through developed corridors so that natural areas do not become isolated “islands.”
- Contains important historical, geological, archaeological or local landmark features.
- Offers significant relief from urban crowding and/or helps define Woodside’s rural character.