

*A Redwood Park
for Silicon Valley*

**POST ACQUIRES 805 ACRES OF
BEAR CREEK REDWOODS**

LANDSCAPES  SPRING 2000
PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST

BEAR CREEK REDWOODS

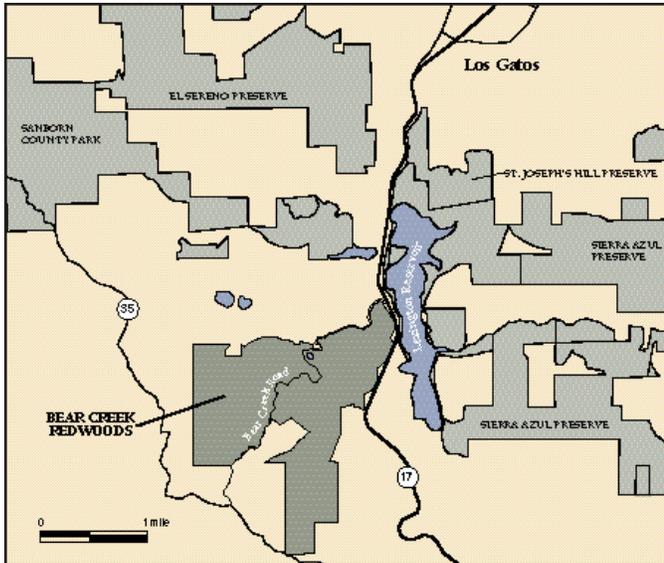
Creating a Park for the Valley

BACK IN 1977, when POST first targeted Bear Creek Redwoods as one of its top priorities for protection, Silicon Valley was barely a gleam in a chipmaker's eye. How times have changed! But what hasn't changed is POST's commitment to protecting

Bear Creek Redwoods as a park for the people of Silicon Valley.

Our two decades of persistence finally paid off! Last June, POST purchased 805 acres of Bear Creek Redwoods, taking out a loan of \$10 million to do so. Our goal is to pay back the loan and transfer the property to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which will manage the property and eventually open the land to the public as Silicon Valley's own redwood park.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we were able to commit the staff, time and resources to acquire this property. Now, we will need your additional support to make this park a reality.



Oxalis oregana
REDWOOD SORREL

How POST Is Protecting Bear Creek Redwoods

POST worked with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to purchase all 1,065 acres of Bear Creek Redwoods. The District purchased the lower 260 acres for \$15 million, with POST acquiring the upper 805 acres for \$10 million. If POST and the District had not intervened, the land would have been developed into a golf course and estate homes.

With interest and management costs, our total expenses amount to \$10.5 million. We have raised \$3 million from The Gabilan Foundation and a private individual, and expect to raise \$5 million from the State of California Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Conservancy Program, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. We now have \$2.5 million left to raise.



What Makes Bear Creek Redwoods So Special

Located at Highway 17 off Bear Creek Road, Bear Creek Redwoods offers Silicon Valley the opportunity to boast an urban redwood park, one that is easily accessible by car, bus, horse, or hiking boot.

From its hundreds of acres of redwoods, to more than 14 miles of hiking trails, to its connection to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and its proximity to more than 40,000 acres of protected open space, Bear Creek Redwoods offers people of all abilities the opportunity to “take a walk in the woods.”



Lithocarpus densiflora

TANOAK

Bear Creek Redwoods provides the gateway to premium open space in the middle of one of the most highly urbanized areas in the world. It is the link in a potential 50-mile “byte-to-breakers” hiking trail that could run from Silicon Valley to the Pacific Ocean.

Bear Creek Redwoods is majestic and beautiful, with open meadows studded with oaks, hillsides of Big-Leaf Maple, madrone and fir, and steep canyons thick with 100-year-old redwoods. The redwoods are unusual in that they are found on the eastern side of the ridges vs. the western side, where they normally occur at this latitude. This “slip of nature” is all to our benefit, for it makes the redwoods that much closer to the people of Silicon Valley.

Five ponds are on the property, and three perennial creeks—Briggs, Webb and Aldercroft—traverse the land, spilling into nearby Lexington Reservoir, a key watershed in Santa Clara County.

The varied landscape and year-round water supplies create a perfect home for wildlife, particularly larger species such as blacktailed deer, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, and numerous species of birds.

Simply put, Bear Creek Redwoods is extraordinary. What a great park it will be for all the people of the Bay Area.



Photo: Brian O'Neill

A “Ripley’s Believe It or Not!” History

“...wild and rugged canyons, dark with the shadows of the forest where coyotes broke the stillness with their dismal howls, herds of deer were plentiful and grizzly bears pawled about like herds of hogs on a farm.”

UNIDENTIFIED SPANISH PADRE WRITING ABOUT
BEAR CREEK REDWOODS IN THE 1600’s

A RUSTY SPUR and remnants of a leather saddle found at Bear Creek Redwoods attest to Captain James Fremont’s making camp here as he planned his Bear Flag Revolt in 1846. His diary describes the forest of virgin redwood which was later logged to provide the lumber for building San Francisco and San Jose in the mid to late 1800’s.

Bear Creek Redwoods captures the history of the Old West, from the way the land was mined, timbered and traversed, to the people who used the land. It even boasts a noted stage driver, Charley Parkhurst, who was the “roughest looking hillbilly in the mountains.” His appearance, foul language, and skilled driving were legend. But he became even more legendary in death, when it was discovered that Charley was a woman — probably the first California woman to ever vote in an election!

Bear Creek Redwoods tells the story of the people who have owned it — if only for a little while. Captain Knowles, a notorious San Franciscan vigilante, first purchased the land in the late 1800’s to build a trout farm. Unsuccessful,

Photo: Shannon Wells



he sold the land in 1894 to James L. Flood, son of the “Bonanza King.” Flood and his wife enlarged the property to 800 acres to establish a fish and game preserve that could be enjoyed by their guests, who would stay in their forty-room villa.

The Floods sold the property and mansion to Dr. Harry L. Tevis early in 1906. The devastating earthquake of '06 destroyed the mansion, but Dr. Tevis set to rebuilding it with a vengeance. He increased the property to 1,100 acres, and installed elaborate gardens that required a complicated irrigation system. He invested more than \$200,000, a very large sum for its day, for irrigation piping and huge tanks that could hold more than 11,000,000 gallons of water.

On April 28, 1934, the California Province of the Society of Jesus purchased the Tevis Estate for a School of Sacred Theology. Alma College, as it was known, educated more than 400 students during its thirty-five year tenure. After the school was closed in 1969, several independent schools used the classroom buildings. The Society sold

Bear Creek Redwoods to a development company in 1989, and the property went through several hands until POST and the Open Space District purchased the land from a developer in 1999.

Bear Creek Redwoods’ buildings are registered as historic landmarks with the County of Santa Clara. [Ripley’s Believe it or Not!](#) mentions Bear Creek Redwoods as notable for:

- ▲ General James Fremont’s week-long camp-out underneath the largest Madrone Tree in California (unfortunately the tree is no longer standing)...
- ▲ Wine from large vats was used to douse a fire in the 1930’s when the water pressure failed...
- ▲ A radio tower on top of Bear Creek Redwoods was the first in America to receive news of the attack on Pearl Harbor...
- ▲ A spectacular 900+ year-old redwood that has sprouted new, 4’ diameter growth from its own trunk... and fortunately, this tree still stands tall!

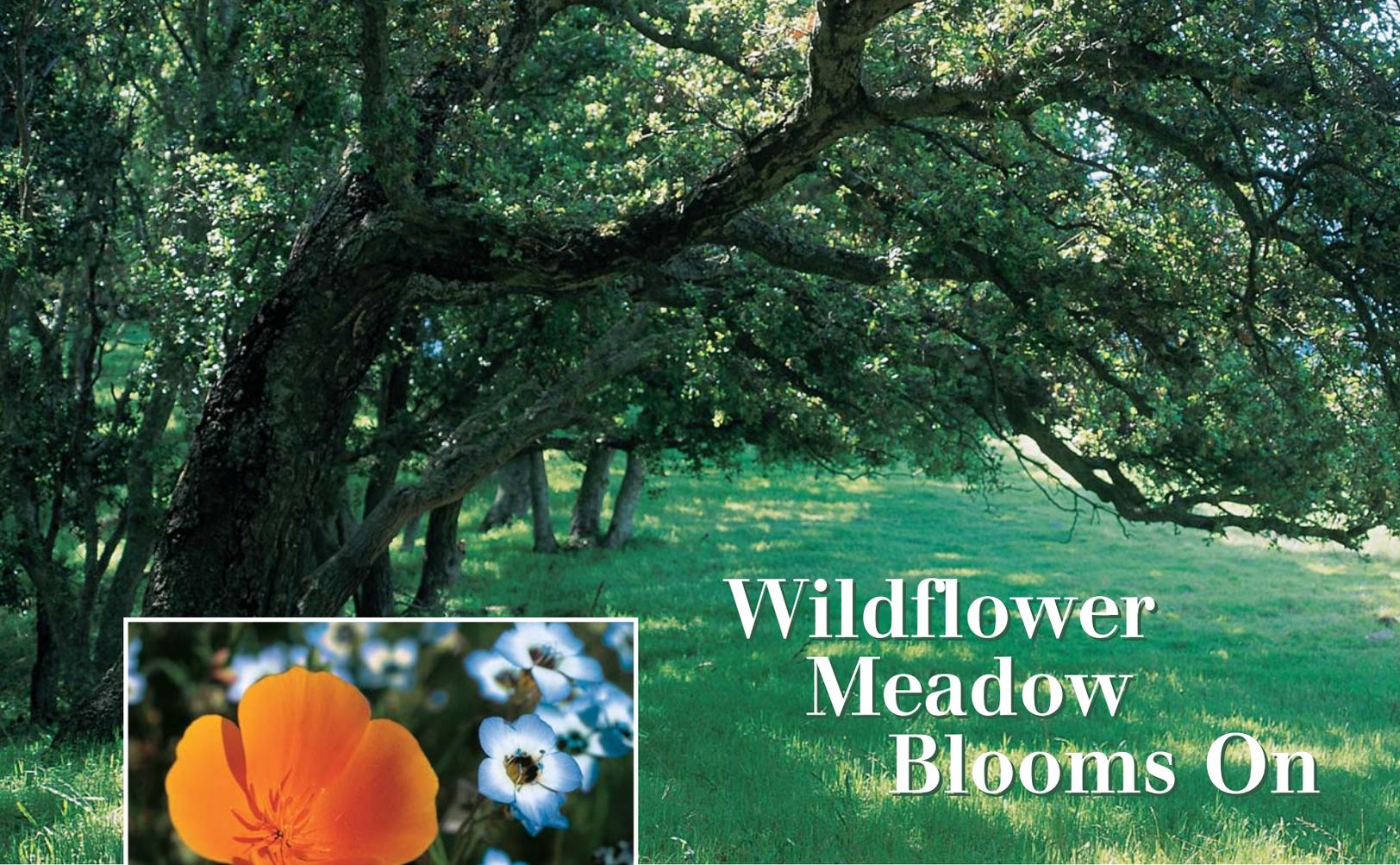
**DOUBLE
YOUR GIFT**

Donations to Bear Creek Redwoods Will Be Matched

x2!

If it’s true that only nature can create a tree, then it’s equally true that only people can create a park. **Please help create a park at Bear Creek Redwoods** by making your most generous donation to its protection. If Silicon Valley will ever have its own redwood park, this will be it!

Your donation to POST for the purchase of Bear Creek Redwoods will be matched dollar for dollar by The Gabilan Foundation and a neighbor of Bear Creek Redwoods. In addition, if your company matches your donation, that donation will be matched as well! We always knew our donors were matchless — **now your gifts to Bear Creek Redwoods can be matched x2!** Many thanks to The Gabilan Foundation and our anonymous donor for their generosity and commitment to protecting Bear Creek Redwoods. We look now to you, the people of Silicon Valley, to bring this park into being.



Wildflower Meadow Blooms On



Photos: Gil Davis

The meadow's serpentine soil provides a perfect habitat for a variety of spring wildflowers.

On a meadow in the Los Gatos foothills, spring is greeted by a brilliant display of wildflowers — including cream-colored Douglas Iris, Blue-eyed Grass, California Poppy, and Royal Larkspur. Thanks to Peninsula residents, Paul and Antje Newhagen, this annual display is now guaranteed to be enjoyed by generations to come.

This serpentine meadow is part of a 286-acre property located between Almaden Quicksilver County Park and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, just 11 miles from downtown San Jose. With its oak woodlands, clear creeks, a dramatic rocky pinnacle cresting from the gently sloping hillside, and sweeping views of adjacent natural lands, this location is an ideal spot for family picnics and easy hikes.

After working for decades to protect this land, negotiations turned urgent as POST found itself in a bidding war to prevent the building of luxury homes on the meadow site.

Knowing that the meadow would be bulldozed unless we acted quickly, POST purchased the property by borrowing the funds from its revolving land fund. When Antje and Paul Newhagen met with POST staff and hiked the winter green meadow, they decided that this was a project they wanted to support. Their generous contribution ensures that generations of Bay Area families can come and experience the spring light on this oak-bordered meadow.

The property will eventually be transferred to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to be managed for public use and benefit. POST is talking with the Newhagen family about an appropriate name for this beautiful property.

Our heartfelt thanks to Paul and Antje Newhagen for working with us to protect this wildflower meadow, and for their support for POST's land conservation work.



Dianne McKenna: New President of POST's Board

Dianne McKenna, who has served since 1997 on POST's Board of Directors, has just taken on the job of Board President. Ms. McKenna's extensive background in the public sector, as a former Santa Clara County supervisor, council member and mayor, has been an invaluable asset for POST as we continue to develop public-private partnerships to preserve Peninsula lands.

"POST is one of those rare organizations that combines a hopeful vision of the future of our Peninsula, with practical and immediate action. I am very pleased to be a part of its mission," said McKenna.

Ms. McKenna also serves as Chairman of the Board for the United Way of Silicon Valley.



Photo: Cindy Gilmore/Lifestyle Photography

DIANNE MCKENNA

Peter La Tourette

PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST 1999 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

POST recognizes Peter La Tourette as our **1999 Volunteer of the Year**. Peter has generously contributed many hours to creating and updating POST's computer web site. Helping to bring POST online in 1996 at the beginning of the *Campaign to Save Essential Open Space*, Peter gave us an exciting new way to communicate our mission. A conscientious "web master," Peter has continued to maintain the site, being on call to add up-to-the-minute information and photos about our projects.

Thanks to Peter, POST has established an online presence that brings us in touch with an ever widening community of people

who are interested in protecting the Peninsula's open space. POST is most grateful for Peter's commitment and support.

POST Launching New, Updated Web Site

If you haven't visited POST's web site lately, come see our fresh, new face. Our web site will bring you the latest news about our land-saving projects and even more incredible photographs of these beautiful Peninsula places. Log on at **www.openspacetrust.org** and tell us what you think!

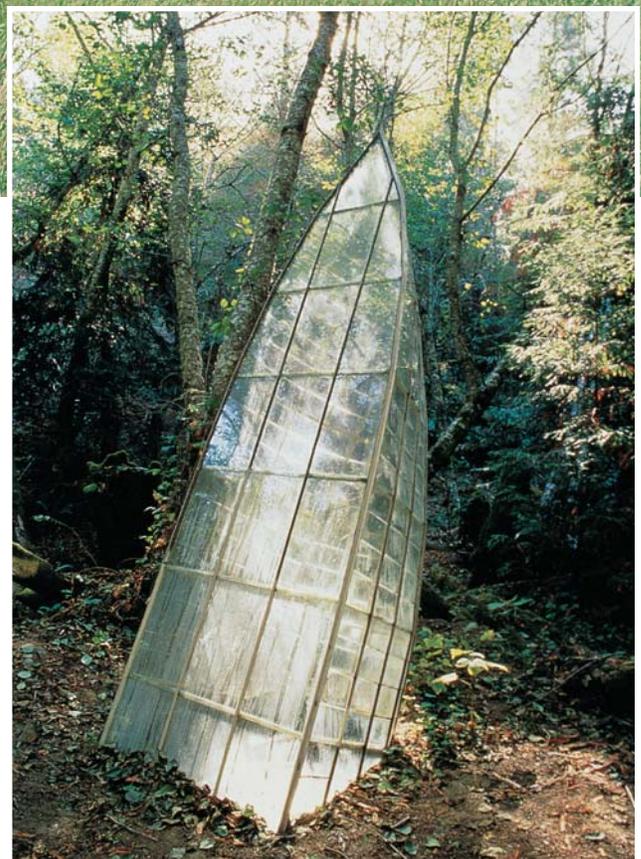


BLACK PEARL, 1990 by Mark Oliver

Djerassi Art Tours Scheduled

The Djerassi Resident Artist’s Program, a well-known artist-in-residence program near Woodside, has announced its schedule of “POST Hikes.” These free, docent-led public tours of the Program’s grounds and sculpture collection are being conducted as a part of the conservation easement purchased by POST. The conservation easement ensures the permanent protection of the Program’s 580-acre property, which contains dense redwood forests, as well as spectacular views of rolling landscape from Skyline Ridge to the Pacific Ocean. POST Hikes will provide an opportunity for the public to view this marvelous property, along with installations by the many artists who have drawn inspiration from its natural energy and beauty.

To make reservations: Call the Djerassi Resident Artist’s Program at (650) 747-1250.

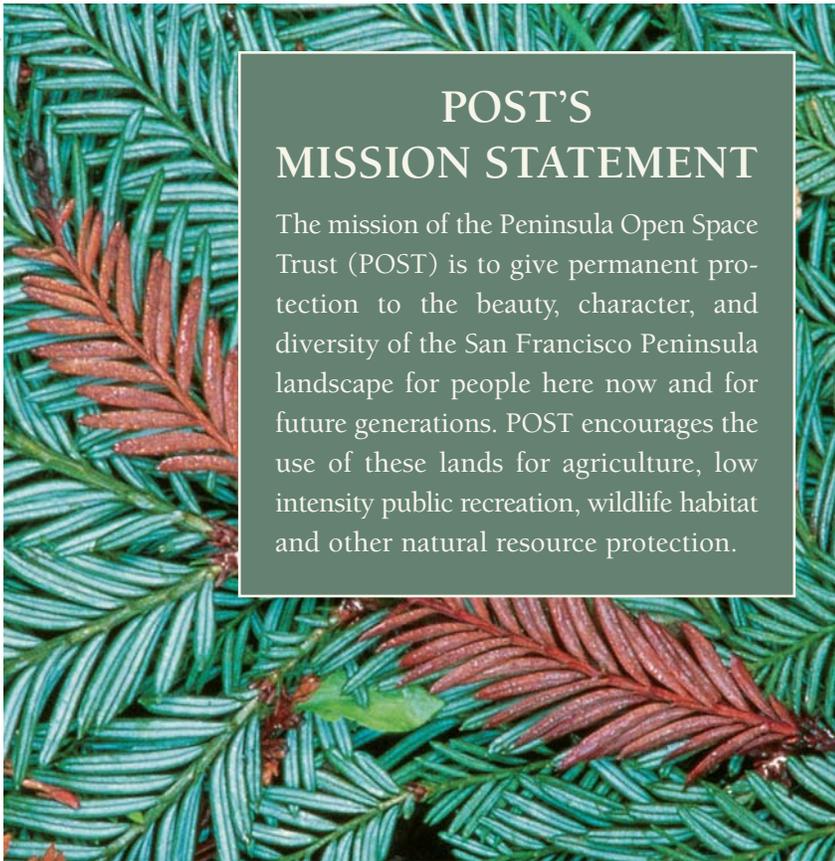


Photos: Robert Bredtman

VANISHING SHIP, 1989 by John Roloff

POST Hikes Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| #1 Sunday, April 30 | #7 Wednesday, July 19 |
| #2 Wednesday, May 17 | #8 Sunday, August 13 |
| #3 Saturday, June 3 | #9 Wednesday, August 23 |
| #4 Sunday, June 11 | #10 Saturday, September 2 |
| #5 Wednesday, June 28 | #11 Wednesday, September 13 |
| #6 Saturday, July 8 | #12 Sunday, October 8 |



**POST'S
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is to give permanent protection to the beauty, character, and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations. POST encourages the use of these lands for agriculture, low intensity public recreation, wildlife habitat and other natural resource protection.

Gifts to POST

Stock Gifts to POST

1999 saw a tremendous increase in the number of gifts of stock to POST. We received five times more stock gifts than in previous years. Gifts of stock not only provide important support for POST's land conservation work, but also may yield considerable tax savings to the donor.

If you would like to make a gift of securities to POST please contact:

Banc of America Securities LLC
 Montgomery Private Client Services
 600 Montgomery Street
 San Francisco, CA 94111
 (415) 627-2191

Relevant information for a transfer of stock:

Account Name:
 Peninsula Open Space Trust,
 #1 Land Purchases
 Account #: 110-66982
 DTC #: 773
 Tax ID #: 94-2392007

It is important that you also notify POST directly of your gift to ensure that it is recorded accurately.

Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!



Landscapes

Landscapes is published quarterly by the Peninsula Open Space Trust
 3000 Sand Hill Road, 4-135
 Menlo Park, CA 94025

Telephone: (650) 854-7696
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POST is a nonprofit California corporation and is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to POST are tax-deductible.

Edited by Mary Shields
 Designed by DiVittorio & Assoc.
 Printed by TradeMark Graphics, Inc.

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This remarkable photo was taken last fall by volunteer Brian O'Neill who camped out at Bear Creek Redwoods the night of our terrific lightning storm.



Cover Photos: Brian O'Neill



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SPRING 2000

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*A land conservancy for the
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