

Protect the West Petaluma Hills



WEST PETALUMA HILLS WILDLIFE CORRIDOR COALITION (WPH-WCC)

We live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Surrounded by Sonoma Mountain to the East and the Petaluma Hills to the West, our open spaces are a visual delight that make our town of Petaluma an inspiring place to live. These spaces are home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna -- old oaks, open grassland, hundreds of songbirds, raptors and owls, California Red-Legged frogs, Bobcats, Coyotes, Mountain Lions, Foxes, and even American Badgers. We have the privilege to sometimes see wildlife in their habitat areas and share this natural phenomena with our children. *Many of our wild species are rapidly losing ground to encroaching human development and these open spaces represent a critical refuge.* The West Petaluma Hills comprise a wildlife corridor – important for wildlife movement, foraging and survival.

These woodland and grassland habitats with their abundance of wildlife can only be maintained if we are good stewards. This includes preservation - protection from development causing habitat loss and habitat fragmentation.

Presently, *some parcels in the heart of the West Petaluma Hills are for sale or planned for development.* These lands are essential natural open spaces, part of the wildlife corridor for animals and migratory birds, and also help *connect* two other essential wildlife corridors to the Marin and Sonoma coasts. One property on Paula Lane in the north area of the West Petaluma Hills Wildlife Corridor has been conserved for permanent open space. Conserving additional lands will help protect this important wildlife corridor in perpetuity.

Where is this wildlife corridor? Lands visible from Windsor Lane between Western Avenue and D Street/Extension are central in the West Hills Wildlife Corridor. Familiar land names are La Cresta Ridge and Ravine and the Kelly Creek property. Helen Putnam Regional Park borders the wildlife corridor.

North of Western Avenue, Bodega Avenue and Paula Lane toward Penngrove and Cotati is a critically important habitat and movement area. And westward, open land along Bodega Highway to the Sonoma coast, both habitat and movement areas.

South of Windsor Lane, the D Street Extension west to the Novato Hills in Marin County, to Nicasio, Pt. Reyes and the Marin coast.

Without preserving the remaining open lands in the West Petaluma Hills, this important connecting wildlife corridor will be lost.

OUR MISSION

To protect this open space in perpetuity by supporting the purchase of properties in the West Petaluma Hills, to maintain connectivity.

THE COLLECTIVE VISION

-Designate properties as permanent conserved open space with appropriate, managed public access and trails, so the community can enjoy our special natural resources and our flora and fauna can thrive.

-Maintain and enhance habitat and the wildlife corridor.

-Preserve scenic vistas of the Petaluma West Hills and Valley.

-Increase fire protection with downhill fuel reduction

-Increase water conservation and groundwater recharge areas.

-Develop conservation education for youth to strengthen appreciation of these special natural resources.

-Be a model for the *balance* of community enjoyment of nature and protection of flora and fauna.

How You Can Help

Donate \$20 to become a supporting member of the WPH-WCC.

And donate any desired amount to help support this effort.

WPH-WCC is fiscally sponsored by the Paula Lane Action Network (P.L.A.N.), a 501c3 nonprofit conservation organization, based in West Petaluma. P.L.A.N.'s tax ID: 73-170246.

To donate: Please mail your check to P.L.A.N., PO Box 2903, Petaluma, CA 94953 or donate via PayPal at www.paulalaneactionnetwork.org. Designate your donation for "wildlife corridors."

Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, please contact:

Lydia Schindler, MD, ABFM, Certified California Naturalist, Certified Cybertracker, Animal Track & Sign

lydiaschindler3@gmail.com, 707 364-4300