

Achieving 30x30: An opportunity to meet climate change and biodiversity goals



SAVING MCCORMICK RANCH

LOCATION

McCormick Ranch is located on the Sonoma and Napa border. It's geographical location is a critical stronghold for biodiversity and by protecting it, we will leverage 12,000 acres to advance climate resilience in our region.



WHO IS SONOMA LAND TRUST?

For nearly 50 years, Sonoma Land Trust has led the way in land conservation in the county. We have protected more than 57,000 acres to date and are accelerating our work to meet 30x30 state and federal land protection goals for biodiversity and climate change resilience.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

The purchase of the ranch will be a landmark conservation achievement for the Bay Area, protecting a cornerstone for biodiversity, fresh water, and wildlife, while building fire resilience and connecting people to nature.

COST AND FUNDING GAP

Acquiring the land will cost \$14.3 million. We have raised \$11.4 million from government agencies, major family foundations, and individual philanthropists. The project was delayed by wildfire, government funding diversions, and other technical hurdles, however, we have cleared the path and are prepared to cross the finish line. There is a **\$2.9 million gap** left to raise in order to meet the required closing date in August - a deadline set by the landowner and government funders.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



An unparalleled recreational jewel for the Bay Area, providing a link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail and connecting more than 12,000 acres of contiguous parkland, uniting Sugarloaf State Park and Hood Mountain Regional Park.

654
ACRES



A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

NATURE NEARBY



McCormick Ranch will be a cornerstone for recreation, both locally and regionally. If protected, it will connect Hood and Sugarloaf parks and open up contiguous open space and recreation trails for the first time. It will provide days of hiking and camping opportunities - an expansive wilderness area in our backyard!

FIRE



This property is critical to providing a strategic fire break as it did during the 2017 Nuns Canyon Fire. If protected, the ranch will help ensure fire safety for the region, adding to the portfolio of 20,000 acres of public lands managed by the Sonoma Valley Wildfire Collaborative. The Collaborative was co-founded by Sonoma Land Trust and with its five partner organizations, implement and test proven fire management techniques, provide training, and influence state policymaking. Working together, they plan and execute prescribed burns, forest thinning, and shaded fuel breaks for ecosystem health and protect the 9,000 structures (homes and businesses) in Sonoma Valley.



BIODIVERSITY



The location of this property is extraordinary and if protected, it would continue to support native wildlife and a diversity of habitat as they adapt to changing climate conditions. The ranch lies within the regionally critical 86 mile-long Blue Ridge wildlife linkage. Keystone species such as black bear and mountain lions depend upon the free range of the linkage to thrive. In turn, our county benefits from these species who sustain the health of the land and the life supporting ecosystems that sustain us.

The ranch supports a wide variety of biodiversity, providing habitat for rare and endangered species such as Nuttall's woodpecker, Townsends' big-eared bat, Northern spotted owl, Northwestern pond turtle, Western bumble bee, and boasts flourishing oak woodlands with a variety of blue, black, as well as coast live oaks.

WATER



McCormick Ranch is rich in water resources, from springs and wetlands to the headwaters of three main creeks. On the Sonoma side, the Santa Rosa Creek flows into the Russian River which provides drinking water for more than a half a million households in the North Bay. Bear Creek makes its way to the San Pablo Bay via Sonoma Creek supporting habitat for endangered species and recharging aquifers along its journey. In Napa, Sulphur Creek feeds the Napa River where steelhead have been documented in the lower reaches. Restoration of these watersheds have the potential to expand the migration range for steelhead and salmon, as well as mitigating period of drought.

The ranch has been in private hands since before California became a state. It was established in 1844 when William McCormick and his family began raising cattle and sheep.
-San Francisco Chronicle

