

Portfolio 5

La Honda Creek

Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Frances Freyberg)

DESCRIPTION

- Open upper half of the preserve to public; provide biking/hiking/equestrian trails, dog access and staging areas.
- Provide loop and connector trails.
- Restore habitat for rare species.
- Improve fencing, corrals and water systems to reintroduce conservation grazing.

Portfolio Allocation: \$11,733,000

Portfolio Expenditures Through 6/30/2023: \$3,345,646

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAA05-001 La Honda Creek Land Conservation Opportunities

Prior Years

Purchased the 38.14-acre Toepfer property to facilitate a future Ridge Trail opportunity between La Honda Creek Preserve and El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve.

Purchased the 5-acre Ashworth property to facilitate a future Ridge Trail extension opportunity between La Honda Creek Preserve and El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve.

MAA05-002 Upper La Honda Creek Grazing Infrastructure

Prior Years

Made improvements to an existing spring box so that overflow serves the surrounding riparian area. Installed a new water tank and trough at the Lone Madrone (formerly McDonald) Ranch property. Installed a new water line from the improved spring box to the tank and trough. The new water trough is designed with a permanent wildlife escape ramp for wildlife safety.

Installed riparian protection fencing, water pipe and water troughs at Lone Madrone Ranch.

MAA05-005 La Honda Creek Red Barn Parking Area and Easy Access Trail

Prior Years

Began feasibility studies for a new parking area and trailhead at the Red Barn site, including conducting traffic counts, site evaluations for a new driveway and evaluation of historic features to ensure new improvements do not impact the historic landscape of the site.

Completed preliminary technical site investigation studies and conducted an iterative design development process. Drafted two conceptual parking and staging area design alternatives.

Conducted stakeholder outreach for the conceptual designs. Held Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting and community open house to solicit public input on the Red Barn public access area concept design alternatives.

Conducted preliminary trail scouting from the proposed new parking location.

Completed a third design alternative based on public input received in May 2017. Presented design alternative and additional technical information at three public meetings. On June 12, 2018, the board directed staff to propose a process to form an advisory committee and assess alternative locations for a new parking area that meets project goals and objectives.

MAA05-007 La Honda Creek Phase 2 Trail Connections

Fiscal Year 2023

Developed design documents to 60% for the Phase 2 Trail Connections. Prepared and submitted San Mateo County permit applications.

Prior Years

Completed cultural and wildlife resource surveys and reports. Hired consultant to evaluate proposed trail alignments and initiated field investigations. Initiated protocol-level botanical surveys.

MAA05-008 La Honda Creek White Barn Structural Rehabilitation

Fiscal Year 2023

Prepared the bid package, solicited bids and awarded the contract. Submitted the permit application to San Mateo County.

Prior Years

Progressed design work to 95% for the La Honda Creek White Barn Structural Rehabilitation project. Awaiting county permit review ahead of issuing 100% plan set.

Began the environmental review process to evaluate any potential environmental impacts and mitigation associated with the structure stabilization work planned for the White Barn.

Completed site assessment and basis of design report analyzing four different design alternatives; presented findings to the board, resulting in board selection of the structure stabilization design alternative.

Started additional assessments for the La Honda Creek White Barn project.

Completed historic and structural assessments for the La Honda Creek White Barn.

MAA05-009 La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin Removal and Site Restoration

Fiscal Year 2023

Completed the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin removal and implemented the mitigation measures that included historic documentation and interpretation of the redwood cabin.

Prior Years

Initiated environmental review process for the proposed cabin removal project.

Completed and published the Draft EIR for public review and comments and held a public hearing to receive comments.

Retained consultant to conduct CEQA compliance process for the planned structure demolition and site restoration. Circulated Notice of Preparation to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on June 9, 2021. Held a CEQA scoping session for the Draft EIR on June 23, 2021.

Completed site assessment and basis of design report analyzing four different design alternatives; presented findings to the board, resulting in board selection of the demolition design alternative.

Started the site assessment for the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin project.

MAA05-010 Restoration Forestry Demonstration Project

Fiscal Year 2023

Received board approval of the project description for the Forest Health Plan, including the new Addendum of the Woodruff Creek-Folger Parcel. Per board direction, staff presented an interim report later in the fiscal year on the project's progress prior to proceeding with the development of a timber harvest plan that will outline the specific forest management prescriptions to improve forest health conditions. Also completed botanical surveys for the project.

Prior Years

Drafted the La Honda Forest Management Plan, met with stakeholders and held a public meeting with neighbors to review findings and recommendations.

Completed all the forest inventory and roads assessments. Compiled the findings into a draft La Honda Forest Management Plan for board and public input.

MAA05-011 Lone Madrone Ranch Fence Installation

Fiscal Year 2023

Initiated a request for bids for the fence replacement.

Prior Years

Developed a fencing plan to prevent cattle from accessing the La Honda Creek riparian corridor to protect sensitive habitat and keep cattle from entering the neighboring private property. Signed easement agreements and walked the proposed fence location with neighbors to make certain all parties are in agreement on the fence installation work.

MAA05-012 Paulin Culvert/Bridge Improvements

Fiscal Year 2023

Conducted a preliminary culvert/bridge assessment and site investigation to prepare for the development of a request for proposals to solicit consultant services for assistance with the preparation of design plans and environmental review.

MAA05-015 Upper La Honda Creek Land Acquisition (Eberhard)

This project also supports priority actions in Portfolio 15 under project MAA15-005

Fiscal Year 2023

Secured board approval to purchase the Eberhard property and executed all transactional documents and applied to San Mateo County for the parcel subdivision needed to close escrow. Met with the Moore Foundation and prepared an application for \$1 million in grant funding.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Frances Freyberg)



In Support of MAAo5

Fiscal Year 2023

Completed technical analysis for Phase 1 (Feasibility Studies) of the La Honda Parking and Trailhead Access project and presented findings to the Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

Prior Years

Completed multiple technical studies (traffic, biological, botanical, arborist, wetlands delineation, cultural resources, topographical, geotechnical) in preparation for an opportunity and constraints analysis report to be presented to the Planning and Natural Resources Committee in FY23 for the La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access - Feasibility Study project. Initiated public engagement with tabling as part of the Grasshopper Loop Trail opening and 50th anniversary tabling at the La Honda Fair to provide a project update to the community.

Negotiated reciprocal road access and waterline easements with neighboring property owners in the Red Barn Area of La Honda Creek Preserve.

Completed the Public Access Working Group pilot engagement process with committee review in July 2020 and board approval of the final report and recommendations in October 2020. Initiated a request for proposals for consultant services to conduct technical analyses, site opportunities and constraints analysis and a feasibility study of the Public Access Working Group recommended sites. Released RFP on June 21, 2021.

Formed a Public Access Working Group with community members, constituent representative(s) from each ward and two board liaisons to identify new, viable parking area and trailhead options to open the central area of the preserve to public access. Held seven Working Group meetings between August 2019 and March 2020.

Developed process for and formation of the new Public Access Working Group for the La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study.

Pursued trail connections to the central area of La Honda Creek Preserve by meeting several times with landowner to convey interest in possible land or trail easement purchases as part of efforts to design and implement Phase 2 trails of the La Honda Creek Preserve Master Plan.

Contracted with consulting professionals to develop the La Honda forest management plan to evaluate restoration and management priorities in the watershed.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

Project permitting with San Mateo County may encounter issues resulting in schedule delays. A contingency workplan will be developed to complete work on existing La Honda Creek Phase 2 trail routes covered under the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program.

POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

Secure permits for the La Honda Creek Phase 2 Trails project from San Mateo County and the regulatory agencies, then initiate trail construction.

Complete the La Honda White Barn structural rehabilitation work.

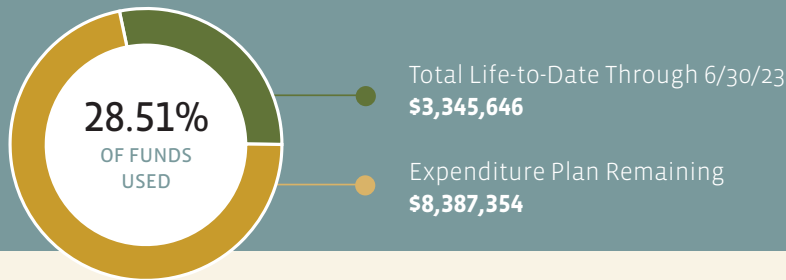
Solicit services from a qualified Professional Register Forester to prepare a timber harvest plan for the Restoration Forestry Demonstration project.

Construct the Lone Madrone grazing water infrastructure improvements.

Complete design development and CEQA review for the Paulin Culvert/Bridge Improvements. Submit permit applications.

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Project	Expenditure Plan	Total Through Prior Period 6/30/22	Current Period 7/1/22 Through 6/30/23	Total Life-to-Date Through 6/30/23	Expenditure Plan Remaining	Percent Expended
Total Portfolio Allocation	\$11,733,000					
05-001—La Honda Creek Land Conservation Opportunities		\$1,756,093	\$0	\$1,756,093		
05-002—Upper La Honda Creek Grazing Infrastructure		\$297,432	\$0	\$297,432		
05-005—La Honda Creek Red Barn Parking Area and Easy Access Trail		\$327,514	\$0	\$327,514		
05-007—La Honda Creek Phase 2 Trail Connections		\$28,079	\$36,062	\$64,141		
05-008—La Honda Creek White Barn Structural Rehabilitation		\$244,312	\$12,537	\$256,849		
05-009—La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin Removal and Site Restoration		\$207,855	\$258,063	\$465,918		
05-010—Restoration Forestry Demonstration Project		\$36,767	\$50,807	\$87,574		
05-011—Lone Madrone Ranch Fence Installation		\$63,363	\$0	\$63,363		
05-012—Phase 2—Paulin Bridge Replacements		\$0	\$457	\$457		
05-015—Eberhard Land Acquisition		\$0	\$26,305	\$26,305		
Grand Total	\$11,733,000	\$2,961,415	\$384,231	\$3,345,646	\$8,387,354	28.51%



Secure lot line adjustment approval from San Mateo County for the Eberhard Property to complete the purchase as an addition to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

Complete Phase 1 (Feasibility Studies) for the La Honda Parking and Trailhead Access Project. Select the preferred site plan alternative(s) to advance into environmental review and design development. Complete environmental review and continued public and stakeholder engagement. Present final recommendations and CEQA findings for the La Honda Parking and Trailhead Access Project to the board for approval.