



Save the Wall Property

The Marin Open Space Trust (MOST) has a one-time opportunity to permanently protect Fairfax's exceptional 100-acre Wall property. MOST has until the end of September to secure a long-term public owner, complete inspections and line up \$2.9 million dollars for acquisition, restoration and project expenses.

The Wall Property rises dramatically above downtown Fairfax, with three prominent ridgelines, and the community has long used its trails. The undeveloped, hilly property offers magnificent views in all directions, especially from the land's high point at 720 feet, the highest northern ridgeline above Fairfax. The land is a mix of native coast live oak woodland, grasslands, and chaparral, and is a refuge for wildlife.

Ensure the Wall Property becomes part of our community forever!

Scan the QR code to get more information, donate, or make a pledge.

Thank you!



FAIRFAX

Deal for open space nearing completion

Town Council approves Marin Open Space Trust plan to buy Wall property

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Fairfax has codified its deal with the Marin Open Space Trust for the acquisition of the 100-acre tract known as the Wall property.

The Town Council unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding and authorized Mayor Barbara Coler to sign it at a meeting on May 22. The purpose of the agreement is to memorialize the intent of the open space trust to transfer title of the property to the town.

In the document, the trust commits to raising \$2.3 million for the purchase of the property and \$500,000 in restoration costs and to convey both the funds and property to the town before Oct. 29.

The land, which is north of downtown, offers sweeping views of Mount Tamalpais and is a popular site for wildlife, hikers and dog walkers.

Councilmember Chance Cutrano said the transfer would ensure the preservation of the land. "You never know when you plant a seed when it is going to sprout and bear fruit," he said at the meeting. "There was no guarantee this was ever going to be possible."

Marin Open Space Trust board chair Bill Long said after the meeting that approximately \$2.5 million has been raised or committed. The group is seeking about \$2.9 million total, he said. "That was a significant step," Long said. "We are proceeding now with that done and are going to move into an all-out fundraising campaign, which we want to wrap up by the end of September."

The land trust recently sought a \$500,000 grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy. The item will be considered as part of a consent calendar agenda on June 6.

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Janet Coleson, town attorney, said the land trust, known as MOST, would have to raise the full acquisition and restoration cost, and place the funds in escrow, in order for the MOU to be put into effect. "This MOU is not necessarily the final binding agreement," said Cutrano. "But it puts forward a plan of action."

Coler said the town planned to add \$100,000 of Measure A funds to contribute to the purchase.

The property was first sold by Alan Wall for \$1.75 million to a group of investors headed by Mill Valley developer Marshal Rothman in 2013. Rothman planned to build homes on

the property but struggled to secure approval from the town. His limited liability company used to purchase the property defaulted on its loan and ultimately declared bankruptcy.

The property reverted to the lender at auction in 2023. According to county assessor's office, the property is owned by Marinda Heights LLC, which is controlled by Sequoia Mortgage Capital Inc. Owner Jason Freskos approached the town about purchasing the property, officials said.

Jack Judkins, vice chair of the Fairfax Open Space Committee, said the property has been coveted since he joined the group 14 years ago. "Ever since I started the committee, acquiring the Wall property has been the gold standard," he said.