

## Rockville Trails Preserve Update

On June 27, 2017 the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved the Solano Land Trust's Rockville Trails Preserve Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Policy Plan Overlay (PPO). The project will create a public open space area consistent with protection of resources and maintenance of agriculture. This 1,500-acre property is owned and operated by Solano Land Trust. It is not to be confused with the City of Fairfield's existing Rockville Hills Park operated by the City of Fairfield located on the south side of Rockville Road.

The Rockville Trails Preserve Vision is: Solano Land Trust will preserve and protect Rockville Trails Preserve and its biological and cultural resources for generations to come. We value sustaining agriculture on this property and foresee compatible public access, education, and scientific discovery as a means to connect this land with our community.

With the IS/MND Solano Land Trust requested that zoning on the property be changed from rural residential to agriculture and asked that the general plan be amended to reflect these changes. As you recall, a development with over 400 homes was approved for this site prior to Solano Land Trust Purchase. These changes will preserve open space on these parcels and assure that cattle grazing can continue.

In order to allow public access for low impact recreation, as outlined in the IS/MND, the County placed a PPO on the property that outlines the construction and general open space standards for the Preserve and will include grazing, agricultural education, stable and equestrian activities and public trails. There are over 10 miles of trails for hiking, mountain bicycling and equestrian use planned. One of these trails is a trail for people with low mobility. This trail will include many benches, interpretive signage, and a smoother surface for those visitors that need a less strenuous and informative activity. A group picnic area, parking for buses and horse trailers, and a vault bathroom are also planned.

Despite the approval of the IS/MND and PPO, there is much more work to do before the property can be accessed by the public ! The remainder of this year SLT will be working with engineers to develop final construction specifications and bid documents for the staging area. We'll also need state and federal agency permits for construction to assure that resources are not impacted. And last but not least, we'll need over \$ 1 million in funds to implement the construction. How long will all this take – we hope not more than two years.

A big question that SLT will be grappling with during this time period is who will manage this Preserve for public access and resource protection. While SLT will likely always own the property, we hope to find partners to help run the access, provide security, and help with stewardship.

Access is currently only on guided docent hikes. If you'd like to sign up for a hike, go to the SLT website [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org) and click on the Outdoor Adventures or call Michelle at 707-709-9022.