

OPEN SPACE

HELP SECURE NEW GREEN SPACE FOR LA CRESCENTA

land
opportunity

ROSEMONT
PRESERVE

Dear Friend,

You may have noticed that our community doesn't have much in the way of green space that's accessible to the public. We're surrounded by mountains—the San Gabriel, San Rafael, and Verdugo ranges—but incredibly, we don't have access to any of them from La Crescenta. Open space is hard to find within the town, as well: we have only one public park.

With your help, however, that could change very soon. The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, our regional nonprofit land trust, is working to preserve **8 acres of open-space land at the top of Rosemont Avenue—land that would effectively double the amount of open space accessible to the community.**

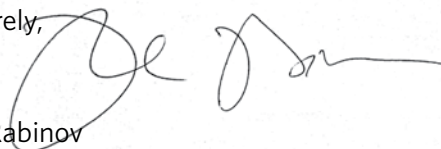
The landowner has generously agreed to sell the land to AFC on favorable terms, so long as it is preserved forever as natural open space. AFC has already secured more than three-quarters of the \$450,000 project cost, and is now turning to the local community to meet its fundraising goal.

The planned Rosemont Preserve would provide a permanent home for wildlife that thrive at low elevations. And a trail on the property would provide the only access to the surrounding wilderness from La Crescenta. AFC is working with the local community to determine how to provide access to the land in a way that's sensitive to wildlife and local landowners.

First, however, we'll have to secure the land. If we don't act quickly, the property will likely be marketed to developers. **We're counting on the support of the local community to prevent the land from being developed, and to ensure that it remains wild forever.** You can use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible gift to save the Rosemont Preserve.

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,



Paul Rabinov

Founder, La Crescenta Trails Committee

Founder, Crescenta Valley Clean and Green

Board Member, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy



The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy is working with the La Crescenta community to save and steward 8 acres of open-space land at the top of Rosemont Ave. The land would effectively double the amount of green space available to the community.



HELP SAVE ROSEMONT

Please donate today to help us reach our community fundraising goal of \$100,000. Return the enclosed card, or donate online at www.arroyosfoothills.org/rosemont. Gifts are tax-deductible.

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$450,000



Fast Facts

1. The "Rosemont Preserve" is 7.75 acres of wilderness land in La Crescenta.
2. Located at northern end of Rosemont Avenue, in the mouth of Goss Canyon.
3. Preserving the land would preclude any development on the property.
4. Preserving the land would secure habitat for a range of wildlife, including mule deer, bobcats, mountain lions, bears, coyotes and potentially endangered Arroyo toads.
5. Preserving the land would effectively double accessible green space in La Crescenta.

For updated fundraising information, visit www.arroyosfoothills.org/rosemont-fundraising.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE: A HAVEN IN THE FOOTHILLS

There's a locked gate at the top of Rosemont Avenue in La Crescenta, backed by a paved area and a catch basin. It may not look like much from the street, but if you were able to get beyond the gate you'd find yourself in a pristine wilderness area, walking beside a seasonal stream surrounded by sage scrub, peppered with western sycamore and California walnut trees and stands of mature oak.

This is the planned Rosemont Preserve, natural open space that the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy is working to protect. It provides habitat for a range of wildlife, including mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, bears, coyotes and potentially Arroyo toads, along with at least 31 bird species. The land is situated in the mouth of Goss Canyon, backed by about 300 acres that have

been maintained as mostly wilderness over the decades by private landowners.

Preserving the land would ensure that the area continues to provide much-needed low-elevation habitat for these creatures, and that it will never be developed. Once the land has been saved, the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy will work to restore habitat, removing invasive plants that choke out native plants. The habitat restoration will be guided by a biological survey and management plan.

AFC also plans to provide access beyond the gate at the Rosemont Preserve, allowing visitors to enjoy the wilderness in a way that's sensitive to wildlife and plant life, as well as adjacent landowners.



It fills my heart to know that the cry of the red-tail hawks, the perfume of the sage bushes, the cool shade of the oaks, and the deer and coyote habitat will be around for my children and grandchildren to enjoy as much as I do.

— Frank Colcord, La Crescenta resident



ROSEMONT PRESERVE Community Space

The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy is working with local residents to determine how best to make the Rosemont Preserve a community resource. Among the issues being discussed:

- How can public access be provided in a way that minimizes impact on wildlife and respects adjacent property owners?
- Once the land is saved, how should AFC and the community work together to manage it?
- How could the land serve as a resource for local schools?

AFC would like to hear your thoughts. To join the conversation, return the enclosed card with your information.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE

Path to Conservation

Several attempts have been made over the years to develop the land at the top of Rosemont Ave. Most recently, Terry Villanueva and her son Justin Whalin, who own and run The Learning Castle and La Cañada Preparatory, planned to turn the land into a school campus after purchasing the property in 2005. When they began to pursue those plans, however, they learned that neighbors had serious concerns.

As they explored alternatives, they considered conserving the property as a wilderness area, a possibility they first discussed with the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy in 2007. Over time, their appreciation for the land's conservation value grew, and they began to work seriously with AFC to save it as a wilderness preserve.

In August of 2011, they entered into an agreement to sell the land to AFC at a substantial discount from its appraised fair market value, with the assurance that it would be saved forever.

"This is a beautiful property that I fell in love with immediately," said Terry Villanueva. "I am so happy that it will be available for the enjoyment of future generations in a community that I am so proud to be a part of."



The planned Rosemont Preserve is situated at the top of Rosemont Ave. in La Crescenta, in the mouth of Goss Canyon.

ABOUT AFC

The Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC) preserves and restores wilderness land in the Crescenta and San Gabriel valleys. AFC also restores trails, leads hikes, and conducts education projects. AFC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



www.arroyosfoothills.org/rosemont

All photos included in this brochure were either taken at the Rosemont Preserve, or feature wildlife species known to live on the land.