



Protecting Marin Since 1934



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



October 24, 2018

Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Via Electronic Mail

Re: Support for Marin County's Acquisition of the San Geronimo Golf Course

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the 12 undersigned organizations, which are community advocates and stakeholders supportive of public land acquisition and conservation efforts and represent more than 30,000 individuals, we respectfully submit this letter to express our ongoing support of Marin County Parks' acquisition of the 157-acre San Geronimo property.

Our organizations submitted a letter on August 28, 2018 to reaffirm our support of Marin County's acquisition of the San Geronimo Golf Course property. There is broad based county and community support for the acquisition of this property and the creation of a Park in the heart of the San Geronimo Valley. In addition to our letter, individual community members and other organizations submitted letters in support to Marin County and also authored several supportive letters to the editor to the local papers.

Due to the unfortunate amount of misinformation and confusion surrounding the public acquisition of the property and upcoming court hearing on October 26, 2018, we are writing again to remind the Board of Supervisors of the broad support of the County's good intentions to create a Park, restore habitat, and incorporate community input through a public planning and visioning process.

Letter to Marin County Supervisors re. Golf Course  
October 24, 2018

Thank you for your continued efforts to create a park that will serve a broad base of community constituents, provide several critical environmental benefits, and be a lasting legacy and gift to the current and future generations of Marin County and the San Geronimo Valley.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Morgan Patton  
Executive Director  
Environmental Action Committee

Brian Staley  
Chair  
San Geronimo Valley Planning Group

Linda J. Novy  
President  
Marin Conservation League

Megan Isadore  
Executive Director  
The River Otter Ecology Project

Michael Stocker  
President  
Seven Circles Foundation

Todd Steiner, Executive Director  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network

Kelle Kacmarcik  
Director of Wildlife Solutions and Advocacy  
Wildcare

Carolyn Longstreth  
Marin Chapter  
California Native Plant Society

Daniel Dietrich  
Founder  
Conservation Kids

Camilla Fox  
Founder and Director  
Project Coyote

Patrick Samuel  
Bay Area Program Manager  
California Trout

Sandra Guldman  
Vice President  
Friends of Corte Madera Creek

cc: Max Korten, Marin County Parks  
Brendan Moriarty, Trust for Public Land

Attachment: Copies of Letters to the Editor to Marin Independent Journal and Point Reyes Light newspaper.

### Many benefits in restoring San Geronimo habitat

9/10/18  
Restoring the San Geronimo Golf Course to native habitat will have a multitude of benefits for everyone. The permanent protection and restoration of this property will provide the public with a broad array of benefits including environmental, aesthetic and recreational opportunities.

Native trees and shrubs are not only beautiful, they are habitat for many wildlife species, and they sequester carbon thereby reducing greenhouse gases entering our atmosphere. They release oxygen, improving air quality for us all.

Native plants throughout the expanded riparian habitat will be free of chemicals needed to maintain lawns, filter runoff and reduce erosion, thereby improving water quality.

Everyone can enjoy the populations of threatened northern spotted owl and endangered salmonids that will expand as their habitat increases. A broad array of recreational opportunities will be available to everyone, be they walkers, runners, cyclists, birders, photographers or folks desiring a tranquil and aesthetic experience.

As we struggle to address climate change and with so much of our natural environment built on or threatened with development, the thought that we can have too much open space is simply not true. In fact just the opposite is true. We can't afford to lose any opportunity to protect and restore natural resources, particularly on a property that is strategically located to benefit wildlife and people.

We applaud Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and the other supervisors and urge the county to move forward with the acquisition, so that this opportunity to benefit San Geronimo and all of Marin is not lost.

— Barbara Salzman, Larkspur  
Marin Audubon Society

### Golf course pathway offers safe bike route

9/3/18  
Last year when the fences that were chained between my school, San Geronimo, and the San Geronimo Golf Course were open, it was magical. For the first time my students could walk up through the Thorner Preserve and down onto the backside of the golf course, and back to school without crossing any streets.

This became our go-to route for our weekly hike. We also started an almost daily birding walk to chart the local birds, including the red-shouldered hawks that had moved from Larsen creek to a new home on the back nine.

I often ride with students from Woodacre to school on Wednesdays. That Wednesday we rode under the tunnel, through the back side and past the open gate. For the first time, students riding to school did not have to cross busy Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. One mom who rode with us said she had no idea this route was available. Another told me that her son had ridden his bike there because he felt comfortable on a golf course path.

For many children the paths on the golf course are the only

flat, safe routes to ride their bikes in the valley.

Now the land is closed for every day and hour of the school week. I ask that the supervisors and the Trust for Public Land ensure that one school day a week, during the interim period when the sale and planning will be finalized, the land be closed to golf so that school children and other community members have a real opportunity to use this land in new and exciting ways.

— Larry Nigro, Fairfax;  
teacher, San Geronimo School

### Curious by the new signs about saving golf course

9/3/18  
Yesterday, as we walked through our valley, we noticed the first "Save the San Geronimo Golf Course" sign.

When studying for my Realtor's license several years ago, there was a chapter dedicated to the importance of marketing yourself. One suggestion was to take up a local social cause that would get your name out there and prove that you are a real swell person. Then, when the time comes to sell the house, your chances of being the chosen Realtor would be increased and, at the same time, it would be much easier for the homeowner to put up a "House for Sale" sign because she would be used to having a sign posted.

Isn't it interesting that the signs are the same size as a standard "House for Sale" sign? Wonder if they get a Realtor's discount for printing massive quantities?

— Mary Lock, Woodacre

Marin Voice

# Golf course's former owners deserve our thanks

By Todd Steiner  
and Preston Brown

2/13/18  
fessional, most environmentally sensitive and most accommodating to improving habitat for endangered salmon.

Under their ownership, the golf course was the most vibrant it had been for decades. They improved the quality of the golf course, created a venue for weddings and private parties, and initiated a variety of Friday night events for local residents.

Simultaneously, they welcomed and supported efforts to improve habitat for endangered salmon, including removing barriers to fish migration, dedicating some of the property to recreate native wildlands, allowing fish rescue, building stormwater recharge basins and approving placement of large woody debris and bank stabilization projects to support salmon recovery efforts.

We are grateful for the support they gave Barry Mueller, the superintendent of the course, who worked with us for

We thank Robert Lee and Jennifer Kim for all they did as proprietors of the San Geronimo Golf Course over the past seven-plus years to enact salmon-friendly policies; allowing habitat restoration projects to improve native habitat and benefit the San Geronimo community.

We thank them for making the facilities available for multiple charitable and civic functions that benefited the San Geronimo public school, our Community Center, and supporting golf tournaments that benefited charities throughout Marin.

Over the past two decades, Turtle Island Restoration Network's SPAWN program has cooperatively worked with various owners and managers of the golf course. Without a doubt, their management was the most pro-

**The results of the study have created opportunities for habitat restoration and conservation that will provide long-lasting benefits to salmon and many other wildlife species.**

a decade on habitat restoration and conservation projects at the golf course. Theirs and Barry's willingness to consider new ideas and find opportunities for restoration on the golf course demonstrated a dedication to finding creative solutions and partnerships that were mutually beneficial to salmon and golf.

We are grateful to them and their landscaping crew for the additional support they provided to implement these projects including earth moving, irrigation and water for restoration plantings, and temporarily relocating greens and tee-boxes so restoration work could pro-

ceed seamlessly. They welcomed a review of their operations by outsiders and embraced the results of the "Coho-Friendly Habitat and Operations Plan for the San Geronimo Golf Course" that Turtle Island Restoration Network organized and co-authored with the support of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

As a result of the study, we developed plans to control the invasive species living in the golf course ponds, to reduce pesticide use, prevent stormwater runoff to improve water quality, and developed habitat restoration plans on San Geron-

imo Creek to create side channels and backwater habitats that support juvenile coho rearing. The results of the study have created opportunities for habitat restoration and conservation that will provide long-lasting benefits to salmon and many other wildlife species.

Turtle Island Restoration Network thanks Robert Lee, Jennifer Kim, and Barry Mueller for all they have done, including working with Marin supervisors and the Trust for Public Land to allow the property to be purchased for its permanent protection for the public good.

The San Geronimo Valley and the coho salmon are indebted to them and we hope they will remain an active part of our community long into the future.

*Todd Steiner is executive director and Preston Brown is conservation director of Turtle Island Restoration Network and its initiative, SPAWN.*



Marin Voice 3/8/18

# Setting the record straight on San Geronimo Golf Course

By William and Nancy Binzen

Perhaps you had the experience growing up of seeing cherished woods and meadows you enjoyed as a kid targeted for development. It always makes us sad to lose play spaces we treasure. And so, the loss of the golf course is understandably tough for golfers.

But there's a big difference. We have the rare chance to re-image how best to use a remarkable piece of land for the public good. Instead of a single use there will be multiple access options available to all residents of the county.

We applaud the openness of Marin County Parks to meet with interested citizens; the unprecedented opportunity to defoxify 157 acres of prime, accessible parkland in the heart of Marin County; the potential for serious wildland reclamation projects that support the survival of endangered coho and threatened steelhead (both species indicative of the health of our watershed); the possible foothold for young local organic farmers; the prom-

tion of innovative carbon sequestering techniques. Unfortunately, many pro-golf or anti-open space letters to the editor have bogged into the rough known as "alternative facts" — false narratives based on inaccurate understanding. Here is a sampler of pesky false "facts."

We often hear that the county is paying \$8.85 million of our tax money. And not only are supervisors spending all this money, they also are paying a vastly inflated price.

Both statements are false. The golf course consists of four contiguous legal parcels. The county is paying \$1.41 million in general funds to acquire the existing 24-plus-acre developed parcel, including the 14,750-square-foot clubhouse, restaurant facilities, liquor license, parking lot and outbuildings.

The money for the remaining acreage is coming from restricted Measure A funds that can only be used for acquisition of open space and agricultural land (\$2.5 million), and state and nonprofit grants (\$4.94 million).

So, no — we taxpayers are not paying \$8.85 million. Quite the opposite. An investor in Marin today could only dream of buying 24 acres of developed, easily accessible, prime bottom land with streams for \$1.41 million. Because of the county's quick action, we taxpayers got a tremendous bargain.

Other writers have claimed the county rushed the purchase without taking more time to get community input. The corollary is that if the county hadn't intervened, those 157 acres would have remained a golf course.

These assumptions are also false.

The land almost changed hands without the public even knowing it was for sale. The sellers were in negotiations with a private developer (not a golf course owner) in early 2017. The county's chance only came about because that developer's funding collapsed.

And if the Trust for Public Land hadn't been able to move quickly to secure a purchase option on behalf of the county, there were two back-up offers waiting.

Even then, we weren't home free. Just two days before close of escrow, the sellers attempted to back out of the deal. Why?

Because a religious organization in the city had come in with a higher, all-cash offer: not to save the golf course, but to turn it into a private retreat center — and off-limits to the public.

A final "alternative fact" regards the use of the word "should" in the San Geronimo Valley Community Plan in reference to the golf course. Some writers have asserted this means the land must remain a golf course.

"Must" is the only word that imposes a legal obligation on your readers to tell them something is mandatory. Legal reference books like the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure no longer use the word "shall."

Even the Supreme Court ruled that when the word "shall" appears in statutes, it means "may."

Contrary to what opponents have claimed, it appears that County Counsel Brian Washington is on solid ground.

If a private buyer had beaten out the county, would they have

kept the golf course? No. Would the grounds have been opened to the public and robust community involvement encouraged? Never.

It's time to stop repeating spurious memes and start counting our blessings. Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, county parks chief Max Kortzen and other county officials are encouraging public involvement in one of the greatest environmental purchases in a very, very long time.

We've been given a rare opportunity to create a bigger vision of the commons for everyone. Please, let's not squander it.

*William and Nancy Binzen of Woodacre are 31-year residents of San Geronimo Valley. William Binzen has been actively involved in numerous local environmental issues over the years, most recently helping to educate about fire hazard abatement and how to save trees from sudden oak death. Nancy Binzen was a founding member of 350Marin, a local grassroots activist group focused on the global climate crisis.*

### Many potential uses for golf course land

7/24/18  
I have been a resident of San Geronimo Valley for 24 years. I am active in several community organizations. When the county's plan to purchase the golf course first became public, my response was, "I don't want to lose it. It is a beautiful part of our community." However, the more I learned about what could happen to it through a private sale — a resort, a religious community, someone's "trophy" estate — I realized that, as public land, it has the potential to meet various critical community needs.

County park land: we have lots of public open space, but little of it is useful for our youth or seniors; or ordinary folks that need regular, reasonably level parks rather than a strenuous climb. The golf course is open to the public, but most of us are not golfers.

As public park land, the two large parcels (front and back nines) could accommodate stream restoration, accessible hiking and biking, or just strolling, possibly a smaller public golf course; and, with some creative thinking, maybe a skate park, competition soccer field, some organic farming (educational), workforce housing for park employees.

The smaller parcel, where the clubhouse is located, could be rezoned for more general public use such as a new fire station and fire-fighter housing, community gardens, public event facilities and possibly a component of a much needed Wood-acre Flats wastewater system.

The property is cheap: less than \$60,000 per acre for prime Marin County land! We should come together as a community and take advantage of this opportunity.

— Kit Krauss, San Geronimo

### Is golf course controversy about 'white privilege'?

7/17/18  
I have to wonder what's behind the obsession to keep a foundering 18-hole golf resort instead of allowing a more intelligent environmental repurposing that might even include some golf.

The answer I come up with is elitism. Is there some fear that if this old course were opened to more public access that their little valley might be overrun with lower-income people? People of color who may or may not speak English? Can they really oppose restoring vital habitat for tasty coho salmon? Who but an elitist believes it's OK to use our limited supplies of fresh water for grass while most residents of our county have been encouraged to replace lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping?

Sorry, but this whole opposition movement smells/stinks of white privilege gone amok. As a white homeowner in a wonderfully mixed community, I find it embarrassing in this day and age.

— Elaine Reichert,  
Santa Venetia

Saturday, August 18, 2018 »

### Saturday soapbox

#### Retain the golf course, a Marin County treasure

8/18/18  
I have an idea for Vision SGV — leave the San Geronimo Golf Course alone (Marin Voice, Aug. 9).

It's a golf course. It's not their private garden. That some on the Board of Supervisors worked behind the scenes to change that status does not make it theirs.

The comment they make, that "those of us who live in the San Geronimo Valley are the ones who would be most affected, and would most benefit from future uses of the property," pretty much says it all. They believe that this precious county asset now belongs to them. It does not.

First of all, they are not the most affected — those of us who have enjoyed the golf course and associated facilities for decades in the use for which it was intended are the most affected. But they are correct; they probably will benefit the most, to the tune of many, many millions of tax dollars inappropriately spent on their behalf. The fact that they do not see the absolute wrong in this speaks volumes.

Unfortunately, it has taken a lawsuit by Marin County citizens who do see the wrong in this to halt this travesty. All I can hope for is that the lawsuit will continue until such time as the Trust for Public Land, an organization which I previously held in high esteem, finds the cost too much to bear and sells the course, probably at a loss, to an operator who will maintain this Marin County treasure.

— Tom Andrews, Novato

### Golfers have options besides San Geronimo

8/29/18  
There isn't space to correct all the false statements printed in this paper regarding the county's purchase of the San Geronimo Golf Course. Continuing to boost a failed business through a campaign of deceit, however, does not serve the public interest and it degrades sympathy for parties alleging they were wronged.

Marin County worked with the Trust for Public Land to purchase the course because the owners wanted to sell. The property is zoned for resort and commercial use, which would allow for large-scale commercial development if not owned by the county.

Although many people enjoy the sport, participation in golf has waned for the past decade or two, globally and in Marin.

Between 2006 and 2016 greens use nationally declined about 8 percent, and the Professional Golfers' Association anticipates a net loss of 130 to 160 courses annually in years ahead.

In Marin County, public money is already required to keep some courses open. As reported in this paper, the Mill Valley municipal course had a deficit last year of \$239,000. And in order to attract an interim operator for the San Geronimo course while a permanent plan for the property was being developed, Marin County agreed to offset operating losses up to \$140,000 annually.

Despite dissembling pleas of letter writers demanding sale forfeiture, Marin golfers have a number of locations in which to play. There are seven other excellent courses in Marin and more than a dozen within easy driving distance in surrounding counties. These include private, public, and municipal courses, both nine- and 18-hole, with a range of fees and membership options.

Rather than grouse about San Geronimo's closing, golfers could play elsewhere, and should do so before another county course has to shutter its doors.

— Ann Thomas, Corte Madera

### San Geronimo is becoming a great park

3/10/18  
Last weekend I decided to take a look at the San Geronimo Golf Course that is being purchased by Marin County. It was a beautiful, but slightly chilly day and there were a few people strolling on the front nine next to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

When I got to the quieter back nine, there were about three dozen people enjoying the sunshine on the huge lawn. Families, adults and kids were picnicking, walking, running, playing ball, fishing, walking dogs and bicycling.

It's a great place for senior strolling, too.

Get out there and check it out for yourself! Bring your family and friends and have a look at the fish ladder, the six ponds and the impressive landscaping.

You can park at the main parking lot and access the front nine via a tunnel and the back nine via a pedestrian bridge.

Make your own vision of what this land can be.

— Brad Kelley, Fairfax

### County is spending too much to subsidize golf

5/12/18  
While Turtle Island Restoration Network/SPAWN initially supported the county's decision to keep golf operations open at the San Geronimo Golf Course during the period it would take to develop the transition plan, we find the current decision to spend \$280,000 over this period to subsidize the golf operator and small minority of the community that actually plays golf, poor public policy.

Furthermore, allowing the new operators to continue to extract water out of the salmon-bearing Larsen Creek which runs through the "back-nine" for two more years to water grass is appalling.

Imagine if the county had given local teachers and environmental educators \$280,000 to develop programs for the rest of us to enjoy this new open space property, how many thousands more students and the public would have had access to this open space than the current plan allows?

Or alternatively, if a portion of these funds were used to provide San Geronimo golfers a voucher to enjoy their sport at McInnis Park or one of the private Marin golf courses, this would allow the 157-acre property to be enjoyed by young people and the majority of adults who do not golf.

We encourage Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and the other supervisors to reconsider and make available the San Geronimo open space property to non-golfers so the majority of the community can benefit.

— Preston Brown  
and Todd Steiner,  
Turtle Island Restoration  
Network,  
Olema

### Sierra Club supports golf course purchase

5/15/18  
Thank you for the opportunity to answer the question Mr. Warren Heiman poses in his April 30 letter, "What was Sierra Club's role in the golf course deal?"

Sierra Club's role has been and continues to be to support the purchase and restoration of a failing golf course in the San Geronimo Valley for public open space.

Further, after nearly 60 years of pesticides and fertilizers applied at the golf course at the expense of waterways and native wildlife, including endangered coho salmon, we think it's time to let this land recover.

Further, we think that the public welcomes this opportunity, and wants to take part in the transformation. As to the implication that Sierra Club Marin Group makes secret monetary donations, the answer is a decided no.

We who serve on the Sierra Club Marin Group Executive Committee, representing the more than 5,600 Sierra Club members living in Marin, do donate generously to the county with sweat equity.

We donate hundreds of volunteer hours to fight for healthy air, water, land and wildlife; engage in matters such as transportation planning, affordable housing, environmental justice and solutions to the impacts of climate change.

We resist unwise development. We endorse pro-environment candidates. We hold officials accountable for upholding the law and protecting our environment and quality of life.

We are proud of our accomplishments, including the promised transformation of a private golf course to a public park that's free and open to all.

— Michele Barni,  
San Quentin Village;  
chair, Sierra Club Marin Group



REYES LIGHT August 30, 2018

### ***Nirvana in the valley***

When friends, neighbors and I learned about the county working with Trust for Public Land to purchase the San Geronimo Golf Course, we were ecstatic and grateful to Supervisor Rodoni for seizing the opportunity. We still are. Emphatically.

I am a nurse and work primarily with seniors and handicapped in a hospital rehab department. I support this purchase not only for environmental and restoration considerations, but also because the golf cart paths on the back nine would be safe, ideal walking paths for seniors or the handicapped in a park-like setting next to a migratory creek and ideal and safe for families with small children. And for this park to be surrounded by the Maurice Thorner, French Ranch and Roy's Redwoods preserves—nirvana!

But my friends and I are concerned about the relentless, ongoing, aggressive and rude behavior of golfers who take over meetings. These golfers also send out misinformation that is published in Marin's only daily newspaper and placed on our community email lists. Add to that the impact of Niz Brown's lawsuit, and we are troubled.

I am urging the Board of Supervisors, Valley residents and our West Marin neighbors to stay firmly committed to this purchase. This is a unique chance to restore the environment, create our first valley park and determine other community uses, thereby helping residents of all ages and abilities. I fear the opportunity will not come again.

**Bettina Spooner-Whyte**  
Forest Knolls

PRL 8/30/18  
***We will follow the creek***

I was raised in the San Geronimo Valley and teach environmental education in the Lagunitas School District through Wilderness Way, a nonprofit founded by my family. Since 1999, I have taught K-8 students in the A&E, Montessori, Open Classroom and Waldorf programs and middle school. A major goal is to get students into the outdoors to learn about coho salmon and steelhead trout. Few know that coho and steelhead spawn in the two-acre Larsen Creek preserve on school property—a tributary of San Geronimo Creek that ends at the back nine.

When I learned about the possibility of purchasing the San Geronimo golf course, I was beside myself with joy for several reasons. First, in the '60s, Larsen Creek was culverted and put underground in favor of extensive golf greens. The planned restoration will daylight the creek, allowing migrating coho salmon to once again travel from San Geronimo Creek through the Lagunitas School District's two-acre preserve and the back nine to its headwaters in Roy's Redwoods.

Second, my students will no longer have to climb over the Thompson Thorner Ridge and cross the golf course bridge to get to the headwaters in Roy's Redwoods. Like the fish, we will follow the creek. Third, this restoration will allow hikers, bikers and dog walkers the same opportunity as students: follow the stream all the way to its headwaters. Fourth, students will be able to participate in planting native plants along the banks of the day-lighted creek.

A park for all ages and abilities, and a restored migratory stream—imagine! Thanks to Supervisor Dennis Rodoni for seizing an opportunity that some of us only dreamed about. Supervisors must stay the course and look beyond the rants, aggressive attacks and misinformation from selfish golfers.

**Paul Berensmeier**  
Forest Knolls



### ***A turn for the worse***

As a Marin community activist for most of my adult life, I have learned that there are certain subjects that generate more passion than others. The fate of the San Geronimo Golf Course is no exception. Having lived in the valley as a property owner since 1987, I've seen numerous controversies come and go. The common thread throughout every controversy to date is the tension between those who want to profit and seek to control outcomes, and those who have the larger community in mind.

One of the dynamics of this story that has really stood out for me has been the over-the-top vitriol and anger shown by golf course advocates, most of whom come from out of the area. Their level of disrespect to our elected county officials, to our various department personnel and to those who stand up for a minute or two and publicly share their views has been shocking. There's been name-calling, there's been shouting, and I'm sorry to say that to some extent these rude methods have kept otherwise important voices from being heard.

The reason I write this letter today is that one of the groups attempting to control public use of the golf course property has taken a turn for the worse. A group of individuals seeking to take control by

agricultural project has now begun to lobby supervisors and insist the county not accept \$3.4 million in grant monies offered by the state Wildlife Conservation board. Their argument, which to me seems upside down, is that these monies would require a restoration of the creeks, which in turn could reduce the areas of the golf course that can be converted to farming. While this group uses lofty language like "permaculture" and "community gardening," its intentions are far from noble.

It is an enormously disappointing realization to see these self-enriching forces try to dismantle a land purchase brilliantly assembled by Supervisor Dennis Rodoni. Even though our supervisor has the larger community in mind, he is perpetually faced with lawsuits from real estate interests, with screaming, white male golfers, and now with misdirected individuals thinking that a severely contaminated property could magically become some type of agricultural educational center.

Understanding the agricultural limits of a particular plot, its contamination history, the difficulty in obtaining organic certification, and the limited potential demand for specific produce is not something one can easily grasp, so it is no surprise that this group overlooks these critical aspects in the hopes that they can somehow profit. Any farming located on county land would first and foremost prohibit public access, create creek contamination and generate income for a limited few.

Seeing the happiness shared by people enjoying the land while it was open to the public reinforced for me the clear need to keep the property as a park open to everyone, and of the need to restore it for wildlife and recreational uses. It is my hope that moving forward, clearer heads prevail in this county planning process.

**Brian Staley**  
Woodacre