DREAM BIGGER

The Gaviota Overlook at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve

William B. Dewey Photography
We have an opportunity to protect more land along the treasured Gaviota Coast and we need your help to do it.

SINCE THE LAND TRUST PURCHASED and established the Arroyo Hondo Preserve in 2001, close to 100,000 visitors have been welcomed to enjoy its trails, education programming, and thriving biodiversity. Tens of thousands of local school children have explored the canyon through the Environmental Education Program—with more schools booking visits each year. And while the 782-acre preserve is protected forever, opportunities to expand both public access and the nature preserve’s boundaries are incredibly rare.

Not until this moment has the Land Trust and our community had a chance to dream bigger.
THE PURCHASE OF GAVIOTA OVERLOOK, 48 acres of rolling coastal grassland neighboring Arroyo Hondo, presents us with a timely opening to grow the preserve’s trail network, programming, and public access.

What is more, the Gaviota Overlook is nestled along the iconic U.S Route 101 State Scenic Highway. This stretch of coastline is one of the most magnificent examples of rural, coastal Central California and one of the last to remain undeveloped in the southern region. Locals and visitors experience spectacular views of grassy hills and mountains, the expansive Pacific, and the impressive Santa Ynez Mountains.

With your help, the Land Trust will protect Gaviota Overlook forever as part of Arroyo Hondo Preserve.

https://youtu.be/mBOlcD1BkGk
Gaviota Overlook will be the first new piece of conservation on the Gaviota Coast in fifteen years. With Gaviota Overlook, the Land Trust has the opportunity to create more public access and expand environmental education programming while setting the stage for a robust future Gaviota Coast trail network.

Conserving Gaviota Overlook and adding it to Arroyo Hondo Preserve is an act of love and a promise for the future—for the land, for the community, and for the life it sustains.

We hope the people of Santa Barbara County will join us in protecting Gaviota Overlook and make this expansion of habitat, trails, and public access happen.

MEREDITH HENDRICKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Purchasing Gaviota Overlook will allow the Land Trust to expand visitor access for the first time in twenty years.

Adding new trails to the Arroyo Hondo network enhances the visitor experience and creates the potential for a more robust future Gaviota Coast trail network. The addition of new trails will increase educational opportunities for school children and our community alike, adding to the magic of this beloved place.

The rolling grassland of the Gaviota Overlook property also adds a new, unique habitat to Arroyo Hondo, benefitting local plants and animals, and, importantly, extending connectivity as a wildlife corridor. Three watershed drainages on this property recharge the water table with winter rains while the grasslands provide carbon and nitrogen capture, both important to climate resilience. With conservation management of the property, the climate benefits are enhanced, and the community will experience firsthand why conserving the Gaviota Coast matters.
The Vision

PROTECTING GAVIOTA OVERLOOK accomplishes the first new piece of conservation on the Gaviota Coast in fifteen years. As background, approximately twenty years ago, the Land Trust successfully protected three Gaviota Coast properties with a vision towards the future: Preserving California’s iconic Gaviota Coast in perpetuity, piece by piece.

The Gaviota Overlook Property will serve as a catalyst for the next wave of Gaviota Coast conservation.

As oil and gas operations shift away from production in our area, Gaviota Coast properties such as the Hercules Gas Processing Plant and Gaviota Marine Terminal could transition from industrial use to opportunities for recreation and conservation.

Imagine the puzzle pieces all coming together and adding up to thousands of conserved acres stretching from the Dangermond Preserve in the west through to Refugio and El Capitan State Beaches in the south—mile after mile of one of the most beautiful, unspoiled, and environmentally significant stretches of California coastline protected forever.
Contact Us

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