

# THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



## Ocean Meadows

*Restoring a Natural Treasure for the People of Santa Barbara*

In 1965 a historic wetland was filled with over 1 million cubic yards of local soil to create a small, 9 hole golf course. Now, with help from the State Coastal Conservancy and the University of California Santa Barbara's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, this land will be restored to its natural state, protecting the local community from flooding, and creating a beautiful natural landscape for everyone to enjoy.

The Trust for Public Land has negotiated an option to buy 63 acres of land at Ocean Meadows, in Goleta, nine miles from the center of Santa Barbara.

When the property's wetlands were filled in 1965 to create the golf course, the capacity of Devereux Creek was significantly diminished which now results in flooding problems in the nearby residential areas.

Developing the land further will only increase the damage to the habitat of Devereux Slough and further diminish a vital natural flood plain.

With this purchase The Trust for Public Land will protect the land from future development, and establish a framework for its long-term restoration.

**This acquisition will have wide-ranging benefits for the community.**

- Ocean Meadows sits at the core of nearly 600 acres of significant open space on the Ellwood-Devereux coast, and its protection will secure segments of the popular California Coastal Trail, and offer easy access and links to a wide network of popular local trails.
- The people living in the residential areas that surround Ocean Meadows will have a spectacular – and much needed – open space for low-impact recreation such as hiking, jogging and an increase in nature watching as the natural landscape is restored and native species return and thrive.
- The students attending the University of California Santa Barbara will have a nationally important restoration project on their doorstep – and in their curriculum.
- Restoration will increase and enhance much needed habitat for no less than 27 rare and endangered species, from native plants like the Ventura marsh milk-vetch to migratory birds such as the western snowy plover, that have clung to the small pockets of natural wetland that remained after the golf course was built.

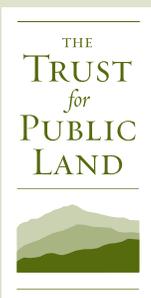
- The process of reversing the damage will also restore the adjacent upland – in all 117 acres of native habitat will be returned to its original state.
- Ocean Meadows is poised to become a nationally important educational site in the field of natural history and wetland restoration, involving a wide variety of community organizations coordinated and helped by the University of California Santa Barbara staff and faculty.



**Project partners and supporters**

At the core of this project is an unprecedented partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy and UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration – who will be responsible for restoring and managing Ocean Meadows and adjacent properties. Other partners helping make the project possible include:

- County of Santa Barbara, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department Fish and Game, Caltrans
- Goleta Valley Land Trust
- Congresswoman Lois Capps, State Senator Tony Strickland, State Assemblymember Das Williams, County Supervisor Doreen Farr
- Gaviota Coast Conservancy, Friends of the Ellwood Coast, Santa Barbara Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Environmental Defense Center



*The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.*

[tpl.org /california](http://tpl.org/california)

To learn more about the Ocean Meadows project, please contact:

ALEX SIZE  
415.800.5275  
[ALEX.SIZE@TPL.ORG](mailto:ALEX.SIZE@TPL.ORG)

To support our work in Santa Barbara County, please contact:

YOLANDA ADRA  
323.223.0441 ext. 22  
[YOLANDA.ADRA@TPL.ORG](mailto:YOLANDA.ADRA@TPL.ORG)