

# Glenwood Preserve to open in fall 2015

Glenwood

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**SCOTTS VALLEY »** The Glenwood Open Space Preserve in Scotts Valley may open to the public at the end of 2015.

The ribbon cutting is more than a year away, but the city has waited more than a decade for recreation trails as efforts languished.

Scotts Valley approved the creation of management plans for the preserve in 2003. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County received a \$1 million endowment to manage the property.

Once slated for a housing development, the land is home to a number of vulnerable plants and insects, including the endangered Scotts Valley spineflower and Ohlone tiger beetle.

GLENWOOD » PAGE 3

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## Glenwood

FROM PAGE 1

"Now we're in a good place and where we wanted to be for a few years," said Scotts Valley Councilman Randy Johnson. "I'm just kind of happy for the people of the city who've been on the outside looking in. Now there's a horizon, which is going to allow them to participate."

This month, the city of Scotts Valley and the land trust are finalizing environmental documents for U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Upon receiving approval, the city and the land trust hope to engage the community on a public access plan and trail system next summer.

"What we had to do is develop a new management plan that provides for public access but, at the same time, the endangered plants and animals also," said Bryan Largay, the trust's conservation director. "We look forward to getting people out on the property as soon as we can."

To protect the sensitive species, the Land Trust allows animals to graze the property. The property housed a dairy farm nearly a century ago.

Horses had recently grazed Glenwood's rolling hills, but they begged people for food.

If there is more rainfall, cows should return to the preserve this winter.

By eating and walking, cows keep the grass low. The beetles need sunlight to hit the ground. In autumn, tall grass would otherwise fall over and create a thick layer on the soil.

## GLENWOOD OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

The 166-acre property in Scotts Valley is home to a number of vulnerable species.

### Wildlife

- Ohlone tiger beetle, endangered

- Opler's longhorn moth

### Plants

- Scotts Valley spineflower, endangered

- Scotts Valley polygonum, endangered

- Choris' popcorn flower

- Mount Diablo cottonweed

- Gray's clover

Creamcups, a native plant with small flowers, also thrives in thinner grass. The Opler's longhorn moth, a species of concern, lays its eggs on the base of the creamcups.

However, much of the grasses at Glenwood are non-native species dependent upon grazing livestock, said Larry Ford, a rangeland conservation scientist who studied the preserve.

"We have a situation where we've got these endangered species that are persisting in a grassland that's dominated by non-natives that need some kind of management to make the habitat quality good enough for them to not go extinct," Ford said.

Research has shown that grazing helps preserve landscapes and promotes biodiversity. Cows graze the UCSC meadows and the Morecreek Preserve managed by the city of Santa Cruz.

Grazing is also expected to offset Glenwood's management costs of \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year 5 to 10 percent, Largay said.