

SCOTTS VALLEY

✓ Land Trust purchases property for Sandhills Preserve

Recent addition
brings preserve to
204 acres

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SCOTTS VALLEY » An additional 15 acres was added to the 189 acres of protected

Randall Morgan Sandhills Preserve after it was purchased by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, forever preventing development and protecting plants and animals.

The addition, which comes at the cost of \$470,000, was made final Tuesday and is near Mount Hermon and Lockhart Gulch roads.

The Sandhills make up

an ancient seabed with sand dollars, sea shells and fossils of extinct animals to be found there. It is also home to seven species of plants and animals found nowhere else on the planet, including the Mount Hermon June beetle and the Santa Cruz Wildflower, according to land trust officials.

"It is a rare habitat, threatened by development

that needs protecting today, said Terry Corwin, Land Trust executive director.

The Land Trust, in its 25-year conservation blueprint, identified Sandhills as an area to conserve because of its rarity and there are plans to protect additional land.

Funding for the recent purchase came from private, state and federal programs.

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