

Portola Valley Conservation Committee Spotlight



The goal of the Conservation Committee is to conserve the rural quality of Portola Valley and to maintain the Town as an attractive, tranquil, family-oriented residential community for all generations, compatible with the many physical constraints and natural features of the area. The committee does this by promoting programs to enhance the environment through protection of native habitat and by helping to ensure that all land development respects and preserves the natural condition of the area. We were one of the first committees established in 1964 at the Town's founding.

We focus on educating new and existing residents on the advantages of preserving our area's native flora and fauna and promoting understanding of preservation of habitat and co-existence of local wildlife with modern day life.

Specifics of what we do:

- Review significant tree removal applications
- Review landscaping plans and site permits
- Promote the use of native/water wise plants and control of invasive plants
- Organize educational lectures and booths at Town events

- Monitor restoration and maintenance of Town-owned Open Spaces and Parks
- Work closely with the Fire Marshall promoting a balance of healthy habitat for our valued wildlife, while landscaping to fire-wise standards.
- Develop and distribute brochures for native and fire-wise planting

Committee members objectives

“My goal is to inspire both current and new residents to plant and care for native plants and trees that support our local wildlife, birds, and insects, while also listening thoughtfully to their concerns.” **Marianne Plunder**, Chair

“I enjoy being able to constantly learn more about my community and to contribute to maintaining native plants, habitat for our wildlife and the semi-rural feel.” **Judy Murphy**, Vice Chair

“I joined the Conservation Committee as an opportunity to build and participate in community, while sharing my expertise in service of the local ecology.” **Megan Richards**, Secretary

“I like that everything we do feels like a two-way process where we share a lot of information and learn from other residents. It has deepened my appreciation of the Town to hear about wildlife observations and landscaping experiences on the properties we visit.” **Nona Chiariello**

“I joined the Conservation Committee to become more involved with and learn more about our Town, and to help "spread the word" about this unique and beautiful place with new and existing residents through community events and opportunities.” **Teresa Coleman**

"When collaborating with the Committee, I've been inspired by the group's welcoming spirit and enthusiasm for new projects. As a student member I can add new perspectives to today's Conservation challenges. " **Eliza Low**, Student Member

“We began by cataloging local flora and fauna, mapping trails, and noting significant trees. Now, the focus is on preserving the rural environment, promoting native planting, and protecting heritage trees. Meeting residents remains a pleasure.” **Dieter Walz**

“Being a volunteer with the Town Conservation Committee allows me to actively participate in the preservation and educational efforts in Portola Valley. Further, it allows me to broaden my knowledge and expertise, and it complements my active role in the Landscape Committee of the PV Ranch.” **Joerg Zimmermann**

“The Conservation Committee serves a vital role in helping preserve our native ecology and educate our residents on the importance of taking care of Portola Valley, a unique and beautiful place we all call home. I am honored to serve as Council Liaison to the Conservation Committee and enjoy helping them achieve their stewardship goals.” **Rebecca Flynn**, Town Councilmember