

WELCOME TO FAIRFAX CA



Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
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The Town of Fairfax is an environmentally conscious community situated in the heart of central Marin County. Incorporated in 1921, Fairfax has a population of approximately 7,500. Its history spans thousands of years.

The **Coast Miwoks are the indigenous residents** of the area. Their rich history in areas throughout Marin and inhabited them for thousands of years before explorers and settlers arrived. Several local organizations preserve this history, and work to ensure that the stories of the Coast Miwoks are preserved. Many artifacts have been found within the town borders.

The Graton Rancheria community is a federation of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo groups recognized as a tribe by the U.S. Congress. The Miwok of west Marin County have, through the years, been referred to as Marshall Indians, Marin Miwok, Tomales, Tomales Bay, and Hookooeko. The Bodega Miwok (aka, Olamentko) traditionally lived in the area of Bodega Bay. The neighboring Southern Pomo Sebastopol group lived just north and east of the Miwok. The town of Sebastopol is located about one mile midway between the north boundary of Miwok territory and the southern edge of Southern Pomo territory.

According to The Coast Miwok Tribal Council, which is a separate entity from the Federated Tribes of Graton Rancheria, the **Coast Miwok were the first humans to appreciate the beauty and bounty of Marin County.** Their roots are deep. One of the largest and deepest shellmounds excavated by archeologists in Marin is 5,000 years old. **Oral histories trace the lineage back at least 10,000 years,** and their creation stories describe how their ancestors emerged from the land itself.

Incorporated in 1921

HELD WITHIN THE MOUNT TAMALPAIS WATERSHED

For millennia the Coast Miwok were careful stewards of the land; in return, the land took care of them. The bay, marshlands and streams provided an abundance of fish and shellfish. Herds of deer, elk and antelope roamed the hillsides, and rabbit and quail were readily available. The Coast Miwok carefully tended and nurtured the many stands of oak throughout Marin that provided a key staple of their diet: acorns. **They knew the yearly cycles of the plants,** and exactly when, where and how to gather the wide variety of native berries, bulbs and tubers the land offered so there would be another good harvest when they returned to that location the following year.

When California was under Mexican rule, land grants were made to honor military service. Much of Marin was granted during 1834-1846 including land conferred to Domingo Sais in 1839 for his military service to Mexico. This track of land, known as **Canada de Herrera, covered much of what makes up today's Fairfax** and about 1/2 of San Anselmo- a total of 6,658 acres. Domingo Sais gave the area now known as the *Marin Town and Country Club* to Marin's first physician, Alfred Taliaferro of Virginia, who subsequently passed

the property along to fellow Virginian, Charles S. Fairfax. Fairfax moved here with his wife, Ada, in 1855.

Charles Snowden Fairfax, tenth Baron of Cameron, Scotland, whose ancestors had been granted the province of Virginia by the British Crown, was lured west by gold fever. His Marin estate, called "Bird's Nest Glen," was famed for its southern-style hospitality. Fairfax passed away in April 1869 in Baltimore Maryland.

After the death of Charles Fairfax, the property changed hands, eventually becoming the site of the renowned Pastori's Restaurant in the 1890's.

Madame Pastori, a former singer at La Scala in Milan, Italy, was visited in Fairfax by many great figures of the opera world. The restaurant building, which was built on a grander scale after a fire in 1911, still stands.

Convenient railroad service early in this century made **Fairfax a favorite weekend and summer holiday spot with city dwellers**. Fairfax Park, a famous picnic spot, hosted thousands over the weekends. The large Italian population, due in part to the construction of Alpine Dam in 1917, gave the town much of its flavor and helped add to Fairfax's colorful history.

Fairfax has a rich history of film-making (silent films), big bands at the Marin Town and County Club, in the 1960s and 1970s it attracted some of the best musical groups to its bar and club scene, which has continued to attract artists and performers throughout the years.

Rich diverse history

NATURE PRESERVED IN FAIRFAX

Today Fairfax, retains its small town atmosphere and charm. We are grateful for those who work to protect its uniqueness and who work to ensure that we can enjoy a town that values its history, natural resources and artistic community.

Join us in our long lineage of protecting nature, enjoying the great outdoors and preserving our tight knit community. Get to know your neighbors, learn the town ordinances, participate in the town events and meetings and add value to our vibrant community. In this way Fairfax will continue to be the captivating place many call home.



Affordable Housing Committee. Established in 2008, the commission seeks to address the need for sound policymaking in affordable housing through discussions of issues among members of the community with professional experience in the area affordable housing.

The Citizens Disaster Council is an advisory committee mandated by the Town Code that meets on an as-needed basis. Responsibilities include: development of Town's emergency plan, recommendation for emergency and mutual aid plans and agreements for adoption by the Town Council, ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations necessary to implement such plans and agreements.

Climate Action Committee ("CAC") was established in 2014 to implement the Climate Action Plan which offers strategies to get to the Town's goal of carbon net zero by 2030. Its mission is to mitigate the production of greenhouse gas and compile existing and potential strategies to address climate change. CAC develops an annual action plan as well as a scorecard to track .

Community Emergency Preparedness Committee was established to support and help coordinate collaborative town-wide efforts to prepare residents to respond to emergencies of all kinds. The general focus of the Committee is on tangible, practical, cost-effective actions regarding emergency preparedness that can be implemented at the local level.

Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing and providing guidance for the Town's financial matters. Specifically, the committee assures internal controls, independent audit, and financial analysis for the organization. The Finance Committee reviews all financial statements and reports on financial activity to the Council.

Serve Your Community

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

The Citizens' Oversight Committee was established by the Town Council in 2005 with the passage of Measure F for the purpose of monitoring the use of the special municipal tax revenues in accordance with the measure. The oversight committee has continued with each renewal of the tax. In 2020, they added two representatives from the public at large. In this way, the tax revenues continue to be monitored to ensure they are used according to the purpose and intent of the measure.

The Fairfax Open Space Committee ("FOSC") is an advisory body to the Town Council with the charge to assess open space acquisition opportunities, raise funds and support within the community for such proposals. This Committee also serves as an advisory body in the consideration of long-term planning for the Town, and to review certain planning and development matters.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) which oversees the public parks, programs and recommends and organizes events and activities for Fairfax residents. Some of the events PARC sponsors are the Brewfest, annual Egg Hunt in Bolinas Park, the Fairfax Festival & Parade in June, a Halloween party for children, and art shows by the Artist-in-Resident. PARC also considers sponsorship of special one-time events that benefit the community as a whole.

The Planning Commission consists of seven Fairfax residents appointed by the Town Council to bring a broad variety of expertise and experience in reviewing planning applications, Fairfax ordinances, and the Town General Plan and Housing Element. The Planning Commission serves as an advisory body to the Town Council on planning policies and regulations.

The Volunteer Board is a Town-sponsored group whose mission is to foster goodwill in the Town of Fairfax through implementation of a Volunteer Program that will meet Town and community needs. The Volunteers' functions include: Creating appropriate volunteer projects to support the Board's mission which will enhance the quality of life in Fairfax; actively soliciting volunteers from the community; sponsoring annual and cultural social events and more.

The Tree Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing tree removal/alteration applications at a public hearing, and making a recommendation to the Director of Planning and Building Services to grant or deny a permit. The Committee is comprised of a member of the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, the Open Space Committee and two members of the community at-large.

In 1973, the Town of Fairfax approved Ordinance No. 387 to preserve the wide variety of local native trees and to protect the benefits they provide the citizens. Trees prevent topsoil erosion, reduce the risk of landslides, and contribute to fresher air by using up excess carbon dioxide and turning it into life supporting oxygen. Additionally, trees provide scenic beauty and aesthetic characteristics to the town. A Tree Permit is required for removal OR significant trimming of any tree, pursuant to Town Code Chapter 8.36 'Trees.'

Serve Your Community

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

How to Join a Board or Commission

You must be a Fairfax resident to apply, except for the Open Space and Racial Equity & Social Justice Committees, which require residency within the 94930 zip code area. There are also youth memberships available. You are also expected to attend at least one meeting of the committee to which you are applying.

To apply, submit an official application form to the Town Clerk. Applications are available online and at the front counter of Town Hall.
<https://www.townoffairfax.org/how-to-join-board-or-commission/>

Applications are reviewed by the Town Council. All applicants are interviewed by the Town Council at a special meeting. Appointments are made by a formal vote of the Council.

Scan for Board/Comm



9 PARTICIPATING NEIGHBORHOODS**Cañon Village**

Contact: Joanne Lasnier, seolh.joanne@gmail.com

Cascade Canyon

Contact: CascadeFirewise@gmail.com

Neighborhood: all the streets within the Cascade Canyon pillars.

Deer Park

Contact: DeerPark.Firewise@gmail.com

Neighborhood: Creek Rd, Barker Ave, Blackberry Ln, Forrest Terrace, Forrest Ave from Forrest Terrace to Meernaa Ave, Meernaa Ave, Porteous Ave, Ivy Ln, Wood Ln, Spring Ln, Hillside Dr, Deer Park Ln, Crest Rd

For(r)est Ave Area

Contact: Mary Fleming (mf@forrest-studios.com)

Neighborhood: Forrest Ave up to #345 and all of Summer Ave.

Manor Hill

Contact: info@manorhillfirewise.org

www.manorhillfirewise.org

Neighborhood: Acacia Rd, Bay Rd, Berry Tr, Coree Ln, Fir Tr, Frustuck Ave, Holly Rd, Manor Rd, Manzanita Rd, Manzanita Ct, Mountain View Rd, Park Ln, Redwood Rd, Ridge Rd, Scenic Rd, Scenic Tr, Sequoia Rd, Spruce Rd, Tamalpais Rd, Valley Rd, Walsh Ln, Wreden Ave

Marinda Oaks

Contact: marindaoaksfirewise@gmail.com

Neighborhood: Marinda Dr, Marinda Ct, Archangel Ct, San Gabriel Dr, San Gabriel Ct, Vista Way

Meadowland of Marin

Contact: secretary@meadowlandofmarin.com

Neighborhood: Shemran Ct and Glen Drive (Meadowland of Marin HOA)

Oak Manor Ridge

Contact: omr.firewise@gmail.com

Neighborhood: Manor View Dr, Mariele Dr, Von Ct, Steven Ct, Ellsworth Ln, 505 to 616 Oak Manor Dr

Emergency Preparedness

FIREWISE/ NRG

Willow Evac

Contact: Willow.Evac.Firewise@gmail.com

Neighborhood: Willow Ave, Maple Ave, Live Oak Ave, Chester Ave, Ridgeway Ave, Upper Ridgeway Ave, Juniper Ct.

Join your local Firewise Community

<https://www.townoffairfax.org/fairfax-firewise-usa-neighborhoods/>

What do Firewise communities do?

1. Get to know one another and develop a contact list for the neighborhood.
2. Hold regular meetings to share information and plan events.
3. Promote wildfire education.
4. Hold evacuation drills.
5. Hold a neighborhood walk to note areas that need improvement.
6. Report serious hazards to your local fire department.
7. Encourage participation in an annual Chipper Day event.



Food and Drink

Fairfax has so many great dining choices!
Whether you get take-out, delivery, or dine
outside, there are many delicious options!

Amelie Cafe and Wine Bar
Avatar Punjabi Burritos
Bah Mi Ba
Barefoot Cafe
Cafe Lotus
Fairfax Coffee Roastery
Fairfix Café
Fradelizio's Ristorante Italiano
Gestalt Haus
Ghiringhelli's Pizzeria & Wine Bar
Hen House Brewery
Hummingbird Café
Java Hut
Lodge
M&G's Burgers
Mas Masa Restaurant
Mauro's Pasta
Nave's
Peri's Tavern
Perry's Deli
Red Boy Pizza
Siam Lotus Thai Cuisine
Sorella
Spilt Rock Tap & Wheel
Still Water
Village Sake
Way Station
Wu Wei Tea Temple

Shop & Dine Local

FAIRFAX OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Local Shops and Businesses

Age Friendly Fairfax
Canon Swim & Tennis
Fairfax Community Church
Fairfax Library
Marin Museum of Bicycling
Town of Fairfax
First Friends Montessori Preschool
Manor Elementary School
White Hill Middle School
7-11 Store
Atlas Health
Beach House Style
Broadway Hair Design
Creative Portraiture
Conifer
David Smadbeck Coldwell Banker
Deleuse Jewelers
Dragon Heart Healing Arts
Ed & Gerry's/Sonas
Emma's Shop
Fairfax Backyard Farmer
Fairfax Farmers Market
Fairfax Inn
Fairfax Lumber & Hardware
Fairfax Market
Fairfax Nail Salon
Fairfax Scoop
Fairfax Theatre
Fairfax Variety Store
Fairfax Veterinary Clinic

For Paws
Frogs Hot Tubs
Georgia Gibbs Studio
Good Earth Natural Foods
Grace Thrift Shop
The Eleventh House
Herban Garden
Indie Alley
Live Water Surf Shop
Lola's Depot
Mac's at 19 Broadway
Magpie
Marin Alliance CBC
Marin Automotive
Marin Dental
Mt Tam Botanicals
Mystic Rose
Padma Studios
Peruva Auto Services
Picaroto Cleaners
Potting Shed
Revolution 9
Shimmer Boutique
Solstice Mercantile
Sunshine Bicycle Center
Tibet Moon
Trouve Art & Antiques
Washing Well
West Marin Pet Hospital

Scan for Chamber Info



MARCH

Brewfest
West Marin Little League Parade

APRIL

Fairfax Easter Egg Hunt
Community Seder
Earth Day
Spring Faire at Manor School

MAY

Fairfax Farmers Market weekly - Wednesdays
(May-October)

JUNE

Fairfax Festival

AUGUST

Streets For People

SEPTEMBER

Annual Town Picnic
Fairfax Art Walk

OCTOBER

Biketoberfest
Annual Irish Festival of Music and Dance
Fairfax Halloween Parade

DECEMBER

Fairfax Craft Faire
Holiday Caroling and Wreath Making
Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party and Silent
Auction

**The more we get together the happier we'll
be...** The Town of Fairfax loves community events!
Come out and see friends new and old.

Go to <https://www.townoffairfax.org/events> for the
dates

Local Community Events

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Town of Fairfax Community Groups

<https://www.townoffairfax.org/community/>

Age Friendly Fairfax
Arts and Culture
Fairfax Craft Faire
Fairfax Open Space Committee
Fairfax Volunteers
Local Events
Parks and Facilities Rentals
Recreation
Sustainability

**Sign up for the Town newsletters to stay up
to date with the community.**

<https://www.townoffairfax.org/town-newsletter/>



Ecology ~ Safety ~ Courtesy

LIFE IN FAIRFAX

Welcome to beautiful Fairfax located in the Mount Tamalpais watershed. Filled with a rich diversity of wildlife, magnificent trees, beautiful riparian creeks and stunning flora. The community cares deeply for the environment and takes the responsibility of living and preserving nature to heart.

Living between trees and open space results in one lane, winding roads. Residents and visitors should be aware of their surroundings as we share this space with wildlife, hikers, walkers, kids at play and bicyclists. These factors also make it important to prepare for natural disasters, such as floods, wildfires and earthquakes. Residents acting as stewards in maintaining the beauty, safety and integrity of the land is what keeps the magic alive.

This small 2.2 square mile town has maintained its charm through generations of forward-thinking conservation efforts and values as stated through regulations upheld by the Town of Fairfax. Understanding expectations and regulations can help you settle into your new home, set you on a safe path, save you time and money and open the doors to the secret, unique quality of Fairfax living.

Key issues to be aware of before you settle in:

- Riparian/Creek Conservation
- Living with Wildlife
- Noise Regulation
- Wildfire Guidance
- Tree Resources
- Road Rules

Riparian/Creek Conservation

Plant communities supporting woody vegetation found along rivers, creeks and streams provide riverbank protection, erosion control and improved water quality and aesthetic values.

These systems supply food, cover and water for a diversity of animals and serve as migration route stopping points. Every creek, lake and culvert is vital to sustaining the area. Embankment health is important for creek stability to withstand floods. When the San Anselmo Creek fills, tributaries and culverts flow rapidly. Riparian vegetation resists the flow of floodwaters, increases water filtration, recharges groundwater and protects property.

The following create serious damage to these delicate areas, are prohibited and generate steep fines:

- Removing, dumping, and pushing soil into the creeks and tributaries
- Removal of trees or severe pruning of the canopy without permits.

Wildlife

Fairfax is home to an abundance of wildlife from the common to the unique, which includes the threatened, keystone & endangered species. The wildland/urban interfaces (WUI) are essential to support a healthy wildlife population as each species is an integral part of the ecosystem and needs a large landscape to survive.

PROTECT THE WATERSHED

Ecology ~ Safety ~ Courtesy

Things to know:

- Nesting season for the endangered Northern Spotted Owl runs from February 1st to July 31st each year. This is a critical time and loud noises should be kept to a minimum. These non-migratory owls are slow breeders and tied to mature forests with large trees.
- Flocks of crows are noisy, boisterous and may soil your vehicles, patios and decks. It is illegal to harm them, or any wildlife. Observation of wildlife should be kept at a distance.
- Use of pesticides and rodenticides is forbidden. They kill wildlife and poison the food chain. There are many alternative solutions to mouse and rat issues.

Pets

Protect your pets (dogs, cats, chickens, etc.) and plants from becoming dinner for wildlife. Wildlife frequent yards, roads, and driveways and are beloved and protected neighbors. Consideration must be taken in pruning and removal of vegetation as many are sanctuaries that provide shelter and food for birds.

Noise Regulation

The quiet and calm of nature appeals to those in need of healing, meditation and rejuvenation. Consideration is appreciated by wildlife as well as neighbors. There are ordinances in place for noise

disturbance but regardless, alert neighbors of upcoming projects with loud decibel levels or large truck deliveries to insure a more convivial relationship.

Leaf blowers, construction, mechanical noise, loud voices and music, especially at night, impacts nature and neighbors. Keep it to a minimum.

- Use electric/battery powered tools whenever possible. 8am-6pm M-F and 9am-4pm weekends & holidays

Wildfire Guidance

Living in a woodland environment comes with a higher level of wildfire hazards and threats. Fairfax residents take pride in being an active Firewise community. Neighborhoods actively work together on emergency communications, home hardening and evacuation strategies. It takes the whole community working together to safely prepare for disasters.

Tree Protection

Fairfax is a forest full of oaks, redwoods, bay laurels, madrones and more. As a natural resource it is strictly managed by the town's tree committee.

- Trees, even on one's own property, and large woody perennials may not be removed or suffer excessive pruning without a permit and is punishable with a \$1,000 fine

Road Rules/Parking

Roads are shared by drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, pets and wildlife. Drive slower than the posted signage, (5-10 mph). Watch your odometer. Many accidents and deaths of pets and wildlife can be prevented by slowing down and expecting the unexpected on our curvy, narrow roads.

Ecology ~ Safety ~ Courtesy

LONG LASTING PRACTICES

Sign up for the Town newsletters to stay up to date with the community.

<https://www.townoffairfax.org/town-newsletter/>

Road rules:

- Roads must have a 12ft clearance at all times for any emergencies and evacuation.
- do not block driveways or fire hydrants
- park off the pavement
- avoid driving or parking on waterway embankments

These regulations may sound daunting, but they support a community of caring, nature loving and creative living, at peace with the environment and each other. Fairfax is a kind and wonderful community that treasures connection, family and the beautiful outdoors. There is nowhere else like it in the world! Become familiar with and supportive of regulations put in place to protect our rich biodiversity and wildlife, join the common thread of community, preservation and respect.

Stay Connected! Following local government is easy and residents are very active at the monthly Town Council Meetings. Become familiar and supportive of regulations put in place to protect our rich biodiversity and wildlife, there is a common thread of community, preservation and respect.

Scan for Newsletter

