

# WILDLIFE PICTURE INDEX: GARY GIACOMINI

Stretching 1,500 acres, the majestic Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve was once slated for development. This special preserve is now home to windswept dwarf Sargent cypress forests, rare Marin manzanita, and an interesting variety of wildlife.

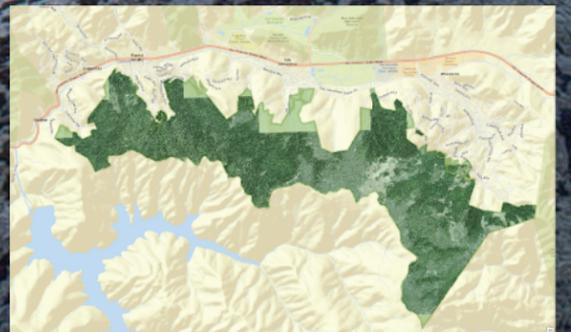
The Wildlife Picture Index allows park staff to better monitor ecosystem health and the impacts of climate change. It also provides a unique perspective into the curious lives of our local wildlife. Understanding how these animals use different habitats is critical for thoughtful land management. This summary includes early results from 31 camera stations, with photos taken September 2014 through February 2015.

While black-tailed deer were most commonly detected, the variety of wildlife species identified indicates an ecosystem with diversity and abundance at each level of the food chain. Smaller mammals like woodrats, rabbits, and squirrels are important for dispersing seeds and as prey for larger animals. Larger mammals keep the cycle in balance. Notably at Gary Giacomini, gray foxes were more abundant than other locations.

Continued data collection will develop an even greater understanding of wildlife abundance and behavior. Volunteers have played a huge role in cataloging photos and maintaining cameras. Increased public outreach about the importance of wildlife habitat will continue.

# 7,164

WILDLIFE PICTURES CAPTURED



## NUMBER OF MAMMALIAN DETECTIONS & SPECIES

