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Coastside Land Trust receives donation of nine parcels in the Wavecrest area of Half Moon Bay from the Sam Mazza Foundation.

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(Half Moon Bay, CA) — The Sam Mazza Foundation has donated nine parcels in the Wavecrest area of Half Moon Bay to the Coastside Land Trust (CLT), permanently preserving them for the community's benefit and enjoyment.

"After meeting Jo Chamberlain of CLT, the board members knew that the foundation's gift parcels would be entrusted to an organization of committed individuals dedicated to maintaining land for public use. We are pleased to be in relationship with CLT and to be a small part of the open space movement in the area," said Jeanette Cool, the Foundation's executive director.

An immigrant from Sicily, Sam Mazza arrived in San Francisco in 1910. After his education, he followed his family's strong work ethic, first as a painting contractor, then a theater painter and decorator for 20th Century Fox, and finally as investor in San Francisco real estate. Although he lived in San Francisco, he was socially intertwined and spent leisure time with the coastal community. The late Mr. Mazza was most well known as the "king" of the Castle in Pacifica — a famous, if not notorious, piece of real estate on the California coast that had been sitting in disrepair for several years. He made the purchase on a whim, and with his own *joie de vivre* created a museum of his own relics, antiques and theater props. Sam held many social events, charity dinners and local gatherings in his "castle by the sea". The historic Castle celebrated its centennial year in 2008 and, as the headquarters for the Sam Mazza Foundation, continues to inspire and contribute toward social good.

In the late 1950s, Mr. Mazza purchased nine parcels in Wavecrest overlooking the Pacific Ocean that his brother, Angelo, a real estate broker, had listed for sale. Angelo Mazza, a current director for the Sam Mazza Foundation, remembers that the purchase price was \$7700 cash to the seller. Although Sam had no immediate plans

to build on these lots, he loved his Pacifica property. It seemed likely that securing additional real estate on the coast would be a wise investment.

These lots were never sold nor developed, but were gifted by Mr. Mazza to his private foundation, created for charitable work and social improvement. The foundation's board of directors proceeded to research that area of the coastline, the activity in the vicinity and to make site visits to the lots. The natural beauty of Wavecrest is easily observed and preservation seemed a winning option. After making contact with the Coastal Land Trust and learning much about the environment, the history, the plans for land preservation, the Board decided to donate these parcels to the Trust for the protection and enjoyment by generations to come. This gift is a lasting legacy to Mr. Sam Mazza, his love of life, people and the beauty of the California coast.

The nine parcels are currently open space. All but one of the parcels have active hiking/bicycling trails through them, and they are home to snakes, lizards, rodents, insects, raptors, a variety of small bird species, and many native plants. Everyone and everything is using and enjoying these lands. Two or more of the parcels close to the cliffs are candidates for the future coastal trail alignment.

"The Wavecrest bluff tops have some of the most beautiful views across the bay and the bluffs. They are enjoyed by many from our community and visitors to the coast. Every time I go through this area there are people, often families, walking their dogs, running, bird watching or finding their way to the shoreline. With this generous donation, the Sam Mazza Foundation leaves a wonderful legacy to the public that will be appreciated by all for generations to come," said CLT board member John Dicker.

The Coastside Land Trust is a public nonprofit land trust is dedicated to the preservation, protection & enhancement of the open space environment including the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, & agricultural resources of Half Moon Bay & the nearby areas for present & future generations.