

# THE NAPA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE

Napa Valley's environmental leadership story began 50 years ago in 1968, when Napa Valley vintners and others in the community had the forethought to preserve open space and prevent future over-development by enacting the nation's first Agriculture Preserve. This land-zoning ordinance established agriculture and open space as the best use for the land in the fertile valley and foothill areas of Napa County.

If the act hadn't succeeded, there's little doubt that Napa Valley would have gone the way of Santa Clara Valley, which was called the Valley of Heart's Delight for its orchards and vines long before it became Silicon Valley, a symbol for technology and urban development. Without the Ag Preserve, a major divided highway would run through what are now some of the world's finest vineyards, and Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga would most likely be a sea of housing development and their quaint downtowns would be bypassed and largely unused.