

# Sierra Azul / Bear Creek Redwoods

## Open Space Preserves MASTER PLAN

FALL 2005

### OVERVIEW

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is developing a resource protection and visitor use plan for its two southernmost Preserves. Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves contain over 18,000 acres and are located just south of Los Gatos, to either side of Lexington Reservoir in the Santa Cruz Mountain Range.

Through the master planning process, the District aims to provide the public with greater opportunities for low-intensity recreational access, interpretation, and education, while protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources.

This newsletter, second in a series, is designed to provide an update on the Sierra Azul/ Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan project.

### INFORMATION GATHERING



More than 100 members of the public attended the first Sierra Azul/ Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan project workshop held on April 4, 2005.

The project team presented an overview of the District and its mission as the overarching policy framework for the master plan. This included an explanation of the planning process, public participation opportunities, and a summary of the key resources and existing recreational facilities at both Preserves. The community was asked to provide input on existing visitor use, and perceptions of the land. Attendees noted heavily used areas, key preserve entry points, known vista points, and other special interest topics on poster size preserve maps. You can download a detailed summary of the first workshop and copies of the annotated preserve maps on the project Web site [www.openspace.org/masterplan](http://www.openspace.org/masterplan).

In addition to this workshop, over 300 individuals responded to a survey about the project and preserves; four focus groups and six public site tours were held.

### PLEASE JOIN US

Thursday, November 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.  
at the Los Gatos Neighborhood Center

The second public workshop will be held at 208 East Main Street in Los Gatos near downtown. At this workshop, the Master Plan project team will present results of the resource data inventory as well as results from the challenges and opportunities analysis. This information guides the identification and planning of resource protection measures and public access. The input collected at this next workshop will be used to help develop conceptual master plan alternatives.

### PUBLIC PROCESS

The challenges and opportunities analysis incorporates input and information collected to date to identify the obstacles and the possibilities for resource protection and public access. This analysis will shape the development of various plan alternatives. The alternatives will be presented to the public for review and comment at a subsequent workshop in early 2006. The project team will collect additional comments at that time to help identify a single preferred plan.

### NEXT STEPS

FALL/WINTER 2005 ..... Develop Plan Alternatives  
EARLY 2006..... Plan Alternatives Public Workshop  
SPRING 2006..... Prepare Draft Preferred Plan  
SUMMER 2006..... 1st Public Hearing on Draft Plan  
SUMMER 2006..... Final Plan & Environmental Review  
SUMMER/FALL 2006..... 2nd Public Hearing & Plan Adoption

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or comments, email [masterplan@openspace.org](mailto:masterplan@openspace.org), visit the Web site [www.openspace.org/masterplan](http://www.openspace.org/masterplan), or call Ana Ruiz, Project Planner at (650) 691-1200.

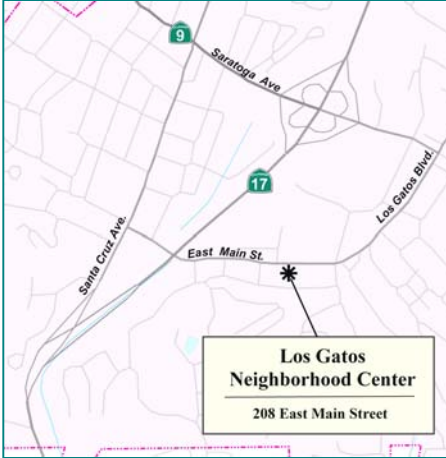
*Regional Open Space*



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

# PUBLIC WORKSHOP

## Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves MASTER PLAN



Please attend the upcoming workshop:

**Thursday, November 10, 2005**

**7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.**

Los Gatos Neighborhood Center Main Hall  
208 East Main Street  
Los Gatos, CA 95033

(Across the street from the Saratoga/  
Los Gatos Recreation Department)

Participation is key to a great plan!

The mission of the MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity; protect and restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.



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