



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Major Accomplishments



FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Mission Statement:

*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*

The accomplishments listed below highlight Midpen's focused efforts on the three parts of its mission--preservation, natural resources restoration, and public access and education--combined with significant efforts to develop the administrative and organizational systems necessary to support this mission now and into the future. These accomplishments are extensive and varied, showing a focus on major preserve opening projects such as the Mount Umunhum Summit in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. They also show significant efforts on complex resource restoration priorities, education, and outreach to Midpen's diverse preserve visitors, effective partnerships with other organizations to better fulfill the mission, and focus and dedication to the ongoing operational requirements of managing over 62,000 acres of open space. As is evident from this list, and the many other efforts completed or underway that are not summarized in this major accomplishments list, Fiscal Year 2015-16 was a busy and productive year for Midpen!

PUBLIC ACCESS AND EDUCATION

- Completed numerous major actions and commenced or continued other major actions toward opening the *Mount Umunhum Summit* in the Sierra Azul Preserve for public access, including:
 - Constructed most of the four-mile Mount Umunhum Trail, including bridge forms for the installation of three trail bridges and brushing and grading of access roads leading to the Mt. Umunhum trail.
 - Regraded and restored the summit closer to its natural form.
 - Finalized plans and bid out the Summit Project, which includes parking, ADA-accessible trails, weather shelters, stairway, ceremonial circle, and other public amenities.
 - Finalized plans and bid out the Road Rehabilitation Project to improve over five miles of roadway for the public to drive safely to and from the summit.
 - Developed interpretive material content and design for the summit to educate visitors about its natural and cultural history.
 - Prepared for, hosted site tours, and held meetings with County Commissioners and Supervisors, and presented findings to the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission and Board of Supervisors to inform their consideration of whether to list the Radar Tower on the County's Heritage Resource Inventory.
 - Finalized Board of Directors' decision to retain and seal the Radar Tower and began work with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust and the United Veteran's Council of Santa Clara County to collaboratively honor Mount Umunhum's history.
 - Completed interim repairs to the Radar Tower to safely allow for the public to walk around the exterior perimeter of the structure.
 - Developed the visitor signage plan for the summit.

- Completed numerous major actions and commenced or continued other major actions toward opening lower ***La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve*** to the public, including:
 - Completed a second phase of Sears Ranch Road repairs and culvert replacements on lower Sears Ranch Road to improve sections of the main ranch road for grazing, patrol, and upcoming public use.
 - Began design of the Sears Ranch Parking Area and completed Sears Ranch Road ingress/egress traffic study.
 - Held a neighborhood meeting to provide an overview of actions completed to date to prepare the Sears Ranch Road area for public access.
 - Began the public access site plan for the Red Barn Area, including traffic counts, site evaluation for a new driveway and parking lot, and evaluation of site historical features.

- Completed numerous major actions and commenced or continued other major actions toward opening ***Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve*** to the public and improving Bear Creek Stables, including:
 - Held a neighborhood meeting in Los Gatos, with over 150 public members in attendance, to re-introduce the Preserve Goals and Actions.
 - Held five additional public meetings, including a CEQA kick-off meeting, two additional Board Committee meetings to refine the Preserve Plan actions and phasing, and two open houses to discuss stables site plan alternatives.
 - Completed a cultural resources evaluation of potentially significant sites to inform the preparation of the environmental review documents.
 - Completed major sections of the Draft Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report.
 - Hired a design and engineering team to prepare the construction plans for the new Bear Creek Redwoods parking area, which will include a new driveway, pedestrian crossing, restroom, ADA trail, and trailhead.
 - Completed the draft Alma College Cultural Landscape Rehabilitation Plan, refined alternatives with Board input, and presented preferred actions for Board confirmation to guide the preparation of the environmental review documents.
 - Approved the Assignment of an Amended Stables Rental Agreement to a new, interim stables tenant.
 - Developed site plan alternatives for the stables and finalized Board of Directors' selection of a preferred alternative to guide the preparation of the environmental review documents.
 - Evaluated potential water sources, including constructability assessments and construction cost estimates, to support the stables and other preserve infrastructure and code requirements.
 - Coordinated with Santa Clara County to review potential permitting requirements for proposed new improvements for the preserve and the stables.

- Completed numerous major actions and commenced or continued other major actions toward completing the San Francisco Bay Trail Connection Project at ***Ravenswood Open Space Preserve***, including:

- Coordinated with the Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, the San Francisco Bay Trail, and Facebook, and held public meetings on the trail project to solicit feedback. Received a City of East Palo Alto letter in support of the project.
 - Finalized the preferred trail alignment, which includes a privacy buffer for the neighboring University Village neighborhood.
 - Completed CEQA document preparation for public review in winter 2016 and finalized language necessary to convey a trail easement from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to the District to allow for construction of the Bay Trail connection.
 - Entered into a contract for trail design and engineering services.
- Held the Grand Opening Dedication event for the *Mindego Hill Trail*, the District's first public access alongside cattle grazing.
 - Participated in a private-public partnership with the *San Francisco Bay Trail Project* and Google to resurface a 1,925-foot segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail adjacent to the Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area.
 - Completed numerous demolitions and remediation of dilapidated structures that posed public safety hazards in preserves.
 - Provided oversight and project review to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band ecologist for the creation of a native plant relearning garden.
 - Provided presentations to the UC Elkus Range Camp, Park Rangers Association of California, and Central Coast Rangeland Coalition on conservation grazing practices.
 - Hosted the Cal-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management and conducted a tour and presentation of the grazing operation in lower *La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve*.
 - Installed seven new preserve entrance signs and ten new sign boards at various preserves.
 - Installed gates and split-rail fencing at various locations in the *Sierra Azul and Picchetti Ranch Preserves*.
 - Completed fire road maintenance and improvements in numerous Preserves – *Rancho San Antonio, El Sereno, Fremont Older, Picchetti, and Sierra Azul*.
 - Completed single-track trail brushing in preserves.
 - Conducted bridge inspections in the *Foothills area* for wear and tear and general condition.
 - Constructed livestock enclosure improvements at *Deer Hollow Farm*, including new fencing, concrete pads, and shade structures.
 - Constructed a 100-foot long puncheon on the *High Meadow Trail* in Rancho San Antonio.
 - Recruited and trained 40 new Trail Patrol Volunteers.
 - Conducted outdoor Activity Docent program training (12-week course) graduating 22 new docents to provide enriched experiences for the public via guided interpretive nature and history activities.

- Provided outdoor education to more than 8,000 members of the public through Midpen events and activities, or collaborative events and activities with partners, including:
 - 3,800 participants in 287 docent-led interpretive activities, including hikes, mountain bike rides, and canine companion walks with topics such as local history, Ohlone medicine, geocaching, bats, redwoods, health and exercise, and early morning birding.
 - 2,004 adults and 1,056 children at the Daniels Nature Center, which was open 94 days between April 2015 and June 2016.
 - 1,086 students at Skyline Ridge Preserve for the Spaces & Species science field trips by Outdoor Education Leader docents. Out of the 43 classes that participated in the program, nine classes received funding for transportation assistance.
 - Hosted an outreach booth at the Bay Area's first Geocaching Mega-Event attended by more than 800 people and engaged new participants to try the District's geocache circuit. More than 700 discoveries of the "Preserve Circuit Geocaches" were logged online.
 - Welcomed approximately 600 participants and 35 volunteers at the 2015 and 2016 District-hosted Wingding Family Festival at Skyline Ridge Preserve in collaboration with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and 12 other environmental organizations.
 - Hosted two Fremont Older House Tours, welcoming 135 participants on nine guided tours a day in 2015 and 2016.
- Established a new collaborative field trip program with *Save the Redwoods League* to provide more than 100 local high school students with field learning experiences that connect redwood forest ecology and climate change issues.
- Provided docents and funding for transportation in a new partnership with Bay Area Older Adults, a non-profit organization in support of providing active older adults outdoor hiking and nature studying experiences
- Contributed to the *Bay Area Healthy Parks Healthy People* collaborative effort by providing eight docent-led activities on preserves.
- Completed environmental review, construction plans, and submitted permit applications for construction in 2017 of two new bridges over Stevens Creek at *Monte Bello Preserve*.
- Began a Visitor Use Counting pilot program at Rancho San Antonio Preserve, Ravenswood Preserve, and the Mt. Umunhum area of Sierra Azul Preserve.
- Initiated the *El Sereno Dog Access Project*, researching existing conditions and property rights.
- Began project scoping for the *re-opening of Alpine Road at Coal Creek Preserve*, including meetings with the San Mateo County Public Works Department and assessing current conditions of culverts and the trail.
- Obtained permit from Santa Clara County for the installation of a protective net canopy structure over the Prospect Road parking lot at *Fremont Older Preserve* to protect visitors and vehicles from errant golf balls from the adjacent golf course.

- Finalized the construction plans for the new Oljon Trail and bridge crossing at *El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve* and submitted the construction permit to San Mateo County.
- Dedicated the new Ancient Oaks Trail Extension in *Russian Ridge Preserve*.
- Dedicated the *Herb Grench Trail and Overlook* located at one of the ridgeline peaks off of Anniversary Trail at Windy Hill Preserve.
- Completed a District-wide inventory of vacant structures in preserves for tracking purposes and to inform future decisions on their use and management.
- Completed a District-wide inventory of vehicle bridges for tracking purposes and to assist with the prioritization of future bridge repairs and replacements.
- Completed an inventory of every culvert in Foothills area and created a GPS database with locations.
- Ranger enforcement of ordinances through written warnings and citations, and emergency response, including:
 - 2,601 citations (including 812 parking citations) and 850 warnings between April 2015 and June 2016
 - 53 motor vehicle accidents
 - 40 bicycle accidents
 - 37 other medical/first aid events
 - 22 running/hiking accidents
 - 17 fire incidents
 - 16 motorcycle accidents
 - 16 animal incidents
 - 10 lost person searches
 - 7 hazardous materials incidents
 - 6 fatalities
 - 2 equestrian accidents
 - 1 suicide and 1 attempted suicide
- Upgraded the District Website, which has received over 1.4 million page views, and now provides a quick and convenient way for visitors to get the information they need before a visit. The website also includes a dedicated Vision Plan web page.
- Developed *Measure AA Sign Installation Guidelines* to guide sign placement to inform the public of how Measure AA funds are being put to use.
- Increased Facebook followers from 5,250 to 6,319 (17% increase) with 506 Facebook Posts for 1,226,067 total impressions.
- Increased Twitter followers from 1,593 to 2,171 (36% increase) with 648 Tweets for 229,166 total impressions.
- Developed and widely distributed new focused publications and public outreach materials for specific District projects, including:
 - Mount Umunhum pictorial brochure and the General Manager's article, "The Hidden Stories of Mount Umunhum."

- Factsheets on Land Conservation and the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing Project.
- Maintained a strong presence in media outlets and accomplished 120+ news stories (print, web, radio, and TV) about the District, including:
 - “Meet and greets” with editors from various local newspapers and ethnic radio stations.
 - Hosted two media events, one at the Mount Umunhum Summit, to relay facts and history about the mountain, and the other for the Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium at Los Trancos Preserve.
 - Feature article with New America Media to promote District preserves to Asian, African American, and Latino communities.
 - Hosted Tom Stienstra and members of the *San Francisco Chronicle* on an exploration hike of Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.
 - Profiled the District on local TV via a high-quality production video that ran several weeks prior to the Super Bowl as a result of our active participation in the Super Communities Super Bowl Committee.
 - Participated in two segments of NBC’s *Open Roads with Doug McConnell*, featuring Mindego Hill, Purisima Creek Redwoods, and the District’s Innovation Team and Fog Harvesting Project.
- Reformatted the District’s quarterly *Views* newsletter, appealing to a broader audience by creating a wider variety of news items, content types, and calls to action.
- Completed four video vignettes for the website and social media to educate the public further about the District and our public programs and projects.
- Continued public agency partner outreach efforts and events, including:
 - Two legislative luncheons with partners and local elected officials.
 - Attended local chamber of commerce events, and was featured at the Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce, as part of a discussion on Half Moon Bay’s ecotourism programs.
 - Organized ten presentations to various local city councils for Board members to provide Measure AA project updates.
 - Coordinated the Joint Shoreline Festival & Cooley Landing Building Dedication with the City of East Palo Alto.
- Hosted a series of ***Walk with a Doc*** events, in partnership with the San Mateo County Medical Association, for people of all fitness levels at five different preserves.
- Promoted the District at numerous events and through new partnerships, focusing on diverse communities, including:
 - Events such as the African American Community Health Advisory Committee’s Soul Stroll, North Fair Oaks Bike Rodeo, Half Moon Bay’s Healthy Kids Fair, Annual Latino Health Forum, the Diwali Festival, Lockheed Martin Wellness Fair, Los Gatos Earth Day, San Mateo County Health and Benefits Fair, Mountain View Arbor Day, Menlo Park Kite Day, La Honda Fair & Music Festival, East Palo Alto Charter School Open House, Cupertino Earth Day, Accessible Adventures Day at San Francisco State University, and Saratoga Blossom Festival.

- Hosted a seminar on *Engaging Latinos in Open Space and Conservation* with Jose Gonzales from Latino Outdoors and started a pilot program to provide transportation and a one-day outdoor activity in a preserve for Latino families.
- Partnerships with Acterra, Village Harvest, and Student Conservation Association designed to increase volunteer stewardship opportunities.
- Partnerships with organizations that serve culturally-diverse, low-income youth such as Latino Outdoors, College Track in East Palo Alto, and Siena Youth Center in North Fair Oaks, to promote hiking, running, and biking on District preserves.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

- Began significant natural resources protection and restoration projects in ***Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve*** in preparation for opening the preserve to the public, including:
 - Mapped invasive vegetation and developed an Integrated Pest Management Plan to control vegetation.
 - Developed defensible space wildland fire fuels clearing plans and conducted solicitation to hire contractor to implement trail mowing and fuel clearing.
 - Completed Water Resources Inventory to identify and survey potential water supply sources to support stables improvements.
 - Completed Road and Trail Inventory to prioritize road and trail upgrades necessary to open preserve for public access.
 - Initiated water studies for development of a Pond Management Plan.
- Completed numerous natural resources protection and restoration projects in ***La Honda Creek Preserve*** in preparation for opening the preserve to the public, including:
 - Apple Orchard road repair and culvert replacement.
 - Driscoll Ranch Roads Sediment Reduction project and remediation of hazardous waste.
 - Rebuild Pond DR10 berm.
- Surveyed and mapped ***rare plant populations*** at Mount Umunhum, Mount Thayer, and along Mount Umunhum Road, and provided biological monitoring for construction projects on Mount Umunhum.
- Collected native plant seeds for ***restoration planting at Mount Umunhum*** and developed revegetation plans and safe methods for restoration to prevent the introduction of soil pathogens related to plant propagation.
- Completed the ***El Corte de Madera Preserve Watershed Protection Program*** final phase implementation and reassessment, significantly improving water quality in these headwaters over the course of 15 years of restoration activities.
- Launched an Innovation Team project to research and implement a fog-collection pilot project.
- Initiated the Highway 17 feasibility study for new wildlife passage and Bay Area Ridge Trail crossing.

- Selected a new grazing tenant and reintroduced livestock grazing as a resource management tool on the former Mindego Ranch of ***Russian Ridge Preserve***.
- Selected a new grazing tenant for the Apple Orchard Property at ***La Honda Creek Preserve***.
- Prepared a Madonna Creek Stables Site Plan and a new Stables Lease.
- Facilitated discussions with eight local land management agencies for compliance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations regarding relocation of mountain lions.
- Negotiated and completed a grant agreement with Santa Clara Valley Water District for the ***restoration of the Hendrys Creek property in Sierra Azul Preserve*** and commenced a contract with Acterra Stewardship for native plant restoration.
- Presented the ten-year update for ***Sudden Oak Death (SOD) research and management*** on District preserves, including Board approval of a new ten-year SOD Management Plan.
- Negotiated and executed contracts for the treatment of SOD at Rancho San Antonio, Los Trancos, and El Corte de Madera Creek Preserves.
- Presented the ten-year update for ***Slender False Brome (SFB) research and management*** on District preserves, including Board approval of a new ten-year SFB Management Plan and contract with San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to provide management of SFB on private properties with potential to infect District preserves.
- Provided biological monitoring and directed contractor work to treat invasive weed populations at Sierra Azul, La Honda Creek, and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves.
- Surveyed and mapped vegetation along Stevens Creek Nature Trail in support of upcoming bridge replacement project.
- Trained grazing tenants and supervised invasive vegetation treatments on grazed preserves.
- Monitored and reviewed the District's Resource Management Grant Program funded research projects, including the UC Santa Cruz Puma Project, Central Coast Rangeland Coalition, and Ken Hickman wildlife photographer.
- Completed infrastructure improvements with grazing tenants at Mindego Ranch, Big Dipper, Tunitas Creek, October Farm, McDonald Ranch, Driscoll Ranch, and Purisima to Sea properties.
- Completed the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Integrated Pest Management Work Plan.
- Completed water use reporting to State Water Resources Control Board for District and tenant water use for conservation reporting.
- Completed final ***closure of Mindego Landfill*** and corral sites with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Conducted archaeological surveys and testing for future Skyline and Foothills areas maintenance projects.
- Prepared demolition cost estimates for the removal of dilapidated structures in Stevens Creek Canyon that pose a public safety hazard.

- Reviewed erosion control and drainage work for the Ridge Vineyards property exchange.
- Completed the third year of San Francisco Garter Snake monitoring at Mindego.
- Assisted Santa Clara County and San Mateo County with the location and eradication of illegal marijuana growing operations on District lands, including cleaning and restoring the sites when feasible.
- Partnered with San Mateo County Parks to close and restore illegal bike trails at *Teague Hill Preserve*.
- Investigated and took action in cooperation with California Fish and Wildlife and Santa Clara County on illegal water diversion from Saratoga Gap to a private property.
- Established a "Fern Watch" field site plot with Save the Redwoods League at lower Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve that is being monitored annually by a team of District docents and providing data to a state-wide project/citizen science effort.
- Continued design and pre-construction support to San Mateo County Resource Conservation District for a grant-supported fish habitat restoration project in San Gregorio Creek.
- Continued efforts to expand the existing US Fish and Wildlife Service recovery permit for California red-legged frog and San Francisco garter snake to cover all District holdings within the species range.
- Completed the *Annual Wildflower survey* at Sierra Azul Preserve.

LAND ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION

- Purchased, exchanged, or partnered with other conservation agencies to protect over 638 acres of open space lands and received \$1,500,000 in partnership funds and the equivalent of a \$205,000 gift of land, including:
 - Purchased the *307.64-acre POST (Apple Orchard & Event Center)* properties protecting redwoods along San Gregorio Creek and Coho salmon and steelhead spawning habitat.
 - Purchased the 38.14-acre Toepfer and five-acre Ashworth property along Bear Gulch Road providing future Ridge Trail extension opportunities, as well as redwood preservation and La Honda Creek headwaters protection.
 - Recorded a three-acre *San Gregorio Creek Conservation Easement* west of the Driscoll Event Center to protect a sensitive riparian corridor.
 - Purchased the 30-acre *Cunha Trust property* at the end of Sears Ranch Road, consolidating District ownership of the private road that will serve as the driveway entrance to a new public *parking area for lower La Honda Creek Preserve*.
 - Completed the 117-acre *Hendrys Creek Property purchase in Sierra Azul Preserve* in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), who provided funds for the \$1,500,000 purchase.
 - Purchased the 24.41-acre *Freudenberg* property along Weaver Road in *Sierra Azul Preserve*.
 - Purchased the 38.97-acre *Meyer/Connolly* property located *along Mount Umunhum Road*, which includes a building pad and improvements that may support a potential new employee

residence to provide afterhours presence to assist with the opening of the Mount Umunhum Summit to public access.

- Purchased the four-acre **Barth** property along Hicks Road *above Guadalupe Reservoir* to protect the scenic view shed, sensitive grassland habitat, and Guadalupe Creek watershed.
- Purchased a 40-acre property on April 1, 2015 in Sierra Azul Preserve that may facilitate a future regional connection to the Forest of Nisene Marks.
- Prepared a Lot Line Adjustment application for the 241-acre Purisima Uplands property, including survey maps, identified a viable trail corridor, and continued consultation with the landowner regarding use of the ranch roads for patrol and maintenance and the planning of a future public trail and staging area.
- Continued ongoing discussions with an interested neighbor about a potential trail corridor easement or purchase to facilitate a Ridge Trail connection between La Honda Creek and El Corte de Madera Preserves.
- Entered into a Right-of-Way Agreement with Caltrans to quitclaim to the District the Highway 84 tunnel connecting the Driscoll Event Center to the La Honda Creek Preserve to provide a *safe crossing under Highway 84* for the public and grazing tenant.
- Began legal actions to secure public rights on Mount Umunhum Road to allow public vehicular access to the summit of Mount Umunhum.
- Received three gifts of Redwood Park parcels totaling 0.33-acre as additions to Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve.
- Resolved an illegal encroachment of vehicles on public open space land in El Corte de Madera Preserve and installed fencing at the property boundary to prevent future illegal encroachments.

GENERAL/MIDPEN-WIDE SUPPORT OF MISSION

- Continued implementation of critical ***Financial and Operational Sustainability Model Study*** recommendations to enhance the District's delivery of Measure AA project and fulfillment of its Vision Plan and Mission, including:
 - Reorganization of departments and divisions into clear business lines of Project Planning and Delivery, Visitor and Field Services, and Finance and Administrative Services.
 - Recruitment and filling of critical positions within those business lines, including a Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Services Director, Engineering & Construction Manager, and Information Services and Technology Manager.
 - Transition of the Operations Department into the Visitor Services and Land and Facilities Services Departments.
- Sponsored Assembly Bill 495 to raise the General Manager's purchasing authority to improve operational efficiencies, which was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor during the 2015 legislative session.
- Completed approximately 80 individual residence repair projects, including major habitability repairs to four residences.

- Entered into new Administrative Office leases and completed office improvements and furnishing to accommodate District organizational growth.
- Conducted an evaluation of commercial office lease rates and sales activity for upcoming decision on a new Administration Office building, to determine whether to rebuild onsite or purchase new building.
- Implemented numerous administrative procedure improvements to support and streamline business functions, including:
 - Bringing payroll functions in-house and implementing electronic timecards.
 - Changing the fiscal year end date from March 31 to June 30.
 - Restructuring of the District's chart of accounts to enable more detailed financial reporting and cost analysis of projects.
 - Created new project structure to facilitate consolidated expenditure reporting for Measure AA for both internal and external parties.
 - Established a tracking system for reimbursement of internal labor costs related to Measure AA projects.
 - Developed best practices layout and information for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget & Action Plan book.
- Completed the *first issuance of Measure AA General Obligation Bonds* to fund priority Measure AA projects.
- Issued Request for Proposals to *establish an external bond team* consisting of Financial Advisor, Underwriter, Bond Counsel, and Disclosure Counsel to begin preparation for future bond issuances or refundings of existing debt.
- Following extensive public outreach within Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, secured approval for the designation of *six Priority Conservation Areas in San Mateo County* and *nine Priority Conservation Areas in Santa Clara County* from the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board.
- Developed and provided American for Disabilities Act (ADA) Awareness Training for Administration and Field Staff, and District Volunteers, and updated the District's Accessibility/ADA website information and Easy Access Brochure.
- Finalized a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Field Employees Association.
- Participated in the regional Management Talent Exchange program by hosting two employees and sending one employee on interim assignments, providing opportunities for professional development.
- Participated in the Santa Clara County Leadership Academy by sending three employees to receive leadership training.
- Continued significant Human Resource efforts to recruit and promote top-notch employees for more than 30 recruitments, and coordinated employee trainings for mandatory and development training.
- Created a *Seasonal Ranger program* and hired the District's first seasonal ranger.

- Recognized and honored Docents and Volunteers at the ***Volunteer Recognition Event*** at the La Honda Creek Event Center with over **225 Volunteers**.
- Began implementation of the Information Technology (IT) Master Plan, developing general IT project guidelines for the next five years, including firewall and hardware replacements/upgrades and client infrastructure upgrades by implementing Windows 10 and Office 2016/Office 365, including MS Project and SharePoint.
- Replaced the Board Room audio system at the Administrative Office.
- ***Redesigned all Midpen Trail maps into a new GeoPDF format*** that provides greater detail and consistency, and allows for better trail navigation.
- Researched the feasibility and cost of equipping all District emergency vehicles and offices with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), leading to Board funding approval to purchase and install AEDs in Fiscal Year 2016-17.

AWARDS/GRANTS/RECOGNITION

- Secured a \$1,000,000 San Mateo County Measure A grant to fund the ***Ravenswood Bay Trail Gap*** trail design, permitting, and construction.
- Received a proclamation from the City of Cupertino recognizing the District for its work and thoughtful planning to create the Vision Plan.
- ***2016 ESRI Map Gallery Award*** - 3rd place in the ESRI International Users Conference Map Gallery for "Best Map Series or Atlas" for Vision Plan and Conservation Atlas.
- Received a \$30,000 ***Electric Vehicle Charging Grant*** from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.