

Protecting Wildlife

The open space preserves provide permanent sanctuaries for native wildlife and vegetation. As pressures from the expanding human



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population increase, the preserves become even more important as refuges for wildlife. Nesting birds, stream life, reptiles, and mammals depend on the protection of open space.

Midpen Bicycle Programs

Ranger Bicycle Patrol

Midpen's ranger bicycle patrol program promotes the safe use of Midpen trails for all user groups, and provides an opportunity for rangers to interact more directly and easily with preserve visitors. Rangers are assigned to bicycle patrol in 1-year increments.

Volunteer Trail Patrol Bicycle Program

Trail Patrol volunteers, which include bicyclists, equestrians, hikers, runners, and companion dog patrollers, patrol Midpen trails, talk with preserve visitors about trail safety and etiquette, provide information, report trail conditions to staff, and monitor conservation easements. For more information about this program or if you're interested in signing up, please visit the Midpen website www.openspace.org.

Docent-led Bicycle Activities

Midpen generally offers docent-led biking outings throughout the year. Check the *Outdoor Activities* schedule located inside the quarterly newsletter *Open Space Views* available from Midpen and on the Midpen's website www.openspace.org. The activities are free, though some require advance reservations.

In Case of Emergency

If you experience an emergency on Midpen lands (fire, accident, or other immediate threat to life or property), call **911** or contact Midpen's 24-hour emergency dispatch number for Midpen rangers at **650-968-4411**. This phone number is for emergency use only.

Be Aware and Be Prepared

Drinking water is not available at most Midpen preserves—carry water with you. Rattlesnakes are native to this area and are especially active in warm weather. Poison oak grows on most preserves; learn to identify and avoid it in all seasons. Be aware that ticks are present in this area and may carry diseases. Mountain lions are a natural part of this region's environment and are occasionally sighted.

For More Information

Please call, write, or visit the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022-1404. The telephone number is 650-691-1200, email to info@openspace.org, or visit www.openspace.org



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Photos in this brochure were provided by Frances Freyberg, Deane Little, Karl Gohl, and Midpen Staff.



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7-2018

Bicycle Access Guidelines



There are many exciting and adventurous trails for you to enjoy on your mountain bike on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. Sixteen open space preserves are open to mountain biking, and include designated trails at these Open Space Preserves:

- Coal Creek
- El Corte de Madera Creek
- El Sereno
- Fremont Older
- Long Ridge
- Monte Bello
- Purisima Creek Redwoods
- Rancho San Antonio
- Ravenswood
- Russian Ridge
- Saratoga Gap
- Sierra Azul
- Skyline Ridge
- St. Joseph's Hill
- Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area
- Windy Hill



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District



Bicycle Access Guidelines

Midpen is committed to providing an open space experience for every type of user. Most of Midpen's 245 miles of designated trails are unpaved "wildland" trails in steep, rugged terrain. Approximately 150 miles, or 65 percent, of these trails are "multiple use" trails and are open to bicycling use – this is the highest ratio of trails open to bikes among parks and open space in the Bay Area. Many of the trails are also single-track, providing bicyclists with a variety of trail experiences.

Before heading out to one of the multi-use preserves, please review the following bicycle access guidelines. Your cooperation and compliance with the following guidelines is essential to ensure your safety, resource protection, and an enjoyable experience for everyone using the trails.

Sharing the Public Trails

Midpen offers low-intensity recreational use consistent with resource protection and preservation. Hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, runners, small children, senior citizens, dog-walkers, photographers, people in wheelchairs, bird watchers, and other nature study groups are all out on the trails exploring open space.

- To help make multiple-use trails work, each user should keep in mind the needs of others.
- Bicyclists should always yield to all other trail users.
- On wide trails, slow down and pass with care.
- When encountering equestrians and hikers on narrow trails, make your presence known well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Stop and wait for them to pass or signal you through.
- Yield to other bicyclists traveling uphill.



Helmets

Bicyclists are required to wear helmets, even when riding uphill, that meet the standards of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Standard for bicycle helmets, or ANSI-or Snell-approved bicycle helmets on all Midpen lands. Helmet straps must be securely fastened when riding.



Speed Limits

Control your speed at all times and obey the 15 mph speed limit (5 mph when passing or on blind turns). Racing and reckless riding are strictly prohibited.

Closed Areas/Off-trail Use

Ride on designated trails only (those shown on Midpen maps for bicycle use). Closed area or off-trail use, including straying off the trail for jumps, "wallrides," and "woop-d-dos," is strictly prohibited.

Safety

Ride with a companion whenever possible to be better prepared in the event of an emergency.

Know your personal and physical limitations, particularly for beginning riders.

Plan your ride! Know the name of the preserve(s) you will be going to, the trail(s) you will use, including the trail mileage you will travel, and what to do if an emergency occurs on the trail. While on the trail, recognize gate numbers. If an emergency occurs, wait for incoming emergency responders.

Trail Conditions/Seasonal Closures Information

Each year, Midpen seasonally closes certain trails to bicycle and equestrian use during wet conditions to ensure visitor safety, protect the trail tread, and prevent resource damage. Decisions to close trails are based on current and predicted weather conditions. Trails may also be closed temporarily throughout the year due to planning or resource conservation projects. When you visit the preserves, always look for trail closure signs. Violations of any official trail closures are subject to citation.

Before heading out on your ride, please check the Midpen trail conditions and seasonal closures information.

- Visit www.openspace.org/trailconditions;
- Call the Trail Conditions Hotline at 650-691-2150 (enter Option 3);
- Call Midpen's administrative office at 650-691-1200.

Benefits of These Basic Guidelines

Public Safety and Protecting Natural Resources

Remaining on designated trails and adhering to Midpen speed limits helps reduce conflicts with other visitors, prevent injury to one's self and others, and avoid unnecessary erosion and resource damage to the landscape.



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