

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



SPRING 2016
March – April – May

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

To Ensure That Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review This Important Information

- Please be courteous to other trail users. Stay alert and make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Hikers yield to horses; bicyclists yield to hikers and horses. Observe trail speed limits (15 mph max; 5 mph when passing).
- Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions or rental horses). Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for all horses, and helmets must be worn by all riders under age 18.
- Heavy rain within two days prior to a mountain bike or horseback ride cancels the activity.
- For all hikes, wear boots or sturdy walking shoes appropriate for rugged trails.
- Dress in layers (T-shirt, long-sleeved shirt, sweater, and/or jacket). The weather can be unpredictable. No matter what season it is, be prepared for rain, wind, fog, or sun!
- Carry ample water with you to drink. Water is not available on preserves.
- Bring sun protection (hat, sunscreen) and insect repellent.
- Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in some locations. 🌿

SPECIAL NOTE

If you have a group of 8 or more people who would like to attend a docent-led activity listed here, please contact the Docent Program Manager to discuss in advance at 650-691-1200 or docent@openspace.org. Other arrangements may need to be considered for your group.



Ravenswood
Open Space Preserve

Frances Freyberg

GENERAL INFORMATION

With this newsletter in hand and a sense of exploration in mind, we invite you to enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. These 26 extraordinary preserves include over 62,000 acres of permanently protected open space, from redwood forests to bay shoreline. We encourage you to participate in the wide variety of adventures offered inside Outdoor Activities.

The activity durations listed are averages based on our experience. However, always allow extra time in your schedule for unusual circumstances, or the slower pace of some groups.

You can help by arriving a little early to ensure a prompt start for each activity.

The activities are free, though some require reservations. Heavy rain cancels the activity unless otherwise noted in the description. If there is light rain or the threat of rain, go to the meeting place.

All activities are developed and led by docents who have completed a District training program. These docents volunteer their time to share their knowledge of nature with you. For more information about the volunteer docent program, visit the District's Web site at www.openspace.org, or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. 🌿

Header photos above, left to right: Strether Smith; staff; Amanda Louria; and Liv Ames.

www.openspace.org

WHERE TO MEET

Directions to preserves featured in this season's schedule of *Outdoor Activities* are listed below. Some preserves have more than one access point. Some activities meet at different locations than where the activity will actually occur. If an activity does not meet at the preserve listed, or if there is more than one preserve access point, the alternate meeting location will be indicated in italics on a separate line following the preserve name as part of the activity header. (For example: **Skyline Ridge Meet: Russian Ridge** or **Russian Ridge Meet: Caltrans vista point**). If no information follows the preserve name, then refer to the detailed directions for the preserve or alternate meeting location listed below.

Note: Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTED DESCRIPTION TO MAKE SURE YOU MEET YOUR ACTIVITY LEADER AT THE CORRECT LOCATION.

DANIELS NATURE CENTER

Park at the Russian Ridge Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Walk to Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Preserve by going through the tunnel under Alpine Rd. The Nature Center is a small gray building on the east shore of Alpine Pond.

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Meet at the Preserve parking lot located on the west side of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard), about 1-mile south of the Caltrans Skeggs Point parking area and 2.7 miles north of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 84.

Skeggs Point: Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the east side of Skyline Boulevard, about 4 miles north of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 1.5 miles south of Kings Mountain Road. Please note that Caltrans prohibits a left turn into the parking lot when approaching from the north along Skyline Blvd.

FREMONT OLDER

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Prospect Road in Cupertino. Exit Highway 85 at De Anza Boulevard. (From northbound 85 turn left on De Anza Blvd. and from southbound 85 turn right on De Anza Blvd.) Travel on De Anza Blvd. (toward the mountains) for about 0.5 miles. Turn right on Prospect Rd. At the first stop sign, turn left and cross the railroad tracks to remain on Prospect Rd. Follow Prospect Rd. for 1.3 miles, turning left after the Saratoga Country Club, until you reach the Preserve parking lot.

LONG RIDGE

Meet at the Peters Creek trailhead/roadside pullout area on the west side of Skyline Boulevard, 3.6 miles north of Highway 9 or 3.3 miles south of Page Mill Road. If you are coming from the north on Skyline Blvd., the pullout is just past Portola Heights Road on the right. From the south, the pullout is near the Palo Alto city limits sign on the right. There is additional parking across Skyline Blvd. at the Grizzly Flat trailhead (Santa Clara County Park).

LOS TRANCOS

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Monte Bello Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.

MONTE BELLO

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Los Trancos Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.

PICCHETTI RANCH

From the intersection of I-280 and Foothill Expressway, go 3.5 miles south-west (toward the mountains) on Foothill Boulevard/Stevens Canyon Road. Turn right on Montebello Road. The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Rd. on the left.

PULGAS RIDGE

From I-280, exit Edgewood Road. Drive 0.75 miles on Edgewood Rd. toward San Carlos/Redwood City. Turn left (north) on Crestview Drive, then immediately turn left on Edmonds Road. Follow Edmonds Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the right.

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

Meet at the Purisima Creek Road entrance. From the Highway 92 and Highway 1 intersection in Half Moon Bay, travel south on Highway 1 approximately 4.3 miles. Turn left on Verde Road. After turning on Verde Rd. and traveling 0.25 miles, continue straight to remain on what becomes Purisima Creek Road. (Verde Rd. splits off to the right.) Travel approximately 3.7 miles on Purisima Creek Rd. to reach the Preserve.

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

From I-280, take Foothill Boulevard south and turn right almost immediately onto Cristo Rey Drive. Continue about 1 mile, veer right around the traffic circle, and turn left into the park. Go to the lot farthest to the right and meet near the restroom at the bottom of the hill.

RUSSIAN RIDGE

Meet at the main Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

Mindego Gateway parking lot: From I-280, exit Page Mill Road and head west. Drive about 9 miles to the junction with Skyline Boulevard, cross over Skyline Boulevard and on to Alpine Road. Continue on Alpine Rd. for 1.5 miles. Parking area is on the right. Allow 45 minutes travel time from I-280.

SIERRA AZUL

Jacques Ridge: Meet at the parking lot located near the intersection of Hicks Road and Mt. Umunhum Road in San Jose. Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From northbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Branham Avenue and then turn left on Camden Ave. and from southbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Camden Ave.) Travel on Camden Ave. about 1.6 miles. Turn right on Hicks Rd. and travel for about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Rd. The Preserve parking lot will be on the right.



Karl Gehl

Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

SIERRA AZUL (continued)

Northside lot – Free Limited Parking: Meet at the parking lot located at the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos. The sign at the lot says: “Northside lot - Free Limited Parking.” Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Hwy. 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to the parking lot, located on your right just before Santa Cruz Ave. Carpool to the activity location.

SKYLINE RIDGE

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Skyline Boulevard located one mile south of the Skyline Blvd. (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection. After entering the Preserve, turn right and go to the farthest parking lot. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 45 minutes travel time.



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

SKYLINE RIDGE (continued)

Equestrian parking lot: After entering the Preserve, proceed to the farthest parking lot on the left. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 45 minutes travel time.

ST. JOSEPH’S HILL

Little League Field parking lot: Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Highway 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to University Avenue. Turn left on University Ave. toward downtown Los Gatos. Turn left on Miles Avenue and proceed two blocks to the parking lot on the left for the Little League field.

ST. JOSEPH’S HILL (continued)**Northside lot – Free Limited Parking:**

Meet at the parking lot located at the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos. The sign at the lot says: “Northside lot - Free Limited Parking.” Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Hwy. 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to the parking lot, located on your right just before Santa Cruz Ave. Carpool to the activity location.

WINDY HILL

From I-280, exit Alpine Road in Portola Valley. Go south on Alpine Rd. about 2.9 miles to Portola Road (the first stop sign). Turn right on Portola Rd. and travel 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left side of the road.

Skyline Boulevard parking area:

Meet at the parking area on Skyline Boulevard, 2.3 miles south of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 4.9 miles north of Page Mill Road. 🌿

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Easy Hike: Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace.



Moderate Hike: Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Total elevation gain 200 to 600 feet. Leisurely to moderate pace.



Strenuous Hike: Steep hills and/or long distances. Total elevation gain greater than 600 feet. Moderate to vigorous pace.



Suitable for children: must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. See the activity description for any additional information.



Wheelchair accessible.



Stroller accessible: Jogger-type suggested.



Meal/snack break: Bring a lunch, dinner, or snack as appropriate.



Dogs on leash: Well-behaved and socialized dogs are allowed, and must be controlled on a maximum six-foot leash.



Equestrian Ride: Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet. Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for horses. Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions or rental horses).



Reservations required: Reservations for activities requiring them will only be accepted within the two (2)-week period just before the activity date. To make a reservation or a cancellation, visit the District's Web site www.openspace.org/reservations or call 650-691-2150 (enter 2). If you provide information prior to the reservation acceptance period, it will not be processed. Please limit your reservation to a maximum of four (4) people.



Easy Nature Ride: Slow, leisurely pace, minimal climbing, and multiple stops to observe nature.



Introductory Mountain Bike Ride: Outings include demonstration and practice emphasizing trail etiquette and techniques required for dirt riding followed by a 5- to 7-mile ride on fire roads and single-track trails, with occasional natural history stops. Riders should be in good physical condition to perform climbs and descents.



Intermediate Mountain Bike Ride: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; able to climb and descend steep and moderately-rough trails. Recreational ride at a moderate/brisk pace; 8+ miles on a wide range of fire roads and single-track trails. For experienced riders in very good physical condition with good endurance.



Advanced Mountain Bike Ride: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; competent at climbing and descending steep and rough trails. Moderate to fast pace, 10+ mile ride on a wide variety of trail conditions. For experienced riders with a high level of physical fitness and excellent endurance.

Note: For all rides, bicyclists must wear helmets and bikes must be in good condition, and the participants must be very familiar with the operation of gears and brakes. Mountain bikes are strongly recommended for all except the Easy Nature Rides. Easy Nature, Introductory, and Intermediate Rides include a natural history component that is provided by the docents during the rest stops. Advanced rides develop and improve mountain bike skills – any natural history discussion stops are secondary to the overall riding experience.



Healthy Parks, Healthy People – Bay Area: Introductory level and easy to moderate activities for people of various ages. Some activities have a health and wellness focus.

MARCH

El Corte de Madera Creek Sampler

Tuesday • March 1
El Corte de Madera Creek • 6.5 mi
10:00am to 3:00pm



Make like a local tourist and visit the sites of this Preserve on an out-and-back moderate hike. Docents Sarah Schoen, Vivian Neou, and Greg Hughes will guide you to an ancient redwood (so old it's called Methuselah) and to an intricate tafoni sandstone formation. Along the way you'll learn some of the local history and ecology: logging, a tragic aviation disaster, and protection of coho salmon. You'll stop midway for lunch at the Vista Point with (weather permitting) lovely views of the Pacific Ocean.

Explorer Hike: The Birds and the Bees

Wednesday • March 2
Russian Ridge • 4 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



It's time to welcome spring! Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson to search for early spring wildflowers and learn about pollinators on this leisurely-paced walk along the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Casting your eyes to the trees and sky, you might find the resident and migrant birds arguing about territorial rights. With luck, you'll see hawks and their aerial bonding and mating rituals along the Hawk Ridge Trail.

Introductory Geocaching Hike for Families

Sunday • March 6
Los Trancos • 3 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike for 3 miles). Join docents Bill Overall, Collin Lim, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor to search for geocaches, or hidden treasures, using GPS units supplied by REI. You are welcome to bring small trinkets to trade for objects you'll find in the caches. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher. (Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 21.



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Frances Freyberg

California Grizzly-Legends and Lore

Sunday • March 6
Long Ridge • 5 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



The California grizzly bear has been extinct for a hundred years, but lives forever on the California state flag and in your imagination. Come explore facts, legends, and folklore about this magnificent animal and the man known as "Grizzly Adams" with docents Ed Lange and Debbie Mytels on a moderately-paced hike along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails. There will be a short snack break at the inspiring Wallace Stegner Bench.

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • March 6
Los Trancos • 2-3 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Dave and Judy Boore for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. On this leisurely stroll, you'll stop to discuss the wonder of plate tectonics, examine remnants left by thousands of major earthquakes, and learn how to prepare for future earthquakes. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • March 9
Picchetti Ranch • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike. Each quarter, "Scenic Aerobic" hikes will be offered at different preserves. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions. (Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)

A Close Encounter with Lichens

Friday • March 11
Long Ridge • 4.5 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



On this hike you will make a close inspection of lichens and gain an appreciation of their fascinating architecture and the complex division of labor between a threadlike fungus and an alga (or cyanobacteria) that are paired in every lichen. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will help you find and identify a few of the common lichens growing on trees, fence posts, shrubs, and rocks at this Preserve. This leisurely-paced hike will take you along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails, and Long Ridge Road.

Explorer Hike: The Hill in Spring

Wednesday • March 16
St. Joseph's Hill • 4 mi
Meet: Northside lot - Free Limited parking
10:30am to 2:30pm



Ascend the Novitiate Trail at a leisurely pace to your hilltop lunch place guided by docents Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Dennis Smith. Along the way, you'll search for spring wildflowers in a variety of plant communities while enjoying expansive views of the Santa Clara Valley and Lexington Reservoir.

Birding Before Breakfast

Sunday • March 20
Rancho San Antonio • 3.5 mi
6:30am to 9:00am



Enjoy brisk birding and the early morning serenity that this Preserve offers with docents Karen DeMello, Kay Partelow, and Cathy Brown. On this moderately-paced hike, your goal is to combine birding with exercise. The route will take you past Deer Hollow Farm and then back on the infrequently traveled Mora Trail; along the way you'll make brief stops to listen and look for birds. Beginning birders are welcome; bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them.



Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • March 23
Fremont Older • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike. Each quarter, "Scenic Aerobic" hikes will be offered at different preserves. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions. **(Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike. Please arrive early to find parking.)**

Tour de Open Space

Saturday • March 26
Russian Ridge • 11 mi
Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis for a ride encompassing a four preserve circuit of Russian Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Monte Bello, and Coal Creek Preserves. Starting up the new portion of Ancient Oaks Trail in Russian Ridge Preserve you'll experience what each of these preserves has to offer while meandering up and down (approximately 2,000 feet of total climbing) on fire roads and single-track trails, with a small amount of pavement riding. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 12.**

Early Spring Wildflowers

Saturday • March 26
Pulgas Ridge • 4.5 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



This Preserve is home to several special early spring wildflowers including fetid adders tongue, hound's tongue, and milkmaids. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and Kandis Scott will help you identify these and other flowers and plants. This leisurely-paced hike will take you on the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, Hassler, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails with a 400-foot elevation gain.

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • March 26
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3 mi
10:30am to 3:30pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla and Bruce Hartsough on the mystical Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. This moderately-paced, 500-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children and has a downhill return. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 12.**

Spring Up St. Joseph's Hill

Saturday • March 26
St. Joseph's Hill • 5 mi
Meet: Little League Field parking lot
1:00pm to 4:00pm



Enjoy a moderately aerobic escape to climb the short steep hills just outside of Los Gatos. Join docents Susan Bernhard and Katherine Jen for an afternoon hike at this popular Preserve enjoyed and frequented by many hikers and local dog walkers. The top of this Preserve offers great views of Santa Clara Valley and Lexington Reservoir. Come see what's blooming in chaparral, grassland, and woodland habitats along the Jones, Manzanita, and Novitiate Trails.

Blossoms at Black Mountain

Tuesday • March 29
Rancho San Antonio • 12 mi
9:00am to 2:30pm



Do you wonder what spring flowers look like this year on the way up to Black Mountain? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for a fast-paced aerobic hike and enjoy wildflowers and views as you go. You'll get a good workout with a 2,500-foot elevation gain along the Hill, PG&E, Quarry, Black Mountain, High Meadow, and Coyote Trails. You'll also enjoy a well-deserved lunch after a heart-pumping climb to the summit. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking.)**

APRIL

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Saturday • April 2
Sierra Azul • 5 mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge
8:30am to 1:00pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, David Schwaderer, and Padma Satish for an uncommon hike around Mt. Umunhum via Barlow and Woods Roads. This moderate hike with many short breaks and wonderful views includes trail sections that are steep with varied surfaces. After carpooling from the Jacques Ridge parking lot to the Bald Mountain parking lot, you'll begin

your hike along Mt. Umunhum Road near the Bald Mountain trailhead and continue to Barlow Road to hike down to the parking lot. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the hike's starting point.)**



Purisima Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserve

Top O' Mindego Morning

Saturday • April 2
Russian Ridge • 5.5 mi
Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot
9:45am to 2:30pm



Celebrate the coming of spring with a hike to the top of Mindego Hill where you'll eat your lunch with green landscapes and 360° views. Join local docent Kim Borick and Sarah Schoen on this out and back trek along Mindego Hill Trail. At brief stops during the hike, you'll discover early wildflowers in bloom and enjoy discussion of the past and present aspects of this unique property. Some sections of the road/trail are very steep or primitive; long pants, sturdy hiking boots, and trekking poles (if used) are strongly advised. This hike is not recommended for children under 10 years old.

Daniels Nature Center Season Begins!!

The David C. Daniels Nature Center, located on the edge of Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, will open for the season on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Come by on opening weekend to take part in our annual celebration. Refreshments will be provided. The Nature Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00noon until 5:00pm during spring and summer, and 11:00am to 4:00pm in the fall.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
April 2 and April 3
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



Spring weekends are here and so should you be...as the living is easy, especially on the edge of Alpine Pond. Bring family and friends to visit any Saturday or Sunday this spring between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy displays about natural communities, view larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prowl, and perhaps have an opportunity to study live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with guidance from a docent. These adventures and more await you!

Ride the Ridge

Sunday • April 3
Skyline Ridge • 6 mi
Meet: Equestrian parking lot
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Lyndall Erb and Jenny Whitman for an equestrian ride through Skyline Ridge and adjacent preserves at a moderate pace (mostly walking with some trotting). You'll enjoy spring wildflowers and views. Riders under 18 must wear a helmet. Equestrians provide their own horses (no stallions or rental horses). **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 20.**

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • April 3
Los Trancos • 2-3 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



(Join docents Strether Smith and Huey-Shin Yuan, and please see the activity description for March 6.)

Nature's Garden in Spring

Tuesday • April 5
Monte Bello • 4 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Vivian Neou and Debbie Mytels will lead this leisurely hike along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails as you gaze at nature's garden in spring. You'll look to see what's wide awake and flowering as well as sleeping, and discuss how various native plants can fit into your own garden.



Monte Bello
Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Spring along Woods Trail

Wednesday • April 6
Sierra Azul • 5.4 mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge
10:30am to 2:30pm



Experience some of spring's natural wonders with docents Laura Levin, Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, and Kate Gudmundson during a leisurely-paced hike on the Woods Trail. You'll view the forested canyon holding Guadalupe Creek; if El Niño delivers rain as predicted, the creek and its tributaries will display waterfalls for your enjoyment. You'll appreciate a rich variety of wildflowers, found in forest and chaparral, that you'll identify along the trail.



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

History of Fremont Older Dog Hike

Saturday • April 9
Fremont Older • 3 mi
4:00pm to 6:00pm



Learn about the history of Fremont and Cora Older and the beginnings of this Preserve while you and your pooch romp along the trails. From the Cora Older Trail and up around Seven Springs Trail, docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis will provide you with background about the famous couple and take you to their pet cemetery along the Creekside Trail before the hike is over. Well behaved, leashed dogs are welcome with their owners/families to listen to tales and enjoy this moderately-paced hilly hike. Bring plastic bags to clean up after your pooch.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
April 9 and 10
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)

Hike through the Zones

Sunday • April 10
Pulgas Ridge • 2 mi
2:30pm to 4:00pm



Docents Kandis Scott and Steve Warner will lead this leisurely walk that will take you through forest and chaparral habitats with views of the surrounding hills. Spend Sunday afternoon alone or with the family and enjoy this outing along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Hassler Trails as you learn the history of this Preserve. There is a 200- to 600-foot elevation gain along the route.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • April 13
Long Ridge • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



(Please see the activity description for March 9.) **(Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)**

Introductory Geocaching Hike for Families

Saturday • April 16
Skyline Ridge • 2.5 mi
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docent Lyndall Erb and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for March 6. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 2.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
April 16 and 17
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)

Spring Ride at ECdMC

Sunday • April 17
El Corte de Madera Creek • 13 mi
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00am to 3:30pm



Explore the shaded forests and challenging single-track trails of this beautiful Preserve on your mountain bike with docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace. This intermediate/advanced level ride with more than 2,000 feet of climbing takes you through mixed evergreen and redwood forests, passes lush riparian habitat, then climbs back to a vista point with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean before returning to your starting point. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 3.**

Celebrate Earth Day

Participate in docent-led activities scheduled April 19-24, or visit the Daniels Nature Center (open Saturdays and Sundays).

Two Ponds, a Hill, and a Farm

Tuesday • April 19
Skyline Ridge • 8 mi
10:00am to 3:00pm



Join Docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan for a fast-paced hike in two preserves. From Horseshoe Lake to Alpine Pond in Skyline Ridge Preserve, and on to Russian Ridge Preserve for a quick view of the bay from Borel Hill, you'll explore the Ipiwa, Butano View, Sunny Jim, Fir Knoll, and Ridge Trails. You'll also see a Christmas tree farm that has been operating since before Skyline Ridge was a preserve.

Explorer Hike: A Path Less Traveled

Wednesday • April 20
Bear Creek Redwoods • 4-5 mi
Meet: Northside lot – Free limited parking
10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy some quiet, less traveled trails on this moderately-paced hike with docents Kate Gudmundson, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Laura Levin. Your walk will take you along a creek, by ponds, and through woods and grasslands. You'll look for a variety of beautiful wildflowers and feel the awe of the amazing redwoods for which this Preserve was named on this out and back hike. (Note: Participants will carpool to trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 6.

Rainbow of Colors

Friday • April 22
Russian Ridge • 4.5 mi
1:00pm to 4:30pm



Russian Ridge Preserve has been described as a world-class location for wildflowers. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel will introduce you to the spectacular grassland, oak woodland, and chaparral wildflowers in this Preserve. This will be a leisurely walk allowing time to examine wildflowers in detail. Bring a camera or a sketchpad to capture your favorite images. You'll stroll along the Bay Area Ridge, Hawk Ridge, Charquin, and Ancient Oaks Trails.



Centipede above center by Jack Owicki

Black Mountain History Ride

Saturday • April 23
Monte Bello • 25 mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:00am to 12:30pm



Join Linda and Glenn Wegner for an advanced 3,000-foot elevation climbing (road and off road) mountain bike ride and learn the history of the Black Mountain area. The ride leaves the Picchetti Ranch Preserve parking lot at 9:00am with Linda; faster riders have the option to leave at 9:30am with Glenn. Each group will start out with a 5-mile climb up the paved Montebello Road and then regroup at the top to enter the Preserve. Experience with longer rides, fire roads, and single-track trails is required. You'll enjoy riding along the Bella Vista, White Oaks, and Stevens Canyon Trails with great views and the start of spring flowers. Bring power snacks and ample drinking water. (Note: A portion of this ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic.)

Spineless Wonders

Saturday • April 23
Windy Hill • 3 mi
6:45pm to 10:30pm



Docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Jan Hintermeister will guide you on a 3-mile invertebrate treasure hunt. You'll meander along the Spring Ridge and Betsy Crowder Trails with extended stops. After dinner, you'll listen for night creatures. This hike is geared towards adults, but attentive kids 10 years and older are welcome. Bring dinner, ground cover to sit on, and a flashlight, with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 9.

Annual Fremont Older House and Garden Tours

Sunday • April 24
Fremont Older
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tours led by District docents are offered on a "first come first serve" call-in reservation basis. If you are interested, please call the District office at 650-691-2153 on Friday March 25, 2016 beginning at 10:00am. Reservations for the April 24 tours will not be accepted before the scheduled reservation call-in date and time (Friday, March 25 – 10:00am). Group size limit is four (4) people. A waiting list will be established. Please do not call the regular District office or activity reservation phone numbers for this annual tour offering.



Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
April 23 and 24
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Ferns and Other Ancient Plants

Sunday • April 24
Monte Bello • 3.5 mi
1:30pm to 4:00pm



Walking down into Stevens Creek Canyon, docents Debbie Mytels and Ed Lange will help you identify various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth - and you should expect to see a lot of wildflowers, too! You'll stop to look for newts after crossing stepping stones over Stevens Creek. You'll return via the Canyon Trail, passing a sag pond created along an earthquake fault where other ancient plants are growing.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • April 27
Monte Bello • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



(Please see the activity description for March 23.) (Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike.)

In Full Bloom

Saturday • April 30
Sierra Azul • 6 mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge
10:00am to 3:00pm



Spring wildflowers are in full bloom. Join docents Sarah Schoen and Theresa Walterskirchen to enjoy an out and back hike along the Woods Trail. You'll learn about this botanically diverse area, including several unusual and locally common plants.

Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • April 30
Picchetti Ranch • 5 mi
10:30am to 3:00pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Greg Azevedo to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home. You'll discover if the everlasting plant smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view also awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails and you can listen to the sound of Stevens Creek as you enjoy lunch at a Santa Clara County Park picnic area. Capable children can handle this moderately-paced hike with a couple of 200-foot climbs. A visit to Picchetti Winery for tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
April 31 and May 1
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • May 1
Los Trancos • 2-3 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



(Join docents Harry Cornbleet and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for March 6.)

Road Less Travelled

Tuesday • May 3
Sierra Azul • 10.8 mi
Meet: Northside lot – Free Limited parking
9:30am to 3:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou to experience the less known Lexington Reservoir side of the District's largest Preserve. You'll go through rugged terrain, and enjoy panoramic views and wildflowers along Priest Rock, Kennedy, and Limekiln Trails. This is an aerobic, fast-paced workout hike with 2,300 feet of elevation gain. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

Explorer Hike: Spring at Pulgas Ridge

Wednesday • May 4
Pulgas Ridge • 4.5 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, and Laura Levin on a moderately-paced hike to explore the signs of spring in a variety of habitats. You'll travel along the Blue Oak, Dusky-footed Woodrat, and Dick Bishop Trails on a round trip outing with a stop for lunch. The hike will include hills, views, and some uneven terrain.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • May 11
St. Joseph's Hill • 4-6 mi
Meet: Little League Field parking lot
10:00am to 1:00pm



(Please see the activity description for March 9.) **(Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)**

Friggatriskaidophobia Cure

Friday • May 13
Russian Ridge • 5 mi
5:30pm to 10:30pm



Afraid of Friday the 13th? This is the cure for you. Join docents Paul Billig, Katherine Greene, and Huey-Shin Yuan for a wildflower, sunset, and night hike. This moderately-paced hike includes a stop at a redwood deck where you'll enjoy the dinner you bring with you. Bring a jacket to wear for cool conditions after the sun goes down, as well as a small flashlight and any lucky charms you need to chase away your fears. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 29.**

Borel Hill and Ancient Oaks

Saturday • May 14
Russian Ridge • 4 mi
9:00am to 12:30pm



Explore this Preserve with docents Susan Bernhard and Chris MacIntosh on a stem-loop hike, up and over grassy hills, and trot through ancient oaks. If there has been enough winter rain, you'll enjoy exceptional wildflower blooms. On a clear day, you'll see west to the Pacific Ocean, east to Mt. Diablo, and south to Mt. Umunhum. Leafy ancient oaks should provide some shade on your return trip. This hike will be a treat for the spirit, whether you bring a hand lens for close-up viewing of nature or camera/binoculars for a bird's-eye view of open space.

Dusky-footed Woodrat and Friends

Saturday • May 14
Pulgas Ridge • 5 mi
6:00pm to 10:30pm



Join docents Vivian Neou, Greg Hughes, Padma Satish, and Huey-Shin Yuan on a search for the dusky-footed woodrat. You'll traverse the Preserve on the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails as you look for signs of the dusky-footed woodrat and other creatures of the night. There will be a stop to enjoy a meal and take in the views. Bring a flashlight with red cellophane covering (if you have it), your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children age 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 30.**



Min Hoey

Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
May 14 and 15
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)

Explorer Hike: Woods, Water, and Wildflowers

Wednesday • May 18
Long Ridge • 6 mi
Meet: Peters Creek trailhead
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson as you explore the varied landscapes along the Peter's Creek and Hickory Oaks Trails. This moderately-paced hike will take you through riparian, woodland, and meadow environments to a vista point where you can enjoy the spectacular view along with your lunch. You'll enjoy many of the late spring wildflowers along the way.

The Redwood that Got Away

Thursday • May 19
El Corte de Madera Creek • 9 mi
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00am to 3:30pm



Your exploration of this Preserve will include visits to a tafoni sandstone formation and an old growth redwood tree, and a stroll along the Resolution Trail named in honor of those who lost their lives in the DC-6 plane crash of 1953. This fast-paced hike with docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan will include the Tafoni, Fir, Resolution, Methuseloh, and Timberview Trails.

Butterflies of Sierra Azul

Friday • May 20
Sierra Azul • 4 mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge
10:00am to 2:00pm



Get acquainted with the butterflies found in the many habitats of this expansive Preserve. Docents Jan Hintermeister, Katherine Greene, and Vivian Neou will be your traveling companions on this leisurely-paced out and back hike on the Woods Trail. Although your focus is on butterflies, you'll see many other plant and animal species with Mt. Umunhum in the background. There will be a short lunch break along the way. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Wingding Family Fest | Saturday • May 21, 2016

10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Skyline Ridge Preserve

For more information see page 12, or visit: www.openspace.org/wingding.

Spring Evening Hike

Saturday • May 21
Windy Hill • 4 mi
Meet: Skyline Boulevard parking area
6:00pm to 10:30pm



Explore the top of this Preserve with docents Debbi Brusco, Paul Billig, and Vivian Neou. Through grassland and woods, you'll observe spring along Lost Trail and enjoy views on the way. You'll retrace your steps uphill on your return in the moonlight. Bring dinner, ground cover to sit on, and a flashlight, with a red filter or cellophane covering if you have it. Binoculars may be helpful. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 7.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
May 21 and 22
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)

California Buckeye in Spring

Sunday • May 22
Monte Bello • 5.0 mi
1:00pm to 4:30pm



Explore the buckeye trees of Black Mountain with docents Mike Alexander and Kandis Scott on a moderately-paced hike along, and adjacent to, the Bella Vista and Old Ranch Trails. You'll learn about this remarkable species' history, uses, and unique adaptations to California's climate. The buckeye blossoms in May and you'll observe this spectacular, fragrant display in a variety of inspiring and photogenic settings, returning to the same trees you visited in January. This is the second in a series of seasonal hikes, each highlighting one of the buckeye's annual phases. Capable and engaged children aged 12 and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 8.**

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • May 25
Russian Ridge • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



(Please see the activity description for March 23.) **(Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike.)**

Introductory Geocaching Hike for Families

Saturday • May 28
Los Trancos • 3 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen, Collin Lim, and an REI guide, and please see the activity description for March 6.) **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 14.**

Butterflies of Picchetti Ranch

Saturday • May 28
Picchetti Ranch • 2.5 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Jan Hintermeister and Karen DeMello in exploring the wonderful and strange world of insects that taste with their feet and smell with their antennae. Learn to identify common butterfly species in their natural environment and understand why humans from the Stone Age to the Space Age have been fascinated with these delicate winged creatures. Many facts and flutters await you on this easy walk along the Zinfandel and Orchard Loop Trails! Bring binoculars if you have them. Attentive children with an interest in nature are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 14.**



Karl Gohl

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve by Tim Switick

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
May 28 and 29
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon – 5:00pm



(Please see the activity description for April 2.)

Wild Spring Stories

Sunday • May 29
Picchetti Ranch • 4 mi
9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Padma Satish and Debbie Mytels on this out and back hike along the Zinfandel Trail at a moderate pace. You'll observe the wilderness landscape and the condition of ground cover, shrubs, and trees in spring time as you walk along in the mixed plant community.



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Banana Slug Redwood Ride

Sunday • May 29
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 11 mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Koscis will meet you at the coast for a leisurely climb up to the Skyline Boulevard area observing the life in the redwoods as you go. After a rest you'll ride back down some of the best single track around, through the fog or sun, with fantastic coastal views. This will be an intermediate ride with about 1,800 feet of climbing. Experienced youth cyclists are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 15.**

Mollie Pinolperez

30th Annual Hike the Open Spaces

Monday • May 30
Monte Bello • 2.5 mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
8:15am to 1:00pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Bob Segalla for a leisurely-paced walk through the less-traveled section of this Preserve on the Waterwheel Creek Trail. If the weather is clear, expect to see some spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This walk will include the history of the Preserve and the Open Space District, and information about some of the plants, animals, and geology of the area. A short snack break is planned midway. This minimal elevation gain hike is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead – everyone must begin and end together to facilitate carpooling.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 16.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fremont Older House and Garden Tours

Sunday, April 24, 2016 | Fremont Older Preserve

Each spring, "Woodhills," the historic home of Fremont and Cora Older, is opened for public tours providing local history enthusiasts an opportunity to learn more about the legacy of Fremont Older and tour the house and gardens. **Tours require advanced reservations. See page 9 for more information.**



Wingding Family Fest

A Celebration of Spring

Saturday | May 21, 2016 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Skyline Ridge Preserve | Equestrian Parking Lot

Join Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and co-sponsor Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society for a "winged-wonders" festival in a beautiful spring setting. Celebrate birds, butterflies, bats and more – a FREE family event with fun for everyone! Activities include: guided nature walks (buzz, tweet, chirp and whirl down the trails...) and bird-themed geocaching hikes, hands-on science stations, live animal presentations, conservation organization exhibitors, arts and crafts, and food vendors. No advance reservations required – some activities do need to be signed-up for on the day of the event.

For more information and updated schedule, visit: www.openspace.org/wingding



EXPLORE

Discover