



# MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

## Hawthorns Area Plan

Planning & Natural Resources Committee  
November 16, 2021





# General Manager's Recommendation

- ❖ Forward the revised Hawthorns Area Plan vision and goals, with any final adjustment by the Committee, to the full Board of Directors for their consideration.
- ❖ Review and comment on the draft Hawthorns Area Plan working group composition and formation strategy.



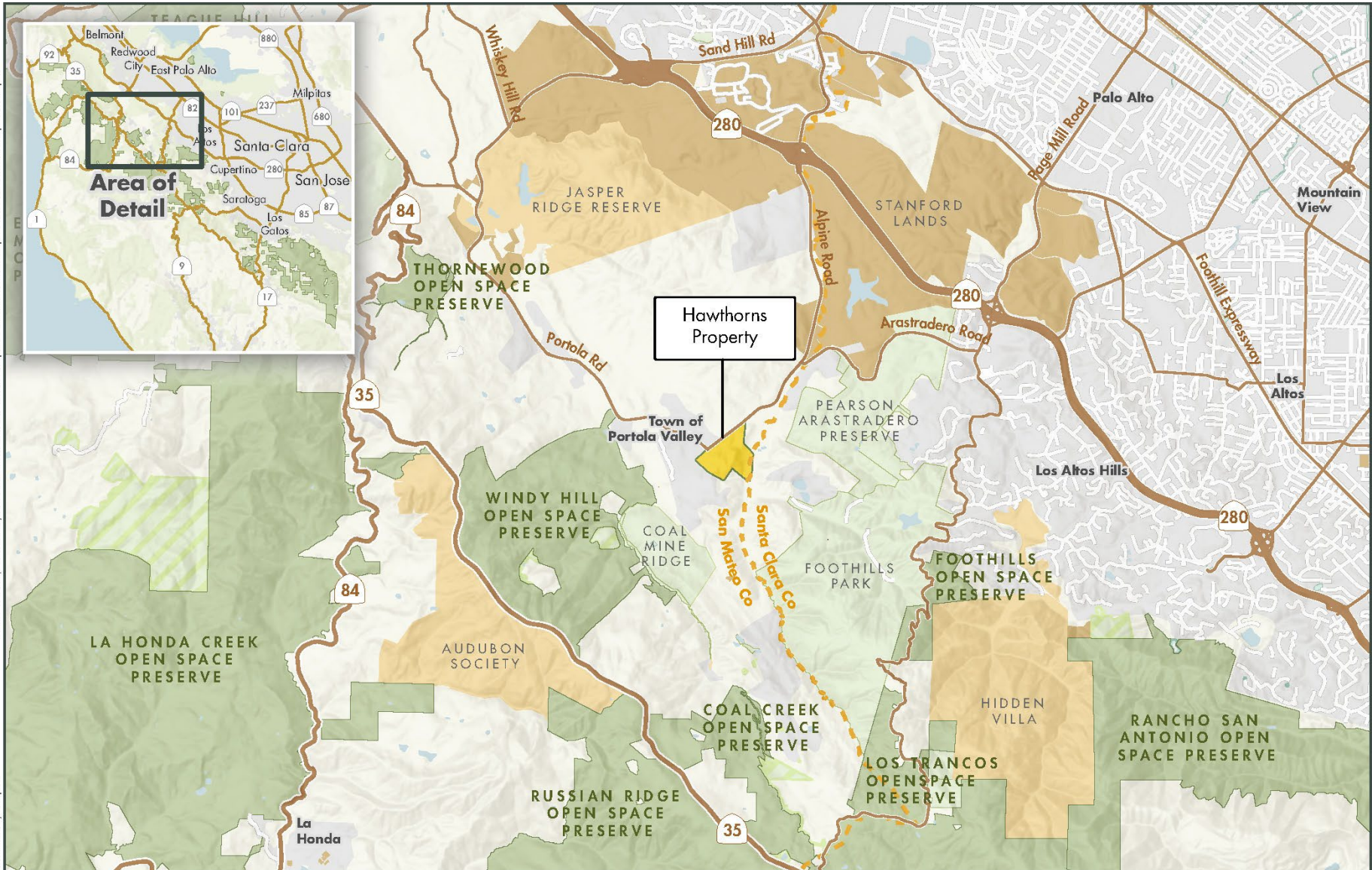
# Agenda

- 🌿 Hawthorns Area overview
- 🌿 Hawthorns Area vision and goals
  - Committee discussion
- 🌿 Working group formation and composition strategy
- 🌿 Committee questions
- 🌿 Public comment
- 🌿 Committee discussion and guidance









# Providing Public Comments

- Members of the public may provide comments by submitting a public comment form at: **[www.openspace.org/public-comment](http://www.openspace.org/public-comment)**
  - Comments on agenda items must be submitted prior to the time public comment on the agenda item is closed.
  - All comments shall be subject to the same rules as would otherwise govern speaker comments at the Board meeting.
  - Speakers will be muted after reaching the three-minute time limit
  - **All written comments or requests to speak must be submitted via the public comment form.**
- Any comments received after the deadline will be provided to the Board after the meeting.



## Hawthorns Area - Regional Map

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  MROSD Preserves       |  Land Trust          |
|  Other Protected Lands |  Other Public Agency |
|  Private Property      |  Hawthorns Area      |

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(Midpen)  
6/16/2021

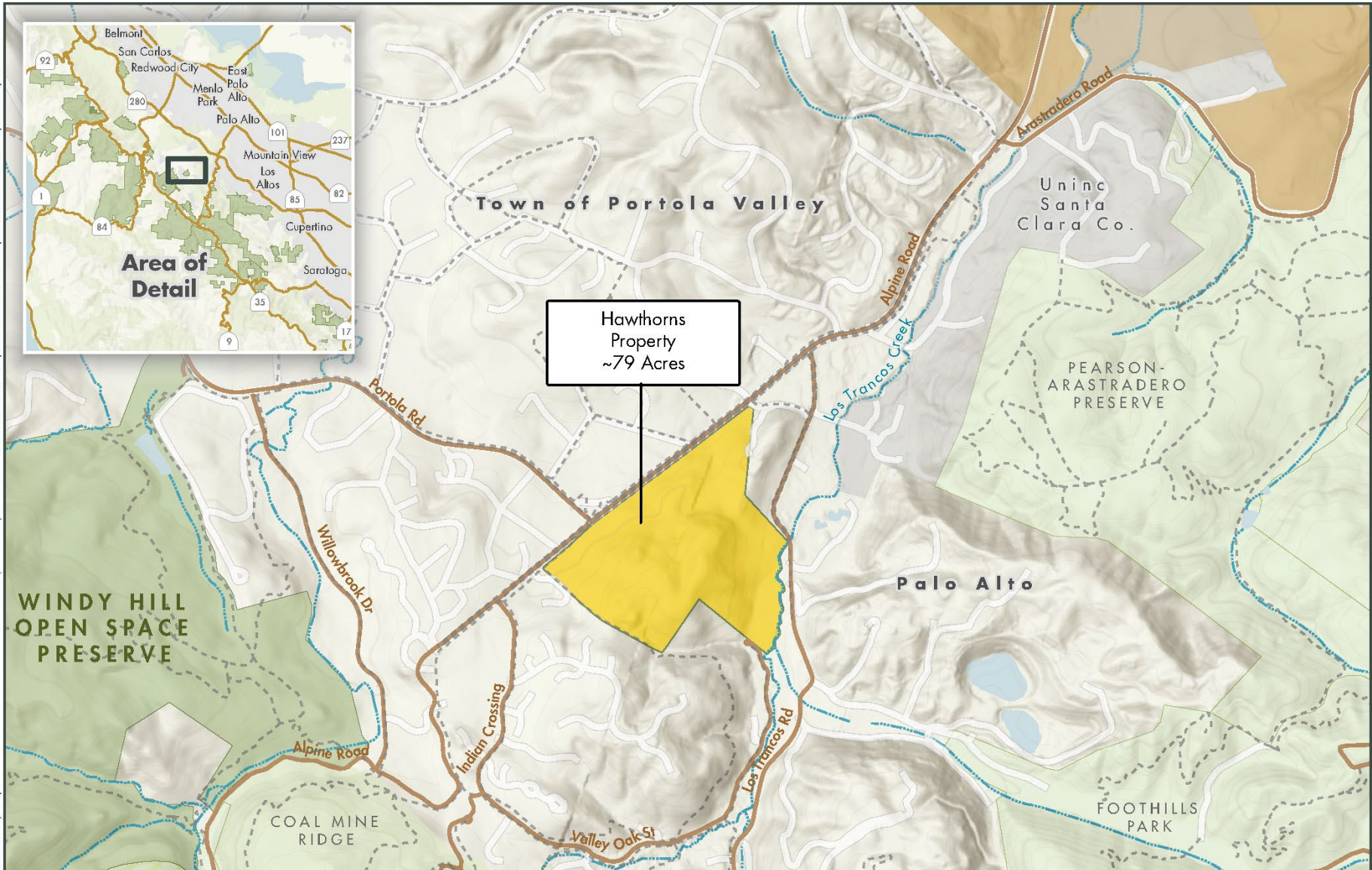
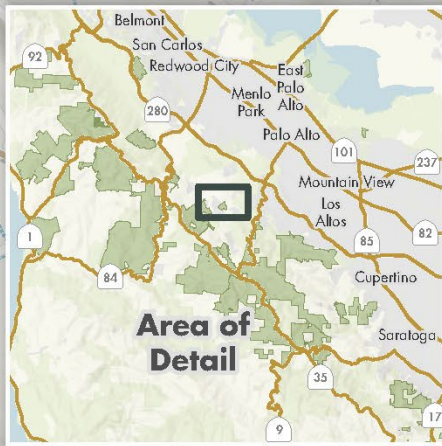


0 1 2 Miles





Path: G:\Projects\Windy\_Hill\Hawthorns\_MapSeries\MapSeries\Hawthorns\_MapSeries.aprx  
Created By: flopez



## Hawthorns Area - Local Map

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  MROSD Preserves       |  Other Public Agency |
|  Other Protected Lands |  Hawthorns Area      |
|  Private Property      |  Unincorporated Area |

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(Midpen)  
6/18/2021



0 0.25 0.5 Miles




While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.





## Hawthorns Area - Aerial Map

-  Hawthorns Area
-  Building

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(Midpen)  
6/18/2021



0 250 500 US Feet





# Hawthorns Area Plan

## Purpose:

- Comprehensive plan for the Hawthorns Area
- Prescribes future uses
- Identifies resource management activities
- Establishes a public access plan

## Small-scale version of:

- La Honda Creek Master Plan
- Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan





# Vision and Goals



# Vision and Goals

## MISSION



**Midpen  
purpose and values**



## VISION



**Intention specific to  
the Hawthorns Area**



## GOALS



**Allowable uses and  
management strategies**





# Mission



## MISSION



## VISION



## GOALS

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.



## MISSION

Manage natural, scenic, cultural, and open space values at the Hawthorns Area and provide ecologically sensitive public access consistent with the allowable uses outlined in the property's conservation easement.



## VISION

### ***Previous Draft***

*The Hawthorns Area offers picturesque views of rolling oak grasslands and the Santa Cruz Mountains, provides important wildlife refuge, and reflects the region's natural, agricultural, and social history. The District will protect biotic resources and interpret natural and cultural resources on the Hawthorns Area in a manner consistent with the District's mission and the property's conservation easement.*



## GOALS



# Draft Goals



MISSION



VISION



GOALS



GOAL #1. NATURAL RESOURCES



GOAL #2. PUBLIC ACCESS



GOAL #3. LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
CONNECTIVITY



GOAL #4. NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY



GOAL #5. AESTHETICS



GOAL #6. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE



# Goal #1: Natural Resources



Manage for ecological resiliency of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, wildlife connectivity, and other natural resources.







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Manage for ecological resiliency of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, wildlife connectivity, and other natural resources.

## *Previous draft:*

~~Protect and restore native habitat~~ Manage for ecological resiliency of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, wildlife connectivity ~~corridors~~, and other ~~sensitive~~ natural resources.



## Goal #2: Public Access



Open the Hawthorns Area to low intensity public access with sufficient parking, an internal trail system, and strategies that promote multi-modal access to the property.







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Open the Hawthorns Area to low intensity public access with sufficient parking, an internal trail system, and strategies that promote multi-modal access to the property.

### *Previous draft:*

Open the Hawthorns Area to low intensity public access ~~and provide~~ with sufficient parking, ~~multimodal access options~~, an internal trail system, and strategies that promote multi-modal access to the property ~~low intensity recreational amenities that support ecologically sensitive public enjoyment~~.



## Goal #3: Regional and Local Connectivity



Connect to adjacent public trails and explore opportunities for trail connections to regional open space lands.







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Connect to adjacent public trails and explore opportunities for trail connections to regional open space lands.

### *Previous draft:*

Connect to adjacent public trails and explore opportunities for ~~to facilitate new regional~~ trail connections to regional open space lands.



## Goal #4: Natural and Cultural History



Interpret natural, cultural, and historic features and pursue partnerships to manage the property's natural and cultural history.





## Goal #4: Natural and Cultural History



Interpret natural, cultural, and historic features and pursue partnerships to manage the property's natural and cultural history.

### *Previous draft:*

Interpret ~~the rich~~ natural, cultural, and historic features ~~of the Hawthorns Area~~ and pursue partnerships to manage ~~key features of the Hawthorns Historic District~~ the property's natural and cultural history.



## Goal #5: Aesthetics



Highlight scenic viewpoints and integrate recreational amenities into the visual landscape.







## Goal #5: Aesthetics



Highlight scenic viewpoints and integrate recreational amenities into the visual landscape.

### ***Previous draft:***

Highlight scenic viewpoints and integrate recreational amenities into the visual landscape ~~protect scenic viewsheds~~.



## Goal #6: Operation and Maintenance



Manage the property for safe public access in a fiscally sustainable manner with ongoing public engagement and consistent with the District's Good Neighbor Policy.





## Goal #6: Operation and Maintenance



Manage the property for safe public access in a fiscally sustainable manner with ongoing public engagement and consistent with the District's Good Neighbor Policy.

### *Previous draft:*

Manage the property for safe public access in a ~~safe and~~ fiscally sustainable manner ~~that promotes ongoing public support and appreciation~~ with ongoing public engagement and consistent with the District's Good Neighbor Policy.





# Working Group Strategy







# Working Group: Purpose

The purpose of the working group would be to establish an interactive forum of local and regional perspectives to collaborate with the District on a plan for introducing public access at the Hawthorns Area in a manner consistent with the Board-adopted vision and goals.



# Working Group: Goals and Intended Outcomes

🌿 Goal: The working group would evaluate the following public access components:

- Parking area and driveway location(s)
- Trailhead locations and internal trail system
- Trail connections with Town's surrounding trails and pathways
- Opportunities for regional trail connections
- Allowable trail uses for proposed trails within the Hawthorns Area

🌿 Intended Outcome: Public Access Conceptual Alternatives



# Working Group: Formation and Term

- ✿ Authorized by the Board
- ✿ Expected to begin in 2022
- ✿ Approximate duration: 18 months

## Hawthorns Area Plan *Conceptual Alternatives Development and Approval Process*



FOCUS AREA	ROLE DESCRIPTION	RECRUITMENT PARTNER
Natural Resource Protection	Advocate for ecological resiliency	Green Foothills
Regional Connectivity	Support regional trail connectivity	City of Palo Alto Community Services Department
Hikers	Represent hiking perspectives	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Equestrian Community	Represent environmental/cultural education and interpretation	District docents
Interpretation	Represent equestrian perspectives	Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee
Local Schools	Represent Safe Routes to Schools and Alpine Road Trail users	Portola Valley School District
Portola Valley Ranch	Represent neighbors adjacent to the Hawthorns Area	Portola Valley Ranch HOA
Town Community Member	Represent Town community interests	Town of Portola Valley
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# Working Group: Member Recruitment







# Working Group: Member Recruitment

## Selection Criteria

- Demonstrates strong technical expertise or interest relevant to the assigned role
- Enhances the diversity of working group participants based on background or experience
- Communicates clearly and concisely
- Available to commit sufficient time to the working group process
- Expresses a positive, constructive, and collaborative attitude



# Working Group: Composition

FOCUS AREA	ROLE DESCRIPTION	RECRUITMENT PARTNER
District Board liaison	Respond to questions regarding District policy	N/A
Town Planning Commission or Council liaison	Respond to questions regarding Town policy	Town of Portola Valley



# Working Group: Tentative Meeting Schedule

## # Objective

- 1 Establish working group roles, goals, workplan, schedule, and operating procedures
- 2 Conduct in-person property tour
- 3 Review existing site conditions
- 4 Conduct public open house
- 5 Discuss parking and driveway alternatives
- 6 Discuss internal connections, trailheads, and regional connectivity opportunities
- 7 Present draft trail and parking alternatives
- 8 Confirm revised trail and parking alternatives to forward to the District's PNR Committee and subsequently to District Board for consideration





# Next Steps

Milestone	Purpose and Content	Anticipated Schedule
<b>PNR Committee Meeting #3</b>	Final vision and goals for recommendation to Board Draft working group composition and formation process	November 16, 2021
<b>PNR Committee Meeting #4</b>	Final working group composition and formation process for recommendation to Board	Early 2022
<b>Board Meeting #1</b>	Approve vision and goals Approve working group composition and formation process	Early 2022
<b>Working Group Candidate Selection</b>	District staff conducts interviews to identify candidates for the working group	Mid 2022
<b>Board Meeting #2</b>	Approve working group membership and formation	Mid 2022



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Provide comments at this PNR Committee meeting by submitting a comment form at: [www.openspace.org/public-comment](http://www.openspace.org/public-comment)

Provide comments in the future by submitting a comment form available at the project webpage: <https://www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/hawthorns-public-access>