Hawthorns Area
Vision and Goals

March 23, 2022
General Manager’s Recommendation

Review and approve the Hawthorns Area Vision and Goals.
Agenda

_staff presentation
  - Property overview and background
  - Vision and goals

_board questions

_public comment

_board discussion and guidance
Members of the public may provide comments by submitting a public comment form at: 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 Plan

Purpose:

- Comprehensive use and management plan for the Hawthorns Area of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve
- Prescribe future uses and management
- Identify resource and land management activities
- Establish public access opportunities
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Area of Detail

Town of Portola Valley

Hawthorns Property
~79 Acres

WINDY HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Hawthorns Area - Local Map

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

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

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.
Timeline

- 2006: Property accepted by Midpen’s Board
- 2006: Preliminary Use and Management Plan (PUMP)
- 2011: Property transferred to Midpen
  - Endowment
  - Conservation Easement held by POST
- 2012: PUMP Amendment
- 2012: Vision Plan
- 2014: Measure AA
Windy Hill: Trail Improvements, Preservation and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership

Improve trails, complete pond facilities. Increase multi-use trails, study possible increased dog use. Open Hawthorns Area, develop trails connecting to Portola Valley and Palo Alto trails. Explore partnerships to protect, restore, and interpret historic buildings. Improve habitat conditions in Los Trancos Creek. Preserve additional scenic open space as available.

Windy Hill: Trail Improvements, Preservation and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership

Improve trails, complete pond facilities. Increase multi-use trails, study possible improvements to increase dog use. Open Hawthorns Area; develop trails connecting to Portola Valley and Palo Alto trails. Partner to protect, restore, and interpret historic buildings. Improve habitat conditions in Los Trancos Creek. Preserve additional scenic open space as available. $12,740,000
Conservation Easement

- Granted by the Woods Family Trust to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)
- Protects natural resource values of property
- Allows low-intensity recreational uses and improvements typically offered on other Midpen preserves
- Restricts future development of new buildings and infrastructure
The following rights and uses are allowable at the Hawthorns Area:

- “Passive recreational uses such as hiking, bicycling and equestrian use”
- “Construction of unpaved trails or paths for non-motorized uses.”
- “Construction of a limited staging area (gravel parking lot, pit toilets, wood rail fencing, trail markers, etc.)”
Historic District
Staff Residence

Alpine Road

4111 Alpine Road Driveway

4411 Alpine Road Residence
Townsend's big-eared bat
Natural Resources

- Dusky-footed woodrat
- Townsend's big-eared bat

Hawthorns Area - Topography & Vegetation Communities

- Hawthorns Area
- Woodland
- Olive Grove
- Deciduous Hardwood
- Grassland
- Developed

Contour interval:
- 50 ft
- 10 ft

Source: SMC Enhanced/Lifeform 2022

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
(Midpen)
2/25/2022

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

Steelhead trout
Townsend's big-eared bat
Dusky-footed woodrat
Steelhead trout
Hawthorns Area - Topography & Vegetation Communities

- Hawthorns Area
- Woodland
- Olive Grove
- Deciduous Hardwood
- Grassland
- Developed

Contour interval:
- 50 ft
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Wildlife passage
Dusky-footed woodrat
Townsend's big-eared bat
Steelhead trout

Source: SMC Enhanced Lifeform 2020

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)
2/25/2022

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.
Natural Resources

Steelhead trout
Townsend’s big-eared bat
Dusky-footed woodrat
Wildlife passage
Grassland restoration

Grassland restoration

Grassland
Vegetation community
Woodland
Olive Grove
Deciduous hardwood

Contour interval
50 ft
10 ft

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
2/25/2022
**MISSION**
Midpen purpose and values

**VISION**
Intention specific to the Hawthorns Area

**GOALS**
Allowable uses and management strategies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Equestrian Uses</td>
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<td>Regional Connectivity</td>
<td>Alpine Road Trail</td>
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<td>Tribal Resources</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Public Engagement</td>
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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.
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 and manage natural, scenic, cultural, and open space resources at the Hawthorns Area and provide ecologically sensitive public access consistent with the District’s mission and the allowable uses outlined in the property’s conservation easement.
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
EXAMPLE GOAL TEXT
Example Considerations:

- 2014 Vision Plan
- 2012 Preliminary Use and Management Plan Amendment
- Hawthorns Area Conservation Easement
- Public comments and feedback
Goal #1: Natural Resources

Protect and restore native habitat and manage for ecological resiliency of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, wildlife connectivity, and other natural resources.
Goal #1: Natural Resources

Protect and restore native habitat and manage for ecological resiliency of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, wildlife connectivity, and other natural resources.

**Considerations:**
- Special status species and sensitive habitats
- Grassland restoration and invasive species management
- Los Trancos Creek riparian habitat
- Mature tree protection
- Wildlife passage
- Wildland fire resiliency
Goal #2: Public Access

Open the Hawthorns Area to low-intensity public access, provide an internal trail system, and provide multi-modal access to the property.
Goal #2: Public Access

Open the Hawthorns Area to low-intensity public access, provide an internal trail system, and provide multi-modal access to the property.

Considerations:
- Parking
- Multimodal access
- Trailheads and internal trail systems
- Preserve and trail uses
- Interpretive elements
- Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act
Goal #3: Regional and Local Connectivity

Connect to adjacent public trails and explore opportunities for trail connections to regional open space lands.
Goal #3: Regional and Local Connectivity

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

**Considerations:**
- Regional trail and park access
- Allowable uses on adjacent trails and paths
- Collaboration with Town of Portola Valley regarding Alpine Road Trail
- Partnerships with nearby jurisdictions, regional agencies, and other organizations
Goal #4: Natural and Cultural History

Interpret the rich natural, cultural, and historic features and pursue partnerships to manage the property’s natural and cultural history.
Goal #4: Natural and Cultural History

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

Considerations:
- Hawthorns Historic District, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- Historic buildings, structures, and landscape management
- Natural history, interpretive elements, and public education opportunities
- Indigenous history and consultation with Native American tribes
Goal #5: Aesthetics

Highlight scenic viewpoints and design recreational amenities while protecting scenic viewsheds.
Goal #5: Aesthetics

Highlight scenic viewpoints and design recreational amenities while protecting scenic viewsheds.

Considerations:
- Panoramic views from the Hawthorns Area
- Views into the Hawthorns Area from adjacent communities
- Alpine Road Scenic Corridor design guidelines
Goal #6: Operation and Maintenance

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

**Considerations:**

- Public health and safety
- Neighbor relationships
- Collaboration with the Town of Portola Valley
- Gates, fencing, signage, patrols, and site security
- Onsite Midpen presence
- Conservation Easement
## Hawthorns Area Plan Phase Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase #</th>
<th>Phase Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vision &amp; Goals</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Existing Conditions</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Programming / Conceptual Planning</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Area Plan / Environmental Review</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>Phase Title</td>
<td>Phase Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision &amp; Goals</td>
<td>• Develop vision &amp; goals</td>
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<td>• Refine planning process</td>
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<td>Existing Conditions</td>
<td>• Survey existing conditions</td>
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<td>• Prepare Opportunities &amp; Constraints Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming &amp; Conceptual Planning</td>
<td>• Identify use &amp; management objectives</td>
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<td>• Identify programmatic elements</td>
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<td>• Develop Conceptual Plan Alternative(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area Plan &amp; Environmental Review</td>
<td>• Prepare Area Plan</td>
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<td>• Approve CEQA findings and Area Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>• Design development, permitting, &amp; construction</td>
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</table>
Next Steps: Existing Conditions

1. Present Vision and Goals to Town of Portola Valley
2. Existing Conditions
   - Data collection and technical studies to characterize key resources
3. Opportunities and Constraints
   - Establish parameters for resource and land management, public access, operations, etc.
   - Prepare Opportunities & Constraints Report
4. Board Study Session / Open House
5. Present Opportunities & Constraints to Town of Portola Valley
Phase 2: Existing Conditions

2021 ▪ Stakeholder engagement
2022 ▪ Site tours
                   ▪ Open house
                   ▪ Virtual comment card
                   ▪ Board/PNR Committee meetings
Review and approve the Hawthorns Area Vision and Goals.

Provide comments at this Board meeting by submitting a comment form at: 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