



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: September 28, 2022

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, General Manager *AR*

FROM: Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT: Preserve Use Survey Recommendations – Implementation Update

This memo summarizes the progress that has been made on implementing the Preserve Use Survey recommendations that were reviewed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) on November 28, 2018. This is the first report out to summarize the overall progress made to date.

BACKGROUND

The Board authorized a preserve use survey in fiscal year 2017-18. The initial trail intercept surveys were conducted in the fall of 2017 and focus group studies were conducted in 2018. On March 14 and May 9, 2018, San Francisco State University (SFSU) researcher, Professor Patrick Tierney, presented to the Board of Directors (Board) the results of the Preserve Use Survey Project. The project gathered data from almost 1500 Preserve visitors via intercept surveys, as well as from numerous participants in seven focus groups. The intercept survey collected information on general preserve visitor experiences and suggestions for improvements. The results indicate an overwhelming (98%) visitor approval of District preserves. Of the few issues raised, the most common included a lack of sufficient parking, dog waste on trails, and the availability and upkeep of restroom facilities.

Focus groups provided input from demographics that either historically do not use District preserves or are of growing significance in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. These groups encounter barriers, some quite fundamental like transportation, which preclude them from accessing the preserves. In some cases, a lack of awareness or knowledge of the District also prevented them from considering an outing.

DISCUSSION

On November 28, 2018, the Board reviewed a list of recommended implementations actions to address the key findings identified by Professor Tierney. The recommended implementation actions are provided in Attachment 1 along with a summary of the completed and in-progress actions. The plan was to implement the recommended actions over three fiscal years starting in Fiscal Year 2019-20 (FY20) and continuing through FY22. Therefore, the beginning of FY23 (present time) represents a good point to reflect on what has been accomplished, which includes

projects that were completed or opened to the public since the fall of 2017 when the surveys were conducted.

Progress has been made on all the primary categories listed in the recommendations: access and accessibility, communication, interpretation, maintenance, programming, safety, trail use, and transportation & parking. For a full list of implementation projects, see Attachment 1.

Accomplishments include major access and accessibility projects funded through Measure AA that provide spectacular new public facilities at Mount Umunhum in Sierra Azul, Ravenswood, the western area of Bear Creek, and lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserves. All of these sites include easy access or ADA-accessible trails along with new restrooms, which greatly expand the opportunities for new visitors to open space.

Of note, the COVID pandemic hit during the middle of the implementation period, requiring a major pivot that impacted the delivery of in-person and school programming. In response, staff developed new skill sets in the delivery of online content to continue offering open space interpretation and education during COVID restrictions. These skills have broadened the District toolkit going forward to incorporate virtual programming along with the valued return of in-person events and activities. Bilingual services have also increased with Spanish translation services available via on-call contracts and with the addition of dual language interpretive signage at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. All of this work has improved District's overall communication, programming, and interpretation work to better meet public needs.

In the area of maintenance, with a limited up-front investment and ongoing regular maintenance, the dog waste program has been largely successful in addressing complaints heard from the preserve use survey about dog waste. Furthermore, addressing perceived safety concerns, the District has added many programming elements and facilities that are more welcoming to first time visitors. In the trail use and transportation/parking category, dog access has been added at three locations: upper La Honda Creek, lower La Honda Creek, and El Sereno Open Space Preserves. Moreover, a multimodal study is underway at Purisima Creek Open Space Preserve and multi-modal strategies are now being implemented at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.

Subsequent implementation actions will be reported out as part of the year-end review accomplishments report.

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PRESERVE USE SURVEY – COMPLETED IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Contextual Notes:

- **Intercept Survey:** Survey respondents overwhelmingly expressed satisfaction with District preserves, with 98% of preserve users registering either a “Good” or “Very Good” experience. Over 96% of respondents indicated they felt safe or very safe during their visit.
- **Focus Groups:** Although there is very high satisfaction among *existing preserve users*, the District assembled focus groups of people less familiar with the preserves to understand the barriers to entry and enjoyment that may exist and the factors that influence their ability to enjoy their open space experience. Focus groups were comprised of assembled community members ranging from four to 15 participants. Though the group size is small relative to their overall demographic population, their responses provide insight into their group’s respective thoughts and experiences.

Category	Recommendations based on Preserve Use Survey findings	Source	Priority	Recommended Follow-Up Implementation Actions	Implementation Actions Completed or in Progress
Access and Accessibility	Easier, shorter, loop trails	Focus Group	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to ADA Transition Plan; promote easy-access trail information. • When feasible and appropriate, identify additional “easy-access” trails near trailheads and entry points during preserve and trail planning efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District website lists easy access as one of the primary activities, each preserve has an icon designating whether easy access trails are available, the map identifies the location of the easy access trails. • The District now has 8.9 miles of easy access trails. • Trails opened since the survey was conducted include Mt Umunhum summit trails (<i>Sierra Azul</i>), Bear Creek Upper Lake Loop (<i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i>), Ravenswood Bay Trail (<i>Ravenswood</i>) and the La Honda Grasshopper Loop Trail (<i>La Honda Creek</i>). Trails within the Alma cultural landscape (<i>bear Creek Redwoods</i>) are scheduled to open by 2023. • Made significant progress on accessible/easy access trail improvements at <i>Pulgas Ridge</i>, and Horseshoe Lake and Alpine Pond at <i>Skyline Ridge</i>. Presented easy access trail improvements at Pulgas Ridge Preserve to the SFPUC Project Review Committee and received Project Review Certificate. Completed rare plant surveys. Completed jurisdictional delineation and survey, site surveys, topographic survey and 65% of project design.
	More trails for wheelchairs	Focus Group	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related to ADA Transition Plan; promote wheelchair-accessible trail information. • When feasible and appropriate, identify additional ADA/wheelchair-accessible trail opportunities that connect to ADA/wheelchair-accessible facilities and entry points during preserve and trail planning efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the 2021 update to Midpen’s website, the Easy-Access Opportunities webpage promotes wheelchair-accessible trail information. For example, the posted information includes the recently opened 0.2-mile Upper Lake Loop Trail (<i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i>) and 0.6-mile addition to the Bay Trail (<i>Ravenswood</i>). • Easy-access and ADA-compliant trails are tagged as “wheelchair accessible” and “family-friendly” in OuterSpatial to allow filtering in the Explore Map. • The District continues to implement the ADA Transition Plan priorities for removing ADA barriers, presenting its most recent progress report to the Board on 4/14/2021. • As part of the FY23 Capital Improvement and Action Plan (CIAP), staff is evaluating the feasibility of additional ADA/wheelchair-accessible trail opportunities and facilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New ADA-accessible path along the service road to Deer Hollow Farm (<i>Rancho San Antonio</i>). 2) New ADA-accessible trailhead parking at Verde Road for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail (<i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i>). 3) Improving ADA-accessible parking at the North Ridge lot as part of the Highway 35 Multiuse trail and parking study (<i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i>). 4) Improving the ADA-accessible parking at Johnston Ranch, in partnership with the City of Half Moon Bay. 5) New ADA-accessible trailhead parking as part of the new North Parking area (<i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i>).

	More camping opportunities	Focus Group	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partner agencies that offer overnight camping (i.e., Santa Clara County Parks, San Mateo County Parks, State Parks) to provide the public with information about where they can camp and how District trails can facilitate connections. • Consistent with Vision Plan Priority Action #24, partner with other agencies and/or entities, including Santa Clara County Parks, to explore and/or expand family camping opportunities at or near the Rancho de Guadalupe area of <i>Sierra Azul</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network and Peninsula Trails Team, the District is participating in the State of the Trails project where a study will also evaluate overnight camping for the regional trails system in the Santa Cruz mountains.
Communication	More outreach to underserved communities	Focus Group	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate current community outreach events and identify new methods and/or additional events for expanding outreach effectiveness to underserved audiences. • Identify and implement new distribution points for bilingual materials. • Pilot new partnerships with two to three underserved, hard-to-reach community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received Board approval of a Youth Outreach Pilot in August 2020 to increase outreach, engagement and education to youth, aged 4-21, particularly in under-resourced communities, to foster knowledge and appreciation for nature, conservation, and land management • Identified four youth organizations to participate in pilot, which offers \$2,500 stipend and technical assistance to connect kids to outdoor programming. Youth nonprofits were extremely impacted by pandemic, so pilot was postponed and restarted in 2022 with a hike and ranger presentations to the Coastside Children’s Programs and field staff participation on a career panel for Puente. The initially selected nonprofits still report pandemic programming impacts and have asked for more time to determine whether to proceed. • Conducted an introductory hike for Ayudando Latinos A Soñar (ALAS) community members at La Honda Creek in July 2021. • While community tabling outreach was shutdown during the pandemic, the program restarted in 2022 as events returned, focusing on Coastside outreach and experimenting with new events. • Identified 12 preserves to execute pop-up tablings for 2022 in support of the 50th Anniversary activities and to connect communication and project leads to preserve users. • Expanded the community outreach and public engagement work for multiple projects that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La Honda Public Access Working Group - Purisima Multimodal Access Study - Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking - Hawthorns Area Plan - Prescribed Fire Plan - Agricultural Policy - E-Bike Policy • Completed over 20 public and outreach engagement activities and events for the Purisima Multimodal Access Study project. Completed two rounds of visitor surveys and data collection activities. Presented to Sustainable Pescadero, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Committee and Midcoast Community Council. Implemented short-term strategies, such as a pilot to try out wayfinding signage, mapping improvements and website format changes to provide more information for visitors to plan their visits. • Conducted a <i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i> hike with Puente representatives and Spanish-speaking coastside hiking group in May to solicit input on the Purisima Multimodal Access project and Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking study. In addition, for both these projects, board meeting materials are provided in English and Spanish.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted virtual stakeholder meetings with neighbors, coastal interested parties and trail users via Zoom in July 2021. Spanish translation services were available for the community. Initiated on-call contracts for translation services and guidelines for how to determine priorities for translation services of District materials.
	More social media, Facebook	Focus Group	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop social media and targeted marketing campaigns to increase followers in underserved communities and new user groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shifted outreach resources to build social media program during pandemic. Midpen now posts regularly across several social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn. Added a Tik-Tok pilot in support of 50th Anniversary advertising. Increased social media followers by 135% from FY18 to FY22. Platforms no longer allow specific demographic tracking, so targeting to underserved and new user groups is unverifiable. During the pandemic, staff and docent presentations shifted from in-person to online creating a broader opportunity for outreach. Partnered with Bay Area Older Adults and Latino Outdoors to target presentations to underserved communities, which increased exposure to those offerings from an average of 30 to more than 1,000.
	Use advanced communications technology and applications	Focus Group	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FY19 Action Plan included development of an interactive web map for public use; develop a promotional campaign to inform the public about the availability of the web map and curated content through several existing mobile/computer applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midpen’s online preserve maps are geo-referenced and can be used with Avenza Maps and OuterSpatial apps. Preserve maps posted in trailhead signboards and on the website have scannable QR codes that link to Avenza Maps and Outerspatial apps and the Midpen preserve webpage. Midpen’s new website has an interactive web map embedded on the preserve webpages with an adjacent and responsive trail list. New interactive web mapping applications available to the public online include: Bear Creek Layers of History, Ward Lookup, Benchmark, Greenbelt, Midpen 3D, Ward Comparison, MyDistricting, Where to Hike, and the Wildland Fire Map. An additional trail dashboard application is under development and is scheduled to be released in FY23.
	Multilingual signs and brochures	Focus Group	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand trail junction numbering system (originally piloted at lower La Honda Creek) to other preserve(s). Evaluate options to include multilingual key words or information at trailheads, on the website, and in District material, and implement accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented trail junction numbering system for <i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i> and lower <i>La Honda Creek</i> preserves. All interpretive signage information at <i>Ravenswood</i> Preserve is provided in both English and Spanish. Virtual outing available online in OuterSpatial is both in English and Spanish. Midpen website update moved the translation drop-down to the top of every webpage. Developed geo-specific analysis around the need for language translation services within geographic areas based on American Community Survey data regarding self-reported comprehension of English to inform language translation priorities.
Interpretation	More nature/history info	Focus Group	2	<p>VS will work with PA/NR to provide: 1) more robust information on the District website; 2) additional natural and cultural history information in Preserve sign boards; and 3) new natural and cultural history interpretive projects and programming will be developed to be supported or provided by Interpretation and Education staff, docents, rangers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New interpretation and natural history engagement was provided by staff in 2020-21 virtually via “Seasons of Open” video series and ranger videos. Ongoing video content will supplement in-person/on preserve engagement to attract varied audiences Nature Notes for signboards is being re-implemented in 2022 with natural history interpretation content. Daniels Nature Center continues to provide natural history information to visitors – inside when facility open and via outside displays when closed.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added iNaturalist information to preserve pages to show visitors what can be spotted in various habitats. Prioritized communication of “caring for” and natural history information in Midpen media channels, including significantly increasing nature posts on social media utilizing #WildlifeWednesday hashtag. New Nature at Home web page highlights virtual tours and information.
	Trail rating system, difficulty on website	Focus Group	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop standards for a new District trail rating system. Develop trail profile data. Evaluate trailhead maps, signage, brochures, and/or web tools to determine best methods for posting trail rating and trail profile data, and implement accordingly Related to ADA Transition Plan; market and communicate trail information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District has completed Phase I of the Trail Information Systems Project in FY22, which included completing pilot data collection at <i>Skyline Ridge</i> and <i>Rancho San Antonio</i>. Expanded data collection to three additional preserves, totaling 75 miles of trail. Conducted online and in-person visitor surveys to gather public feedback on trail data needs. Analyzed data collected. Developed proof-of-concept web mapping application for the public to visualize and filter trails based on various characteristics (e.g. use type, trail slope, cross-slope, surface type, sun exposure). The Midpen 3D application provides a trail profile tool and trail slope information in an interactive three-dimensional scene.
	Web cams of animals	Focus Group	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop system to transmit trail camera images and other high-impact visual information to Public Affairs for inclusion in communications material, web, and social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailcam images of interest are posted on social media, a nature center web cam was installed that live streams continuously on the Daniels Nature Center webpage. Trail camera images are included when appropriate in Midpen social media channels. Wildlife Picture Index Research highlighted as part of mountain lion research with project web page
	More information on preserve’s plants, animals	Intercept Survey	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recent Board-approved position in the Interpretation and Environmental Education program will enhance and expand the District’s public environmental education programs. The recent Docent and Volunteer Programs Study recommends new Preserve Interpretation Master Plans that identify preserve-specific flora and fauna to highlight as part of docent led hikes and other educational programs, materials, and events. Evaluate to determine suitability and to identify a pilot preserve, if deemed timely and appropriate. Investigate alternative technologies and applications to highlight plant and animal species within specific preserves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midpen’s website highlights various plants and animals found in Midpen preserves. “Spotted at Midpen” 50th Anniversary activity encourages visitors to send in pictures of plants animals and vistas spotted at Midpen. In-person Docent Naturalist hikes have resumed post-COVID restrictions shut down. Docents specialize in interpreting regional natural history Since 2018, Midpen Docent Naturalists are also UC CalNat certified, increasing the breadth and scope of their knowledge to interpret the natural world. All rangers are also trained in interpretation skills and methods, which allows for both enhanced informal interpretation as well as new formal ranger interpretive programs. Rangers are also receiving additional training about natural history subject matter.
Maintenance	More, cleaner restrooms	Focus Group	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a long-range plan to identify new areas in need of restroom facilities and/or replacement of older restrooms. Continue to regularly check and clean restrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the ADA accessibility program, dilapidated restrooms have been replaced at <i>Windy Hill</i>, <i>Russian Ridge</i> and <i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i>. New restrooms were provided as part of public access improvements at Mount Umunhum in <i>Sierra Azul</i>, <i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i> and <i>La Honda Creek Preserves</i>.
	Reduce dog waste and bags along trail	Intercept Survey	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to communicate and educate visitors on "carry in & carry out" policy and relevant District ordinances. Continue to enforce existing regulations, which require cleanup of dog waste. Identify strategies for expanded and targeted outreach and education of District policies, implement accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dog waste receptacle pilot program was implemented at preserves that receive high levels of dog use. Public outreach is conducted online and in-person with rangers and trail patrol to reinforce need to clean up dog waste. After a successful pilot program, the Board approved the use of dog waste receptacles at high use areas of <i>Pulgas Ridge</i>, <i>Windy Hill</i>, and <i>Thornewood Preserves</i>. A receptacle was added to <i>La Honda Creek</i> when the Grasshopper loop Trail was opened to seasonal dog access. Dog waste left on the trail is much reduced.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an escalating response plan to enhance compliance. If compliance remains poor, evaluate the operational and fiscal impacts of dog waste stations at high priority sites for Board consideration. 	
	Reduce trash/litter at trails/parking	Intercept Survey	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to pick up litter during routine maintenance activities. If and where littering is deemed a significant problem, implement a coordinated and targeted campaign to reinforce "No Littering". When littering is observed, use opportunity to educate the public of the resource impacts and importance of keeping natural areas trash-free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter pickup is emphasized as part of increased restroom cleaning as well as with ranger and volunteer trail patrols. Litter remains mostly confined to parking areas and trailheads.
	More frequent cleaning of restrooms	Intercept Survey	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to regularly check and clean restroom at high use preserves twice daily. As capacity and workload allows, increase servicing/cleaning of portable rented toilets to three times per week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During COVID restrictions restroom cleaning frequency was temporarily increased to daily. Restrooms that were previously cleaned weekly are now cleaned twice weekly and checked daily. High use restrooms are cleaned daily or twice daily.
Programming	More programs for families, kids and women	Focus Group	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue existing public programs and evaluate opportunities for additional programs targeted to families, kids, and women. Develop targeted communications and marketing around existing programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, as part of the Interpretation & Education Program, COVID re-engagement with public resumed via Days on the Deck at Daniels Nature Center with family focused themes provided by staff and docents prior to the center being fully opened. In 2021-22, docent naturalists and outdoor education docents have been offering collaborative "Wander & Wonder" family focused hike series to engage children especially in absence of school field trips. Additionally, Interpretation & Education program offered a partnership series of three activities (2 hikes on preserves and one virtual) with the Santa Clara County Library District as part of the library's summer 2022 community engagement. The new 2022 docent naturalist class has several graduates that would like to provide beginner hiker-focused planning to look into a collaborative programming effort with the local El Camino branch of the YMCA for 2023 to piggyback on the Y's hiking club program for families. Targeted communications campaigns emphasize role Midpen plays in caring for the land and encouraging responsible recreation.
	Docent led hikes	Focus Group	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board-approved positions for the Interpretation & Education program will enhance and expand the District's public interpretation and environmental education programs. In addition, the Docent and Volunteer Programs Study recommends future new positions to expand docent/interpretive programs for the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Docent Naturalist-led hikes did not occur during COVID 2020 and most of 2021. Returned in modified format fall 2021 and fully in spring 2022. An Environmental Education Specialist was hired August 2019 and an Interpretive Specialist was hired in December 2019. Support and coordination of ongoing programs and development of new elements were not possible during COVID shutdown 2020-2021.
	Partnerships with schools	Focus Group	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board-approved positions for the Interpretation & Education (I&E) program will enhance and expand the District's public interpretation and environmental education programs. In addition, the Docent and Volunteer Programs Study recommends future new positions to expand docent/interpretive programs for the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Education Specialist left Midpen in late 2021. Planned refilling of position is scheduled for fall 2022. This position will co-coordinate and manage new programming efforts in addition to ongoing field trip program. Support and coordination of ongoing programs and development of new partnership elements were not possible during COVID shutdown 2020-2021. I&E staff has worked with county offices of education during pandemic and in recovery to understand how best to support

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District's Youth Outreach Program will include new and enhanced pilot partnerships to reach and engage youth, and encourage them to learn about and explore open space. 	<p>schools and in bringing back and developing new collaborative partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I&E has worked with Public Affairs to provide content and information for ,increased social promotion to boost engagement for nature center visitation and docent naturalist guided activity participation which returned in late 2021. Additionally, I&E staff and docents have collaborated with Public Affairs for youth outreach to provide outreach engagement on preserves e.g., Coastside Children's Center.
Safety	Perceived personal safety concerns	Focus Group	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule periodic, introductory activities for new preserve users to introduce new visitors to outdoor recreation in open space. Develop and disseminate "Introduction to Open Space" materials to familiarize new visitors with how to use open space preserves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities for new visitors are scheduled regularly. A new visitors site was added to the web site and includes a new-to-hiking video. In partnership with Latino Outdoors, hosted new to outdoors virtual and in person hikes.
	More and better signage	Focus Group	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify pilot preserves for evaluating and implementing improved preserve signage, including trail junction numbering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented trail junction numbering system for <i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i> and lower <i>La Honda Creek</i> Preserves.
	Limit speeding bikes on trails	Intercept Survey	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enforce existing regulations, including 15 MPH speed limit, 5 MPH when passing. If speeding issues are of major concern, staff informational outreach/education tables in popular mountain biking areas and/or increase enforcement presence, including support of the Volunteer Trail Patrol. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rangers continue enforcing the trail speed limit. Trail etiquette and speed education events have been held in high bicycle use areas in both Foothills and Skyline areas.
Trail Use	Reduce overcrowded trail experiences at Rancho San Antonio and St. Joseph's Hill	Intercept Survey	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue and expand promotion of lesser-visited preserves. Proceed with <i>Rancho San Antonio</i> Multi-Model Access Project and begin implementing strategies and improvements to reduce parking demands (overcrowding concerns likely related to parking conflicts). Consider implementing similar strategies and improvements at <i>St. Joseph's Hill</i>, as appropriate. Reassess visitation as new areas are open for public use to determine if use is distributed (e.g., opening of <i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New public access at <i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i> is very successful with parking at or near capacity on busy weekends providing an recreational alternative for the Los Gatos area. Multimodal studies and implementation are in progress for <i>Rancho San Antonio</i> and <i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i>. Communications continually stress alternative options, along with planning ahead (Know Before You Go) and responsible recreation.
	Allow more dog walking	Focus Group	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve communications/marketing of existing dog use areas. Utilize the District's Dog Use Suitability Criteria to determine if additional areas are suitable for dog access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog access has been added at two locations in <i>La Honda Creek</i> Preserve: Allen Road permit access and the Grasshopper Trail at the Sears Ranch Road access. Dog access was added to the entire <i>El Sereno</i> Preserve in 2017 during the trail survey. The San Jose Water property acquisition closed a 0.3-mile trail gap for both general visitor and dog access.
	Minimize horse waste impacts on trails	Intercept Survey	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor situation. No recommendation at this time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian use remains limited; no further action taken
	Restrict dogs to on-leash	Intercept Survey	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue active enforcement of leash regulations. Continue to educate the public of on-leash regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing enforcement and education. Focus on newly opened areas to set good standard.

Transportation & Parking	Public transportation to preserves	Focus Group	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other agencies' best management practices. Coordinate with communities and transit agencies, private and non-profits, for ride-share solutions and opportunities. • Outreach to underserved communities about available access options to open space preserves. • Incorporate transportation, as appropriate, as part of organized, group-focused public programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant in the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network Transportation Committee. • Ravenswood University Bay Trail Access has been very successful at increasing public access from an underserved community. Also supporting East Palo Altos' request to the SFPUC for additional trail access at Rutgers Street to provide direct access from that neighborhood. • Participated in Rides to Redwoods Program. • Multimodal studies at <i>Rancho San Antonio</i> and <i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i> preserves studying transit options
	Expand parking near site	Intercept Survey	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FY18-19 Capital Improvement and Action Plan (CIAP) and Budget includes a number of parking studies: (a) Rancho San Antonio Multimodal Access Study, (b) La Honda Creek Parking Feasibility Study to evaluate parking solutions. • Evaluate existing parking utilization with additional visitor counts at high use sites that have parking constraints to inform next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New parking lots added at Mount Umunhum in <i>Sierra Azul</i>, <i>Bear Creek Redwoods</i>, and at <i>La Honda Creek</i> Preserve at Sears Ranch Road. • La Honda Public Access working Group completed work, recommendations are now being evaluated for feasibility. • New permit parking for hiking added to the <i>La Honda Creek</i> Preserve Event Center Site. • Visitor Use estimates are conducted annually. Visitation nearly doubled during COVID restrictions and has dropped back down to closer to pre COVID levels. Parking remains constrained at <i>Rancho San Antonio</i> and <i>Purisima Creek Redwoods</i> Preserves with Bear Creek Redwoods at near capacity. Mount Umunhum summit parking at <i>Sierra Azul</i> and <i>La Honda Creek</i> Sears Ranch have sufficient parking most days after initial overflow parking when sites were first opened.
	Improve parking at Rancho San Antonio	Focus Group	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with <i>Rancho San Antonio</i> Multi-Model Access Project and begin implementing strategies and improvements to reduce parking demands, thereby improving parking conditions at the preserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimodal study complete and in initial implementation phase.

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