

**This meeting will begin shortly.**

# **Hawthorns Area Plan Public Access Working Group Application Process**

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Informational Meeting**

**May 15, 2023**

**6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

*Please note: This meeting will be recorded.*



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# Agenda

- Introduction to Midpen
- Project Overview
- PAWG Recruitment Process
- Q&A



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# About Midpen

- Public agency
- Formed in 1972
- Preserved more than 70,000 acres in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties
- 26 Preserves
- Elected board: seven directors
- 770,000 constituents
- Funded primarily through property tax
- Preserves are free and open to the public

*Mission: 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.*



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# Midpen Jurisdiction and Open Space Preserves



Hawthorns Area  
and Windy Hill OSP

#	Preserves
1	Bear Creek Redwoods Opening in 2019
2	Coal Creek
3	El Corte de Madera Creek
4	El Sereno
5	Foothills
6	Fremont Older
7	La Honda Creek
8	Long Ridge
9	Los Trancos
10	Miramontes Ridge
11	Monte Bello
12	Picchetti Ranch
13	Pulgas Ridge
14	Purisima Creek Redwoods
15	Rancho San Antonio
16	Ravenswood
17	Russian Ridge
18	Saratoga Gap
19	Sierra Azul
20	Skyline Ridge
21	St. Joseph's Hill
22	Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area
23	Teague Hill
24	Thornewood
25	Tunitas Creek
26	Windy Hill



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# Hawthorns Area Overview



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REGIONAL  
**OPEN  
SPACE**

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## Windy Hill:

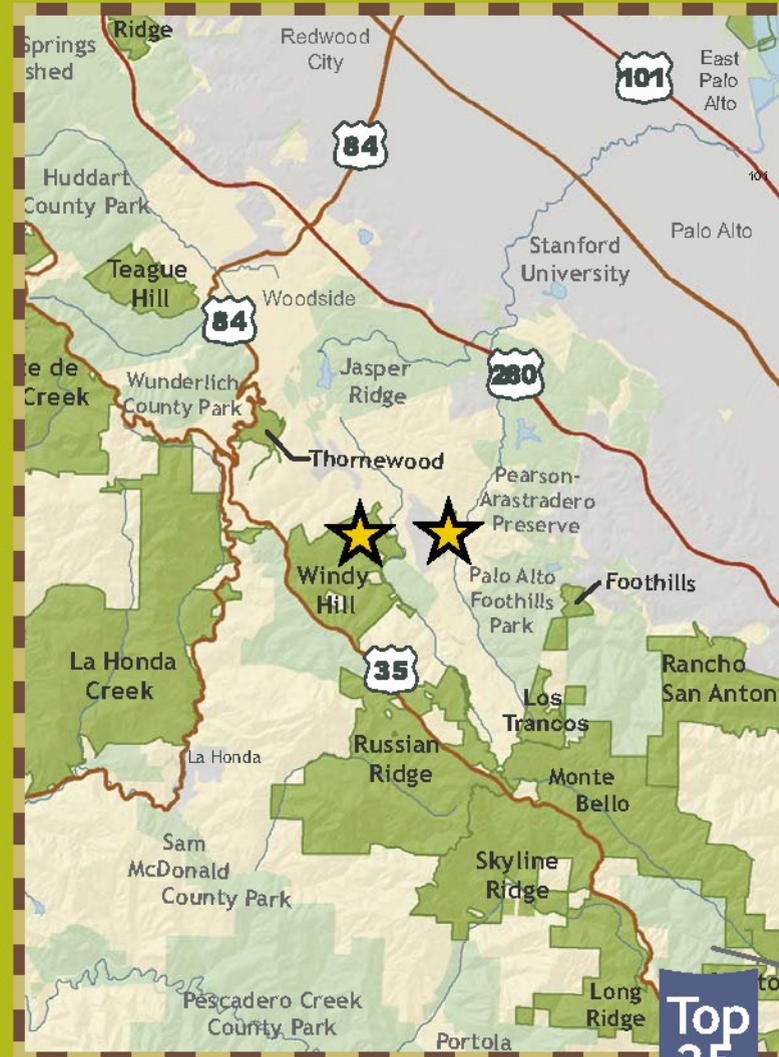
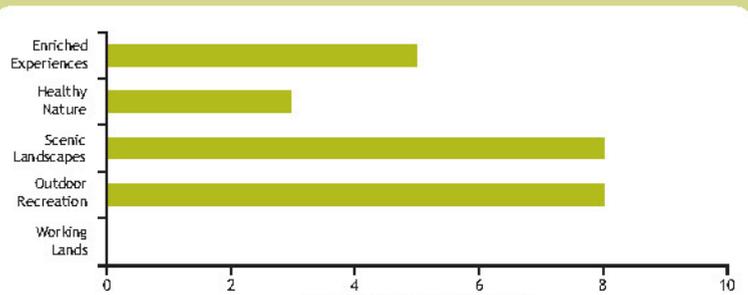
Trail Improvements, Preservation, and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership



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.



### Goals Accomplished by This Action



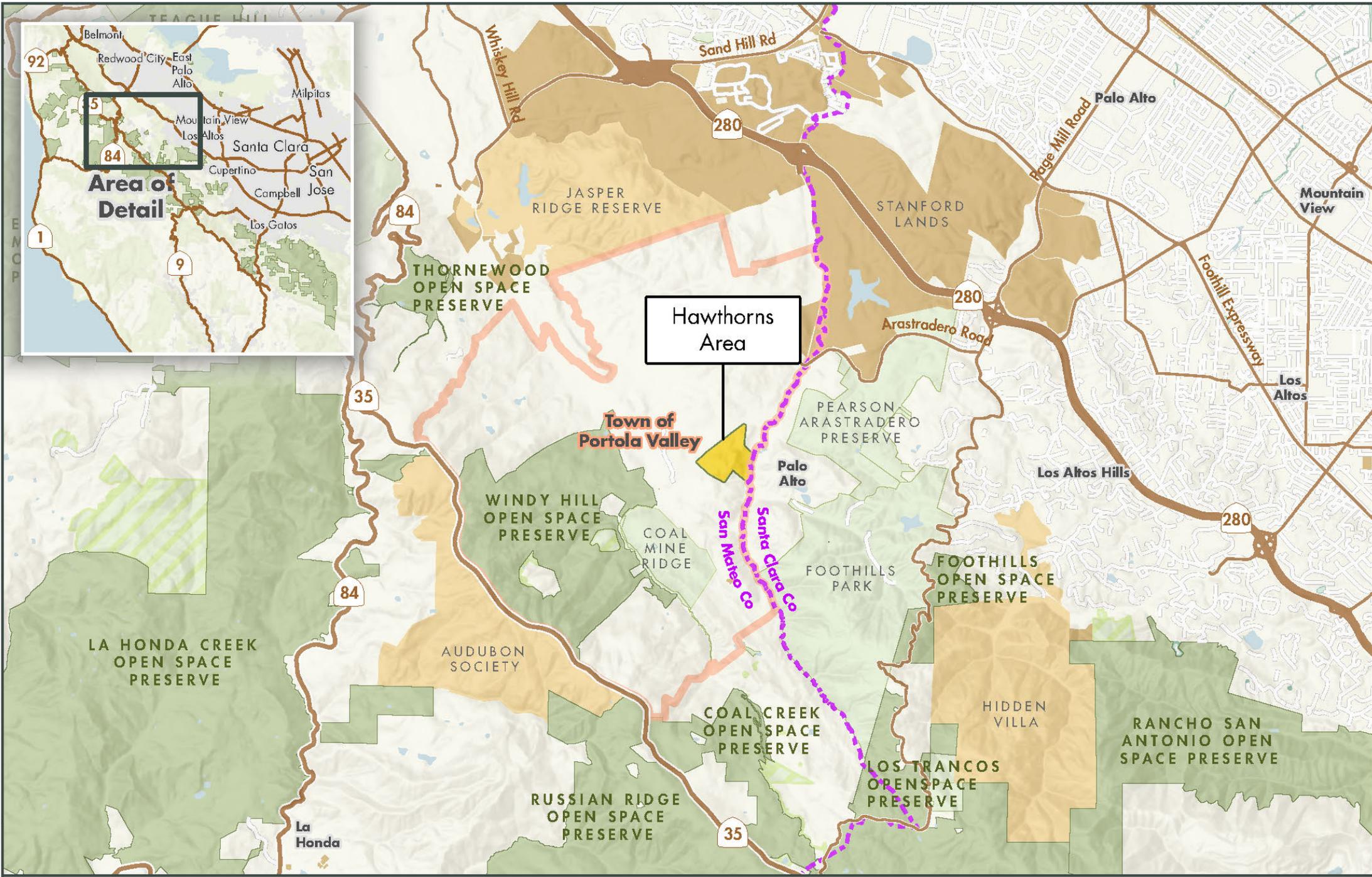
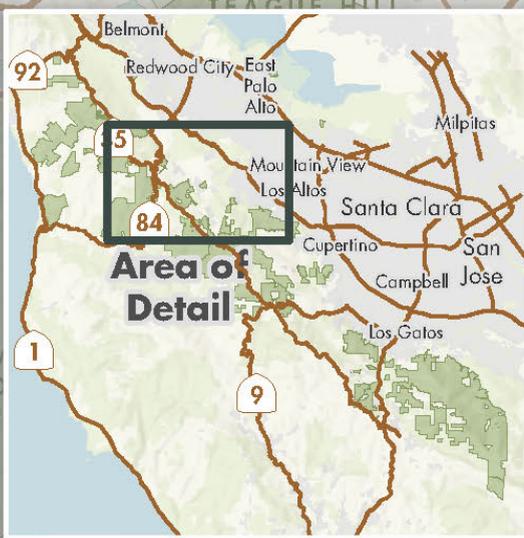
Top 25

**6 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**



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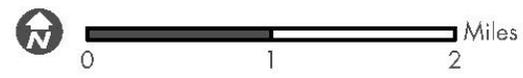
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### Hawthorns Area - Regional Map

- |                       |                     |                              |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Hawthorns Area        | Land Trust          | County Boundary              |
| MROSD Preserves       | Other Public Agency | Portola Valley Town Boundary |
| Other Protected Lands | Private Property    |                              |

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

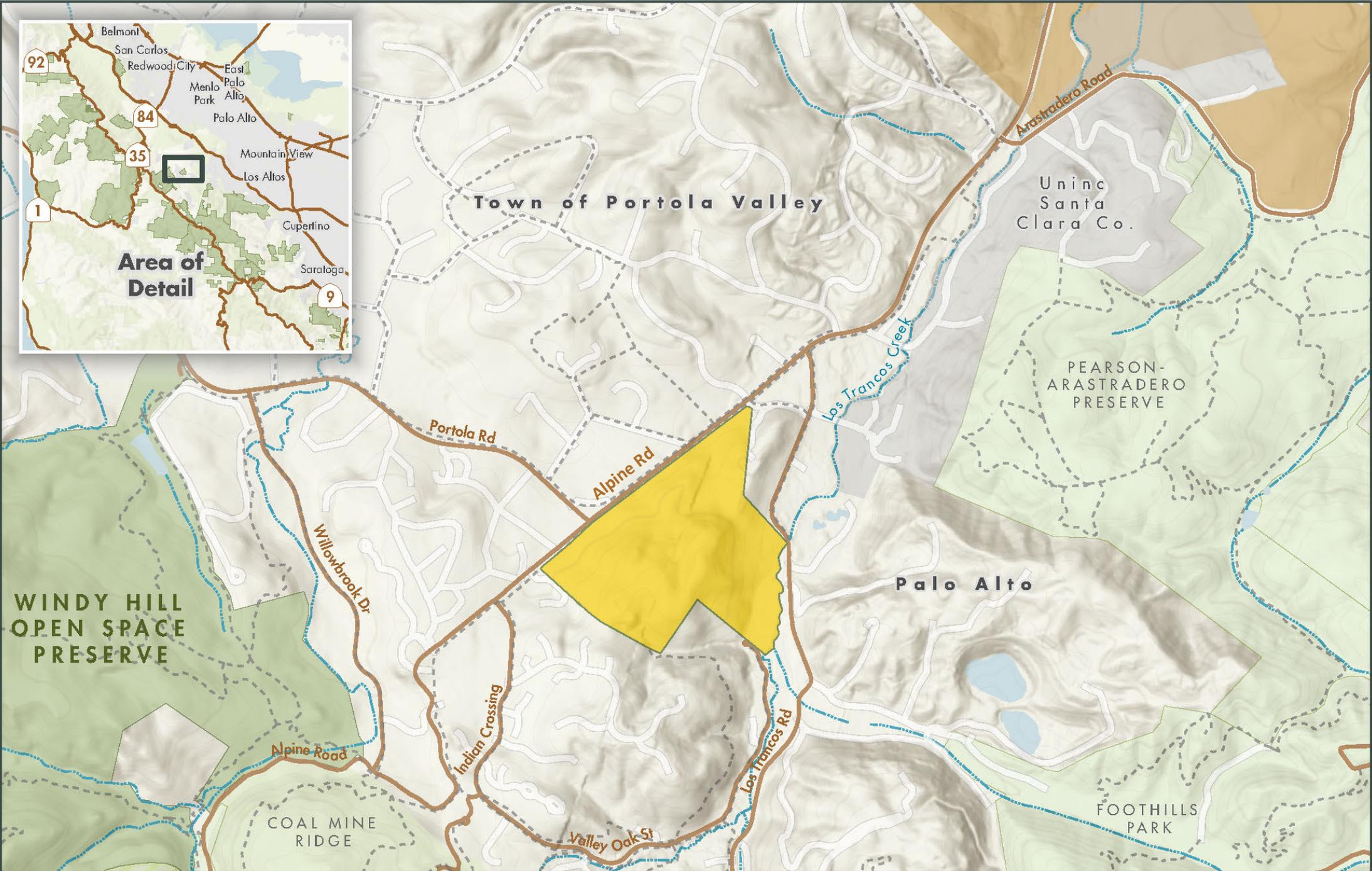


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While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

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Created By: acsbarra



### Hawthorns Area - Local Map

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

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(Midpen)  
2/25/2022



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# Hawthorns Area Plan



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# 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



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# Hawthorns Area Plan Phase Overview

Phase #	Phase Title
1	Vision & Goals
2	Existing Conditions
3	Programming / Conceptual Planning
4	Area Plan / Environmental Review
5	Implementation



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# Vision



MISSION



VISION



GOALS

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.



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# Goals



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



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



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



**Natural and Cultural History:** Interpret the rich natural, cultural, and historic features and pursue partnerships to manage the property's natural and cultural history.



**Aesthetics:** Highlight scenic viewpoints and design recreational amenities while protecting scenic viewsheds.



**Operations 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.



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# Existing Conditions/Opportunities and Constraints

- **Existing Conditions**
  - Data collection and technical studies to characterize the existing conditions
- **Opportunities and Constraints**
  - Establish parameters for resource and land management, public access, operations, etc.



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# Public Access Working Group



Photo credit: Midpen staff



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# Purpose, Charge, Goals

- 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
- Evaluate the following **public access components**:
  - Parking area and driveway location(s)
  - Trailhead locations and internal trail system
  - Trail connections with surrounding Town trails and pathways
  - Opportunities for regional trail connections
  - Possible trail uses within the Hawthorns Area
- Develop **draft Conceptual Alternatives** for PNR and Board review



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# Composition

Quantity	Member	Representation	Recruitment Pathway	Voting Member
7	District Ward Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represent regional perspectives balanced with both ward and local interests</li> <li>Understanding of District mission</li> </ul>	Board appointment	Yes
6	Interest Area Representatives <i>Not currently a member of the Town Council, Commissions, or Committees with future advisory or regulatory oversight related to the project</i>	<p>May represent one or more of the following perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local community interests</li> <li>Neighborhoods</li> <li>Safe routes to schools</li> <li>Local and regional trail connections</li> <li>Resource conservation</li> <li>Recreational uses</li> <li>Interpretation/education</li> </ul>	Application and Board selection	Yes
1	Board Liaison	District mission and interests	Board appointment	No
1	Town Liaison	Town interests	Town appointment	No
1	Meeting Facilitator	Neutral party	Request for Proposals	No



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# Operation – Meetings and Procedures

- **Duration:** July 2023 – July 2024/January 2025 (12/18 months)
- **Number:** 5 to 7 meetings total
- **Where:** On-site or at the Midpen administrative office
- **When:** Every 6 – 8 weeks on Fridays (to avoid conflict with Town of Portola Valley Council, Commission, and Committee meetings), generally in the evening (to encourage public attendance) but sometimes during the day (to conduct site visits)
- **Members commit to being prepared and attending** (2 consecutive or 3 max excused absences for meetings, 1 excused absence for site visit)
- Subject to Brown Act, Robert's Rules, open to the public
- Please review the **Procedural Guide** available online



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# Operation – Meeting Topics/Tentative Schedule

#	Topic/Objective
1	Establish Working Group roles, goals, workplan, schedule, and operating procedures
2	Conduct in-person property tour and review existing site conditions
3 - 4	Discuss parking and driveway options, as well as internal connections, trailheads, and regional connectivity opportunities
5 - 6	Review draft trail and parking alternatives
7	Confirm revised trail and parking alternatives to forward to the District's PNR and subsequently to Board for consideration

Please review the **Procedural Guide** for more detail on Working Group operating procedures

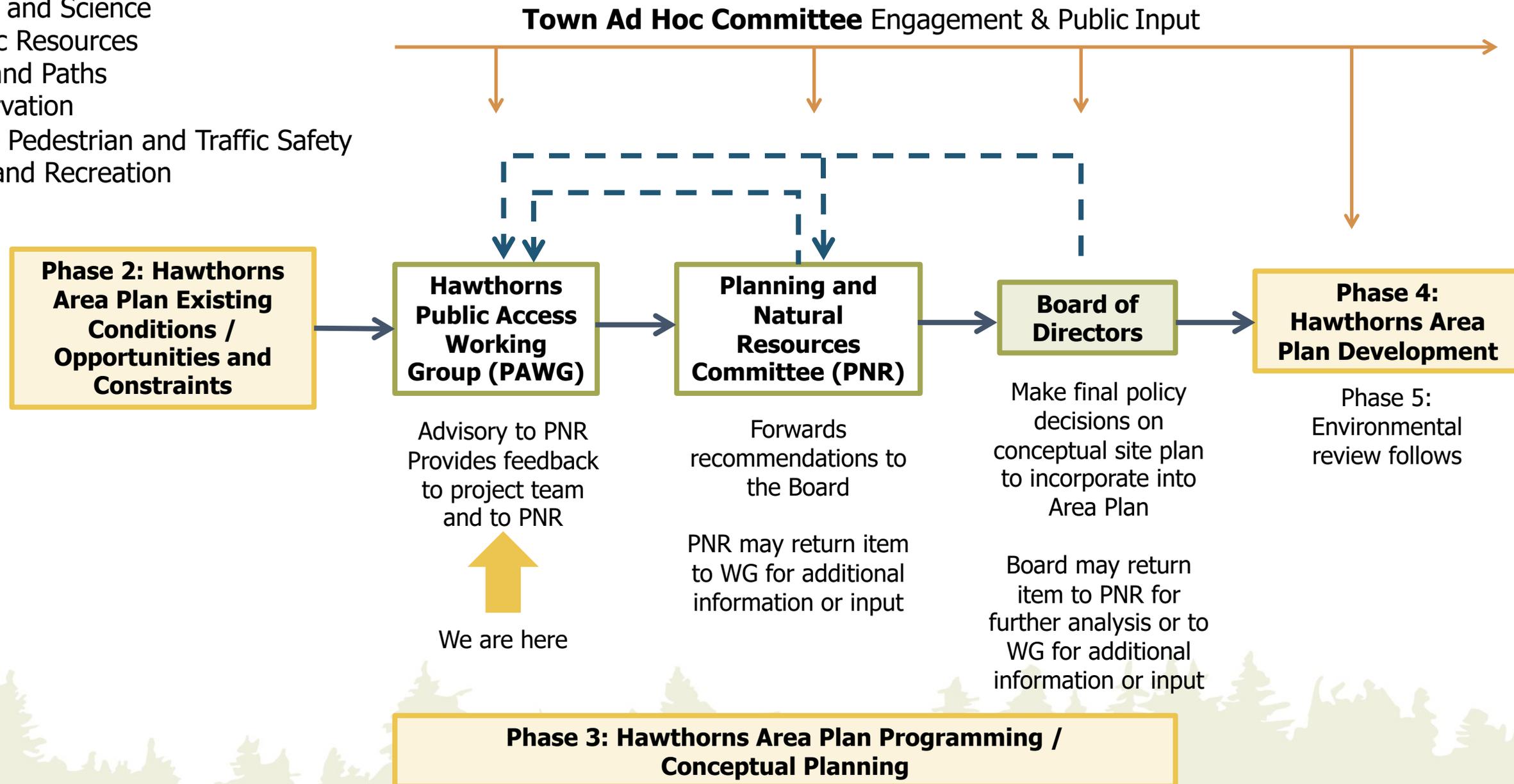


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# Working Group Workflow

**Town Ad Hoc Committee** includes 7 members representing the following Town Committees:

- Open Space
- Nature and Science
- Historic Resources
- Trails and Paths
- Conservation
- Bicycle Pedestrian and Traffic Safety
- Parks and Recreation



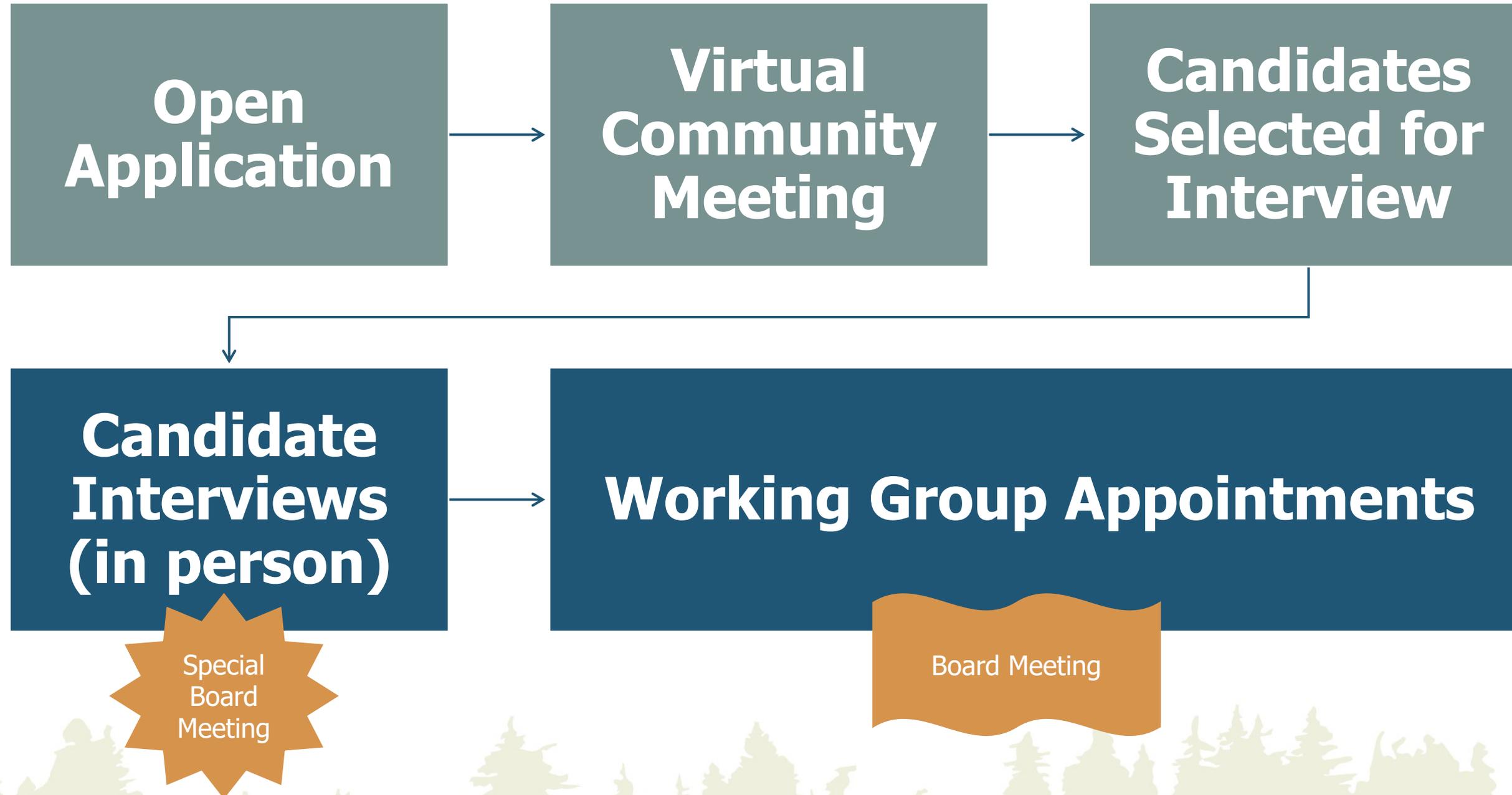
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# Interest Area Representative Recruitment Process



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# Interview and Appointment Process



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# How to Apply

To apply:

- Access **online application form** with this **QR code** here
- Access **online application form** or **download PDF** from **web page** [openspace.org/hawthorns](https://openspace.org/hawthorns)
- Pick up **hard copies** at Midpen's administrative office at [5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos](https://www.openspace.org/locations)
- Applications due by **midnight, Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**, late applications received electronically or by mail after this date cannot be accepted
- If mailing, mail in early to arrive before the weekend; postmarks not counted
- **In-person interviews with the Board on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:30 p.m.** at Midpen's administrative office – subject to change

For more information:

- Visit [openspace.org/hawthorns](https://openspace.org/hawthorns)



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# Key Dates and Next Steps

Date (Year 2023)	Purpose
May 1 – June 11	Interest Area Representative recruitment period.
May 15	Virtual community meeting to share information and answer technical questions from the public on the application process.
<b>June 21 (In person interviews at Special Board Meeting)</b>	Interview and select members for the six open Interest Area Representative seats on the Hawthorns Public Access Working Group.
<b>June 28 (Board Meeting)</b>	Appoint all members to the Hawthorns Public Access Working Group and form the Working Group.
<b>July 1</b>	Programming and conceptual planning phase begins. Work on the project is targeted to last 12 to 18 months.
<b>July 28</b>	First Working Group meeting (anticipated)



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# Q&A Process

- Provide feedback by **raising your hand** or through the **chat function**
- Expectations:
  - Questions on application process
  - Be open and respectful of the perspective of others
  - Allow everyone to speak, without interruption
  - Time is limited, stay focused to ensure all members have a chance to speak



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# Application Deadline

- Online Deadline: **June 11 by midnight**
- By Mail Deadline: **US mail June 9 by close of business, postmarks not accepted**
- Access application scan the QR code
- For more information, please visit [openspace.org/hawthorns](https://openspace.org/hawthorns)



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# Thank you!

- Sign Up for Project Notifications  
[openspace.org/hawthorns](https://openspace.org/hawthorns)
- Staff Contacts:
  - Ashley Mac, Planner III, [amac@openspace.org](mailto:amac@openspace.org)
  - Tina Hugg, Senior Planner, [thugg@openspace.org](mailto:thugg@openspace.org)



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# Questions Received During Meeting

**Q: If a candidate has a conflict with the first PAWG planned for July 28<sup>th</sup>, does that make the candidate not eligible to apply or is the date flexible?**

A: Once the six representatives are selected by the Board, the project team will confirm whether July 28th works for them and the date could change. Therefore, not being available on that date does not preclude someone from applying.

**Q: Are the site visits going to involve general hiking (as opposed to more strenuous hiking)?**

A: The site visits will involve general hiking. In addition, Midpen can provide accommodations for those needing assistance.



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