



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-26-10
Meeting 26-03
January 28, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract to Community Initiatives (the fiscal sponsor of Latino Outdoors) to provide Community Engagement Events for Two Years

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *den*

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Community Initiatives for an amount not-to-exceed \$88,000 over a two-year span to provide engaging outdoor experiences for diverse participants at various open space preserves and via online virtual presentations.

SUMMARY

In 2015, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) began collaborating with Latino Outdoors (which is fiscally sponsored by Community Initiatives) to bring families, youth, seniors, and new users to District preserves in keeping with the Board of Directors' (Board) outreach and inclusion goals. Under the 2023 partnership agreement, Latino Outdoors delivered 10 educational nature experiences, including family-friendly hikes and volunteer projects covering topics related to health and wellness, responsible recreation, Leave No Trace principles and an introduction to backpacking at Black Mountain (Monte Bello Preserve). Since 2022, over 100 youth attendees have participated in District-sponsored Latino Outdoors programs with their families. In years prior to 2024, the District's contracts with Latino Outdoors were limited to one-year terms. Beginning in 2024–2025, the District entered into its first two-year contract with Latino Outdoors. Extending the contract to a two-year term further strengthens the partnership and supports capacity-building both internally, with efficient administrative contracting processes, and externally, with greater certainty in multi-year operational funding. The outreach program with the Public Affairs Department partners with community organizations that already have programming expertise to provide public educational programs for target audiences, such as Latino Outdoors and Bay Area Older Adults.

The District recently concluded a successful two-year contract for \$88,000 with Latino Outdoors, which followed an earlier contract extension. The decision to extend the initial contract highlights the strength of the collaboration and reinforces the value of continuing this work together.

DISCUSSION

Latino Outdoors is a nationally recognized nonprofit aimed at connecting communities with the outdoors, with a focus on Latino youth and families and open to all members of the general public. Since its founding in 2013, volunteers and staff of Latino Outdoors have led almost 800

outings nationwide, serving nearly 15,000 outing participants and engaging tens of thousands more through online programming and communications. Latino Outdoors is fiscally sponsored by Community Initiatives, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Based on the 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the Latino community represented 18.1% of the District's overall population, yet they comprised only 6.7% of preserve users based on the District's 2017 Preserve Use Survey – indicating a significant underrepresentation of preserve visitors. In keeping with the Board's strategic goal to connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision, which includes an objective to implement and sustain diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies to build and strengthen partnerships, increase broad and inclusive public outreach and engagement, and instill these values across all levels of the organization, Public Affairs has successfully collaborated with Latino Outdoors since 2015 to provide outreach and education aimed at under-resourced/underrepresented communities.

The Latino Outdoors staff have years of experience working with the Latino community in outdoor programs, as well as establishing relationships with other nonprofits and community groups serving similar audiences. Due to a staff leave of absence on the Latino Outdoors programming team, 2023 saw a decline in program participants compared to 2022. The Latino Outdoors programming team returned to full staff in January 2024. Under the 2024-2025 partnership agreement, Latino Outdoors delivered 18 educational nature experiences, including sixteen in-person outings and two virtual programs, with 76% of participants visiting a preserve for the first time in 2024. During the two-year contract period, in-person participation levels among youth and Spanish speaking communities showed meaningful improvement compared to the prior years. Although the year-by-year numbers reflect some fluctuation, the overall results underscore the positive impacts of the partnership and show higher levels of engagement overall.

In Person Outings:

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Participants	141	105	137	137
Youth Participants	35	18	33	27
Spanish Speaking Participants	135	83	117	105
Number of In-Person Engagements	8	7	8	8

Virtual Programming (views as of 12/1/2025):

	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Virtual Programs	5	2	2	1	1
Totals Views	7,371	9,992	560	3,935	3,209

**In 2021, Latino Outdoors fully converted their programming to virtual content due to the pandemic.*

During the 2024-2025 timeframe, participants expressed positive reflections about their experiences. One attendee of the Vamos Backpacking event shared:

"Stepping into my first backpacking experience was more than just carrying a pack on my back—it was carrying intention, connection, and gratitude. Out on the trail, I discovered so much joy in slowing down, breathing with the land, and sharing space with such wonderful souls.

There's something truly special about being immersed in nature, where conversations flow easily, community is built, and every step reminds you of the beauty we're all a part of."

These reflections highlight how this partnership not only goes beyond outdoor adventure but also fosters a sense of belonging. Participants leave with a deeper sense of community and a lasting connection and appreciation for the land.

The proposed contract will allow the District to continue providing engaging outdoor experiences for diverse participants at various open space preserves and online via virtual presentations. These guided nature experiences are educational, foster community engagement and raise awareness of the District, its mission, and the open space preserves within the Latino community and will also remain open to all members of the general public. Furthermore, all virtual programming created will remain accessible via Latino Outdoors and the District's YouTube channels, allowing for long-term viewing and increased public engagement.

Under the proposed contract, Latino Outdoors would host 18 total community outreach engagements (16 in-person and 2 virtual events) between February 1, 2026 and January 31, 2028. The selected preserves, nature themes, dates, and ratio of events are flexible and may change as warranted, by mutual agreement. Latino Outdoors and the District will advertise both in-person and virtual events to the public through our social channels, website and other outreach platforms at least three weeks in advance of a scheduled outing.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is sufficient funding in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to cover the cost of the recommendation.

PRIOR BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

December 13, 2023: Board reviewed and approved to award contract to Community Initiatives (the fiscal sponsor of Latino Outdoors) to provide community engagement events for two years ([R-23-35](#), [meeting minutes](#))

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board, the contract will be routed for final signatures with a contract start date of February 1, 2026.

Attachment(s):

1. Latino Outdoors 2024 - 2025 Service Report
2. Latino Outdoors 2023 Service Report
3. Latino Outdoors 2022 Service Report

Responsible Department Head:

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Prepared by / Contact person:

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fiscally sponsored by
Community Initiatives
EIN: 94-3255070

Community Partnership 2024-2025 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District & Latino Outdoors Final Report

Program at a Glance

Average participant per event: 17

Visited the preserve for the first time: 62%

Common challenges/barriers to getting out to the preserves:

- “Scary” road. The road has a lot of curves, and there are a lot of fast cars and bicycles.
- Most people just didn’t know that the preserve was there, and were visiting for the first time.
- Scared/Uncomfortable hiking alone due to possible animal encounters, getting lost, or running into unfriendly people. Folks expressed feeling more comfortable in a group setting because they knew they wouldn't get lost and knew they were within the community.
- Unsure of the parking area.

February 11, 2024: *Amor y Amistad* Hiking Adventure

Location: Russian Ridge | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 27

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	26	96%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	4	15%
Number of Families Participating together?	7	26%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	19	70%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	27	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	27	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	27	100%

Recap: It was a clear sunny day so we got to see some great views. We had a lot of new people to LO and mostly all new people to that preserve. During our hike we talked about the *amor y amistad* relationships of nature, talking about how lichen is a symbiotic relationship between fungus and an algae, where they each benefit, talked about how coyote bush is a dioecious plant so each plant is either male or female but both plants are needed in close enough proximity for seed production, and so much more! It was a really educational hike but also just really fun. I loved overhearing all the side conversations folks were having, they were all mostly in Spanish too.

March 24, 2024: Signs of Spring Hike

Location: Picchetti Ranch | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 13

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	13	100%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	2	15%
Number of Families Participating together?	2	15%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	12	92%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	13	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	13	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	13	100%

Recap: For our Signs of Spring hike, we took our time to hike to make observations of all the flowering plants, and little critters we found along the way. We saw so many newts, little baby ones too! We also got a random burst of rain which also counts as a sign of spring! We had a señora join that was visiting her daughter from Morelia, Mexico! During our introduction, I asked everyone what their favorite thing about spring is, and got to experience a lot of what people said: rain, hearing water/creeks, hearing/seeing animals, birds, the sun, and flowers!

April 20, 2024 - April 21, 2024: Vamos Backpacking

Location: Monte Bello | Activity: Overnight Backpacking | Total Number of Participants: 12

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	11	92%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	0	0%

Number of Families Participating together?	0	0%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	9	75%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	12	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	12	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	12	100%

Recap: Our annual backpacking trip for Midpen was a success. It's always such a good time out there. It was mostly everyone's first time backpacking and we got to experience some beautiful weather for it. I implemented a lot of feedback from previous years and some changes, like an earlier start time on Saturday morning and a time of year that was still cool, but what is always a hit are those Itacate dinners. It is always cool to see how close people can get, and how easy we can bond after being together for several hours. People always wish the trip was a little longer.

April 28, 2024: City Nature Challenge Hike

Location: St Joseph's Hill | Activity: Day Hike, Community Science | Total Number of Participants: 22

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	9	41%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	5	23%
Number of Families Participating together?	6	27%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	20	95%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	22	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	22	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	22	100%

Recap: Celebrating the annual City Nature Challenge with a hike in the South Bay was so fun and it was super exciting to get people also super excited about it. Only a handful of the participants had heard of the city nature challenge. The original plan was to hike a 3.2 mile loop, but because we kept stopping and taking photos we only made it around half way through, but we still got to see great views and capture a lot of the park. It was cute to see how the kids got excited to see all the different butterflies.

May 12, 2024: Wildflower Walk

Location: Sierra Azul | Activity: Day Hike, Wildflower Identification | Total Number of participants: 31

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	28	90%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	16	52%
Number of Families Participating together?	6	19%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	20	65%
Would return to the preserve on their own, with friends or family?	31	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	31	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	31	100%

Recap: We did a mother's day hike/wildflower walk at Sierra Azul. It was my first time visiting that preserve and it was so pretty, and huge! The trail we did was super accessible, we even had an *abuelita* push her walker the whole way. We saw so many flowers and butterflies, despite it being hot, people were still super into learning and observing everything we were seeing. We also had so many mamas there, so overall it was a special day.

June 20, 2024 to July 25, 2024: Summer Shady Trails video series

Preserves featured: Thornewood, El Corte de Madera Creek, Coal Creek, Purisima Creek

Activity: Virtual Day Hikes

Total Views of all four videos as of December 22, 2024 on LO SF Bay Area Instagram: 3,935

- Thornewood Video Views: 1,045
- El Corte de Madera Creek Views: 1,199
- Coal Creek Views: 899
- Purisima Creek Views: 792

Recap: This video series highlighted the new interactive Midpen Trail Explorer Map as a tool to help find some shady trails to hike on during the summer. I chose the preserves based on that map, and also chose a couple of preserves, like Thornewood and Coal Creek, that have a really limited amount of parking so it would make hosting an event there a little difficult. These videos were virtual hikes voice overs, each about 1 minute, and were posted on LO SF Bay Area's Instagram.

September 29, 2024: Los Trancos Hike

Location: Los Trancos | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 8

Survey Question	# of	Percentage
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	Affirmative Respondents	
Spanish-speaking participants?	7	88%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	3	38%
Number of Families Participating together?	2	25%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	7	88%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	8	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	8	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	8	100%

Recap: We were the only ones at the preserve, and we got to see some wildlife, deer! It was everyone's first time visiting this preserve. It was a little hot, but luckily the trail was pretty shady.

November 16, 2024: Take a Hike Day

Location: Windy Hill | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 15

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	14	93%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	2	13%
Number of Families Participating together?	2	13%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	10	67%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	15	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	15	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	15	100%

Recap: It was Take a Hike day this weekend so we went for a hike. We had lots of returning LO participants, but several people visiting this preserve for the first time. It was a super crowded day at that preserve. It was a beautiful day out there, lots of fall vibes, with the tree's leaves on the ground, and their changing colors.

December 8, 2024: Gratitude Hike

Location: El Corte de Madera | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 9

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	9	100%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	1	11%
Number of Families Participating together?	3	33%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	5	56%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	9	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	9	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	9	100%

Recap: After rescheduling our original date out to El Corte de Madera, we finally made it out for our annual gratitude hike. It started off a little chilly, but we quickly warmed up. It was everyone's first time seeing the Methuselah tree, so we took our time there for some reflections around gratitude.

February 15, 2025: Amor y Amistad Hike

Location: Ravenswood Preserve | Activity: Day Hike and Arts & Crafts | Total Number of participants: 18

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	14	88%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	5	28%
Number of Families Participating together?	6	33%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	5	28%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	18	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	18	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	18	100%

Recap: We had 15 people join us for the hike, and then another family of 3 joined us for the arts and crafts part of it. Ravenswood was the perfect spot post rain because it wasn't muddy at all, since it's mostly paved. We saw lots of other trail users and lots of birds. Overall it was a nice outing! People appreciated the flat trail and were really

interested in the role that wetlands play in the environment. We had one visitor all the way from Costa Rica who was in town for work.

March 23, 2025: Spring Hike

Location: Skyline Ridge | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 28

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	25	89%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	4	14%
Number of Families Participating together?	6	21%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	7	25%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	28	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	28	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	28	100%

Recap: We had Open Road there filming our hike, I'm super excited to see the final video. We cut our hike short because it took a little longer than I thought, but it was still beautiful and our participants had a blast! The Open Road staff were able to interview some of our participants and they said they were super impressed with the love and community we have built!

April 13, 2025: Bloom Hike

Location: Pulgas Ridge | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 10

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	10	100%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	2	20%
Number of Families Participating together?	2	20%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	4	40%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	10	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened	10	100%

or maintained?		
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	10	100%

Recap: We went to Pulgas Ridge and it was a beautiful BLOOM hike. We saw a lot of different types of flowers, including sticky monkey flowers and blue eyes grass. We had some older participants join us. One of them was worried that the hike was too hard, but they kept up the whole hike. We went slow and made lots of stops, and they shared that they were happy they decided to come out. We also cut our hike short because the original trail I had scoped out was actually closed that morning, but it all worked out still.

May 4, 2025: Semillitas Outdoors Hike

Location: Russian Ridge | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 9

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	6	67%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	4	44%
Number of Families Participating together?	3	33%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	2	22%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	9	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	9	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	9	100%

Recap: I always love going to Russian Ridge. I think it's a relatively easy hike that offers so much, especially right now during wildflower season. We also got to say hello to a Midpen ranger and docent that happened to be tabling at the preserve that day. We learned some wildflower facts from them and got stickers. I started the event at 8am and by the time we made it back to the parking lot at 10am it was so full.

June 22, 2025: Summer Hike

Location: El Corte de Madera | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 23

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	20	87%

Number Youth (24 and under)?	3	13%
Number of Families Participating together?	5	22%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	18	78%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	23	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	23	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	23	100%

Recap: We did a shady hike at El Corte de Madera. We had several first time LO participants and basically all first time visitors to that preserve. It was my first time since I've led events with Midpen that we went to check out the tafoni sandstone formation. I love that there are so many trails in this preserve that we can keep coming back and still explore new areas. People learned about the tafoni and were so impressed with the rock formations.

September 14 -15, 2025: Vamos Backpacking

Location: Monte Bello | Activity: Backpacking | Total Number of participants: 11

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	11	100%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	0	0%
Number of Families Participating together?	2	18%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	9	82%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	11	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	11	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	11	100%

Recap: Our annual backpacking event was a blast. Every year is my favorite year, but it's really the group of people that make it so special. We had a participant join us from LA and a mother/daughter duo too. This is what one of the participants shared: "stepping into my first backpacking experience was more than just carrying a pack on my back, it was carrying intention, connection, and gratitude 🌿✨ out on the trail i found so much joy in slowing down breathing with the land and sharing space with such wonderful souls. There's something special about being immersed in nature where conversations flow easily, community is built and every step reminds you of the beauty we're all a part of. deep appreciation to this land for holding us and heartfelt thanks to @latinooutdoors @losanfranciscobayarea for creating spaces like this, where cultura comunidad and the outdoors come together 📍💛"

October 26, 2025: Nature Journaling Hike

Location: Picchetti | Activity: Day Hike & Nature Journaling | Total Number of participants: 15

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	8	53%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	5	33%
Number of Families Participating together?	4	27%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	11	73%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	15	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	15	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	15	100%

Recap: We did a 2 mile nature journaling hike. We ended at the picnic tables and ate some tamales. It was cool because we had two Chinese families join us and they loved the tamales. We also had a lot of new folks going to that preserve for the first time and joining LO for the first time too!

November 17, 2025 to November 22, 2025: Dog Friendly Hikes video series

Preserves featured: Pulgas Ridge, Windy Hill, La Honda

Activity: Virtual Hikes

Total Views of all three videos as of 11/30/2025 on LO SF Bay Area Instagram:

- Pulgas Ridge: 1,221
 - Posted to IG on 11/18/25
- La Honda Creek: 1,148
 - Posted to IG on 11/20/25
- Windy Hill: 840
 - Posted to IG on 11/22/25

Recap: This video series highlighted the Midpen preserves that have dog friendly trails. It also encourages folks to use the trail explorer map to find other trails that fit their needs.

November 28, 2025: #OptOutside Gratitude Hike

Location: Picchetti | Activity: Day Hike | Total Number of participants: 23

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
How many participants had an upbringing that included Latino food, Latino music, and/or people speaking Spanish?	11	48%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	4	17%
Number of Families Participating together?	3	13%
Visiting the preserve for the first time?	9	39%
Would return to the preserve on their own with friends or family?	23	100%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	23	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	23	100%

Recap: We decided to #OptOutside on Black Friday and visited Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve. To make sure we beat the crowds we made sure to start early and met before the parking lot filled. We hiked out to the old growth redwood tree grove and people were awestruck at the shape of the tree, it was very unique. We also saw lots of mushrooms on the trail, and even a newt! Bear Creek gave folks the feel of fall with its different colored leaves.



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EIN: 94-3255070

Community Partnership 2023
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District & Latino Outdoors
Mid Year Grant Report May 18, 2023

January 29, 2023: New Year Gratitude Hike

Location: El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve

Activity: Day Hike

Total Number of participants: 21

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	19	90%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	6	29%
Number of Families Participating together?	4	19%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	21	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	21	100%

Recap:

We had a wide range of group ages join us, from 2 years old to 66 years old! We had a handful of LO first timers, and several first timers to the preserve. The day started off a little wet, with some scattered showers, and very cold, but we eventually warmed up a bit and even saw some blue skies. One of our participants kept taking photos of all the trail junction signs because she didn't want to forget the trail we hiked, and said she was going to bring her daughter to this spot. We hiked through some redwoods, saw a couple banana slugs, and the cool red mushroom with white spots on it! At the end of the hike we enjoyed some bean and rice burritos. The kids especially enjoyed those!

March 19, 2023: Virtual Baylands Webinar

Location: [Online](#) broadcast on Midpen Youtube | LatinoOutdoors Youtube

Activity: Presentation on the importance of baylands, some of the animals that thrive in that environment and how we as a community and individuals can help protect these areas

Total Number of combined viewers and people reached as of 12/5/23: 104

April 29, 2023: City Nature Challenge: Nature Exploration Walk

Location: Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

Activity: Community Science, Bioblitz, Walk

Total Number of Participants: 23

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	11	48%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	7	30%
Number of Families Participating together?	6	26%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	22	96%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	22	96%

Recap:

This was a City Nature Challenge focused walk, so even though we only walked about 1 mile, we really took our time to make observations of everything that we saw. This Midpen preserve isn't heavily visited and is super close to cities and neighborhoods! We used various senses, hearing birds, and smelling and touching plants. People loved the hummingbird sage and sticky monkey flower! There were several people uploading directly to iNaturalist as we were on our walk for the City Nature Challenge. Our best observers were actually all the kiddos that joined. They were great and found all the bugs. They spotted snails, ladybugs and beetles! We concluded our walk with some more yummy food and I talked to them a lot about how they can continue their City Nature Challenge going through the whole weekend, how to make great observations, and the importance of community science!

May 7, 2023: Wildflower Walk

Location: Russian Ridge Wildlife Preserve

Activity: Day Hike, Wildflower Identification

Total Number of Participants: 17

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
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Spanish-speaking participants?	17	100%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	2	12%
Number of Families Participating together?	3	18%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	17	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	17	100%

Recap:

For our annual wildflower walk we visited Russian Ridge again. It was foggy and misty. We saw lots of flowers, despite it technically being a low abundance rating. Once we actually started looking at what initially just looked like grass from afar, we realized that there were actually a bunch of clovers, lupines, popcorn flowers and other flowers. I printed several of the Midpen wildflower guides for folks to use and it was really cool to see how engaged people were. Whenever we paused to look at flowers, I waited for someone to use their guides before I shared the names. We also took some time to talk about the terms plants are given like: "invasive" "weeds" "native", and learned about how they are classified in families, by genus and species. We chatted about the uses of plants, and I actually learned from a couple of participants that mugwort is called "estafiate" in Spanish. And it was awesome to take a moment to smell the mugwort, yarrow, and pineapple weed. This walk really was special because we had a lot of knowledgeable people join, and share their stories.

June 10, 2023: Hiking Scavenger Hunt

Location: Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Activity: Day Hike, Flora and Fauna Identification

Total Number of Participants: 10

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	9	90%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	1	10%
Number of Families Participating together?	2	20%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	10	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	10	100%

Recap:

We had a couple new LO participants joining us, and a couple regulars. The hike was rated moderate, and was shared by bikes and horses. At the end of our hike participants shared that

they didn't know if they were going to be able to finish the hike, but were so proud of how their body managed to make it up the hill, others expressed feeling gratitude, and happy that they got their body moving.

July 9, 2023: Habitat Restoration

Location: Rancho San Antonio Preserve

Activity: Restoration/Stewardship

Total Number of Participants: 8

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	5	63%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	0	0%
Number of Families Participating together?	1	13%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	6	75%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	6	75%

Recap:

We were a small but mighty group for this Habitat Restoration event. We learned from participants that the google maps directions sent them all to the wrong meeting location and that led to us losing some folks as well. It was mostly everyone's first time volunteering with Midpen, and we worked hard, by removing all of the summer mustard in our meadow patch, making way for more wildflowers during the next blooming period. People were excited to learn that Midpen regularly hosts these types of events, and since most of them were super local to the preserve, it seemed like they were definitely going to return to the preserve. After our event, folks continued to explore Rancho and stayed for a little hike.

July 22-23, 2023: Vamos Backpacking

Location: Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Activity: Backpacking

Total Number of Participants: 10

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	9	90%

Number Youth (24 and under)?	0	0%
Number of Families Participating together?	0	0%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	10	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	10	100%

Recap:

A participant posted on our social media post and said "great time with some amazing folks". The majority of our participants were backpacking for the first time. Overall it was a wonderful experience, people were feeling super proud of themselves for finishing and making new friends, but also were so ready to get back home to shower!

August 16, 2023: Backpacking Food 101

Location: [Online](#) broadcast on Latino Outdoors Youtube and Facebook channels

Activity: Presentation in conjunction with Heather Diaz from Let's Go Outside Ya'll on different perspectives and options when planning for backpacking food. The presentation focused on dehydrated foods.

Total Number of combined viewers as of 12/5/23: 456

November 25, 2023: #OptOutside Wellness and Mindfulness Hike

Location: Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve - Mount Umunhum

Activity: Mindfulness Day Hike

Total Number of Participants: 16

Survey Question	# of Affirmative Respondents	Percentage
Spanish-speaking participants?	13	81%
Number Youth (24 and under)?	2	12%
Number of Families Participating together?	3	18%
Belief in the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation strengthened or maintained?	16	100%
View of the importance of protecting open spaces improved or maintained?	16	100%

Recap:

This hike started at the Mt. Umunhum summit. Participants enjoyed a moderate 4 miles #OptOutside walk. We gathered partway through the hike to nature journal about the hike and

how it made them feel. One woman shared the sense of peace she felt walking as a group along the trail. After the hike participants shared tamales made by one of the LO volunteers.



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www.latinooutdoors.org
fiscally sponsored by
Community Initiatives
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Community Partnership 2021-2022
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District & Latino Outdoors
October 26, 2022

Background

According to a 2017 survey by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen), the Latino community represented 6.7% of preserve users, compared to 79.1% Caucasian users. To help bridge this gap, Midpen has partnered with Latino Outdoors (LO) since 2015. LO is a national organization with a Bay Area presence dedicated to fostering outdoor engagement by Latinx and other underrepresented communities. Since its founding in 2013, LO volunteers and staff have led almost 800 outings and served nearly 15,000 outing participants nationwide, while also engaging tens of thousands more through online programming and communications. Latino Outdoors is fiscally sponsored by Community Initiatives, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The reporting period for the current partnership agreement is November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022.

Outdoor & Virtual Programming and Engagement

Under the current partnership agreement, Latino Outdoors delivered ten educational nature experiences, including eight in-person outings (six hikes and two 50th Anniversary Events Tabling). This programming was set in eight different Midpen preserves, and covered topics such as health and wellness, responsible recreation, Leave No Trace principles, and an introduction to backpacking.

November 24, 2022: Gratitude Hike con Redwoods y Tamales

Location: Bear Creek Open Space Preserve

Activity: Day Hike

Total Number of Participants: **22**

Survey Question	Number of Participants	Percentage
Adults (20 to 40 years old)?	11	50%
Number of families participating together?	4	18%
Number of participants visiting the preserve and participating for the first time?	10	45%

Recap

"This was our first event for the year, and it was great! It was really special because it was around Thanksgiving time, so our theme for the hike was gratitude. Once we reached the old-growth redwood grove, we gathered for tamales for lunch. We had one participant share with the whole group that she was so happy that she decided to join in on the hike, and that the whole group made her feel super welcomed, she had never seen a redwood tree as big as the one on the trail or eaten a tamal, so it was the perfect experience." - Aurora Perez

January 13, 2022: Virtual Wildlife Webinar

Location: Online broadcast on LO Youtube | LO Facebook | MidPen Facebook | LO Instagram

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kLFALJyrI0>

Activity: Presentation of wildlife at MidPen and beyond

Total Number of combined viewers as of 5/18/22: 1,246

February 12, 2022: Art for the Heart - Hike and Crafts

Location: Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Activity: Day Hike with Crafts

Total Number of Participants: **16**

Survey Question	Number of Participants	Percentage
Adults (20 to 40 years old)?	9	56%
Number of families participating together?	3	19%
Number of participants visiting the preserve and participating for the first time?	15	94%

Recap:

One of the participants shared that they didn't care for Valentine's Day because he thought it was only for couples, but after our event, he said he "felt the love" and realized that is a day for appreciation and love for friends, community, and nature.

April 2, 2022: Wildflower Walk

Location: Russian Ridge Wildlife Preserve

Activity: Day Hike | Wildflower Identification

Total Number of Participants: **32**

Survey Question	Number of Participants	Percentage
Adults (20 to 40 years old)?	18	56%
Number of families participating together?	6	19%
Number of participants visiting the preserve and participating for the first time?	30	94%

Recap:

We had seven children join in on this wildflower walk and they all loved it. One kid in particular, Leo, spent the whole hike taking photos of every flower and plant he came across. When asked what he thought about the hike, he said, it was the most beautiful place he's ever been to.

April 30, 2022: MidPen's Bayside Family Festival

Location: Ravenswood Preserve Cooley Landing

Activity: Tabling

Total Number of Participants that engaged with LO's Table: 50

May 21, 2022: Nature Hike and Scavenger Hunt

Location: Rancho San Antonio

Activity: Day Hike | Nature Scavenger Hunt

Total Participants: **22**

Survey Question	Number of Participants	Percentage
Adults (20 to 40 years old)?	5	23%
Number of families participating together?	6	27%
Number of participants visiting the preserve and participating for the first time?	15	68%

Recap:

National Scavenger Hunt Day is celebrated on May 24th so it was the perfect theme for this outing. We created and printed loteria/bingo style cards for everyone to use to guide us through the hike. We took breaks to learn about the blooming CA Buckeye Trees, and to notice the difference between black berry plants and poison oak. We took a break at an awesome old, open air barn! Then Miguel, LO leader and Midpen staff stopped by to say hello and offered to give us a tour of the farm. The kiddos loved this opportunity! We had a chance to pet and feed bunnies, goats, chickens and sheep. At the end of the hike, one girl said, "If I knew hiking was this fun, I would do it more often."

June 5, 2022: Birding Walk

Location: Skyline Ridge Preserve

Activity: Day Hike | Birding

Total Participants: **36**

Survey Question	Number of Participants	Percentage
Adults (20 to 40 years old)?	14	39%
Number of families participating together?	7	19%
Number of participants visiting the preserve and participating for the first time?	23	64%

Recap

We had a very rainy morning but still 36 people showed up for our birding event. LO leaders, Erick and Antonella, helped support this program, which was awesome because it was definitely a huge group! And despite the rain, we still saw several cool birds, including red-winged black birds, coots, and california scrub jays. We walked for about a mile and a half around Horseshoe Lake. We had two little kids join us who said that they were most excited about getting wet from the rain! People said they loved the misty environment and felt like they were out of this world. Various participants stayed after our event to explore the preserve even more!

September 10, 2022: MidPen's Coastside Community Celebration

Location: Johnston House

Activity: Tabling

Total Number of Participants that engaged with LO's Table: 62

September 19, 2022 to September 24, 2022 : Vamos Backpacking Video Series

Location: Online broadcast on LO Facebook | LO Instagram

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zogk5mWQKXA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2XrG5j30Mo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gbNpms40KI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqGAwIQJ9HM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tuZB6lgTWo>

Activity: Video series consisting of short videos on backpacking preparation and tips.

Total Number of combined viewers as of 10/26/22: 4,445

Recap:

This was a weeklong ¡Vamos Backpacking! video series for our Midpen partnership. From September 19th to September 23rd, we posted a short video on our instagram and facebook about how we are preparing for our upcoming backpacking trips. Everyday we would film, edit and put out one video. The video's content included: pre-planning, gear, food, packing, and scouting. Some of the comments we received include: "this is helpful!", "great video! Love that you showed a wide range of options because there are many ways to backpack." "thank you! great information"

October 8, 2022 to October 9, 2022: Backpacking Black Mountain

Location: Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Activity: Backpacking

Total Participants: **13**

Survey Question	Number of Participants	Percentage
Adults (20 to 40 years old)?	12	92%
Number of families participating together?	2	15%
Number of participants visiting the preserve and participating for the first time?	10	77%

Recap:

We had an amazing time backpacking Black Mountain. The 2 mile hike in, the non-potable water, restroom, and non-potable water, make this site a great introduction to backpacking. Once we arrived at the campsite, I did a tent set up demonstration, talked about Leave no Trace principles, and then after we were all set up, we played loteria! For dinner we had Itacate Chilaquiles and they were delicious. We witnessed the most beautiful sunset and moonrise. It was truly magical. One of the participants said that they loved the fact that they could be their authentic self, speak bilingually, and share cultural experiences or share movies and shows they saw growing up and felt really happy that we all understood. The next morning we did a reflection and then headed back to the parking lot. Some of the comments from our participants include: "Gran experiencia surrounded by an awesome group of people!" "ty ty for the opportunity to be within community <3"

Accomplishments

1. An incentive of \$2,000 is available if Consultant meets the average participation goals of 15 people per in-person event and 1,200 views per virtual event (LO will have up to 30 days following the event to tally view counts).
 2. An additional incentive of \$2,000 is available if Consultant meets a goal of 25% participation per event from a target demographic of the 20-40 age group in all non-youth focused events.
-
1. Average participation for in person events (includes day hikes and backpacking trip): **23.5**
 2. Target Demographic 20-40 age group for in person events (includes day hikes and backpacking trip): 49%