



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-12-04
Meeting 12-05
January 25, 2012

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Informational Report on Audio-Based Nature Tours that Showcase the Integration of Technology and Interpretation

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation on the upcoming launch of the District's first audio-based nature tours featuring Skyline Ridge Preserve.

SUMMARY

Docent Program Manager Renée Fitzsimons and Website Administrator Vicky Gou will provide a presentation about new, audio-based, natural history hiking tours at Skyline Ridge Preserve that integrate technology (i.e., mobile devices such as cell phones, iPods, MP3s, tablets, computers, listening wands, etc.) and interpretation. The audio tours are slated to launch in spring 2012 and will coincide with the seasonal opening of the Daniels Nature Center.

DISCUSSION

The District's audio-based nature tours are designed to engage new audiences, including families, and enrich visitor experiences at Skyline Ridge Preserve by delivering interpretive content using mobile devices and technologies. The tours enhance visitor awareness and understanding not only of the four biotic communities (particularly within a 1.75-mile loop trail of Alpine Pond and the Daniels Nature Center), but also of the effect of human history on the landscape.

Two audio tours have been developed. One tour focuses on the 0.25-mile loop around Alpine Pond, with an emphasis on engaging families and children. A second, longer tour, which runs 1.5-miles around the pond area and beyond to the grassland, chaparral, and mixed evergreen forest areas, targets a general adult audience.

Audio tour participants will be able to download audio and visual files to personal mobile devices, view and listen via the District's website www.openspace.org, and check out listening wands or MP3 devices from the Daniels Nature Center. The audio tour will also be supported by maps and possible trail markers along the tour routes.

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no unbudgeted fiscal impacts with this Board presentation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice was provided pursuant to the Brown Act. No additional notice is necessary.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

No compliance is required as this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NEXT STEPS

District staff anticipates launching the program in spring 2012.

Prepared by:

Renée Fitzsmoms, Docent Programs Coordinator

Vicky Gou, Web Content Coordinator

Contacts:

Same as above