

PRESERVE CIRCUIT GEO-CHALLENGE



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Instructions for the Preserve Circuit Geo-Challenge:

1. Obtain a Preserve Circuit Geo-Challenge ("Preserve Circuit") Passport.
2. Go to www.geocaching.com, register for a free basic membership, and obtain the GPS coordinates for the Preserve Circuit geocaches ("caches"). Search by user name "MROSD." You can also get the coordinates using the hyperlinks at www.openspace.org/preserve_circuit.
3. Start your search to locate the Preserve Circuit caches using your GPS-enabled device. A small number of GPS devices are available for short term loan through the District.
4. Bring water (and food for longer excursions), dress in layers, wear sturdy footwear, and take a preserve map with you.
5. Search smart! Use your GPS device for guidance only; keep your eyes on the terrain as you walk. Don't put your hands where you can't see; use a stick or similar object to search around objects.
6. When you find a Preserve Circuit cache, sign the log book and stamp your passport with the stamp located inside the cache specific for that preserve.
7. There are often small items for trade located in the caches; if you take something, leave something of equal or greater value. (Do NOT remove the game piece stamp from the cache!)
8. Share your experiences online when you get home. Log into your Geocaching.com account and track all of the caches you've found. Let us know in your log if you're a first time visitor to any of the preserves!



Geocaching Etiquette:

- Always replace the cache exactly as found
- Don't harm the environment while searching
- Re-seal all boxes and bags to keep out the elements
- Don't expose the cache to non-cachers (be stealthy)
- Don't put "spoilers" in your on-line logs

Earn Prizes!

- For children 16 years and younger, stamp any 12 of the Preserve Circuit cache locations in your passport and receive a limited custom District cache tag.*
- For geocachers of all ages, complete the entire Preserve Circuit Geo-Challenge (have every preserve cache location stamped) and receive a limited custom geocoin.*

To Claim Prizes:

- For age verification purposes, cache tags must be claimed in person, see contact information below.
- Geocoins can be claimed via mail or in person. You may mail in your qualifying passport (keep a copy for your records, the District is not responsible for lost mail) and receive it back along with your custom geocoin or make arrangements in advance to bring your passport in person to receive your geocoin.

Jennifer Williams • Geocaching Program

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650-691-1200

- Prizes are available while supplies last. Please visit www.openspace.org/preserve_circuit to check the status of prize supplies.

Know Before You Go:

Hours, Directions, and Parking

- Preserves are open a half-hour before sunrise until a half-hour after sunset. Parking is limited in some areas. Directions to the preserves and parking information can be found online at www.openspace.org/preserves. Preserve trail maps are available online as well as at the trailheads.

Preserve Uses, Accessibility, and Amenities

- A variety of uses (bicycle, equestrian, dog) are permitted on District trails and some trails are accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. Restrooms are available at only some locations. Please check the information for each preserve before heading out.

Group Outings

- Geocaching is a fun, shared activity, but please note that groups of 20 or more people will require an advance permit (no fee for permit).

Trail Conditions and Cache Access

- If for some reason a cache is not accessible due to temporary trail closure every attempt will be made to relocate the cache and update the coordinates. Always obey posted signs.



Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

1,377 Acres | 10.3 Miles of Trails

This Preserve is not part of this geocaching challenge. Public access for hiking and horseback riding only in designated areas is available by permit until a Master

Plan and trail development can be completed for this Preserve. We encourage you to discover the Preserve's redwoods and old ranch roads separate from this challenge after obtaining a (no fee) required permit. There are privately owned geocaches here (that are not part of this challenge) that you will enjoy finding!



Foothills Open Space Preserve

212 Acres | 0.4 Miles of Trails

Foothills Preserve is located in the Adobe Creek watershed above Hidden Villa Ranch and adjacent to Palo Alto's Foothills Park. Here you'll find a grassy ridgetop surrounded by steep chaparral-covered

slopes, with oak-madrone woodland in the ravines and on the north-facing slopes. A single trail leads from Page Mill Road to the knoll offering a fine view of the South Bay.

Place Stamp Here



Coal Creek Open Space Preserve

508 Acres | 5.4 Miles of Trails

Coal Creek Preserve is an ideal place for a quick afternoon outing. Several trails can be combined to create a pleasant two- or three-mile loop and views of the San Francisco Bay Area can be seen

from the open grassland ridges. The Preserve's five miles of trails provide important trail connections between Skyline Boulevard and Alpine Road for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

Place Stamp Here



Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

739 Acres | 14.7 Miles of Trails

Visitors to this Preserve are often attracted to the open hayfields, Seven Springs Canyon, and Hunters Point, a 900-foot hilltop offering sweeping views of the Santa Clara Valley. To the west are

chaparral and oak-covered ridges dropping steeply to Stevens Canyon. Located on the fringe of urban life and rich in local history, this Preserve features the historic "Woodhills" home built in 1914. **(Note:** The house is leased as a private residence and is open to the public only during annually scheduled docent-led tours in the spring.)

Place Stamp Here



El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

2,817 Acres | 35.9 Miles of Trails

Extremely popular with bicyclists, this Preserve also has lots of hearty hiking opportunities. Visitors to the Preserve will find mixed evergreen and redwood

forests, creekside trails, coastal and forest views, and special features such as rare sandstone formations. **(Note:** As part of the Watershed Protection Program, visitors are required to stay on designated trails to reduce erosion and sedimentation in this Preserve.)

Place Stamp Here



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

5,760 Acres | 3.7 Miles of Trails

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Plan and trail development can be completed for this Preserve. We encourage you to discover this Preserve separate from this challenge after obtaining a (no fee) required permit. There are privately owned geocaches here (that are not part of this challenge) that you will enjoy finding!



El Sereno Open Space Preserve

1,415 Acres | 7.4 Miles of Trails

Part of a prominent ridge located south of the town of Saratoga and west of Los Gatos, this Preserve is primarily a chaparral community with some wooded areas near the creeks. The Preserve's

wide, gradual trails may provide a glimpse of the deer, coyote, and brush rabbits that make their homes here. **(Note:** This Preserve is bordered by private property. Please respect the boundaries and stay on designated trails.)

Place Stamp Here



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

2,035 Acres | 13.2 Miles of Trails

Connected to Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve by one of the longest continuous segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, this Preserve is popular among hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians alike. Visitors

can take short hikes or rides to scenic overlooks or longer loops trips. **(Note:** This Preserve is bordered by private property. Please respect the boundaries and stay on designated trails.)

Place Stamp Here



Steele Smith

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

274 Acres | 5.2 Miles of Trails

Los Trancos Preserve is situated at about 2,000 feet and offers visitors fresh air scented with pungent bay leaves, sweet grass, and damp woods. This Preserve is an ideal place to learn about earthquake

geology as a major fault line splits the Preserve and visitors can enjoy a 1.5-mile self-guided tour along the San Andreas Fault Trail. On a clear day, one can spot the gleaming skyscrapers of San Francisco and pick out Mt. Diablo across the bay.

Place Stamp Here



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

4,411 Acres | 24 Miles of Trails

Developed trails and historical logging roads provide opportunities for easy walks or long, strenuous outings. The centerpiece of this Preserve is Purisima Creek Canyon,

with its towering redwoods, rushing creek, and understory of ferns. Magnificent views of the coast are visible from the northern area. The Redwood Trail, suitable for all levels of physical abilities, winds through tall redwoods just off Skyline Boulevard and visitors will find wheelchair-accessible picnic tables along this route.

Place Stamp Here



Mary Tashiro

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

3,278 Acres | 15.5 Miles of Trails

Monte Bello Preserve is one of the District's richest in wildlife and ecosystem diversity. This Preserve encompasses the upper Stevens Creek watershed from Monte Bello Ridge to Skyline Ridge. The Stevens

Creek riparian corridor is considered to be one of the finest in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This Preserve is also home to the Black Mountain Backpack Camp, the only campsite on District lands (permit required).

Place Stamp Here



Karl Gashl

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

3,988 Acres | 24.2 Miles of Trails

Combined with the adjoining County Park, this heavily visited Preserve offers visitors a unique experience with a sampling of diverse environments, interesting cultural

history, and a variety of activities. A highlight of the Preserve is Deer Hollow Farm, a working farm with animals and an organic garden, as well as numerous ranch buildings. **(Note:** This Preserve is ideal for a weekday outing as parking fills early on the week-ends at this very busy location.)

Place Stamp Here



Karl Gashl

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

308 Acres | 3.7 Miles of Trails

Located above Stevens Creek Reservoir, Picchetti Ranch Preserve features hiking opportunities where visitors may enjoy hillside orchards that burst into color in spring, or a hike through oak

woodland. Named after the Picchetti family who emigrated from Italy in the 1870s, Picchetti Ranch features a brick winery and farm complex. A prominent seasonal pond is also located at this Preserve. **(Note:** Collecting from the pond is not allowed.)

Place Stamp Here



Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

376 Acres | 1.3 Miles of Trails

This Preserve is comprised of two noncontiguous areas located south of the Dumbarton Bridge and adjacent to San Francisco Bay. The southern area includes a trail along a levee surrounding

a marsh, and two wheelchair-accessible observation decks. The marsh attracts a variety of migrating birds, including sandpipers, dowitchers, and avocets. Great blue herons, white pelicans, and egrets are also common. The northern area features a refurbished 1-mile trail.

Place Stamp Here



Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

366 Acres | 6 Miles of Trails

This diverse Preserve offers trails that parallel creeks, ascends on oak-covered hillside, and travel through heavy chaparral akin to desert landscapes. Pulgas Ridge Preserve also features

an easy-access trail through a meadow and the District's only dog off-leash area. Visitors may let their dogs roam off-leash in the 17.5-acre area in the center of the Preserve. **(Note:** Dog walkers are required to bag dog waste and carry it out of the Preserve for disposal).

Place Stamp Here



Diana Little

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

3,138 Acres | 10.4 Miles of Trails

This Preserve is a patchwork of different plant communities due to its ridge location, steep topography, and numerous springs that create the headwaters of Mindego and Alpine Creeks. Russian

Ridge Preserve is one of the best places in the Bay Area to see wildflowers in the spring. This Preserve is also a great place to see raptors. Red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and golden eagles have all been seen on the Preserve.

Place Stamp Here



David Weintraub

Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve

1,580 Acres | 1.2 Miles of Trails

Saratoga Gap Preserve is largely wooded with Douglas firs, along with grassy hills scattered with large oaks and madrones. The one trail in the Preserve passes under the spreading branches of weathered oaks

before dropping into a cool, wooded forest. Attractive lichen-covered boulders and sandstone rock outcrops add to the scenic value of this area.

Place Stamp Here



Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area

55 Acres | 0.5 Miles of Trails

A birder's paradise, Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area, located adjacent to Mountain View's Shoreline Park, offers a 1/2-mile trail where visitors

may spot pied-billed grebes, great blue herons, coots, and shovelers. The lucky visitor may even spot a clapper rail or a salt marsh harvest mouse, two endangered species that depend on this sensitive habitat to survive.

Place Stamp Here



Karl Gosh

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

18,446 Acres | 26 Miles of Trails

Sierra Azul Preserve is the District's largest Preserve comprised of often rugged and steep terrain. The environment is strikingly varied. One can visit serpentine grasslands, hard, rocky, and steep chaparral,

dense stands of bay trees, or quiet, shaded oak woodland forests. Home to a wide variety of wildlife, Sierra Azul ("Blue Range") is a true wilderness area; yet surprisingly close to the urban areas of the South Bay.

Place Stamp Here



Teague Hill Open Space Preserve

626 Acres | 1 Trail Available

Teague Hill Preserve is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains just above the town of Woodside. Private property and California Water Service Company property make it difficult to visit the

majority of this Preserve. Currently, there is only one official trail along the western corner of Teague Hill Preserve which is accessible approximately 1/4 mile east of Skyline Boulevard on Kings Mountain Road. (Note: Roadside parking, use caution when entering and exiting.)

Place Stamp Here



Dierne Little

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

2,143 Acres | 10.9 Miles of Trails

This Preserve offers visitors remarkable ridge vistas and trails through expansive meadows, oak woodland, and chaparral communities. Two trails are accessible to wheelchairs and baby strollers: a half-mile

encircling Alpine Pond and a 1-mile trail along the shores of Horseshoe Lake; both areas offer picnic tables for your use. The David C. Daniels Nature Center, located at the edge of Alpine Pond, is open to the public on weekends, April through mid-November.

Place Stamp Here



Thornewood Open Space Preserve

167 Acres | 1.5 Miles of Trails

Thornewood Preserve offers nice, easy outings through beautiful surroundings. The Preserve's 3/4-mile Schilling Lake Trail gradually winds through sunlit canopies of big-leaf maples and

moss-covered oaks and ends under the shade of the giant redwoods that surround the lake. Schilling Lake is an excellent site to view waterfowl during their migration.

Place Stamp Here



Shirley Smith

St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve

270 Acres | 4.2 Miles of Trails

St. Joseph's Hill Preserve provides a quick escape from the nearby urban areas. The often steep trails of this Preserve wind through grassland, chaparral, and oak woodland offering an interesting variety

of environments and opportunities. At the eastern edge of the Preserve, the top of 1,250-foot St. Joseph's Hill features panoramic views of Santa Clara Valley, Lexington Reservoir, and the impressive Sierra Azul mountain range.

Place Stamp Here



Tom Cochrane

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

1,335 Acres | 12.2 Miles of Trails

Windy Hill Preserve is named for its distinctive, breezy, grass-covered hilltop, which can be seen from many areas on the peninsula. The Preserve is an ideal spot for kite flying. Hang

gliding, paragliding, and remote control gliding are allowed by obtaining a special activity permit. Picnic tables are located adjacent to the Spring Ridge parking area located on Skyline Boulevard.

Place Stamp Here

Geocaching Agreement and Guidelines:

The District invites you to enjoy geocaching in a responsible manner within the preserves.

- All geocachers on District lands must be registered users with Geocaching.com and must comply with the guidelines established by the District as well as those established by Geocaching.com. Geocaching must be done during normal preserve hours, must not interfere with wildlife, the natural environment, structures, or other preserve visitors.
- Geocaching, hiking, and other outdoor activities involve risk to both persons and property. There are many variables, including, but not limited to, weather, fitness level, wildlife, terrain features, and outdoor experience, that must be considered prior to participation in the activity of geocaching.
- Always exercise common sense and caution. Geocachers assume all risks involved in participation of this activity and agree to assume responsibility for, and indemnify the District for any injury to any person, or damage to their property, caused while participating in any geocaching activity on District lands.
- Please read the District's complete Geocaching Guidelines, and Geocaching Agreement and Release of Liability, before heading out on your geocaching adventure (www.openspace.org/geocaching_guidelines). Visitors are responsible for knowing and obeying these guidelines and agreements.

Thank You!



For more information about the
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space
District's Geocaching Program go to
www.openspace.org/geocaching.

