MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

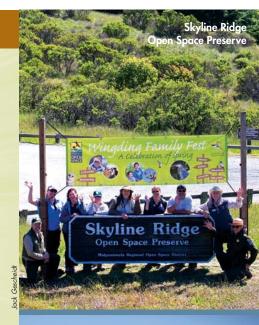
GENERAL INFORMATION

with this newsletter in hand and a sense of exploration in mind, we invite you to enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. These 26 extraordinary preserves include over 62,000 acres of permanently protected open space, from redwood forests to bay shoreline. We encourage you to participate in the wide variety of adventures offered inside Outdoor Activities.



The activity durations listed are averages based on our experience. However, always allow extra time in your schedule for unusual circumstances, or the slower pace of some groups. You can help by arriving a little early to ensure a prompt start for each activity. The activities are free, though some require reservations.

All activities are developed and led by docents who have completed a District training program. These docents volunteer their time to share their knowledge of nature with you. For more information about the volunteer docent program, visit the District's website at www.openspace.org, or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

To Ensure Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review this Information

- Please be courteous to other trail users.
 Stay alert and make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Heavy rain cancels hike activities unless otherwise noted in the description. If there is light rain or the threat of rain, go to the meeting place. Docents will plan to meet participants – hike route or duration may be altered due to weather and trail conditions.
- Participants are encouraged to make personal decisions on comfort and willingness to drive or hike in stormy or threatening weather conditions.
- For mountain bike or horseback ride, heavy rain within two days prior to the activity will cancel it.
- Hikers yield to horses; bicyclists yield to hikers and horses. Observe trail speed limits (15 mph max; 5 mph when passing).

- Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions). Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for all horses, and helmets must be worn by all riders under age 18.
- For all hikes, wear boots or sturdy walking shoes appropriate for rugged trails. Dress in layers (T-shirt, long-sleeved shirt, sweater, and/or jacket). The weather can be unpredictable. No matter what season it is, be prepared for rain, wind, fog, or sun!
- Carry ample water with you to drink.
 Water is not available on preserves.
- Bring sun protection (hat, sunscreen) and insect repellent.
- Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in some locations.



SPECIAL NOTE

If you have a group of 8 or more people who would like to attend a docent-led activity listed here, please contact the Docent Program Manager to discuss in advance at 650-691-1200 or docent@openspace.org. Other arrangements may need to be considered for your group.

Header photo: Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve by Jack Gescheidt

WHERE TO MEET

Directions to preserves featured in this season's schedule of *Outdoor Activities* are listed below. Some preserves have more than one access point. Some activities meet at different locations than where the activity will actually occur. If an activity does not meet at the preserve listed, or if there is more than one preserve access point, the alternate meeting location will be indicated in italics on a separate line following the preserve name as part of the activity header. (For example: **Skyline Ridge** *Meet: Russian Ridge* or **Russian Ridge** *Meet: Caltrans vista point*). If no information follows the preserve name, then refer to the detailed directions for the preserve or alternate meeting location listed below.

Note: Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTED DESCRIPTION TO MAKE SURE YOU MEET YOUR ACTIVITY LEADER AT THE CORRECT LOCATION.

DANIELS NATURE CENTER

Park at the Russian Ridge Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Walk to Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Preserve by going through the tunnel under Alpine Rd. The Nature Center is a small gray building on the east shore of Alpine Pond.

EDGEWOOD COUNTY PARK

Exit I-280 at Edgewood Road. Head east on Edgewood Rd. about 1 mile to the park entrance on the right (at Old Stagecoach Road).

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Skeggs Point: Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the east side of Skyline Boulevard, about 4 miles north of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 1.5 miles south of Kings Mountain Road. Please note that Caltrans prohibits a left turn into the parking lot when approaching from the north along Skyline Blvd.

FREMONT OLDER

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Prospect Road in Cupertino. Exit Highway 85 at De Anza Boulevard. (From northbound 85 turn left on De Anza Blvd. and from southbound 85 turn right on De Anza Blvd.) Travel on De Anza Blvd. (toward the mountains) for about 0.5 miles. Turn right on Prospect Rd. At the first stop sign, turn left and cross the railroad tracks to remain on Prospect Rd.

Follow Prospect Rd. for 1.3 miles, turning left after the Saratoga Country Club, until you reach the Preserve parking lot.

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

LONG RIDGE

Peters Creek Trailhead: Meet at the roadside pullout area on the west side of Skyline Boulevard, 3.6 miles north of Highway 9 or 3.3 miles south of Page Mill Road. If you are coming from the north on Skyline Blvd., the pullout is just past Portola Heights Road on the right. From the south, the pullout is near the Palo Alto city limits sign on the right. There is additional parking across Skyline Blvd. at the Grizzly Flat trailhead (Santa Clara County Park).

LOS TRANCOS

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Monte Bello Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.

MONTE BELLO

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Los Trancos Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.

PICCHETTI RANCH

From the intersection of I-280 and Foothill Expressway, go 3.5 miles southwest (toward the mountains) on Foothill Boulevard/ Stevens Canyon Road. Turn right on Montebello Road. The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Rd. on the left.

PULGAS RIDGE

From I-280, exit Edgewood Road. Drive 0.75 miles on Edgewood Rd. toward San Carlos/Redwood City. Turn left (north) on Crestview Drive, then immediately turn left on Edmonds Road. Follow Edmonds Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the right.

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

Purisima Creek Road entrance: From the Highway 92 and Highway 1 intersection in Half Moon Bay, travel south on Highway 1 approximately 4.3 miles. Turn left on Verde Road. After turning on Verde Rd. and traveling 0.25 miles, continue straight to remain on what becomes Purisima Creek Road. (Verde Rd. splits off to the right.) Travel approximately 3.7 miles on Purisima Creek Rd. to reach the Preserve.

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

From I-280, take Foothill Boulevard south and turn right almost immediately onto Cristo Rey Drive. Continue about 1 mile, veer right around the traffic circle, and turn left into the park. Go to the lot farthest to the right and meet near the restroom at the bottom of the hill.



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

RAVENSWOOD

From Highway 101, exit on University Avenue. Follow University Ave. north (about four long blocks) to Bay Road. Turn right on Bay Rd. and follow it to the very end (about 1.2 miles). The Preserve entrance and parking lot are marked with large signs.

RUSSIAN RIDGE

Meet at the main Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

Mindego Gateway parking lot: From I-280, exit Page Mill Road and head west. Drive about 9 miles to the junction with Skyline Boulevard, cross over Skyline Boulevard and on to Alpine Road. Continue on Alpine Rd. for 1.5 miles. Parking area is on the right. Allow 45 minutes travel time from I-280.

SIERRA AZUL

Jacques Ridge: Meet at the parking lot located near the intersection of Hicks Road and Mt. Umunhum Road in San Jose. Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From northbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Branham Avenue and then turn left on Camden Ave. and from southbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Camden Ave.) Travel on Camden Ave. about 1.6 miles. Turn right on Hicks Rd. and travel for about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Rd. The Preserve parking lot will be on the right.

SKYLINE RIDGE

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Skyline Boulevard located one mile south of the Skyline Blvd. (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection. After entering the Preserve, turn right and go to the farthest parking lot. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 45 minutes travel time.

SKYLINE RIDGE (continued)

Equestrian parking lot: After entering the Preserve, proceed to the farthest parking lot on the left. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 45 minutes travel time.



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

ST. JOSEPH'S HILL

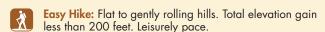
Northside lot – Free Limited Parking:
Meet at the parking lot located at the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos. The sign at the lot says: "Northside lot – Free Limited Parking." Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Hwy. 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to the parking lot, located on your right just before Santa Cruz Ave. Carpool to the activity location.

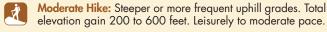
WINDY HILL

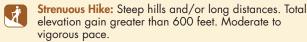
From I-280, exit Alpine Road in Portola Valley. Go south on Alpine Rd. about 2.9 miles to Portola Road (the first stop sign). Turn right on Portola Rd. and travel 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left side of the road.

Skyline Boulevard parking area: Meet at the parking area on Skyline Boulevard, 2.3 miles south of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 4.9 miles north of Page Mill Road.

KEY TO SYMBOLS







Suitable for children: must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. See the activity description for any additional information.

Wheelchair accessible.

Stroller accessible: Jogger-type suggested.

Meal/snack break: Bring a lunch, dinner, or snack as appropriate.

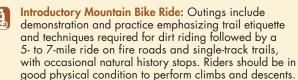
Dogs on leash: Well-behaved and socialized dogs are allowed, and must be controlled on a maximum six-foot leash.

Equestrian Ride: Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet. Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for horses. Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions).

Reservations required: Reservations for activities requiring them will only be accepted within the two (2)-week period just before the activity date. To make a reservation or a cancellation, visit the District's Web site www.openspace.org/reservations or call 650-691-2150 (enter 2). If you provide information prior to the reservation acceptance period, it will not be processed. Please limit your reservation to a maximum of four (4) people.



Easy Nature Ride: Slow, leisurely pace, minimal climbing, and multiple stops to observe nature.



Intermediate Mountain Bike Ride: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; able to climb and descend steep and moderately-rough trails. Recreational ride at a moderate/brisk pace; 8+ miles on a wide range of fire roads and single-track trails. For experienced riders in very good physical condition with good endurance.

3

Advanced Mountain Bike Ride: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; competent at climbing and descending steep and rough trails. Moderate to fast pace, 10+ mile ride on a wide variety of trail conditions. For experienced riders with a high level of physical fitness and excellent endurance.

Note: For all rides, bicyclists must wear helmets and bikes must be in good condition, and the participants must be very familiar with the operation of gears and brakes. Mountain bikes are strongly recommended for all except the Easy Nature Rides. Easy Nature, Introductory, and Intermediate Rides include a natural history component that is provided by the docents during the rest stops. Advanced rides develop and improve mountain bike skills – any natural history discussion stops are secondary to the overall riding experience.



Healthy Parks, Healthy People – Bay Area: Introductory level and easy to moderate activities for people of various ages. Some activities have a health and wellness focus. Visit www.hphpbayarea.org.

MARCH

Explorer Hike: Wildflowers and Vistas

Wednesday • March 1 Monte Bello • 4mi Meet: Picchetti Ranch 10:30am to 2:30pm



Hike along the Waterwheel Creek Trail with Docents Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, and Lynn Jackson on this leisurely exploration with approximately 600 feet of elevation gain. Look for birds such as the California thrasher among the chaparral scrub and chestnut-backed chickadees in the oak trees. Enjoy a variety of wildflowers as you meander among grasslands and hillsides. You'll end your hike by looping back along the Montebello Road Trail. (Note: Participants will carpool to trailhead.)

Creature Feature

Saturday • March 4 Edgewood County Park • 2.5mi 9:00am to 12:30pm





What do dusky-footed woodrats look like? What are their stick houses like inside? How many live in one house? What do they eat? Who wants to eat them? How do they find mates and raise pups? Why are they also called packrats? Come ask docent's Kathryn Strachota and June Cancell all your questions and learn all about this keystone species. Curious children are particularly welcome! This is a very interactive, moderately-paced hike along the Sylvan, Serpentine, Franciscan, and Baywood Glen Trails loop. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 18.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • March 5 Los Trancos • 2-3mi 2:00pm to 4:30pm







Join docents Dave and Judy Boore for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. On this leisurely stroll, you'll stop to discuss the wonder of plate tectonics,

examine remnants left by thousands of major earthquakes, and learn how to prepare for future earthquakes. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing.



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

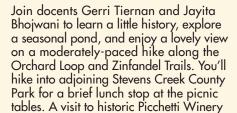
Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • March 8 Picchetti Ranch • 4mi 10:00am to 1:00pm

Join docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Louise Casey for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike on trails with beautiful scenery. "Scenic Aerobic" hikes are offered at different preserves every second and fourth Wednesday. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions. (Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)



Saturday • March 11 Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi 10:30am to 1:30pm



Start The Week Right: Geology

(on your own) is an option at hike's end.

Monday • March 13 Monte Bello • 5-6mi 10:00am to 2:00pm



What a perfect way to start the week off right... with a Monday morning hike!

> Stretch your legs on the way up Black Mountain on the Canyon, Bella Vista, and Ranch Trails. Occasional short stops to discuss the geology of this Preserve and the Bay Area will exercise your mind as well as your imagination. Join docents Wesley Sawyer and Nina Bell for this moderately-paced hike with 1,000-foot elevation gain.

Explorer Hike: Birding by the Bay

Wednesday • March 15 Ravenswood • 2-3mi 10:30am to 2:00pm

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve













Bring your binoculars and, with the aid of docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin, identify and characterize the many bird species that live in this small but bird-busy preserve. This is migration time so you may be in for some surprises. You'll look for everything from peeps to pheasants on this leisurely-paced hike.

Shades of Green on St. Patrick's Day

Friday • March 17 Edgewood County Park • 4.1mi 10:00am to 1:30pm







You'll circumnavigate this county park and look for the gold (poppies) beneath the rainbow (wildflowers). There will be lots of shades of green along the way too! Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will identify wildflowers and other plants that you'll encounter growing in the nutrient deficient serpentine soil where surprisingly some plants thrive – you'll learn why. You'll also understand why Edgewood County Park is considered such an important location on the Peninsula for rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

Finding Clues to Local History

Saturday • March 18 Long Ridge • 4.5mi 10:00am to 1:30pm



On this loop hike with docents Debbie Mytels and Mary Jo Colton you'll follow the shady Peters Creek Trail, pass by the green 'carpet' at Jikoji Pond, and stop for a snack while taking in the terrific view from the Wallace Stegner Bench on the Long Ridge Trail. Along the way you'll seek out signs of this Preserve's colorful history, hear a few stories of local lore, and look for spring wildflowers.

History of Bear Creek Redwoods

Sunday • March 19 Bear Creek Redwoods • 2mi Meet: See text below 10:00am to 12:30pm







Docents Jenny Whitman and Naureen Moon will take you and your family on an easy hike around the former Alma College site and surrounding Preserve. You'll explore history through stories and be shown an amazing collection of photographs and maps dating back to the 1880's of the three lavish estates that once stood on the property. Among the photographs are pictures of the Alma College campus when it was being used as a finishing school for the Jesuit Priests. (Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 5.

Bridges of Rancho San Antonio

Monday • March 20 Rancho San Antonio • 5mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Denise Lawrence and Mark Prusinowski on the vernal equinox for a moderately-paced journey to observe the signs of spring along the streams of this Preserve. You'll hike the Lower Meadow Trail, ascend the Wildcat Loop Trail for 500 feet of elevation gain, and return via the Rogue Valley and Lower Meadow Trails, crossing many bridges along the way.

Wildflowers and More

Tuesday • March 21 Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi 1:00pm to 4:00pm



Enjoy a spring hike to view early-blooming wildflowers with docents Liz Foreman and Lina Mesa. You'll explore the diverse plants and trees in this popular Preserve and take in a scenic view from the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike will include hills (approximately 600 to 800 feet of elevation gain) and uneven terrain along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • March 22 Fremont Older • 6mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



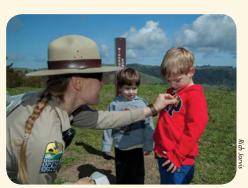
Join docents Fran Keeler, Mary Brunkhorst, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Louise Casey for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike on trails with beautiful scenery. "Scenic Aerobic" hikes are offered at different preserves every second and fourth Wednesday. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions. (Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of elevation gain.)

Top of Mindego Morning

Saturday • March 25 Russian Ridge • 5.5mi Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot 9:45am to 2:30pm



Celebrate spring with a hike to the top of Mindego Hill. Join docents Kim Borick and Gerri Tiernan on this out and back trek along the Mindego Hill Trail. You'll make brief stops along the way to identify wildflowers and share other aspects of this unique property, past and present. You'll enjoy your lunch at the top of the hill with glorious 360° views. Some sections of the trail are steep or primitive; long pants, closed-toe shoes, and trekking poles (if used) are advised. This hike is not recommended for children under 10 years old.



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • March 25 Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3mi 10:30am to 3:00pm







Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Sam Berry, and Naureen Moon on the Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. You'll also see why local redwood trees are like no others in the world. This moderatelypaced, 500-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children and has a downhill return. Look forward to being greeted by hundreds of picture-worthy forgetme-not flowers. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 11.

Lake to Pond Run

Sunday • March 26 Skyline Ridge • 5mi 10:00am to 11:00am



Join docents Ray Curiel and Vivian Neou on a loop trail run around Horseshoe Lake and Alpine Pond. This run route consists mostly of single-track trails with some fairly steep upgrades (approximately 1,000 feet of elevation gain). Average pace for the entire run will be 10- to 11-minute miles. Runners are expected to carry their own water (there is a water fountain available for refilling at Alpine Pond). Heavy rain within two days prior will cancel this run. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 11.

Climb Black Mountain

Sunday • March 26 Monte Bello • 8mi 10:00am to 1:00pm





Docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Koscis will guide you on an intermediate-level mountain bike excursion exploring this beautiful Preserve. You'll climb Black Mountain for the views and explore the Waterwheel Creek area before descending the Bella Vista Trail into Stevens Creek canyon for a final climb out to the parking lot. Participants are expected to be experienced and able to ride on fairly steep, narrow dirt trails, and ready to climb more than 1,000 feet. Experienced youth cyclists are welcome. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 12.

Creek, Meadow, and Vista

Wednesday • March 29 Long Ridge • 4.6mi 10:00am to 3:00pm





You'll enjoy a mid-week exploration with docents Lloyd Dickman and Corinne Lipman on this moderately-paced hike with a 500-foot elevation gain. You'll descend past meadows with early wildflowers and walk along Peters Creek, possibly gushing with spring run-off. After a lunch stop with sweeping vistas of the Santa Cruz Mountains, you'll walk along Long Ridge Trail to complete this loop hike.

APRIL

Ferns and Other Ancient Plants

Saturday • April 1 Monte Bello • 3.5 mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



On a walk down into Stevens Creek Canyon, docents Debbie Mytels and Gerri Tiernan will help you identify various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth. You'll also see many wildflowers and stop to look for newts after crossing Stevens Creek on stepping stones. You'll return via the Canyon Trail, passing a sag pond (created along an earthquake fault) where other ancient plants are growing.

Daniels Nature Center Season Begins!!

The David C. Daniels Nature Center, located on the edge of Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, will open for the season on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Come by on opening weekend to take part in our annual celebration. The Nature Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00noon until 5:00pm during spring and summer, and 11:00am to 4:00pm in the fall.

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • April 1 Los Trancos • 2.5mi 10:00am to 2:00pm





Join docents Wesley Sawyer and Jayita Bhojwani, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, to search for geocaches, or hidden treasures, using GPS units supplied by REI. This fun and interactive outing is great for all ages. You are encouraged to bring small trinkets (inexpensive children's toys, less than 2 inches in length are ideal) to use as trade items for the cache. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher, but all are welcome. (Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 18.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday April 1 and April 2 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm







Spring weekends are here and so should you be...as the living is easy, especially on the edge of Alpine Pond. Bring family and friends to visit any Saturday or Sunday this spring between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy displays about natural communities, view larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prowl, and perhaps have an opportunity to study live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with guidance from a docent. These adventures and more await you!

Exploring a Springtime Gem

Sunday • April 2 La Honda Creek • 4.5mi Meet: See text below 10:00am to 1:00pm



With docents Mary Bernstein and Marie-Anne Neimat, you'll explore this small but special gem that is part of a larger open space preserve. If it's a clear day, you'll be able to see the coast and revel in the brilliant green of new grass. Walking at a moderate pace you'll stretch your legs on the hills as you keep an eye out for spring blooms and possible fauna. You'll find an old-growth tree and speculate as to the reasons that loggers left it untouched. (Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 19.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • April 2 Los Trancos • 2-3mi 2:00pm to 4:30pm







Start the Week Right: Mindego Through Time

Monday • April 3 Russian Ridge • 4-5mi Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot 10:00am to 1:00pm



Start the week right with a Monday morning hike where you'll stretch your legs on the Ancient Oaks, Charquin, and Mindego Trails making a wide loop to view Mindego Hill from different perspectives. Occasional short stops to discuss the history of the area will exercise your mind as well as your imagination. Join docents Nina Bell and Wesley Sawyer for this moderately-paced hike with a 1,000-foot elevation gain.

Explorer Hike: Birds & Blooms

Wednesday • April 5 Russian Ridge • 4.7mi 10:30am to 2:30pm





What effects will the winter rains have on the floral display this season? Search for early bloomers of grassland and forest with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson in one of the best places to see wildflowers in the Bay Area. You'll delight in expansive views as you hike the Ridge, Hawk Ridge, Alder Spring, and Ancient Oaks Trails at a leisurely-to-moderate pace. Close-focus binoculars and a camera or sketch pad may add to your enjoyment.

The Road Less Travelled

Friday • April 7 Monte Bello • 5.5mi 10:00am to 2:30pm





How often do you walk near the origin of a creek? On this moderately-paced hike you'll have the opportunity to see the seldom visited Adobe Creek watershed. You'll hike along the Canyon, Bella Vista, Old Ranch, Adobe Creek, and Montebello Road Trails. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will share history of the land including how the Native Americans carefully tended grassland habitats to make the land more productive and conserve it for future generations. You'll likely see an abundance of wildflowers whose seeds were gathered as a dietary staple.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday April 8 and 9 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm







Please see the description for April 1.

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Sunday • April 9 Bear Creek Redwoods • 2mi Meet: See text below 10:00am to 1:00pm







Join docents Jenny Whitman and Nina Bell and an ŔEI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for April 1. (Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 26.

Wildflowers and More

Tuesday, • April 11 Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi 1:00pm to 4:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and John Seyfarth, and please see the activity description for March 21.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • April 12 St. Joseph's Hill • 5mi Meet: Northside lot - Free **Limited Parking** 10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 8. (Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Long Bloomin' Hike

Saturday • April 15 Long Ridge • 11mi 9:30am to 4:00pm



Docents Rich and Toni Gooch, and Paul Billig revive the 11-mile "Long Bloomin' Hike" and shorter 6.5-mile "Not So Long Bloomin' Hike" along the ridge via Peters Creek and Hickory Oaks Trails. You'll traverse a variety of plant communities where you'll be sure to find many different plants in flower. Bring lunch to enjoy at a scenic vista spot on the way. The longer hike will continue via Achistaca Trail to Saratoga Gap Preserve and back; those wishing for a shorter excursion will return with docent Paul Billig.

Earthquake 101

Saturday • April 15 Los Trancos • 2.5mi 2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join Strether Smith and Nina Bell on the San Andreas Fault for an introduction to earthquake science and lore. You'll explore the fault zone and participate in a discussion of plate tectonics, fault types, local earth deformations, and the inevitable earthquake that Bay Area residents can expect sooner than later - by geologic standards. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for those needing a less physically challenging outing. Engaged children 8 years and older are encouraged to attend.

Spineless Wonders

Saturday • April 15 Windy Hill • 3mi 6:15pm to 10:00pm







Join docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Jan Hintermeister on a nocturnal invertebrate treasure hunt. You'll meander along the Spring Ridge and Betsy Crowder Trails with extended stops. After dinner, you'll listen for night creatures. This hike is geared toward adults, though attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. Bring dinner, ground cover to sit on, and a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 1.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday April 15 and 16 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm





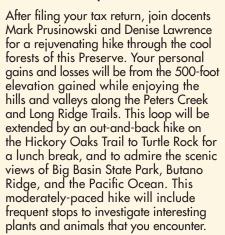


Please see the activity description for April 1.

A Not So "Taxing" Jaunt

Tuesday • April 18 Long Ridge • 6mi 10:00am to 2:00pm





Explorer Hike: Spring Wildflowers

Wednesday • April 19 Pulgas Ridge • 3mi 10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson as you explore the Cordilleras, Polly Geraci, Dick Bishop and Blue Oak Trails in search of spring wildflowers. You'll enjoy a moderately-paced hike with stops along the way to take a close look at flowers in a variety of habitats. An approximately 400-foot elevation gain will bring you to your lunch spot to enjoy some of the fine views this Preserve offers.





Participate in docent-led activities scheduled April 18-23, or visit the **Daniels Nature Center** (open Saturdays and Sundays).

Earth Day Adventure

Saturday • April 22 Purisima Creek Redwoods • 9.5mi 9:30am to 3:00pm





What better way to enjoy Earth Day than to join docents Clive Merredew and Marie-Anne Neimat on this strenuous, exercise-focused hike. You'll hike at a moderate pace below towering coastal redwoods alongside beautiful Purisima Creek, then up the Craig Britton and Harkins Ridge Trails for a 1,500-foot elevation gain. After a trailside lunch, breathtaking ocean and mountain views will stretch before you on the downhill return along Whittemore Gulch Trail. Along the way you'll learn how redwood trees and plants of the chaparral adapt to this rugged environment. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 8.



Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Good Neighbors/ Bad Neighbors

Saturday • April 22 Long Ridge • 5mi 9:30am to 1:00pm



Explore plant relationships within their natural communities with docents Jayita Bhojwani and Tara Lee along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails. You'll discover unseen interactions and interesting survival strategies on this moderately-paced hike with about 450 feet of elevation change. There will be multiple stops with opportunities to snack. Come learn which plants are good neighbors, and which ones you do NOT want moving in next door!

Tour de Open Space: **4 Preserve Ride**

Saturday • April 22 Russian Ridge • 11mi Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot 10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis for a ride encompassing a four preserve "Tour" of Russian Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Monte Bello, and Coal Creek Preserves. Starting up the new portion of Ancient Oaks Trail in Russian Ridge Preserve, you'll experience what each of the preserves has to offer while meandering up and down (approximately 2,000 feet of total climbing) over the ride's total distance on fire roads and single-track trails. (Note: short portions of this mountain bike ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic; approximately 1 mile total.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 8.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday April 22 and 23 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm









Please see the description for April 1.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District celebrates

National ParkRx Day | Sunday April 23, 2017

Across the United States, agencies and organizations are collaborating to promote the health benefits of parks and open space You're invited to go on a District docent-led hike or check out other events and activities at www.hphpbayarea.org.

Annual Fremont **Older House Tours**

Sunday • April 23 Fremont Older 9:00am to 4:00 pm

Once a year tours of Fremont and Cora Older's historic home (led by District docents) are offered by advance online reservation. There are nine (9) tours scheduled throughout the day; participants meet at an offsite location and are shuttled to the event site. Please visit www.openspace.org/FOTours for complete information including registration details. Online registration will open Thursday, March 23 at 10:00 am. Group size limit is four (4) people. Please do not call the "Outdoor Activity" reservation phone number.

Walking in the Spirit of John Muir

Sunday • April 23 Monte Bello • 2-3mi Meet: Picchetti Ranch 9:30am to 12:00pm



Climb the mountains and get the good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees," said John Muir. Walking the Waterwheel Creek Trail with docents Maureen Draper and Steve Brugler, senses attuned to scents and sounds as well as sights, you'll learn more about how Muir experienced the world and why he continues to be an inspiration and influence to nature lovers. Interested children 6 years and older are welcome on this leisurely walk. (Note: Participants will carpool to trailhead.)

Ohlone Footsteps

Sunday • April 23 Skyline Ridge • 2mi Meet: Russian Ridge 10:00am to 12:00pm



Prior to European settlement, the Bay Area was home to a mosaic of Native American tribal communities and many frequented the Santa Cruz Mountains. Join docents Kim Borick, Sarah Schoen, and Farhana Kazi for a leisurely-paced hike with frequent stops along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails. Historical perspective, including California native people's management and use of indigenous plants, animals, and raw materials will be shared. You'll discover what brought the first people time and again to these mountains. Engaged children

12 years and older are welcome. Bring lunch to enjoy at Alpine Pond following the hike.



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • April 26 Monte Bello • 6 mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 22. (Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of gain.)

Search for the Everlasting

Sunday • April 30 Picchetti Ranch • 4mi 10:30am to 3:00pm







Join docents Bob Segalla, Greg Azevedo, and Jayita Bhojwani to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home and discover if the (previously named) everlasting plant smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails and you can listen to the sound of Stevens Creek as you enjoy lunch at a Santa Clara County Park picnic area. Capable children can handle this moderatelypaced hike with a couple of 200-foot climb's. A visit to the Picchetti Winery for tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.



Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

MAY

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday April 29 and 30 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm





Please see the description for April 1.

Start the Week Right: A Dynamic Duo

Monday • May 1 Long Ridge • 4-5mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



Celebrate May Day on this Monday morning hike! You'll travel along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails with a stop at the Wallace Stegner Bench to drink in the magnificent view. While there, you'll hear about a "Dynamic Duo" — MROSD (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District) and POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust), and how their partnership has led to preserving so much of the land you'll be appreciating all around you. Join docents Nina Bell and Wesley Sawyer on this moderately-paced hike with 450 feet of elevation gain.

Explorer Hike: Edgy Wildflowers

Wednesday • May 3 Edgewood County Park • 4mi 10:30am to 2:30pm



Celebrate spring with docents Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, and Dennis Smith on this moderately-paced hike with an approximately 400-foot elevation gain on the way to your lunch spot. Edgewood County Park is renowned for it's many beautiful and unusual wildflowers. Trails and route for this exploration will be chosen based on seasonal flower bloom.

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • May 6 Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi 10:00am to 2:00pm









Join docent Sarah Schoen and an REI Outdoor School Instructor and please see the activity description for April 1. (Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will

be accepted on or after April 22. Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday May 6 and 7 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm







Please see the description for April 1.

Ancient Oaks and Views

Sunday • May 7 Russian Ridge • 3.5mi Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot 10:00am to 12:30pm



Enjoy a relaxed-pace loop hike with about 600 feet of elevation gain with docents Steve Brugler and Noa Doitel as you travel up the Charguin Trail and down the Ancient Oaks Trail. You'll learn about and admire some of the finest venerable oaks in the preserves plus enjoy sweeping ocean views and other sights of interest along the way.

Exploring Upper Windy Hill

Sunday, • May 7 Windy Hill • 3.5mi Meet: Skyline Boulevard parking area 10:15am to 1:15pm



Walk with docents Mary Bernstein and Chris MacIntosh from the far side of Anniversary Hill to the start of the Lost Trail. Although the Anniversary Trail is open to the elements, much of the Lost Trail will be shaded as you walk in and out of numerous small drainages filled with ferns and forest. If the stars properly align, you'll be treated to a magnificent surprise.

Q L N C

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • May 7 Los Trancos • 2-3mi 2:00pm to 4:30pm



Please see the activity description for March 5.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • May 10 Skyline Ridge • 5mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 8. (Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)

Redwood Wonderland

Wednesday • May 10 Purisima Creek Redwoods • 7mi 10:30am to 3:30pm





Enjoy a mid-week exploration with docents Lloyd Dickman and Corinne Lipman on this moderate hike with an 800-foot elevation gain. Surrounded by redwoods, you'll hike along flowing Purisima Creek, crossing bridges and gently climbing to meet the mystical Craig Britton Trail for a downhill return. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 26.

Wildflowers and Wild Birds

Friday • May 12 Picchetti Ranch • 4mi 10:00am to 1:30pm







Your hike with docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will loop through former ranch and woodland habitats where you'll see many varieties of flowering shrubs and wildflowers found at lower elevations at this time of year. This Preserve also attracts many species of birds and butterflies, some of which live here year round and others that are just passing through. Bring your camera, hand lens, and binoculars if you have them. You'll enjoy lunch at a picnic table near the banks of Stevens Creek.

Fremont Older History Ride

Saturday • May 13 Fremont Older • 12mi 9:15am to 12:00pm



Learn the history of this Preserve on an intermediate mountain bike ride (with a 2,000-foot elevation gain) led by docents Linda and Glenn Wegner. Riders must have experience with single-track trails, fire roads, and climbing hills. The ride leaves promptly. Bring ample drinking water and power snacks. (Note: Arrive early to find parking; additional parking may be available on Prospect Road).

Wildflowers, Peaceful Pond, and Open Views

Saturday • May 13 Long Ridge • 5.5mi 10:00am to 2:00pm





Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Clive Merredew to explore the various habitats of this Preserve. You'll follow Peters Creek downhill through a shady forest until you reach the peaceful pond of the Jikoji Zen Center. Wildflowers are likely to be abundant along the trail this time of year. Rolling hills and open views await you on the Hickory Oaks and Long Ridge Trails where you'll stop for lunch at the Wallace Stegner Bench.

Plants and Animals at Alpine Pond

Saturday • May 13 Skyline Ridge • 2.0mi Meet: Russian Ridge 10:30am to 12:30pm







Who lives here? Why? How do you know? Join docents Gerri Tiernan and Paul Billig for a leisurely exploration along the Sunny Jim, Ipiwa, and Pond Loop Trails. You'll hear a little history and look for evidence of animals as you learn about plant communities and animal habitats. The hike concludes with an optional visit to the David C. Daniels Nature Center. Picnic tables are available for lunch on your own at the hike's end. Suitable for school age children.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday May 13 and 14 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm







Please see the description for April 1.

Spring Ride at ECdMC

Sunday • May 14 El Corte de Madera Creek • 14mi 10:00am to 3:00pm



Explore the shaded forests and challenging single-track trails of this beautiful Preserve on your mountain bike with docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace. This intermediate/ advanced levél ride takes you through mixed evergreen and redwood forests, passes lush riparian habitats, then climbs back to a vista point with a sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean before returning to your starting point. There will be more than 2,000 feet of climbing, but the pace will be moderate. (Note: a portion of this ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic; approximately 1 mile.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 30.

Mother's Day Bouquet

Sunday, • May 14 Russian Ridge • 3.5mi 1:00pm to 4:00pm



What wildflowers will Mother Nature's bouquet include to celebrate Bay Area mom's this year? Join docents Rich and Toni Gooch for this leisurely-paced, 3.5-mile walk to Borel Hill and (time permitting) back through Ancient Oaks Trail to find out!

Explorer Hike: The Glories of Spring

Wednesday • May 17 Sierra Azul • 5-6mi 10:30am to 2:30pm





You'll join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin to explore the variety and number of wildflowers following a trail in the shadow of Mt. Umunhum. You'll walk among habitats varying from riparian to chaparral along the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek, and note the types of flowers, shrubs, and trees adapted to these habitats. What you'll see is unpredictable, depending mostly on rainfall during the winter, so bring sharp eyes and a sense of adventure!

Butterflies of Sierra Azul

Friday • May 19 Sierra Azul • 4mi 10:00am to 2:00pm



Get acquainted with the butterflies found in the many habitats of this expansive Preserve. Docents Jan Hintermeister, Katherine Greene, and Vivian Neou will be your traveling companions on this leisurely-paced out and back hike on the Woods Trail. Although your focus is on butterflies, you'll see many other plant and animal species with Mt. Umunhum in the background. There will be a short lunch break along the way. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Outdoor Activities Spring 2017

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve by Jim Mosher



Wingding Family Fest | Saturday • May 20, 2017

10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Skyline Ridge Preserve

For more information see page 14, or visit:

www.openspace.org/wingding

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday May 20 and 21 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm









History of Bear Creek Redwoods

Sunday • May 21 Bear Creek Redwoods • 2mi Meet: See text below 10:00am to 12:30pm





Join docents Jenny Whitman and Theresa Walterskirchen and please see the activity description for March 18. (Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 7.

From Pond-to-Pond

Sunday • May 21 Skyline Ridge • 5.0mi Meet: Equestrian parking lot 10:00am to 2:00pm



Docents Susan Bernhard and Ann Reisenauer are eager to explore the changing seasonal habitats of this Preserve with you. You'll see red-winged blackbirds nesting near Horseshoe Lake, wildflowers on exposed hillsides, and mixed evergreen forest on the Fir Knoll Trail. You'll climb up the Sunny Jim Trail, learn some turn-of-last-century history, and observe evidence of native people's land use. There'll be a lunch stop near Alpine Pond on this moderately-paced loop that will take you through varied terrain and provide views of the hills rolling down to the Pacific Ocean. Interested, capable children 8 years and older are welcome to attend.

Wildflowers and More

Tuesday • May 23 Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi 1:00pm to 4:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Lina Mesa, and please see the activity description for March 21.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • May 24 Russian Ridge • 6mi 10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 22. (Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of gain.)

Hidden in the Woods

Saturday • May 27 El Corte de Madera Creek • 4.3mi 9:30am to 2:00pm



Join docents Noa Doitel and Susan Bernhard on a moderately-paced, investigative hike with a 400- to 600-foot elevation change in the mixed evergreen forest. You'll hike along the Tafoni Trail and take a side trail to visit a tafoni sandstone formation. Another side trail will take you to a scenic overlook where you'll admire spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. You'll continue on the Resolution Trail to visit the site of the historic 1953 plane crash. You'll listen to the birds of the forest as you hear about the historical significance and unique features of this Preserve.

Butterflies of Picchetti Ranch

Saturday • May 27 Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi 10:00am to 1:00pm





Join docents Jan Hintermeister and Karen DeMello to explore the wonderful and strange world of insects that taste with their feet and smell with their antennae. Learn to identify common butterfly species in their natural environment and understand why humans from the Stone Age to the Space Age have been fascinated with these delicate winged creatures. Many facts and flutters await you on this leisurely walk along the Zinfandel and Orchard Loop Trails. Bring binoculars if you have them. Attentive children with an interest in nature are welcome. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 13.

Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • May 27 Long Ridge • 5mi 10:00am to 2:00pm



Native Americans, including California Indians, had a great number of uses for the plants growing on their lands, an important use being medicinal. Join docents Sarah Schoen, Kim Borick, and Debbi Mytels on this hike exploring the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails, with a lunch break overlooking the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. You'll learn how selected native plants were used to treat ailments before the introduction of modern medicine.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday May 27 and 28 **Daniels Nature Center** 12:00noon to 5:00pm







Please see the description for April 1.

31st Annual Hike the Open Spaces

Monday • May 29 Monte Bello • 2-3mi Meet: Picchetti Ranch 8:15am to 1:00pm





Join docents Greg Azevedo and Bob Segalla for a leisurely-paced walk through a less traveled section of this Preserve on the Waterwheel Creek Trail. If the weather is clear, expect to see some spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This walk with occasional stops will include the history of the Preserve and the District, and you'll'learn about the plants, animals, and geology of the area. A short snack break is planned midway. This minimal elevation gain hike is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead; no late arrivals or early



departures.) Reservations are required

and will be accepted on or after May 15.

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve