



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
Celebrating Over 40 Years of Open Space Preservation

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • WINTER 2016-2017

Creating Safe Passages for Wildlife and Humans on Highway 17

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is at the initial phase of developing crossing structures for wildlife and humans across State Highway 17, between the town of Los Gatos and Bear Creek Road. This high priority project was identified by the public and is part of Midpen's adopted Vision Plan. It is partially funded by Measure AA, a bond measure approved by voters in 2014.

The project area has been identified as a "roadkill hot spot," a place that is dangerous to both wildlife and people who try

to navigate an increasingly busy stretch of narrow highway. This section of Highway 17 lacks wildlife-accessible culverts and bridges that provide safe crossing for wildlife. As a result, over the last nine years, 82 animals have been killed in this section of the highway, including 51 deer, 5 mountain lions and numerous small and medium mammals. These collisions (and near collisions) are also extremely dangerous for motorists and their passengers.



Rebecca McDonough



Karl Gohl



Wildlife Connectivity

Highway 17 has fragmented thousands of acres of open space in the Santa Cruz Mountains, limiting the ability of wildlife to find food, mates and habitat. Well-placed and appropriately designed crossings will help alleviate wildlife and vehicular collisions and will enable wide-ranging species like mountain lions to live healthier lives in an increasingly urbanized landscape.

Crossings for People

Midpen will partner with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and others to improve regional trail connections across Highway 17. Existing trails include: the Los Gatos Creek Trail, trails in **El Sereno** and **St. Joseph's Hill**, Lexington County Park trails, and connections to neighborhoods in the Lexington Basin, the Santa Cruz Mountains and beyond. This route is expected to become part of the National Park Service's Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Public Input

On August 2, 2016, Midpen hosted a meeting in Los Gatos to review the crossings project. Nearly 40 members of the public attended and submitted 36 comments. Of the four proposed over- and under-crossings, the wildlife under-crossing at Trout Creek had a high level of support from the vast majority of commenters (78 percent). The recreational crossing with the highest level of support was the Montevina Road under-crossing. 🌿

Highway 17 Project Timeline

2016 ★	2017-2018	2019-2020	2021 (or later)
Complete Feasibility Study, Initiate a Cooperative Project with Caltrans	Select Preferred Alternative(s), Environmental Review and Permitting	Plans and Specifications (Design)	Construction (Dependent on Funding)

A Message from the General Manager

BRIDGING ISLANDS: Habitat, Culture and History

Many parts of the Bay Area are connected with spectacular, carefully engineered bridges that enhance commerce and the movement of people from home to work and back again. They make life better for us. But, in building these bridges and the highways that are often metaphors for progress, we inadvertently eliminated other bridges and highways that are far less obvious, but of great importance nonetheless. They are the ancient pathways followed by wildlife from time out of mind to move them through the landscape in search of food, shelter and mates. They often followed watercourses and are as critical to the survival of the 4-inch western newt as they are to the mountain lion and the deer they pursue. They are also the pathways and trade routes used by Native Americans to sustain their way of life. Here at Midpen, we're working to reestablish these ancient pathways. They can be wildlife corridors or conservation easements, but the goal is the same: to stitch a fragmented landscape back together so that it can once again fulfill its purpose of sustaining life.

When connections are lost, natural communities become islands and loss of biodiversity soon follows. If you've ever visited Hawaii, the Galapagos, or other islands, you may have noticed how few species there are compared to the mainland. These places have a lot to teach us about both evolution and survival in limited and shrinking habitats. World-renowned ecologists Robert MacArthur and E.O. Wilson's theory of island biogeography or "insular biogeography" as it is sometimes called, suggests that an island's size and distance from the mainland determines the abundance of species it supports. The theory can be applied to places that act like islands too. If you look at a map of nature preserves within the highly populated Bay Area, in many instances they are not unlike islands.

This is why many of the bridges we create are land purchases and easements that permanently connect islands of open space to form an intact greenbelt. A great example of this is Midpen's Highway 17


Safe Passages project aimed at helping to keep the Santa Cruz Mountains from becoming an island. Highway 17, like many others, is a wildlife "sink." That is, most creatures that try to cross it are killed, and over time they disappear. Midpen and a growing list of partners are working to provide wildlife with safe crossing across Highway 17 to access the food, water, territory and genetically diverse mates needed for the long-term survival of their species.

Other bridges we build are for and between people. The Highway 17 project will also provide passage for people across the highway, connecting neighborhoods, open space and trails. Midpen's

more than 225 miles of trail include many bridges expertly built by our field staff. Another example of a bridge that is less visible but no less critical are those that we build between individuals, cultures and communities around the common goal of land stewardship. For example, though our work to restore the summit of Mount Umunhum, we connected with the Amah

Mutsun Tribal Council and soon discovered that our missions are closely aligned. As different as our organizations and organizational cultures are, we can easily share knowledge and values, and stitch together a shared vision for sustainability.

The health of our environment is entirely dependent on human beings' ability to build physical connections like the bridges, tunnels, swales, fords, and culverts that you see on the preserves and the social, cultural and even spiritual connections to the land. We are, each of us, holding up a small part of the bridge to a stronger, more resilient ecosystem in the future. We thank you for everything you do, every day, to strengthen and inspire connections with nature.


Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager



Volunteer Recognition Event, Cooley Landing, Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

Erin Ashford

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

Pete Siemens—Ward 1 (Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga) | Yoriko Kishimoto—Ward 2 (Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Stanford, Sunnyvale)
Jed Cyr—Ward 3 (Sunnyvale) | Curt Riffle—Ward 4 (Los Altos, Mountain View) | Nonette G. Hanko—Ward 5 (East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford)
Larry Hassett—Ward 6 (Atherton, Menlo Park, Pescadero, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Gregorio, Woodside)
Cecily Harris—Ward 7 (El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside)

Stephen E. Abbors—General Manager | Amanda Kim—Open Space Views Editor | Renée Fitzsimons—Outdoor Activities Editor

Outdoor Activities

WINTER 2016-2017 | December – January – February

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

To Ensure That Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review This Important 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.
- 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 or rental horses). Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for all horses, and helmets must be worn by all riders under age 18.
- Heavy rain within two days prior to a mountain bike or horseback ride cancels the activity.
- 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Monte Bello
Open Space Preserve



Karl Gohl

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. Heavy rain cancels the activity unless otherwise noted in the description. If there is light rain or the threat of rain, go to the meeting place.

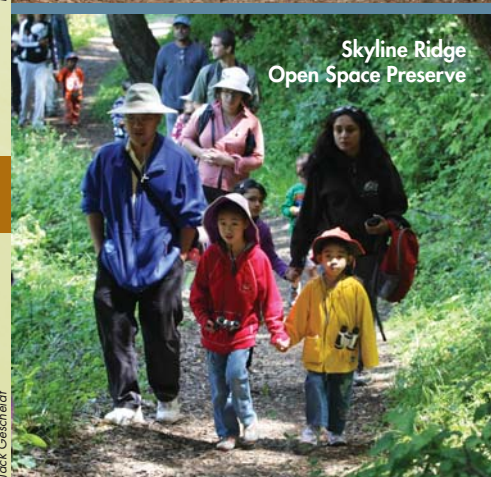
All activities are developed and led by docents who have completed a District training program. These docents volunteer their time to share their knowledge of nature with you. For more information about the volunteer docent program, visit the District's Web site at www.openspace.org, or phone the District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

Purisima Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserve



Karl Gohl

Skyline Ridge
Open Space Preserve



Jack Geschmidt

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: Rancho San Antonio
Open Space Preserve by Karl Gohl

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.

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

Meet at the Preserve parking lot located on the west side of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard), about 1-mile south of the Caltrans Skeggs Point parking area and 2.7 miles north of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 84.

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.

LONG RIDGE

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.



Helga Walker

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

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

North Ridge parking lot: This entrance is on Skyline Boulevard next to the now closed Kings Mountain Country Store. The parking lot is 4.5 miles south of Highway 92, and 8.1 miles north of Highway 84.

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

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.



Renee Fitzsimons

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

SARATOGA GAP

Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the southeast corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Highway 9 intersection.

SIERRA AZUL

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.



SIERRA AZUL (continued)

Lexington Reservoir Dam Meet at the County boat launch parking lot next to the Lexington Reservoir Dam. From southbound Highway 17, take the Bear Creek Road exit, cross over the highway, and go 0.4 miles north on Highway 17 to Alma Bridge Road. Follow Alma Bridge Rd. over the top of the dam. Continue beyond the dam as the road jogs to the right. Turn right into the parking lot just before the road veers to the left. A Santa Clara County Park parking fee may be in effect.

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.

ST. JOSEPH’S HILL

Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Highway 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to University Avenue. Turn left on University Ave. toward downtown Los Gatos. Turn left on Miles Avenue and proceed two blocks to the parking lot on the left for the Little League field.

STEVENS CREEK SHORELINE

Meet in the “Kite Area” parking lot at Shoreline-at-Mountain View Park. From Highway 101, take Shoreline Boulevard east to the Shoreline Park entrance. After passing the entrance kiosk, turn right into the parking lot. 



KEY TO SYMBOLS



Easy Hike: Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace.



Moderate Hike: Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Total elevation gain 200 to 600 feet. Leisurely to moderate pace.



Strenuous Hike: Steep hills and/or long distances. Total elevation gain greater than 600 feet. Moderate to vigorous pace.



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 or rental horses).



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.



Introductory Mountain Bike Ride: Outings include demonstration and practice emphasizing trail etiquette and techniques required for dirt riding followed by a 5- to 7-mile ride on fire roads and single-track trails, with occasional natural history stops. Riders should be in good physical condition to perform climbs and descents.



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.



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.

Winter Ponds and Vistas

Friday • December 2
Skyline Ridge • 4.7mi
10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Corinne Lipman and Lloyd Dickman to explore habitats ranging from riparian to forest on this moderately-paced hike. After a loop around Horseshoe Lake, you'll stop to enjoy your lunch along the Butano View Trail before continuing along the Sunny Jim Trail. You'll hike through mixed evergreen forest to Alpine Pond where you'll learn about the area history and visit a nearby native peoples grinding rock. The return route via the Ipiwa Trail will take you through open grassland and offers views of ridges rolling down to the Pacific Ocean.

California Buckeye in Autumn

Saturday • December 3
Monte Bello • 6mi
9:00am to 3:00pm



Explore the buckeye trees of Black Mountain with docents Mike Alexander and Jayita Bhojwani on a moderately-paced hike along, and adjacent to, the Bella Vista and Old Ranch Trails. You'll learn about this remarkable species' history, uses, and unique adaptations to California's climate. Having shed leaves in July, the trees are maturing their fruit, which typically falls in December. Returning to trees visited in July, you'll observe this key phase of the buckeye reproductive cycle. Tools in hand, you'll measure two large trees, and, if fruit has fallen, count and measure the seeds. This is the last in a series of seasonal hikes, each highlighting one of the buckeye's annual phases. Capable and engaged children 12 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 19.**



Purisma Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • December 3
Purisma Creek Redwoods • 5.3mi
Meet: Purisma Creek
Road entrance
10:30am to 3:30pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla and Sam Berry on the Purisma Creek, and Craig Britton Trails. This moderately-paced, 500-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children and has a downhill return. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 19.**

Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents John Seyfarth and Wesley Sawyer 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.

From Mindego to Borel

Tuesday • December 6
Russian Ridge • 9mi
10:00am to 3:30pm



Join Docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan on a fast-paced, strenuous hike into the newly opened Mindego Hill area. You'll hike to the top of an open pasture area where, if you're lucky, you may see a new form of 'wildlife' at Mindego Hill...cows. Weather permitting, you'll also enjoy great views of the Bay from the top of Borel Hill.

Explorer Hike: Hill and Dale

Wednesday • December 7
St. Joseph's Hill • 5mi
Meet: Little League Field
parking lot
10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy a leisurely-paced hike starting on the Los Gatos Creek Trail and continuing up to the Flume and Jones Trails with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Dennis Smith. An approximately 800-foot elevation gain will bring you from a lower riparian habitat up to woodland and chaparral habitats. You'll have time to observe and learn about what influences both flora and fauna as you move from one habitat to another.

Beyond Fitbit

Saturday • December 10
Purisma Creek Redwoods • 9mi
Meet: Purisma Creek
Road entrance
9:00am to 2:30pm



Technology and nature meet! You may double your daily step goal on this strenuous exercise-focused hike with docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Clive Merredew. You'll hike at a moderate pace below the towering coastal redwoods alongside beautiful Purisma Creek, then up the Craig Britton and Harkins Ridge Trails for a 1,200-foot elevation gain. After a trailside lunch, breathtaking ocean and mountain views will stretch before you on the downhill return along Whitemore 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 November 26.**



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • December 10

Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen, 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 November 26.



Renee Fitzsimons

The History of the Bear Creek Redwoods

Sunday • December 11

Bear Creek Redwoods • 2mi

Meet: See text below

10:00am to 12:00pm



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 Jesuit Priests. **(Note: Directions will be sent.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 27.

Signs of Winter

Tuesday • December 13

Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi

1:00pm to 4:00pm



Enjoy a moderately-paced hike with docents Liz Foreman, Denise Lawrence, and Mark Prusinowski as you explore the signs that winter is approaching. You'll see a variety of trees and bushes with berries as well as dusky-footed wood rat nests. There is a spectacular view from the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails will include several hills and uneven terrain.



John Green

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • December 14

Rancho San Antonio • 4 to 6mi

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.)**

Fleas Navidad

Saturday • December 17

Pulgas Ridge • 3mi

9:00am to 11:00am



Celebrate the beginning of the holidays by walking the dog and join your canine companions on a moderately-paced hike. The pups will enjoy smells along the Blue Oak, Hassler, and Polly Geraci Trails as docents Ann Reisenauer, Susan Bernhard and Patty Lovelace describe the natural surroundings. All dogs must be on leash. Please bring plastic bags for poop scooping. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after December 3.**

Early Winter at Long Ridge

Sunday • December 18

Long Ridge • 4.5mi

12:00pm to 4:00pm



You'll explore what early winter has to offer with docents Chris MacIntosh, Susan Bernhard, and Kathryn Strachota. Early rains may have fungi popping up, robins may be feasting on berries, and fall colors may linger. This exploration will loop along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails where you'll enjoy a view toward the ocean (fog permitting). This will be a moderately-paced hike with frequent stops, as well as steep sections. Suitable for capable children who enjoy hiking and are curious about nature.



Monte Bello Exploration

Sunday • December 11

Monte Bello • 6mi

10:00am to 2:30pm



Come stretch your legs on this exercise-focused excursion to the top of Black Mountain for scenic views across the Bay and over to the ocean. This moderately-strenuous hike includes 1,000 feet of elevation gain and takes you along the Canyon, Bella Vista, Old Ranch and Indian Creek Trails. Docents Wesley Sawyer and Nina Bell will guide you past the site of a 1970's commune, the San Andreas fault trace, and the Black Mountain backpacking camp. Bring your lunch and something to sit on.

Explorer Hike: Winged Winter Visitors

Wednesday • December 21
Ravenswood • 1.4mi
Meet: See text below
10:30am to 2:00pm



Spot migrating birds along the shore of the San Francisco Bay with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Lynn Jackson. Dowitchers, small sandpipers, willets, marbled godwits, and long-billed curlews may be among the visiting shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl you'll observe. Year-round residents, including American avocets, great blue herons, and egrets are likely to be present, too. You'll explore along the Bay Trail, in the northern section of this Preserve. Bring binoculars if you have them. **(Note: Directions will be sent.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after December 7.

A Road Less Traveled

Sunday • December 25
Skyline Ridge • 4mi
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00am to 12:30pm



Join docents Stephen Buckhout and Stella Yang on Christmas day for a short out-and-back hike on Old Page Mill Trail to explore a section of the former road to Page's Mill. You'll travel at a slow to moderate pace through mixed evergreen forest and chaparral with sandstone rock outcrops. If there's been winter rain, you may see some small waterfalls.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • December 28
Sierra Azul • 5mi
Meet: Northside lot – Free Limited Parking
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents 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: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of gain. Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

New Year's Eve Fun

Saturday • December 31
Monte Bello • 10mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:00am to 2:00pm



Want to have some extra fun before the New Year? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Ray Curiel, and Vivian Neou for a fast-paced aerobic hike through this Preserve. You'll travel through mixed woodland, chaparral, and grassland along the Water Wheel Creek, Bella Vista, Canyon, Stevens Creek Nature, and Indian Creek Trails. There will be spectacular views of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Santa Clara Valley along the way; you might even see the Bay Bridge if the day is clear. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

JANUARY

Healthy New Year Resolution

Sunday • January 1
Skyline Ridge • 11mi
10:00am to 3:00pm



If 'stay healthy' is one of your New Year's resolutions, you can start with a fast-paced aerobic hike through five preserves — Skyline Ridge, Monte Bello, Los Trancos, Coal Creek, and Russian Ridge. Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Ray Curiel, and Vivian Neou to explore and learn about different plant communities in the winter. You'll enjoy beautiful views of the Bay Area from the top of Borel Hill and you may even be able to spot snow-capped sierra peaks on a clear day.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • January 1
Los Trancos • 2-3mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Paul Billig and Theresa Walterskirchen and please see the activity description for December 4.



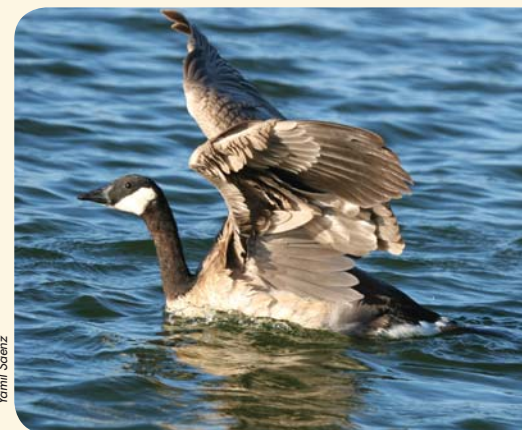
Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Bayland Birds Up Close

Monday • January 2
Stevens Creek Shoreline
Nature Study Area • 3mi
10:30am to 2:00pm



Join docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel on this family friendly mid-morning walk along the Stevens Creek and Bay Trails. San Francisco Bay can be dense with various migrating and over-wintering birds in and near former salt ponds, tidal marshes, bayland shrubs, and the terminus of Stevens Creek. You'll likely see a variety of shore and water birds, perching birds, and raptors. High tide should occur toward the end of the activity bringing shorebirds and ducks into closer viewing range. Bring binoculars if you have them; docents will have a few extra pairs and will bring a spotting scope. Capable children 6 years and older, and all levels of birdwatchers are welcome.



Yamif Szanz

Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area

Explorer Hike: A View from the Top

Wednesday • January 4
Monte Bello • 5-6mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



You'll explore the changes in the landscape as the Santa Cruz Mountains begin preparation for the spring with docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin. You'll see early budding and flowering plants, and active bird life as you climb 600 feet on the Bella Vista Trail to the summit of Black Mountain for a lunch stop with a 360 degree view of the greater Bay Area. On this leisurely-paced, but moderately-strenuous hike, you'll travel through mixed habitats of grasslands and woods, and enjoy the headwaters of Stevens Creek along the Nature Trail.

View from the Ridge

Saturday • January 7

Long Ridge • 5mi

10:30am to 3:30pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Steve Brugler to explore what this Preserve has to offer. You can expect to see newts along the lush Peters Creek Trail and enjoy a tranquil pond, green forests, ridges, and grasslands. You'll stop for an ocean view at the Wallace Stegner memorial bench. This moderately-paced hike is suitable for capable children.

The History of the Bear Creek Redwoods

Sunday • January 8

Bear Creek Redwoods • 2mi

Meet: See text below

10:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Jenny Whitman and Nina Bell and please see the activity description for December 11. (Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after December 25.



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Fungal Fun

Sunday • January 8

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 7mi

Meet: North Ridge parking lot

9:00am to 4:00pm



Fungus, mushroom – what's in a name? Slimy brown blobs, aren't they? How about red, yellow, or white; underfoot or overhead; tall and thin or short and wide? Join docents Chris MacIntosh, Paul Billig, and Cathy Brown to hike up and down trails in different environments as you train your eyes to notice the sometimes camouflaged, but always fascinating fungi that flourish in winter. You'll enjoy the variety of size, shape, and growth habits on this non-technical fungus appreciation hike on the North Ridge, Whittemore Gulch, and Harkins Ridge Trails. The rain (or lack of) will determine what is seen. Bring lunch, stamina, and your curiosity for this moderately-strenuous hike.



Nature's Garden

Tuesday • January 10

Monte Bello • 4mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Vivian Neou and Gordon Ferguson will lead this leisurely-paced hike along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails to look at nature's garden. You'll see which wildflowers span the seasons, search for newts in the creek, and discuss how various native plants might fit into your own garden landscape. This hike is offered at least once each season to provide an opportunity to see how plants change throughout the year.

Signs of Winter

Tuesday • January 10

Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi

1:00pm to 4:00pm



Enjoy an afternoon hike with docents Liz Foreman and John Seyfarth and please see the activity description for December 13.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • January 11

Saratoga Gap • 4 to 6mi

Meet: Caltrans vista point

10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for December 14. (Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)

Scouting for Nature's Winter Buffet

Wednesday • January 11

Sierra Azul • 5.2mi

Meet: Lexington Reservoir Dam

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Corinne Lipman, Tara Lee, and Lloyd Dickman to explore the District's largest Preserve in winter. While quite hot at many times of the year, winter is a perfect time to visit here. You'll have an opportunity to look for early flowering native plants that provide a buffet for birds and other critters. A lunch stop is included, but you'll have to bring your own lunch as the berries are reserved for the birds! The route for this hike will follow the Limekiln Trail and cross a creek that drains into Limekiln Canyon, named after the furnaces that operated in the canyon to turn limestone to lime for about 80 years before ending in the 1930s.

Tafoni Trek

Saturday • January 14

El Corte de Madera Creek • 5mi

Meet: Skeggs point

9:30am to 2:00pm



Take a break from seasonal activities and get outside with docents Sarah Schoen and Alisa Stutzbach to explore this wooded Preserve along the El Corte de Madera Creek, Fir, and Resolution Trails. You'll enjoy learning about tafoni sandstone formations and a variety of other natural wonders on this moderately-paced hike.



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • January 14

Los Trancos • 2.5mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Debbie Mytels and Naureen Moon, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor and please see the activity description for December 10. **(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 December 31.

Discover the Interior

Tuesday • January 17

Rancho San Antonio • 9mi

10:00am to 3:30pm



Join docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan on a fast-paced, strenuous journey into the interior of this Preserve. You'll ascend the Coyote and Wild Cat Trails up to the Upper High Meadow Trail. From an elevated vantage you may catch a glimpse of the Bay before descending on the Upper Rogue Valley trail.



Georgia Sigel

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Winter in La Honda

Wednesday • January 18

La Honda Creek • 4mi

Meet: See text below

10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson as you take the high road into the redwoods. You'll experience a winter day as you explore the grasslands and forests, including a visit to an old growth redwood tree. Bring a picnic to enjoy lunch with an expansive view overlooking the Preserve and out toward the coast. This moderately-paced hike includes a 400-foot elevation change. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 4.**

Mid-Week Workout

Thursday • January 19

Windy Hill • 8.5mi

Meet: See text below

9:00am to 2:30pm



Join docents Clive Merredew and Marie-Anne Neimat for a vigorous mid-week hike. You'll start on Eagle Trail alongside Corte Madera Creek before climbing 1,200 feet on the densely wooded Razorback Ridge Trail. You'll walk through chaparral on the Lost Trail and stop for a lunch break before descending on Hamms Gulch Trail in the shade of old Douglas Fir trees. **(Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 5.**

Winter Ride

Saturday • January 21

Fremont Older • 12mi

9:45am to 12:00pm



Enjoy a winter mountain bike ride and learn the history of this Preserve on an intermediate-level excursion 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. Dress in layers, weather can vary. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking). Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 7.**

Skyline Ridge: Past and Present

Monday • January 23

Skyline Ridge • 4 - 5mi

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00am to 1:00pm



Enjoy the beauty of this Preserve while learning about its history; the Native Americans, the first European settlers, and finally, transformation to an open space preserve. You'll hike the Ipiwa, Sunny Jim, and Horseshoe Lake Loop Trails with stops at Alpine Pond and Horseshoe Lake to view the ponds in winter. Along the way will be sweeping views of Butano Ridge and the Pacific Ocean. Docents Wesley Sawyer and Nina Bell will be your guides on this moderate hike with 500 feet of elevation gain.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • January 25

Pulgas Ridge • 5.5mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for December 28. **(Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of gain.)**

Chinese New Year Celebration

Saturday • January 28

El Corte de Madera Creek • 10mi

9:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin, Ray Curiel, and Vivian Neou to celebrate the year of the Rooster. You'll explore this beautiful and heavily-forested Preserve along Oljon, Steam Donkey, Gordon Mill, Timberview, Giant Salamander, and Fir Trails. After visiting an old growth redwood tree and a 30+% grade (steep) climb along the Fir Trail, you'll enjoy lunch from a scenic spot at a picnic table. This fast-paced aerobic workout includes 2,000-feet of elevation gain.

Up and Over: To Borel Hill and Alpine Pond

Saturday • January 28

Russian Ridge • 3mi

10:30am to 1:30pm



Join docents Susan Bernhard and Ann Reisenauer on a moderately-paced hike that starts at Russian Ridge Preserve and ends at the Daniels Nature Center. As you climb up Borel Hill, you'll listen for over-wintering birds, look for evidence of pocket gophers and coyotes, and spot early signs of spring. Views from the hilltop are amazing. After your snack or lunch, you'll explore the edges of Alpine Pond and visit the Daniels Nature Center. Interested, attentive children are welcome.



Diane Dely

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

**Explorer Hike:
Winter Waterfowl**

Wednesday • February 1
Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature
Study Area • 4.5mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Embark on a birding expedition with docents Kate Gudmundson, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Laura Levin to look for waterfowl and other birds visiting the San Francisco Bay as they migrate along the Pacific Flyway. You'll enjoy salt air and bay views as you leisurely meander the Levee and Bay Trails, and other adjoining trails. You'll search a variety of habitats along Stevens Creek, salt ponds, a tidal marsh, and sloughs in your quest for sighting of feathered friends from near and far.

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • February 4
Los Trancos • 2.5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Kim Borick and Debbie Mytels, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor and please the activity description for December 10. **(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 January 21.

Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • February 4
Picchetti Ranch • 5mi
10:30am to 3:00pm



Join docents Bob Segalla, Jayita Bhojwani, Greg Azevedo, and Steve Brugler to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home and discover if the 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 moderately-paced hike with a couple of 200-foot climbs. A visit to the Picchetti Winery for tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Fungal Fun

Sunday • February 5
Purissima Creek Redwoods • 7mi
Meet: North Ridge parking lot
9:00am to 4:00pm



Join docents Chris MacIntosh, Emma Finter, and Lynn Jackson and please see the activity description for January 8.

The History of Bear Creek Redwoods

Sunday • February 5
Bear Creek Redwoods • 2mi
Meet: See text below
10:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Jenny Whitman and Nina Bell and please see the activity description for December 11. **(Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 22.**



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents Strether Smith and Huey-Shin Yuan and please see the activity description for December 4.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • February 8
Fremont Older • 4 to 6mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for December 14. **(Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)**

Looking for Clues in Nature

Saturday • February 11
Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi
10:00am to 12:00pm



On a leisurely walk along the Zinfandel Trail, docents Debbie Mytels and Alisa Stutzbach will show you clues that open the door to understanding more about history and natural processes in this beautiful Preserve. Why are these trees the same distance apart? Why is the air suddenly cooler here? You'll also see clues to human history and the behavior of water and rocks along this hike through sun and shade.

Surprising Facts about Trees

Sunday • February 12
Monte Bello • 3 mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:30am to 12:30pm



You know that trees provide oxygen and shade, but you may not realize how vital they are to birds, insects, and the overall health of the planet. Learn the survival strategies of various trees on a leisurely walk with 200-400 feet of elevation change. Docents Maureen Draper and Steve Brugler will guide you along the Waterwheel Creek Trail. As you walk these old ranch roads on the North American plate you'll have sweeping views of the San Andreas fault to Mt. Umunhum and Loma Prieta, as well as views along Skyline Ridge from the Pacific plate. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**



Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Outdoor Activities Winter 2016-2017



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve by Oksana Baumert

Explorer Hike: Birds on the Wing

Wednesday • February 15
Russian Ridge • 4-5mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Late winter is the time to see migratory birds and enjoy the mating rituals of local raptors. You'll scan the woods and skies with docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin as you learn how birds select and defend territories, and carry out their mating rituals. If your neck starts to ache from looking up, you'll look down at various species of early-blooming wildflowers. This leisurely-paced, but moderately-strenuous hike will climb about 400 feet following the Ridge and Hawk Ridge Trails.

Family Holiday Hike

Monday • February 20
Pulgas Ridge • 3mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Spend Presidents' Day exploring this Preserve with docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel. You'll be on the hunt for early blooming fetid adder's tongue and hear about its fascinating reproductive strategies. In addition you might see milkmaids, Indian warrior, and hounds tongue in bloom. You'll walk along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, Hassler, and Polly Geraci Trails with an elevation gain of about 300 feet. Capable children 6 years and older are welcome.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • February 22
Edgewood County Park • 5.5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm




Please see the activity description for December 28. (**Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of gain.**)

Signs of Spring

Tuesday • February 28
Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi
1:00pm to 4:00pm



Enjoy an afternoon hike with docents Liz Foreman and Nina Bell to explore signs that spring is approaching. Early blooming wildflowers may be observed as well as a variety of trees and shrubs. Depending on recent rainfall, there may be mushrooms to view too. The top of the ridge provides a panoramic view of the surrounding hills. This will be a moderately-paced hike with several hills and uneven terrain. 



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Renée Fitzsimons

This winter before heading out on the trails, be sure to check the District's Trail Conditions page at openspace.org/visit-a-preserve/trail-conditions for a complete listing of trail conditions, temporary or seasonal trail closures, and periodic updates, or call the Trail Conditions Hotline at 650-691-2150 (enter Option 3) or the District office at 650-691-1200.

WINTER WISDOM: Trail Use and Conditions

Decisions to close trails are based on current and predicted weather conditions. When visiting the preserves this winter, or any time of the year, please look for posted trail closure signs and comply with all closures.


The District is concerned about visitor safety and potential resource damage to trails during the rainy time of year. Seasonally there are certain trails closed to equestrian and bicycle use during wet conditions. Any newly constructed trails are always closed to both types of riding for the trail's first winter. Some trails may be re-opened if there is enough dry weather between storms. Occasionally,

seasonal trail closures affect all uses. It is important to remember that during the winter storm season, high waters can make creek crossings hazardous, so plan any outing accordingly.

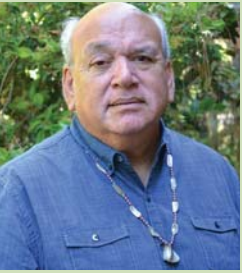


Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Renée Fitzsimons

Emergency closures may take place at any time as conditions require, and trails may also be temporarily closed throughout the year due to construction or resource conservation projects. Although visitors may not be able to ride a favorite trail for a few months, cooperation is needed to keep people safe, prevent damage to natural resources, and to maintain the trails in good condition. 

LIVING WITH THE LAND: Restoring the Land and Native Traditions



We have to take care of Mother Earth and all living things in a loving way; the same way we love our children, our mothers, our fathers.

— Valentin Lopez, chairperson of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

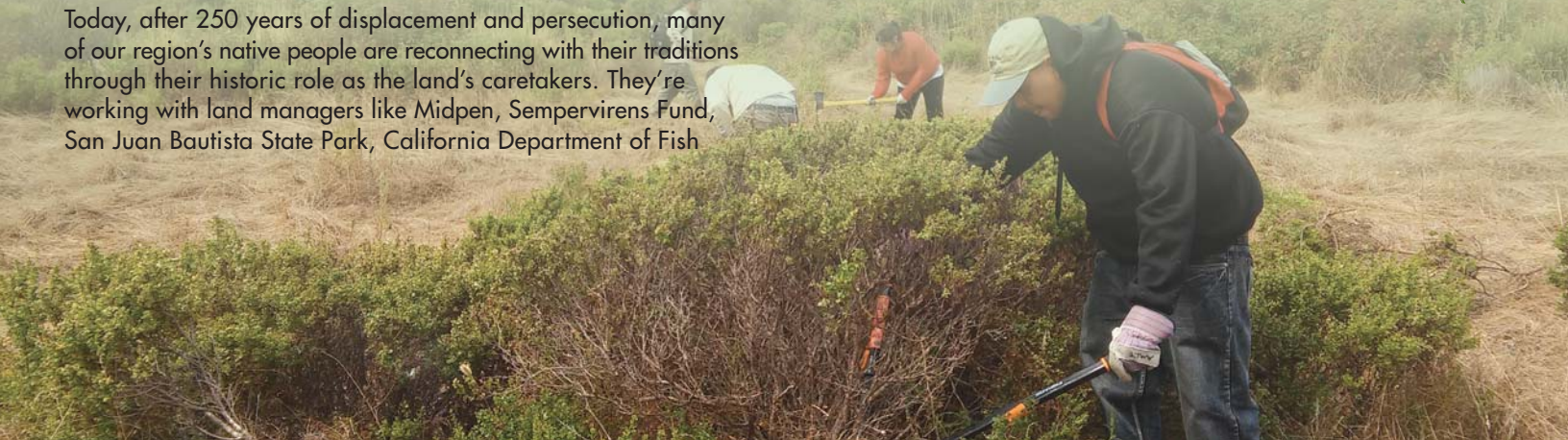
Prior to contact with European explorers, Santa Clara Valley was home to one of the largest indigenous population centers in North America, with over 70 thriving tribal units. Through sophisticated land stewardship techniques like burning, sowing and selective harvesting, the land's first caretakers increased the region's biodiversity, creating an abundance that supported both people and wildlife.

In our region's indigenous creation story — which began at the summit of Mount Umunhum in **Sierra Azul** — human beings were created with the responsibility to care for all living things. "Our ancestors made sure there was enough food for the four-legged, the finned and the winged relatives," said Valentin Lopez, chairperson of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band.

Today, after 250 years of displacement and persecution, many of our region's native people are reconnecting with their traditions through their historic role as the land's caretakers. They're working with land managers like Midpen, Sempervirens Fund, San Juan Bautista State Park, California Department of Fish

and Wildlife, Año Nuevo State Park and the Bureau of Land Management to improve the health of the land and promote healthy relationships with the land.

In addition to land stewardship, ethnobotany and archaeology — public education is an important part of the Amah Mutsun's efforts to return to the path of their ancestors. Recently, while talking to fourth-graders at Pescadero Elementary School, a child asked Lopez how they could help. "Study what plants are important for butterflies, hummingbirds and bees," answered Lopez. "Plant those in your yard and start taking care of them. Talk to those plants. Whenever the butterflies come, talk to the butterflies. Pray that they are healthy and thank Creator for bringing them to you. That's the kind of relationship we should have with all things." 🌿



Gordon Seitz and student assess sediment layers and tag samples for radiocarbon dating

Nathan Barrett

ON THE PRESERVES: Searching the Soil for Evidence of Past Big Quakes

Researchers of all backgrounds come to Midpen preserves to conduct research in disciplines ranging from archaeology to zoology. This fall, geologists arrived at

Monte Bello in search of evidence of past large earthquakes on the San Andreas Fault. Using "lidar" (light radar) technology, geologist Gordon Seitz of the California Geological Survey identified a location in **Monte Bello** with the specific conditions needed for his paleoseismic research project. At this specific spot, the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 ruptured the surface and shifted the earth approximately 10 feet. For their study, Seitz and his team dug two trenches near the Canyon Trail to expose earthquake-deformed sediment and are using radiocarbon dating to create an earthquake record of the last 500-1,000 years! This data will help researchers better understand past activity on the San Andreas Fault and better assess future seismic hazards. 🌿



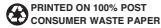
Ranger Patrol Trucks Equipped with AEDs

Automatic External Defibrillators are now on all of Midpen's emergency response vehicles, thanks to a partial grant from Palo Alto-based nonprofit Racing Hearts, which helps local agencies and organizations purchase this life-saving equipment. District rangers respond to over 150 medical calls and accidents a year. 🌿



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California 94022-1404
Phone: 650-691-1200 • Fax: 650-691-0485
E-mail: info@openspace.org
Web site: www.openspace.org



PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #810
Oakland, CA

Return Service
Requested

Visit us on our web site for Outdoor Activities,
preserve maps, volunteer opportunities and more.

Visit Us Online



Green Bonds Save Residents Millions

On September 8, 2016, Midpen sold approximately \$57.5 million in green bonds to refinance existing bond debt. Taking advantage of today's very low interest rates, the financing resulted in \$15.7 million in debt cost savings, which will allow Midpen to pay off the bonds three years early.

For the first time in the District's history, the bonds were sold as green bonds, a relatively new category in the municipal bond market that supports environmentally beneficial purposes. In another first, the bonds were made available to the local retail market, with residents of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties purchasing 15 percent of the bonds.

On August 18, 2016, the District received AAA credit ratings from both Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's. 🌱

Karl Gohl

Volunteer Appreciation

On September 21, 2016, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz delivered a rousing speech at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Event. By popular demand, an excerpt is provided below.

"I want to express to all of you how fortunate we are to have such a brilliant and dedicated crew of volunteers — working daily to fulfill our shared mission to preserve open space, restore habitat and introduce people to their great outdoors."

"Today, we celebrate your achievements here at **Ravenswood** and Cooley Landing. This location has had many eras and tells the story of our society's changing relationship with nature. Once a fishing landing for native Californians, this site has since been a ranch, a dump, a dredge and an EPA Superfund site, and today, through community will has been transformed into a public park offering sweeping views of the bay and serving as an important gateway to connect people, including families and children, to nature."

"Our region's protected natural areas are astoundingly beautiful and provide us with much needed 'room to breathe.' I grew up in Southern California and, as a child, I did not have the benefit of enjoying these spaces so close to home. I value the importance of

what we do, I am passionate for the work, and I am passionate for the work you all accomplish as volunteers and as docents. What we do is important, it is lasting, it is meaningful to ourselves, and it is meaningful to the people that we help connect to these amazing natural landscapes."

"The transformation here at Cooley Landing has been remarkable, thanks to people like you who — when seeing an opportunity to make our community a better place to live — put hearts, minds and bodies into that work. Each and every one of you has not only created a healthier, more thriving region, you have brought joy into the lives of millions who, with your help and guidance, are able to enjoy these wonderful open spaces, tranquil forests, open grasslands, clean wetlands, miles of trail, healthy nature, and bayland vistas. Thank you for everything you do, every day, to create a better today and a brighter tomorrow." 🌱



Erin Ashford

Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager,
speaking at the Volunteer Recognition
Event at Cooley Landing, Ravenswood
Open Space Preserve