



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

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2017

Mount Umunhum Timeline



8,000 BCE–1770s:
Native Americans
inhabited the
region and cared
for the land

1850s: Hunters,
sawyers, and
explorers looking
for mineral
resources explore
the region
extensively



1957–1980: The
Almaden Air Force
Station in operation,
with the mission of
defending California
skies and shores
during the Cold War

1986: District
purchases 43-acre
summit



2009: 3.2 million
in Federal funding
obtained to clean up
hazardous materials
from former Air
Force Station



2012: Clean up
and remediation
work completed

2014: Bald
Mountain Parking
and Trail Area
completed

2016: The mountain
is recontoured to a
more natural state



September 2017:
Mount Umunhum
Public Grand
Opening



Revealing Mount Umunhum

Those who have gazed up at Mount Umunhum for decades can visit this site starting in mid-September when it becomes one of the Bay Area's great, publicly accessible peaks. Thank you for shaping an ambitious plan for public access to the summit, and passing Measure AA, allowing us to deliver your vision of a restored mountaintop and miles of new trail as promised.

World-class views are an undeniable centerpiece of the summit experience. Weather shelters and pathways being built right now are unobtrusively situated in the landscape to, "Reveal the views in a way that is absolutely astounding," said Midpen's Senior Planner Meredith Manning.

In the course of transforming this narrow mountaintop at nearly 3,500 feet into a nature destination for people from all walks of life to enjoy, we've discovered more than views. "The mountain is revealing itself to us," Manning said.

Mount Umunhum's rich stories steeped in Native American culture, the Cold War,

and the natural history of the Santa Cruz Mountains will be shared with visitors through educational and interpretive opportunities. A ceremonial circle at the summit allows Native Americans to dance and pray at this sacred site for the first time in centuries. Air Force veterans who lived and served atop Mount Umunhum share their personal experiences.

Iridescent swallows called purple martins, thought to no longer nest in Santa Clara County, successfully breed near the summit and perform aerial acrobatics as they feed on flying insects. Rare wildflowers adapted to the mountain's unique serpentine geology bloom, inviting the hummingbirds and specialized butterflies that pollinate them.

Mount Umunhum's next chapter is one of life-sustaining regeneration. This fall, pack a water bottle, leave the dog at home, and discover what Mount Umunhum's breathtaking views, diverse trail experiences, fascinating history, and rich biodiversity reveal to you. 🦋



Mount Umunhum Public Grand Opening Event

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve | September 16-17, 2017

Reservations will be required. For more information visit: mountumunhum.org

A Message from the General Manager

Midpen's Gift to the People

Mountaintops have always beckoned people. They figure literally and metaphorically in art, culture, and religion around the world. Mount Umunhum, which we are hard at work restoring and preparing to open to the public this fall, is no exception.

This mountain is central to the creation story of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, who have lived near it for thousands of years. The mercury mines near its eastern slopes are the setting for Wallace Stegner's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel "Angle of Repose". And the US Air Force found the lofty peak a strategic place from which to protect our country during the Cold War.

To protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment are tenets of Midpen's mission, and that is exactly what we're doing atop Mount Umunhum. We're working to permanently protect the summit as part of an intact greenbelt of undeveloped, natural open space that is our region's essential life support system. We have restored the peak by removing buildings and contaminants, recontoured the once-leveled ridge to more closely reflect its original shape, and are reestablishing the native flora. The mountain's incredible geology, plants, and animals have been an ongoing source of surprise and delight for us during the restoration process, and the carefully crafted amenities under construction right now will allow the public to experience these natural wonders too.

One element already complete at the summit is a ceremonial circle, suggested by the Amah Mutsun as a place to dance, pray, and bring all people together. It is a low, circular rock wall 60-feet in diameter made by hand using stones from a nearby quarry. It is elemental, functional, and enduring while providing a space for people from all walks of life to find their own meaningful experiences and connections on the mountain. In this way, it exemplifies the goal of public access to Mount Umunhum.

Like mountains, circles are also universal symbols. In the process of protecting and restoring this peak, we're coming full-circle on a 10,000-year arc of human history. This project has been mountainous in so many ways, and we are thrilled to be returning Mount Umunhum to you this fall, permanently protected with ecological restoration well underway, as Midpen's gift to the Bay Area for generations to come.



Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager

Top photo: View from Mount Umunhum by Jack Gescheidt
Ceremonial Circle Atop Mount Umunhum photo by Midpen Staff

Mount Umunhum Sneak Peek on "OPENROAD"



This spring, District staff hosted Doug McConnell and the crew of NBC's *OpenRoad*, on the summit of Mount Umunhum for an opportunity to get a glimpse of Midpen's amazing progress of the sacred peak. Joining Doug and his crew was Steve Abbors, General Manager, Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager, Damon Adlao, Project Manager, and Valentin Lopez, Chairperson of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. They shared their excitement about the work that's been done on the project and provided a sneak peek of construction of the facilities and trail. Stay tuned to *OpenRoad* at 6:30pm on NBC, the episode will air in June. 🌿

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)
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Stephen E. Abbors—General Manager | Peggy Gibbons—Open Space Views Editor | Renée Fitzsimons—Outdoor Activities Editor

Outdoor Activities

SUMMER 2017 | June – July – August

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; 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. 🌿

Monte Bello
Open Space
Preserve



Karl Gohl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Jack Gescheidt

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 a 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 drinking water with you. Water is not available on preserves.
- Bring sun protection (hat, sunscreen) and consider insect repellent.
- Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in some locations.

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve



Frances Freyberg

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.

BEAR CREEK REDWOODS

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.

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.

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.



Karl Gehl

Rancho San Antonio 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.



Jack Gerschmidt

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

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.



Frank Crossman

La Honda Open Space Preserve



Deanne Little

Thornewood 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.

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.

THORNEWOOD

From I-280, take the Highway 84/Woodside Road exit. Follow Highway 84/Woodside Road through Woodside and then to a junction with Portola Road at 3.3 miles. Bear right to stay on Highway 84, now La Honda Road. At 4.9 miles from Highway 280, turn left at a brick wall marked 895-897; look for the District sign just inside this gate. The small parking area is on the right about 500 feet from the entrance gate. Please do not drive beyond this lot toward the private residences.

Alternatively, from the junction of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard) and Highway 84 in Sky Linda, take Highway 84/La Honda Road north 1.9 miles and turn right at the brick wall marked 895-897.

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. 🌿



Robert Evans

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

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).



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. Visit www.hphpbayarea.org.

JUNE

In the Glow of the Night

Saturday • June 3
Monte Bello • 4.5 mi
5:45pm to 11:00pm



Discover night's natural wonders with docents Debby Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Paul Billig. You'll hike at a leisurely to moderate pace along the Canyon and Indian Creek Trails with extended stops for interesting sights and sounds. Bring a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it, your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome.

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 20.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 3 and 4
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



A summer outing awaits you...bring family and friends to visit the Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this summer between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy an audio nature tour hike (listening devices are available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, observe live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with the assistance of a docent, or enjoy a picnic with your companions on nearby tables (pack out your own trash please).

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • June 4
Los Trancos • 2 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Paul Billig and Mary Jo Colton 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

From Caterpillar to Butterfly

Monday • June 5
Picchetti Ranch • 1 mi
10:00am to 12:00pm



You and your preschool child will experience the wonders of the butterfly world! Join docents Alisa Stutzbach and Gerri Tiernan for this gentle introduction to nature. You'll search for butterflies and caterpillars along the Zinfandel Trail and hear the story of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," followed by a simple butterfly game. Bring a snack. Suitable for very young children. Trail-ready strollers are welcome.



Russian Ridge End-to-End

Tuesday • June 6
Russian Ridge • 8 mi
10:00am to 2:30pm



Join docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan for a romp from one end of this Preserve to the northernmost section. Weather permitting you'll see a wonderful view of the Bay from Borel Hill and glimpse an actual operating windmill. You'll learn the answer to the question, who was Borel?

Explorer Hike: Natural Wonders

Wednesday • June 7
Windy Hill • 4.5 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy searching for late spring wildflowers and other natural wonders with docents Lynn Jackson and Kate Gudmundson. A leisurely-paced stroll will take you along the Spring Ridge, Meadow, Betsy Crowder, and Eagle Trails. Along the way you'll view Sausal Pond and follow a portion of lovely Corte Madera Creek.

Spring Into Summer

Wednesday • June 7
Monte Bello • 6.5 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Judy Sencenbaugh and Marie-Anne Neimat on a moderately-paced hike to explore Monte Bello (Italian for "beautiful mountain") before the summer heat returns. Learn about the Preserve's early inhabitants and enjoy awe-inspiring views in an area of abundant wildlife and ecological diversity. You'll descend along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail through mixed evergreen forests and riparian areas, and then ascend to Black Mountain via Canyon, scenic Bella Vista, and Old Ranch Trails to a shady location for lunch with a beautiful view. On your return route you'll stop by a sag pond and learn about its formation.



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Black Mountain History Ride

Saturday • June 10
Monte Bello • 23 mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:15am to 12:45pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner for an advanced 3,000-foot elevation climbing (paved road and off road) mountain bike ride and learn the history of the Black Mountain area. The ride leaves Picchetti Ranch Preserve parking lot at 9:15am with Linda; faster riders have the option to leave at 9:30am with Glenn. Each group will start out with a 5-mile climb up the paved Montebello Road and then regroup at the top to enter the Preserve. Experience with longer rides, fire roads, and single-track trails is required. You'll enjoy riding along the Bella Vista, White Oaks, and Stevens Canyon Trails with great views. Bring power snacks and ample drinking water. **(Note: A portion of this ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic.)**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 10 and 11
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.



Christopher Hunter

Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Signs of Summer

Tuesday • June 13

Pulgas Ridge • 4.25 mi

9:00am to 12:00pm



Enjoy a summer hike viewing a variety of oak trees, wildflowers, and shrubs with berries. Join docents Liz Foreman and Ann Reisenauer to explore the plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, Dusky-footed Woodrat, and Cordilleras Trails. Enjoy a scenic view from the top of the ridge on this moderately-paced hike that includes some hilly and uneven terrain.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • June 14

Rancho San Antonio • 4-6 mi

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.)**

History and Nature

Friday • June 16

Picchetti Ranch • 4.5 mi

10:30am to 1:30pm



Join docents Gerri Tiernan, Jayita Bhojwani, and Alisa Stutzbach to learn a little history, explore a seasonal pond, and enjoy a lovely view on a moderately-paced hike along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails. You'll hike into adjoining Stevens Creek County Park for a brief lunch stop at picnic tables. A visit to historic Picchetti Winery (on your own) is an option at hike's end.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

June 17 and 18

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Explorer Hike: Forest, Meadows, and Views

Wednesday • June 21

La Honda Creek • 3 mi

Meet: See text below

10:30am to 2:30pm



You'll join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson to traverse a mixed evergreen forest, admire a huge redwood tree, wander through open meadows, and lunch with hilltop views of the Pacific Ocean. You'll help spot and identify a host of flowering plants and shrubs, and with luck, see some charismatic birds and mammals on this leisurely hike with minimal elevation change. **(Note: Directions will be sent.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 7.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

June 24 and 25

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Waterwheel Downhill

Sunday • June 25

Monte Bello • 17 mi

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace for a high-intermediate mountain bike ride on fun trails with outstanding views. You'll carpool from the meeting location to the beautiful Waterwheel Creek Trail and ride most of the single-track and fire roads in Monte Bello Preserve before heading out to Stevens Canyon Road and back to your carpool location. The route is mostly downhill (about a 2,200-foot net descent), but riders will climb more than 1,700 feet along the way. **(Note: A portion of this ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 11.



Introductory Geocaching Hike

Sunday • June 25

Bear Creek Redwoods • 2 mi

Meet: See text below

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Jenny Whitman and Debbie Mytels, 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: Directions will be sent. 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 June 11.

Search for the Everlasting

Sunday • June 25

Picchetti Ranch • 4 mi

10:00am to 2:30pm



Join docents Bob Segalla, Greg Azevedo, and Steve Brugler to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home. You'll discover if the cudweed plant (sometimes called everlasting) smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view awaits 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 Picchetti Winery is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • June 28

El Corte de Madera Creek • 6 mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Mary Brunkhorst for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike on trails with beautiful scenery. "Scenic Aerobic" hikes are offered at different preserves on the 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.)**

Peaceful and Quiet

Friday • June 30

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5 mi

9:30am to 1:30pm



Enjoy this out-and-back leisurely-paced walk with docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi. The shade of the redwoods and the sound of nearby Purisima Creek will provide you with a renewed appreciation of just how important and valuable the open spaces are for getting away from noise and congestion. You'll climb about 500 feet along the Purisima Creek Trail. Docents will provide logging history of the Preserve as well as point out some of the plants and wildflowers you'll encounter. You might even see a banana slug or two!

JULY

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 1 and 2

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • July 2

Los Trancos • 2-3 mi

10:00am to 12:30pm



Join docents John Seyfarth and Wesley Sawyer, and please see the activity description for June 4.

Start The Week Right: What's in a Name?

Monday • July 3

Skyline Ridge • 4.5 mi

9:30am to 1:00pm



Ever wonder why a trail has the name it has? You'll learn the meaning behind the monikers as you make your way over the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails, past Lambert Trail, and along both Alpine Loop and Horseshoe Loop Trails. Join docents Nina Bell and Wesley Sawyer on this moderately-paced hike with 400-foot elevation gain. Inviting picnic tables near the hike's end will be a perfect place to stop for a little lunch under the shade of the oaks.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 8 and 9

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



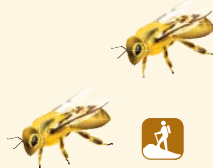
Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Signs of Summer

Tuesday • July 11

Pulgas Ridge • 4.25 mi

9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Lina Mesa, and please see the activity description for June 13.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • July 12

Saratoga Gap • 4-6 mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 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.)**

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • July 15

Skyline Ridge • 2.5 mi

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen and Jayita Bhojwani, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for June 25. **(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 July 1.**

Redwood Summer Hike

Saturday • July 15

El Corte de Madera Creek • 6.5 mi

10:00am to 3:30pm



Take a break from the summer valley heat and make your way to the redwood trees that are often covered in cool fog when the Bay Area is sweltering. Join docents Paul Billig and Gerri Tiernan to explore the forest in this popular Preserve. The hike will include over 1,000 feet of elevation gain along Gordon Mill, Manzanita, Sierra Morena, and Timberview Trails.



Judd Volino

El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 15 and 16

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Two Ponds, a Hill, and a Farm

Tuesday • July 18

Skyline Ridge • 9 mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan for a hike in two preserves, exploring from Horseshoe Lake to Alpine Pond. You'll travel through a Christmas tree farm in Skyline Ridge Preserve and on to sample Russian Ridge Preserve with a quick view of the Bay from Borel Hill. This will be a fast-paced hike along the Ipiwa, Butano View, Sunny Jim, Fir Knoll, and Ridge Trails.

Explorer Hike: Redwood Ramble

Wednesday • July 19

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5 mi

10:30am to 2:30pm



Visit the beautiful redwoods and lush creekside vegetation of the lower portion of Purisima Creek Trail with docents Lynn Jackson and Kate Gudmundson. You'll enjoy a moderately-paced hike observing second growth redwood and learning about the logging history of the area. Your lunch stop will be creekside along the Craig Britton Trail. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 5.**

Shady Side of Windy Hill

Thursday • July 20

Windy Hill • 8.5 mi

Meet: See text below

9:00am to 2:30pm



Escape the summer heat in the shade of old trees. Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Clive Merredew for a moderately-paced hike that will 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 while enjoying beautiful views of the Bay and stop for a lunch break before descending on Hamms Gulch Trail beneath ancient Douglas fir trees. **(Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 6.**



Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Renée Fitzmons

Looking for Clues in Nature

Saturday • July 22
Picchetti Ranch • 2.5 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



On this walk along the Zinfandel Trail, docents Debbie Mytels and Mary Jo Colton will identify clues that open the door to understanding more about history and natural processes at work in this beautiful Preserve. Why are these trees the same distance apart? Why is the air suddenly cooler here? You'll see clues to human history and the behavior of water and rocks along this leisurely-paced hike through sun and shade. A visit to Picchetti Winery for tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Moth Night

Saturday • July 22
Monte Bello • 0 mi
8:15pm to 12:00am



The 6th annual National Moth Week is July 22-30. Join docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Sara Witt to discover nocturnal moths and other insects flying in July. Guest entomologist Eddie Dunbar will join the group to help identify what is seen. You'll observe surprisingly beautiful and interesting critters attracted to a special light, photograph them if you like, and submit them as a citizen scientist to iNaturalist or another moth week partner data repository. See www.nationalmothweek.org for additional information. Bring snacks, a flashlight with red filter/cellophane covering, your camera, and close-focus binoculars if you have them. This activity takes place at the parking lot; participants will have the option to leave earlier than the scheduled end time. This easy activity is well suited for those needing a less physically challenging outing. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 8.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
July 22 and 23
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Earthquake 101

Sunday • July 23
Los Trancos • 2.5 mi
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 10 years and older are encouraged to attend.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

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



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

Cool Down Time

Friday • July 28
Los Trancos • 3 mi
9:00am to 12:00pm



Enjoy some quiet time in the woods and cool down in the summer heat. You'll also dabble in the history and geology of the San Andreas fault. Known for its shaded and exciting trails amongst flowing streams, this Preserve offers you a haven away from the hectic days of summer. Docents Farhana Kazi, and Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will take you down rolling grassland knolls alternating between oak woodland and cool shaded forests on the Franciscan Loop, Lost Creek Loop, and Page Mill Trails.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
July 29 and 30
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

View from the Ridge

Sunday • July 30
Long Ridge • 5 mi
10:00am to 3:15pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Mary Jo Colton to explore what this Preserve has to offer. You can expect newts along the lush Peters Creek Trail and enjoy a tranquil pond, green forest, ridges, and

grasslands. You'll stop for an ocean view at the Wallace Stegner Bench on the Long Ridge Trail. This moderately-paced, 600-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children.

Summer Stroll Among Trees

Monday • July 31
Thornewood • 3.0 mi
9:00am to 11:00am



Join docents Liz Foreman and Nina Bell for a stroll under a variety of trees as you learn a bit of history about this Preserve. This leisurely-paced hike will include the Schilling Lake and Bridle Trails and some elevation change. Bring your binoculars for viewing of birds at Schilling Lake.

AUGUST

Banana Slug Redwood Ride

Saturday • August 5
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 11 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis will meet you at the coast for a leisurely climb up to the Skyline Boulevard area observing life in the redwoods as you go. After a rest at the top, you'll ride back down some of the best single track around (Whittemore Gulch Trail) through the fog or sun depending on the weather, with fantastic coastal views as you drop back to sea level. This will be an intermediate ride with about 1,800 feet of climbing. Experienced youth cyclists are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 23.**

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • August 5
Picchetti Ranch • 3.0 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Debbie Mytels and Meena Sundaram, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for June 25. **(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 July 22.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 5 and 6
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Outdoor Activities Summer 2017



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Carolyn Genirberg

Redwood Oxygen

Sunday • August 6

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3 mi

10:30am to 2:30pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Sam Berry, and Paul Billig on the Purisima 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 July 23.**

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • August 6

Los Trancos • 2-3 mi

2:00pm to 4:30pm



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

Ancient Oaks and Forever Views

Wednesday • August 9

Russian Ridge • 5.7 mi

Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot

9:00am to 1:30pm



This hike has it all: moss-shrouded oaks, vistas stretching from the Pacific Ocean horizon to Mt. Tamalpais and the East Bay hills, and raptors soaring overhead. Join docents Clive Merredew and Marie-Anne Neimat on this moderately-paced, circular route along the Mindego Hill, Charquin, and Hawk Ridge Trails. You'll follow the Ridge Trail to the top of Borel Hill, returning on Ancient Oaks Trail for a total 1,000-foot elevation gain. Optional: bring a lunch to enjoy at the scenic Audrey Rust Commemorative Site after the hike.

Scenic Aerobic I

Wednesday • August 9

Picchetti Ranch • 4-6 mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 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.)



Jack Geschel

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Explore the Interior

Thursday • August 10

Long Ridge • 7 mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan on a fast-paced journey into the interior of this Preserve. Hiking on the Peters Creek, Hickory Oaks, Ranch Spring, and Long Ridge Trails you'll visit mixed evergreen forest and, if lucky, see views of the Pacific Ocean from the grassland ridges.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

August 12 and 13

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Explorer Hike: A Path Less Traveled

Wednesday • August 16

Bear Creek Redwoods • 4.5 mi

Meet: Northside lot – Free Limited Parking

10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy some quiet, less traveled trails on this moderately-paced hike with docents Kate Gudmundson and Lynn Jackson. This approximately 500-foot elevation gain hike will take you along a creek, by ponds, and through the woods. You'll look for a variety of beautiful lingering wildflowers and feel the awe of the amazing redwoods for which this Preserve was named on this out and back hike. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

August 19 and 20

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

August 26 and 27

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 3.

Start the Week Right: Redwoods & Tafoni

Monday • August 28

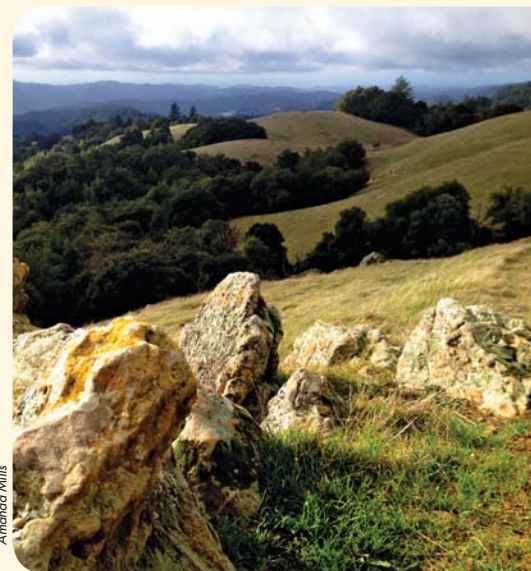
El Corte de Madera Creek • 5.2 mi

Meet: Skeggs Point

9:30am to 2:00pm



What a perfect way to start the week... with a Monday morning hike! Join docents Wesley Sawyer and Nina Bell for a moderately-paced journey with 600-foot elevation gain through redwoods and over to an impressive tafoni sandstone formation. Exercise your legs and your imagination while making occasional stops along the way on the El Corte de Madera Creek, Tafoni, and Fir Trails. A scenic vista point provides a perfect place to stop for lunch.



Amanda Mills

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • August 30

Long Ridge • 6 mi

10:00am to 1:00pm

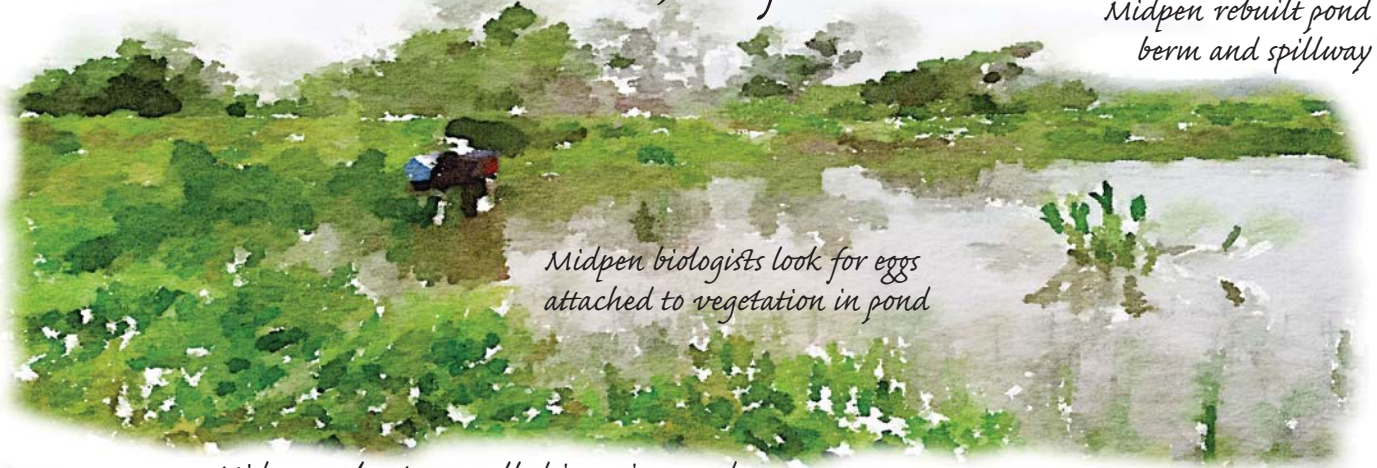


Please see the activity description for June 28. (Notes: This hike is scheduled on the fifth Wednesday due to availability of docents. Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike with about 1,000 feet of gain.)

Nature Journal

California Red-Legged Frog Egg Mass Survey La Honda, California

Midpen rebuilt pond
berm and spillway



Midpen biologists look for eggs
attached to vegetation in pond

Midpen volunteers pulled invasive weeds

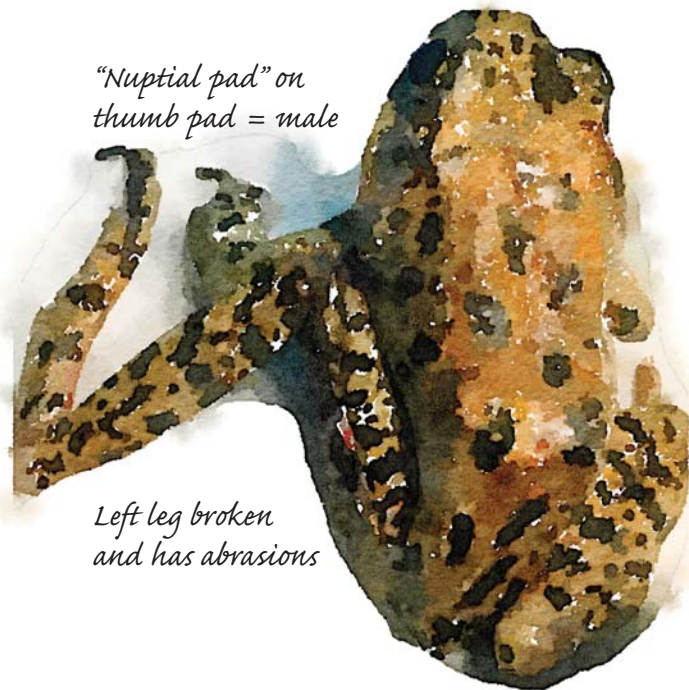
Surveyed 6 cattle ponds improved by Midpen for California red-legged frogs
to learn if this threatened species is successfully breeding here.

Observed 6 egg masses today for
a total of 28 this spring, a
record for La Honda! Are frogs
helped by pond repairs, wet winter?



Softball-size mass in water
1000-2000 clear eggs
with dark embryos

"Nuptial pad" on
thumb pad = male



Left leg broken
and has abrasions

Midpen biologist discovered injured
adult. Because species is protected
followed protocol and took to
humane society for rehab. Hope
to release in pond when healed.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Photo on front cover by Karl Gohl
Photos below by Gary Henry, Karl Gohl, and Midpen Staff

Dazzling Wildflowers

This year's record rains have set the stage for a banner year for wildflowers. Staff and visitors alike have viewed beautiful blooms throughout the preserves! Have beautiful wildflower photos? Submit them to our photo contest by May 31st, and you could win a Midpen goodie bag! www.openspace.org/contest



Ravenswood
Open Space Preserve

Frances Freyberg



Skyline Ridge
Open Space Preserve

Joak Caschib

Can You Put a Price Tag on Nature?

In recent years, a new kind of research has been taking place in open space: economics. Showing that nature is not only beautiful and enjoyable, but also economically beneficial, gives open space managers a new language for communicating why preserving natural lands is a cause worth funding.

East Bay Regional Park District released a report this spring called "Quantifying our Quality of Life" estimating the annual contribution of their 120,000 acres of public open space to the local economy at \$495 million. It's the second installment of a similar report produced in 2000 and tallies the dollar-value of visitor fees, increased property values and reduced healthcare costs. It also takes into account passive services provided by nature and their related cost-savings. Known as ecosystem services, these include watersheds providing drinking water, baylands preventing flooding, forests sequestering carbon, and soils growing crops.

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority completed a similar study in 2014 called "Healthy Lands and Healthy Economies" ahead of their successful ballot initiative. The report estimates the annual value of their 16,000 acres of public open space at up to \$386 billion. Santa Cruz County's version of the report sets an annual economic value of up to \$2.2 billion for the area's "natural capital".

While Midpen has not created such a study, those who voted to pass Measure AA last year proved open space is valued in our community, just as voters did a generation ago when they created Midpen in 1972. Then, as now, Midpen's open space preserves remain free and open to the public 365 days a year. We are hard at work delivering the land preservation, restoration, and public access projects identified by the community as priorities for Measure AA funding. Thank you for valuing nature and the many ways it benefits us all physically, emotionally, economically and intrinsically.

Ultimately, economics is another measure to communicate the benefits for keeping open spaces viable into the future so they can continue the essential job of sustaining life. For all of our efforts to define its worth in dollars and cents, nature is truly priceless.



Rancho San Antonio
Open Space Preserve

Sue Gale