

ENJOY YOUR OPEN SPACE

PRESERVE GUIDE

➤ Midpen's guide to your
open space preserves





WELCOME

TOGETHER, WE CARE FOR THE LAND THAT CARES FOR US.

Room to Breathe

We invite you explore this diverse greenbelt in your backyard, from forests and grasslands to baylands and oak woodlands. With more than 250 miles of trails across dozens of interconnected preserves, most preserves are free and open to the public daily, offering immersive and restorative experiences in nature for everyone.

Midpen also offers programs that can help you connect to nature through enriched experiences and environmental interpretation provided on free docent naturalist-led activities, volunteer opportunities and at Midpen's Daniels Nature Center.

Caring for the Land That Cares for Us Since 1972

Midpen helps plants, animals and people thrive in the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region by preserving open space land and restoring its natural functions to provide benefits beyond beauty: clean air and water, healthy habitats for diverse native plants and wildlife, viable working lands producing local food, ecosystems that are resilient to the effects of our changing climate and the opportunity for ecologically sensitive recreation.

“Open space is our green backdrop of hills. It is rolling grasslands, cool forests in the Coast Range, orchards and vineyards in the sun. It is the patch of grass between communities where children can run. It is uncluttered baylands where water birds wheel and soar, where blowing cordgrass yields its blessings of oxygen, where the din of urban life gives way to the soft sounds of nature. It is the serene, unbuilt, unspoiled earth that awakens all our senses and makes us whole again...it is room to breathe.”

BALLOT LANGUAGE FROM MEASURE R, PASSED BY LOCAL VOTERS IN 1972 TO ESTABLISH MIDPEN.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover: Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Rick Nordensten)

Left: Windy Hill Open Space Preserve (Kathryn Morton)

Right: Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Heather Diaz)

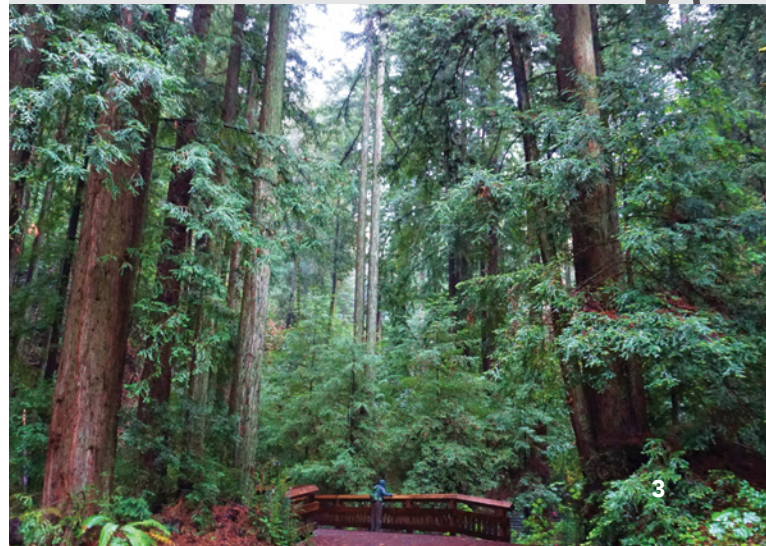
Mission

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

On the Coastside

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

The diverse and scenic landscapes of the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region host an incredible diversity of life, including native plants and wildlife which live nowhere else on earth, making our region one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.



Preserve & Protect

We preserve open space lands to protect coastal prairies, redwood forests, green foothills, oak woodlands, salmonid streams, bayland salt marshes and more, creating an interconnected landscape of healthy nature.

Care For

Preserving land is just the first step. After decades of intensive human use and now the impacts of climate change that result in extreme weather events with either droughts and increased fire risk or severe storms that bring land instability, active management remains critical to protecting the habitat values and resiliency of our public lands.

Educate

Midpen offers a variety of opportunities to connect people to open space. Learning about local places, plants and animals can help us appreciate the importance of these landscapes and our role in keeping them healthy.

Enjoy

To many of us, open space means recreation and, indeed, Midpen preserves feature more than 250 miles of trails to explore on foot. More than half (150+ miles) are multiuse trails, also open to bicycles and horseback riding.

Know Before You Go

While spending time in nature is essential for our well-being, it's important to understand how to recreate responsibly. Many Midpen trails provide a wildland experience in nature very different from typical city parks. Trails can be steep and long hikes can lead into remote canyons where help will take time to reach you. Nature can be unpredictable, and conditions can change rapidly. For a safe and enjoyable visit to your open space preserves in all seasons, be ready by following these tips:



Check trail conditions. and preserve webpages at openspace.org/trail-conditions to plan your visit.



Check the weather. Consider other plans during storms or extreme heat.



Know your location. Download maps on devices using Avenza maps or OuterSpatial apps, download and print a map via openspace.org, or snap a photo of a signboard map at the trailhead.



Cell Service. Many preserves are remote and you may not have service. Make sure to download maps in advance.



Pack essentials. Water, weather-appropriate clothing, first aid supplies and food. Consider sun protection, sturdy footwear and long pants.



Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Better yet, hike with a buddy.



Note parking capacity and have a backup plan. In case your destination is full.



Reserve a permit where needed. A few Midpen trailheads require no-cost permits, which can be reserved at openspace.org/permits.

Leave No Trace

Midpen adheres to a Leave No Trace ethic in its preserves, which have no trash cans and minimal infrastructure. Leave nature as you found it by taking out everything that you bring in, leaving what you find, and respecting plants, water and wildlife. Midpen trails are for everyone. Thank you for sharing the trails and treating people of all identities and abilities with kindness and respect.

Plan your visit and learn more about Midpen and how you can get involved by visiting openspace.org.

TOP DOWN: El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve (Derek Blogin), Monte Bello Open Space Preserve (Jonathan Chang), Picchetti Open Space Preserve (Liv Ames), Monte Bello Open Space Preserve (Ken Lunders) RIGHT: Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve (Aliyeh Mousavi)

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserves

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BEAR CREEK REDWOODS

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Upper Lake has been shaped by history. Originally a sag pond created by faultlines, it was expanded to serve as a millpond for logging. When Dr. Harry L. Tevis bought the site in the early 20th century, he expanded the pond once again to store 11 million gallons of water to keep his gardens lush. The lake now serves as habitat for western pond turtles and rough-skinned newts.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Frances Freyberg
Left Top: Alma College Library
Left Bottom: Alisha Laborico



Underneath the canopy of redwoods, experience the many layers of history that come alive within Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Like all Midpen public lands, the story of Bear Creek Redwoods is intricate and shaped by both natural and human impacts. The preserve sits along the San Andreas fault, which contributes to the area's biodiversity. Before the 1840s, it was a lush, old-growth redwood forest — today, two old-growth trees remain on the Alma Trail.

The area of the preserve known as the Alma Cultural Landscape was shaped by Indigenous peoples, gold rush-era migrants, loggers, wealthy estate owners and, more recently, the Jesuits who operated Alma College on the site from 1934 to 1969.

Thanks to grassroot supporters and a coalition of environmental advocates, Midpen and our nonprofit partner Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) were able to purchase and protect the property in 1999.

Bear Creek Redwoods features a beautiful and biologically rich ecosystem providing habitat for a diversity of wildlife. From bobcats and mountain lions to chestnut-backed chickadees and belted kingfishers, visitors are treated to a wide array of plant and animal life in this preserve.

For more information visit openspace.org/bear-creek-redwoods



Chestnut-Backed Chickadee

Chestnut-backed chickadees (*Poecile rufescens*) are cavity nesters, filling holes with various animal furs to keep their eggs warm.



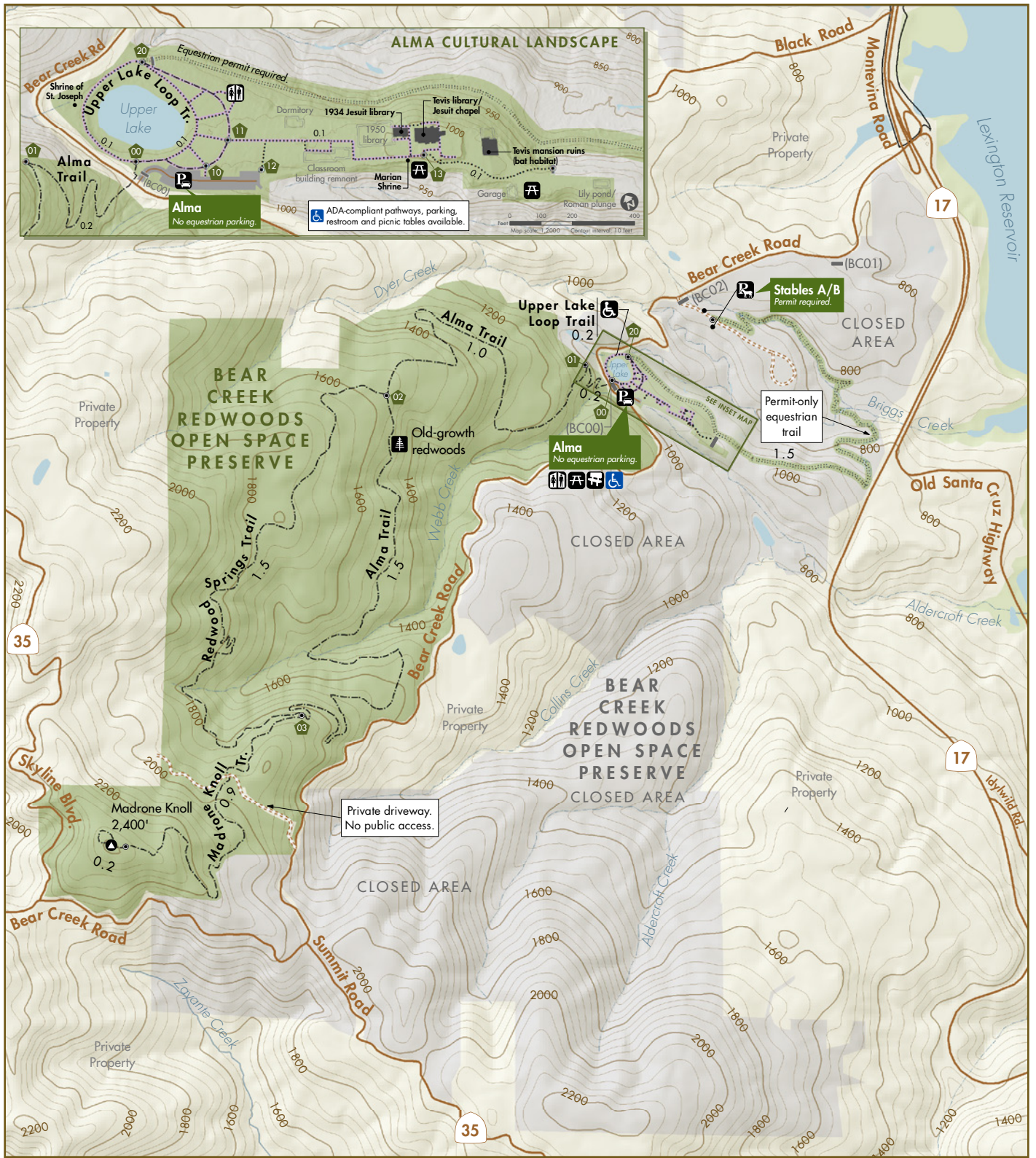
Bats

Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) are a species of special concern found within Bear Creek Redwoods.



If you like this, check out:

El Corte de Madera Creek	12
Purissima Creek Redwoods	36
Thornewood	64



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Equestrian-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY



ALL TRAILS



DESIGNATED TRAILS



AVAILABLE



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**BEAR CREEK
REDWOODS**
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SOUTH

CLOVERDALE RANCH

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Cloverdale Ranch Open Space Preserve is an ecological jewel on the San Mateo County Coastside and our newest public open space preserve.

Here, natural creeks, along with human-made reservoirs and ponds, supports agriculture, farming and ranching, and allow rare aquatic wildlife such as coho salmon, steelhead trout and California red-legged frogs to breed. Cloverdale Ranch connects more than 30,000 acres of surrounding protected lands, creating important corridors for wide-ranging wildlife traveling on land, through waterways and migrating on the wing along the Pacific Flyway.

Farming and ranching roots run deep on the San Mateo County coast, and Cloverdale Ranch has a long agricultural history that continues today, hand-in-hand with conservation.

Wilbur's Watch is currently the only public trail within this new Midpen ecological preserve. Accessible from a small parking area off Highway 1, this out-and-back trail gently climbs for about a mile through coastal scrub to reach a lookout with interpretive signs and panoramic views of the coastline, including the Pigeon Point Lighthouse and Año Nuevo.

It will take time to explore creating additional future access through a public planning process that balances environmental protection, local community interests and public safety. In the interim, visitors can enjoy the Wilbur's Watch Trail and guided access opportunities provided by Midpen volunteer docent naturalists.

For more information visit openspace.org/cloverdale-ranch

California Suncup

Coastal grasslands are one of the most biodiverse habitats in North America. In early spring, look for the bright yellow petals of the native California suncup (*Eulobus californicus*) growing close to the ground.



Western Meadowlark

A unique community of grassland-dependent native wildlife, grasses and wildflowers also thrive here, such as the western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), a bird with a distinctive song and yellow chest patch that relies on open grasslands to nest and forage for seeds and insects, often in flocks.





MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Trail distance (miles)

DESIGNATED TRAILS



Avenza Maps

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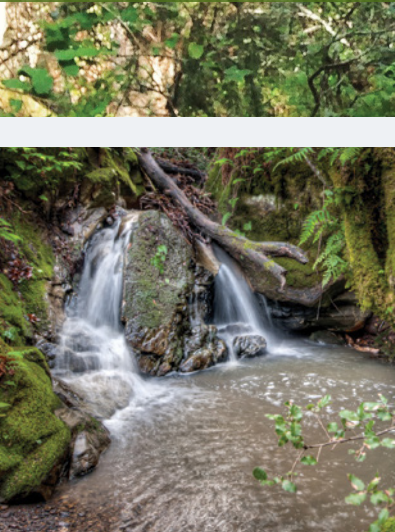


CLOVERDALE RANCH
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

COASTAL

COAL CREEK

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Although one of Midpen's smaller preserves, Coal Creek Open Space Preserve provides visitors with a variety of environments from open grassland ridges to dense oak and madrone forests along Crazy Pete's Road that offer cool shelter from the summer sun.

Along this historic trail, seasonal waterfalls can be found in the wetter winter months. Coyotes, brush rabbits, and sometimes bobcats can be seen making their way through this forest preserve. Make sure to watch out for bright yellow banana slugs or newts crossing the trails.

Several native plant species run along Corte Madera Creek like bay, madrone and coastal Douglas-fir trees. The lush banks of the creek are sprinkled with thimbleberry, hazelnut, giant chain fern and pink blooms of the wood rose. Midpen is working to reduce erosion from trails that creates sedimentation in the San Franciscuito Creek watershed, which is listed as critical habitat for threatened native steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus m. irideus*).

Coal Creek is an ideal place for visitors to take a quick afternoon hike as several trails can be combined to create 2-to-3-mile loops. Views of the San Francisco Bay Area can be seen from the open grassland ridges below from the Caltrans vista point. The trails found at Coal Creek provide important rail connections between Skyline Boulevard and Alpine Road for hikers, cyclists and equestrians alike.

For more information visit openspace.org/coal-creek

Bigleaf Maple



The bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) is a deciduous tree that produces the largest leaves of any maple, up to 1 foot across.

Wrentit



The wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*) easily picked out by its loud, constant singing doesn't tend to fly far from the nest, rarely moving more than 1,300 feet from its home.

Pacific Madrone

The Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is known for its glossy evergreen foliage, contorted limbs and distinctive flaky red bark in chaparral habitats.



If you like this, check out:

El Sereno	14
Thornewood	64



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- 0.3 Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



Avenza Maps

DESIGNATED TRAILS



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COAL CREEK
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



A unique sight along the Tafoni Trail, the **Tafoni sandstone formation** is a delicate and uncommon geological marvel that takes several hundreds of years to form.

An important tributary of the San Gregorio Creek and coastal headwaters, **El Corte de Madera Creek** provides spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout and coho salmon.



Once the site of eight lumber mills, El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve is a living reminder of the heavy redwood logging activity of the late 1800s.

In fact, the Spanish words “el corte de madera” translate to “the cut of wood,” a reminder of the history of this land. Huge redwood stumps dot the landscape, remnants of the logging industry that supplied lumber for San Francisco during the boom of the gold rush. Though many mills closed by the mid-1900s, modern logging continued until the creation of the preserve in 1988.

Dedicated adventurers can still spot an incredible old-growth redwood by taking the Timberview Trail. Though steep, the trail rewards visitors with a magnificent tree, 50 feet in circumference and so tall you can barely see its top.

Redwoods are not the only remarkable natural feature found at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. Trails popular with experienced mountain bikers traverse steep forests of tanoak and madrone that compete for sunlight with towering Douglas firs. The forested environment creates habitat for all kinds of woodland fungi, shade-loving plants such as the western sword fern, and crawling critters, like the rough-skinned newt and California banana slug.

For more information visit openspace.org/el-corte-de-madera-creek

California Giant Salamander

California giant salamanders (*Dicamptodon ensatus*) are endemic to two regions of California and adults of the species are some of the largest terrestrial salamanders in the world.



Douglas Iris

The Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) is a common, native wildflower of coastal California known for blooming in a variety of purple hues.

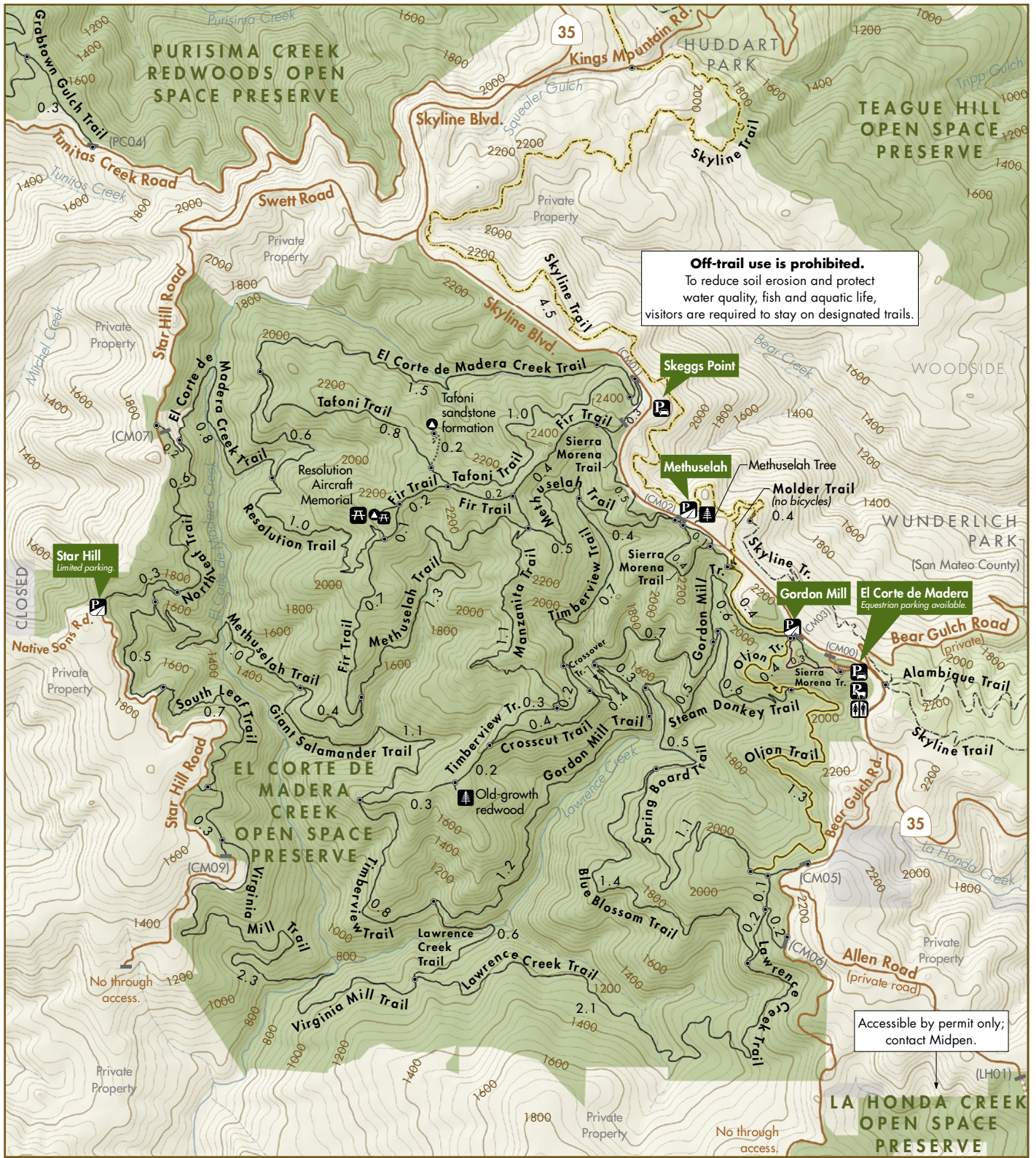


Pileated Woodpecker

You hear their loud calls and drumming ringing through the forest more often than you see the crow-sized, pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), which excavates dead trees and fallen logs in search of insects to eat, and creates nesting cavities that provide habitat for other bird species.



If you like this, check out:
Bear Creek Redwoods 6
Thornewood 64



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS DESIGNATED TRAILS AVAILABLE NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



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EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

EL SERENO

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Named for the 2,526-foot Mt. El Sereno, a prominent ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains, El Sereno Open Space Preserve provides visitors opportunities for biking, dog walking and horseback riding, while simultaneously providing habitats for native wildlife.

El Sereno is one of Midpen's oldest preserves, with the first acquisition that would make up the preserve in 1975, only three years after the origination of Midpen. Over the years, Midpen purchased more properties to add to the preserve and recently, with help from our nonprofit partner POST, Midpen purchased a 182-acre parcel that forever links the full 3.7 miles of the Aquinas Trail.

Breathtaking views are not the only thing visitors may spot at El Sereno. The landscape is primarily chaparral, with coyote brush and chamise covering the hillsides. In the lower elevations, the ecosystem transforms to lush meadows and shaded areas near creeks. Mule deer, coyote, gopher snakes and brush rabbits use these landscapes to create their homes in the San Tomas Aquinas Creek, Los Gatos Creek and Upper Los Gatos Creek watersheds.

For more information visit openspace.org/el-sereno

Western Fence Lizard



The western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) is a common lizard known for perching on fence posts and having a characteristic blue-belly.

Chamise

A member of the rose family, Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) is a native evergreen shrub with white flowers that bloom in the spring and summer.



Columbian Black-Tailed Deer

Columbian black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are browsers, feeding on forbs, shrubs, trees, grasses and berries.

Named after former state senator Jim Beall for his dedication to open space lands, a commemorative bench known as **Beall Bench**, is on the Aquinas Trail overlooking Trout Creek, Lexington Reservoir and San Jose.

El Sereno also plays a prominent role in Midpen's future. Midpen and partners are currently exploring the feasibility of developing a **wildlife undercrossing and trail overcrossing** of Highway 17 to link over 30,000 acres of protected public lands.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Amanda Mills
Left Top: Vince Hernandez
Left Bottom: Midpen staff



If you like this, check out:

Coal Creek	10
Fremont Older	18
Pulgas Ridge	34



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



Avenza Maps

DESIGNATED TRAILS



OuterSpatial

NOT AVAILABLE



openspace.org



SOUTH

FOOTHILLS

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



The Vista Point Trail is open to hikers, dogs on leash and equestrians, providing great views of San Francisco Bay including Mount Hamilton and Mission Peak in the East Bay.



This small but mighty preserve is particularly special because it is the first one Midpen created.

Back in 1972 when Midpen was created by voters, funds were not yet available to acquire land, so former manager Herb Grench sought out people willing to make gifts of land to get the momentum going. One such gift was a small piece of property that became Foothills Open Space Preserve (not to be confused with the nearby Foothills Nature Preserve owned by the City of Palo Alto).

The preserve features steep, chaparral-clad slopes and forested ravines that form part of the Adobe Creek watershed. The short trail in Foothills passes through areas rich in plant life including chamise, coffeeberry, California sagebrush, silk tassel, warrior's plume and sticky-monkey flower. The background call of the California quail often can be heard throughout the stands of the coast live oaks, toyon and scrub oaks that provide brief opportunities of shade throughout the trails.

The single, short trail here is less than half a mile and leads from Page Mill Road to a 360-degree view of the San Francisco Bay, from San Jose to San Francisco. Look closely to spot Hidden Villa, at the edge of nearby Rancho San Antonio Preserve.

For more information visit openspace.org/foothills



Coffeeberry
The California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*) is a native scrub known for its reddish hue branches and coffee bean shaped seeds.



California Quail
California's state bird, the California quail (*Callipepla californica*) are highly sociable and often gather in small flocks known as "coveys."

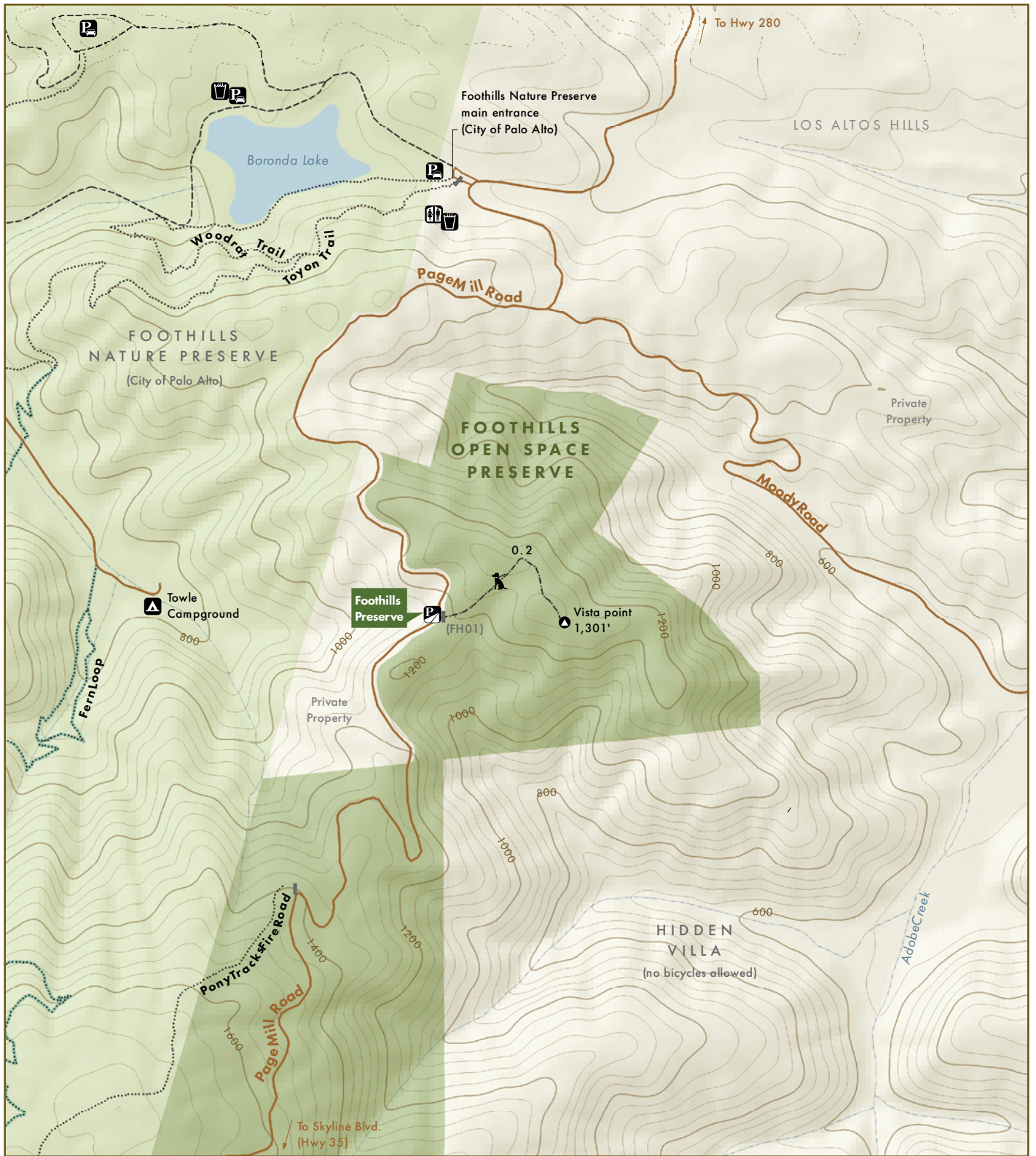
Warrior's Plume

Warrior's plume (*Pedicularis densiflora*) has deep red to bright pink flowers that bloom from winter to early spring and can parasitize select species, such as manzanitas.



If you like this, check out:

El Sereno	14
Fremont Older	18
Monte Bello	28
Windy Hill	66



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Bay-to-Ridge Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



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openspace.org



FOOTHILLS

FREMONT OLDER OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Following the death of the Olders, this historic home fell into disrepair but was eventually renovated by Mort and Elaine Levine, local newspaper publishers. **Woodhills** is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house and garden are part of a private residence and not open to the public.

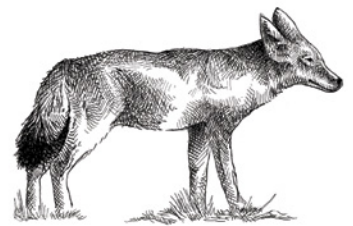
Located on the urban fringe of Saratoga and Cupertino, Fremont Older Open Space Preserve features trails for hiking, biking, equestrians and dog walkers.

Named for a prominent San Francisco newspaper editor in the early 20th century, Fremont Older Open Space Preserve offers visitors a glimpse into the region's agricultural history, as well as stunning views of the surrounding landscape. The preserve alternates between sweeping grasslands and wooded canyons nurturing a variety of wildlife.

Woodhills, the home that Fremont and Cora Older built in 1914, still stands today, visible from the Cora Older and Creekside Trail. It was restored as a private residence in 1979 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Once a gathering place for noted personalities of early San Francisco, the house combines multiple architectural styles, including an innovative flat roof with large, picturesque windows. The surrounding gardens once held vineyards and orchards of apricots, plums and walnuts.

Fremont Older Preserve features open rolling former hayfields, Seven Springs Canyon, and Hunter's Point, a 900-foot hilltop offering sweeping views of Santa Clara Valley. Trails connect to Stevens Creek County Park and into Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve.

For more information visit openspace.org/fremont-older



Coyote

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) travel as individuals or in packs consisting of a mated pair, offspring and occasionally past years' offspring which help raise the current litter.

Sticky-Monkey Flower

Sticky-monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) is an evergreen shrub whose orange flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds.



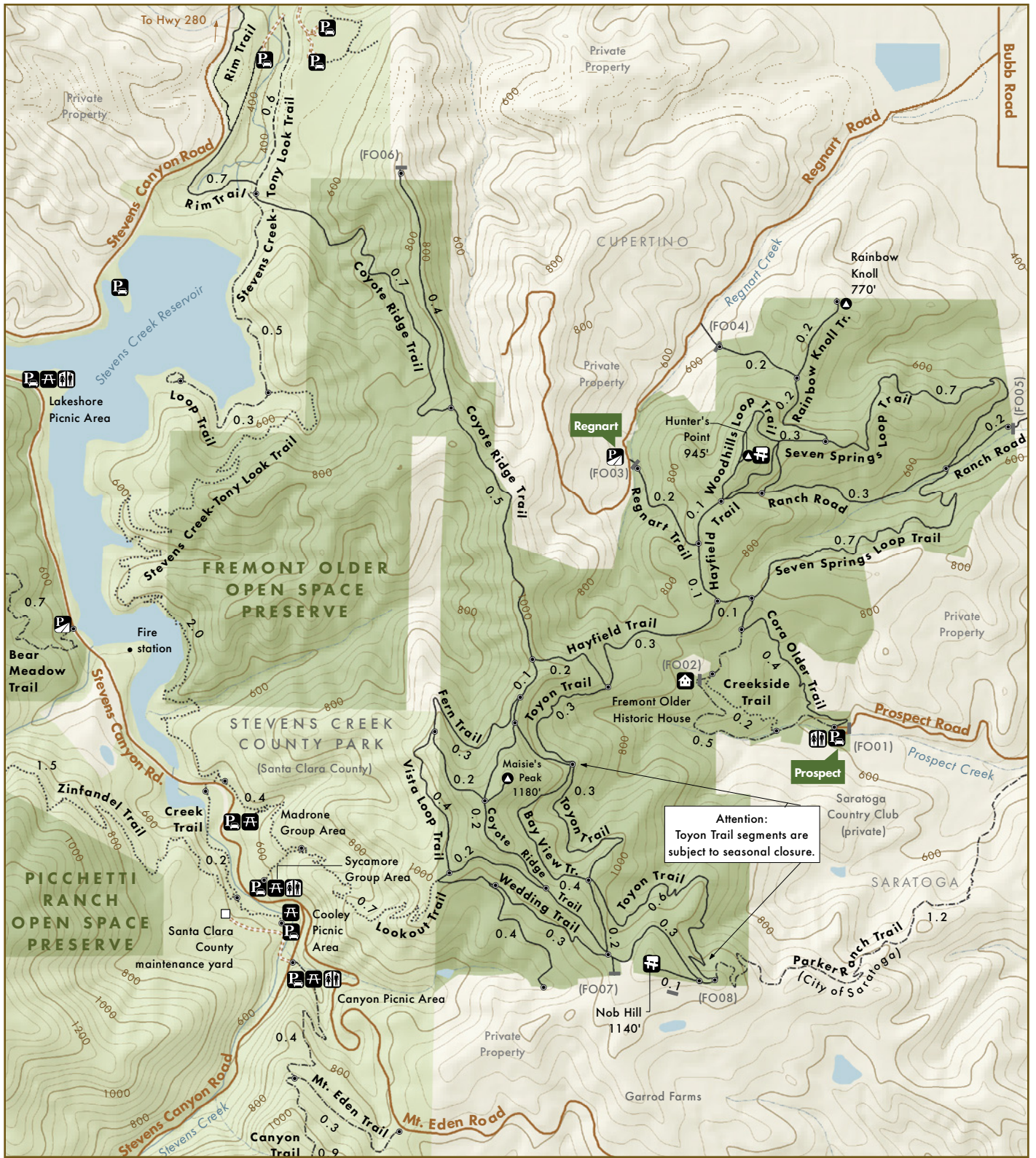
Northern Flicker

Fremont Older is a popular location for avid ornithologists. The northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is a common species with a distinctive sharp, repeated cry.



If you like this, check out:

El Sereno	14
Monte Bello	28
Windy Hill	66



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- ==== Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- - - - Hiking, bicycling trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- 0.3 Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS DESIGNATED TRAILS AVAILABLE NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



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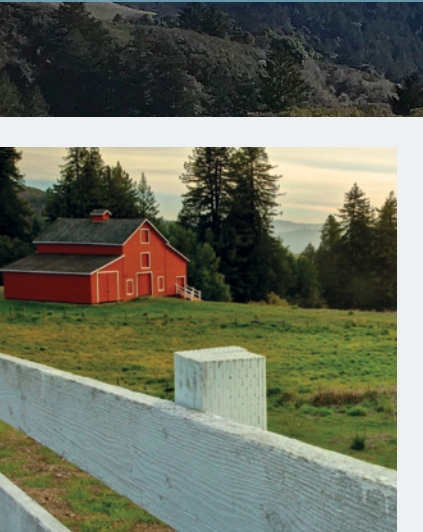


**FREMONT
OLDER**
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

FOOTHILLS

LA HONDA CREEK

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



La Honda Creek is a regional destination for birding because of the great diversity of winged wildlife, like the pictured red-tailed hawk, found in this immense preserve's mosaic of habitats.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve is the embodiment of Midpen's unique mission on the San Mateo County Coastside, where agricultural roots run deep.

The century-old red barn serves as a visual gateway to the rural Coastside and is the only known location in the area where pallid bats raise their young.

This working landscape offers immersion into a historic ranchland with grazing cattle, rolling grasslands, hilltop views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Cruz Mountains, lush creek corridors and pockets of redwood forest. Nearly 12 total miles of multiuse trail are accessed from three trailheads, two of which have limited parking and require a free permit available at openspace.org/permits. Midpen is working to increase and connect the trail system here.

Visitors share parts of this preserve with cattle that are helping to maintain coastal grasslands for native plants and wildlife as part of Midpen's Conservation Grazing Program. Thank you for keeping your distance, walking around groups of cows, closing pedestrian gates and leaving larger vehicle gates as you find them. The Grasshopper Loop Trail seasonally closes to dogs August 1 through December 1 to protect visitors and livestock during calving season.

For more information visit openspace.org/la-honda-creek



California Red-Legged Frog

Originally created decades ago by ranchers, the ponds found at this preserve are critical to the survival of rare aquatic wildlife including the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*).



Pallid Bat

Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*) use their large ears to listen for their prey (small insects such as scorpions) on the ground before swooping down to catch their meal and flying to a safe place to eat.



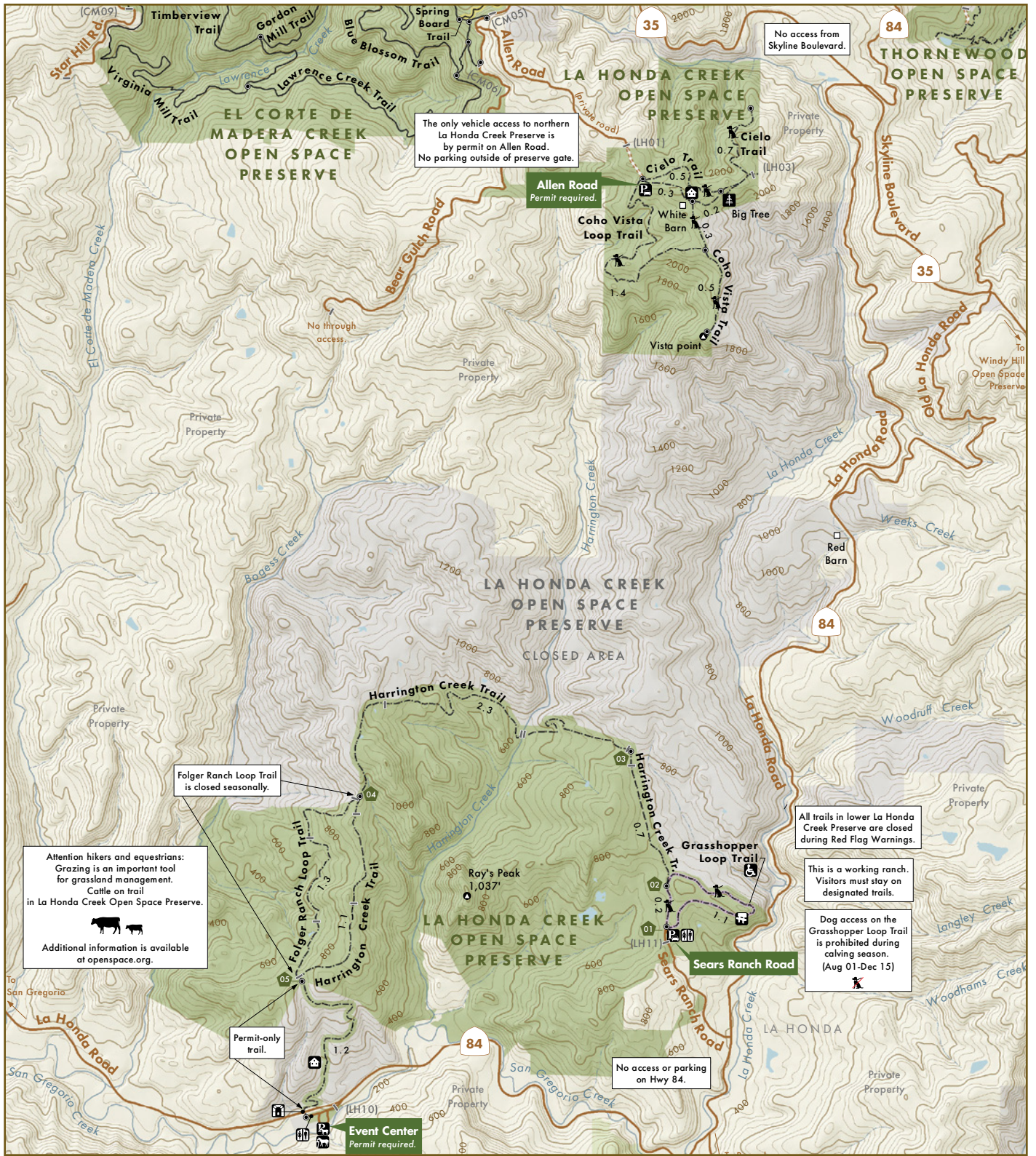
Coho Salmon

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) are anadromous fish – they migrate upstream from ocean waters to freshwater streams where they spawn.



If you like this, check out:

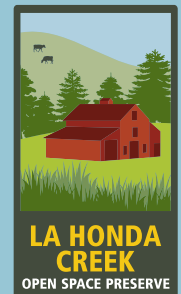
Cloverdale Ranch	8
El Corte de Madera Creek	12



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS DESIGNATED TRAILS AVAILABLE NOT AVAILABLE



COASTAL

LONG RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



During the rainy season, you may see small but lively **waterfalls** at Peters Creek.

Legendary Pulitzer-Prize winning writer, special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior and local resident Wallace Stegner was one of the founding members and president of Green Foothills. The **Wallace Stegner Bench** sits at the intersection of Long Ridge Road and Long Ridge Trail and provides visitors a good spot to rest and soak up a fantastic view.



No matter what time of day, the views from Long Ridge Open Space Preserve are breathtaking, from the fog rolling in along the Pescadero Creek watershed or the sun setting into the Pacific Ocean.

Rolling hills covered in grasslands with mixed evergreen and riparian forests feature wildlife including wild turkeys and coyotes.

Stricken with gold fever, Winston Bennett moved from Georgia to California and originally settled in an area of Long Ridge known as Pot Hollow. After several ownership transfers the land eventually housed an alternative boarding school in 1965, which evolved into the Jikoji Zen Center that exists to this day. Midpen acquired the majority of the land that makes up the preserve in 1980s with the help of the Sempervirens Fund, California's first nonprofit land trust.

Long Ridge is full of regional trail connections and is an important puzzle piece in securing habitat connectivity within the Santa Cruz Mountain Range. The Bay Area Ridge Trail runs through the preserve, connecting four Midpen preserves: Saratoga Gap, Long Ridge, Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge, giving hikers, bikers and horseback riders many options for both long and short treks. The Achiststaca Trail connects through Saratoga Gap to the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. Long Ridge also adjoins Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks.

For more information visit openspace.org/long-ridge



American Badger

American badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), a species of special concern, have been detected in Long Ridge. Midpen recently studied them to better understand the health of this small, local population and their habitat connectivity needs.



Western Heart's Ease

Western heart's ease (*Viola ocellata*), a native violet, is often found in shaded woodlands and can be identified by its five white and purple petals and heart-shaped leaves.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Top & Right: Karl Gohl

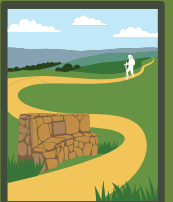
Left Top: Jack Owicki

Left Bottom: Wallace Stegner



If you like this, check out:

Russian Ridge	46
Skyline Ridge	54



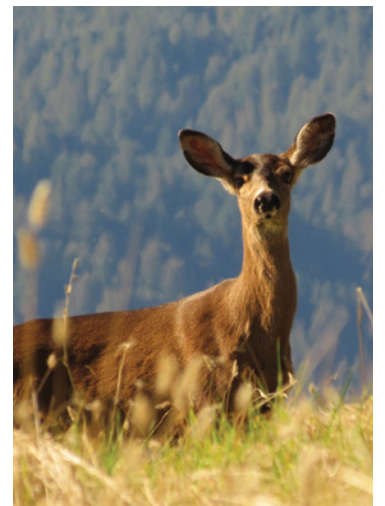
**LONG
RIDGE**
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

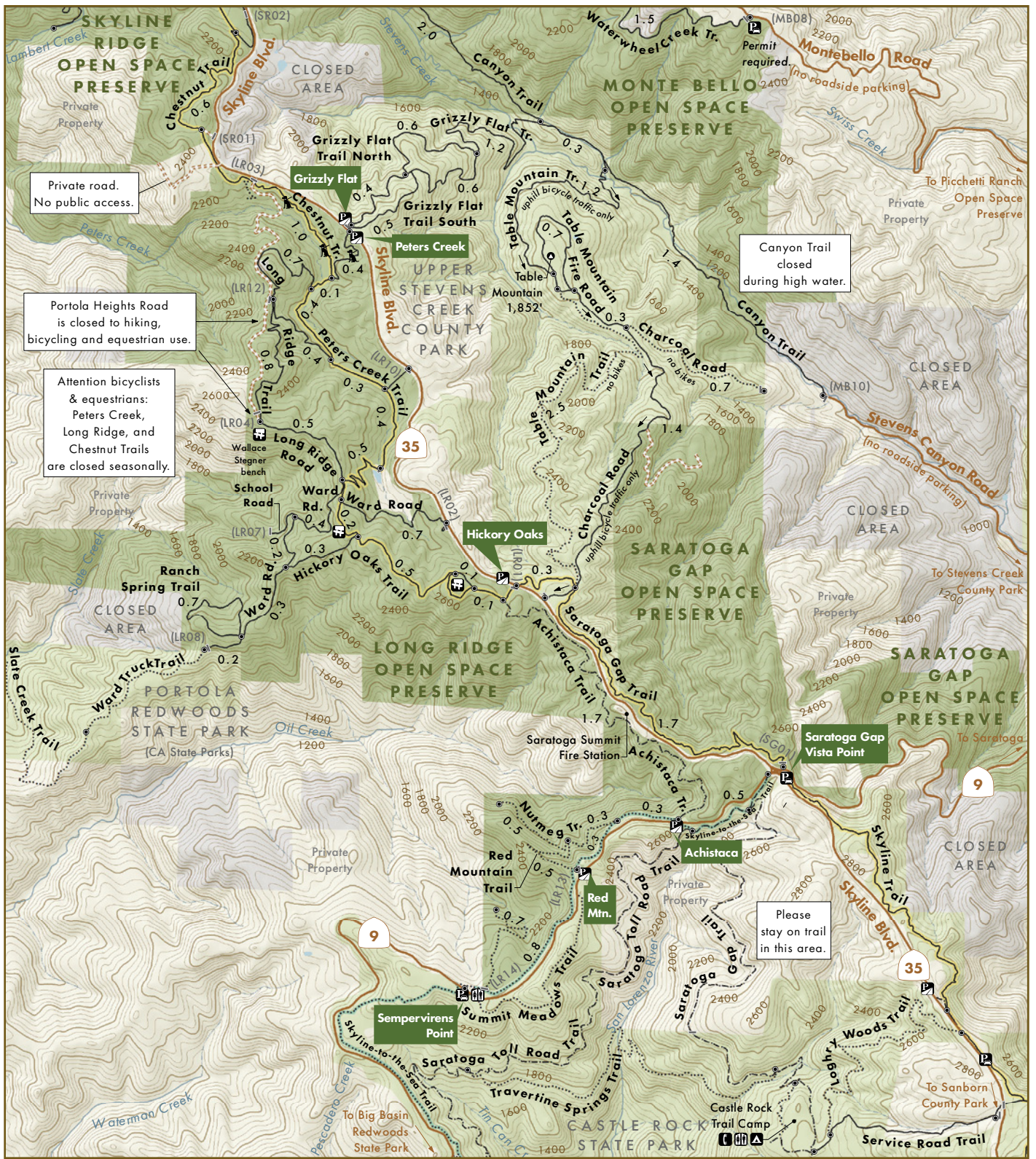


Oak Titmouse

As the name suggests, the oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) is often found inhabiting oak woodlands, settling down in dense foliage and twigs.



PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Ian Sims
Left Top: Charlie Theodorovich
Left Bottom: Karl Gohl
Right Bottom: Rebecca McDonough



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



DESIGNATED TRAILS



NOT AVAILABLE



SKYLINE
LONG RIDGE
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

LOS TRANCOS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Los Trancos, known for its diversity of oak species, is part of Midpen's **sudden oak death** monitoring project. The study monitors the spread of sudden oak death, a disease that affects and is fatal to several oak species, to better understand how the disease is transmitted and learn to prevent it.

Split by the San Andreas fault, one of the world's longest and most active faults, Los Trancos Open Space Preserve provides a glimpse into the fascinating realm of earthquake geology.

Named for Midpen's founder and former, long-time board member, the Nonette Hanco San Andreas Fault Trail is a gentle, 1.5-mile, self-guided interpretive route, that gives you a glimpse of the incredible effects of the earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906. The San Andreas fault splits this preserve, leaving behind visible evidence of the earthquake. Download the guide before you go for details on features like sag ponds, oak trees with vertical limbs sprouted from horizontal trunks and a fence split in half to demonstrate the slipping movement of the fault as you cross over from the Pacific to the North American tectonic plate.

Amidst the scent of California bay laurel trees and shade from the canopy of oaks, bigleaf maples and Douglas firs, look for Pacific hound's tongue, milkmaids and trilliums and views of San Francisco and Mount Diablo across the bay.

During the 1906 earthquake, a wooden fence famously split in two. Though that fence did not survive the test of time, it was reconstructed for visitors using centuries-old materials found on site.

For more information visit openspace.org/los-trancos



Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) are skillful fliers, hunting prey through woodland vegetation at high speeds.



Canyon Oak

One of several California native oak species, the flat-leaved canyon oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) is often found in moist, cool microhabitats such as creek beds.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: James Pravetz
Left Top: Jack Yaco
Left Bottom: Natalie Jolly



If you like this, check out:

Bear Creek Redwoods	6
Skyline Ridge	54



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay-to-Ridge Trail
- Stevens Creek Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



Avenza Maps

DESIGNATED TRAILS



OuterSpatial

NOT AVAILABLE



openspace.org



LOS TRANCOS
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

MONTE BELLO

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Where the old Black Mountain Ranch once existed is now the site of Midpen's only overnight backpacking camp, **Black Mountain Camp**. The campsite's high elevation and open grasslands also make it a popular stop for amateur astronomers. Please note, a free permit is required in advance for any overnight stay and can be acquired at openspace.org/permits.



Italian for "beautiful mountain," Monte Bello Open Space Preserve lives up to the name, featuring rolling grasslands, oak-filled canyons, and flowing headwaters of Stevens Creek.

Serving as the scenic backdrop for Palo Alto, Mountain View and other Peninsula communities, the Monte Bello ridgeline culminates at the 2,800-foot peak of Black Mountain. Monte Bello Open Space Preserve comprises nearly 3,500 acres of ridgeline stretching across hilltops and down into riparian corridors, encompassing the upper Stevens Creek watershed. The San Andreas fault runs along Monte Bello Ridge, adding to the soil diversity that contributes to the richness of wildlife biodiversity and varied ecosystems.

The headwaters of Stevens Creek begin on Black Mountain in Monte Bello and flow to the San Francisco Bay.

Dairy farms and vineyards once dotted the landscape, providing milk and other goods to the burgeoning population of San Francisco. Evidence of orchards and other agricultural activities can still be seen along some of the nearly 20 miles of trail.

Monte Bello sits adjacent to several other Midpen preserves including Rancho San Antonio, Los Trancos and Coal Creek providing visitors with opportunities for near limitless treks. The preserve also features a segment of the Bay-to-Ridge Trail, which connects the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

For more information visit openspace.org/monte-bello



Edwards' Glassy-Wing Moth

Identified by its translucent yellow wings and pinkish red abdomen, the Edwards' glassy-wing moth (*Pseudohemihyalea edwardsii*) can be found in Monte Bello's oak woodlands.



Elderberry

The American or common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is a deciduous shrub with bright white flowers and small, dark berries.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Karl Gohl
Left Top: Unknown
Left Bottom: Mike Kahn
Right: Ray Cowan



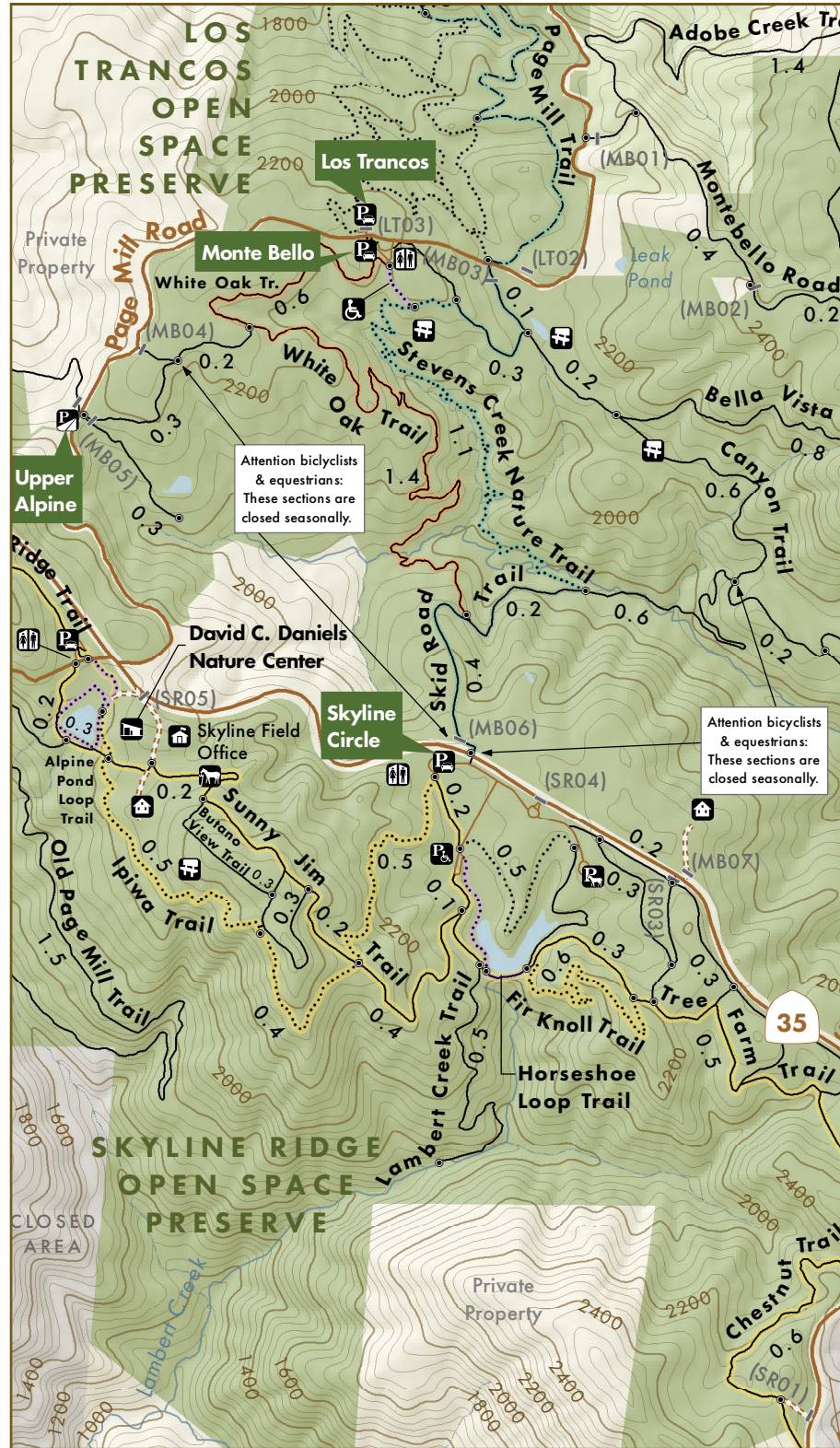
If you like this, check out:

Fremont Older	18
Los Trancos	26
Windy Hill	66

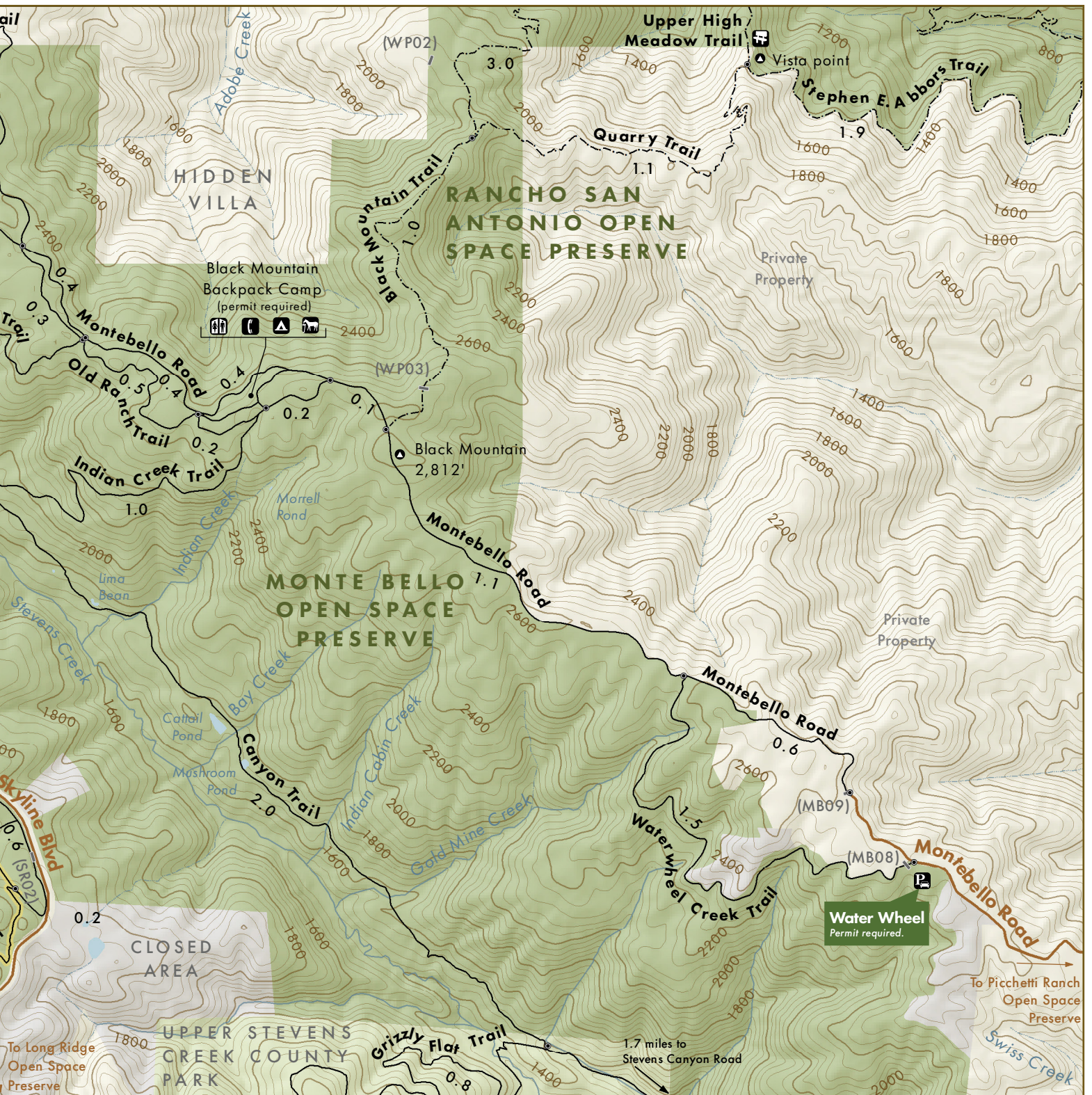


MONTE BELLO
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE



PHOTOGRAPHY
 Top Down: Efren Alvarez,
 Jonathan Chan, Martin Donald,
 Greg Heikkinen



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Bay-to-Ridge Trail
- Stevens Creek Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY



Avenza Maps

ALL TRAILS



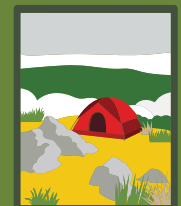
OuterSpatial

DESIGNATED TRAILS



openspace.org

AVAILABLE

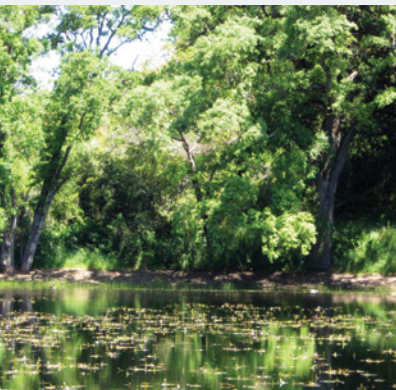


MONTE BELLO
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

PICCHETTI RANCH

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



A prominent **seasonal pond** is located off Bear Meadow Trail. This seasonal wetland provides important habitat for many wildlife species, including sensitive amphibians such as California newts, tree frogs and toads.



Emblematic of Santa Clara County's rich agricultural history, Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve features nearly 4 miles of mostly shaded trail wandering through hillsides once covered in vineyards and orchards.

Sitting just east of Stevens Creek Reservoir, Picchetti Ranch comprises over 300 acres of madrone-forested canyons and hillsides covered by coast live oaks and California bay trees.

Brothers Vincenzo and Secondo Picchetti emigrated from Italy in the 1870s and operated a winery here for 72 years. The preserve still features the original historic brick winery building, leased to a private party that operates as Picchetti Winery. The winery grounds, including some partially shaded picnic areas, are open to the public.

The Zinfandel Trail is popular for its moderate climb into the heart of a beautiful, secluded canyon holding a tributary to Stevens Creek. The lush, shady environment along the steep-walled canyon is perfect for bigleaf maple trees, whose leaves turn yellow and orange in fall, and for California nutmeg, an evergreen found in only a few Midpen preserves. Thickets of chaparral hug the trail, where you might find windpoppy, an unusual cousin of our state flower.

For more information visit openspace.org/picchetti-ranch



California Newt

Recognized for its protruding eyes and orange underbelly, the California newt (*Taricha torosa*) migrates from sheltered uplands to lays its eggs in bodies of water.

Windpoppy

A relative to California's iconic state flower, the windpoppy (*Papaver heterophyllum*) has glowing orange red petals with a near black center.



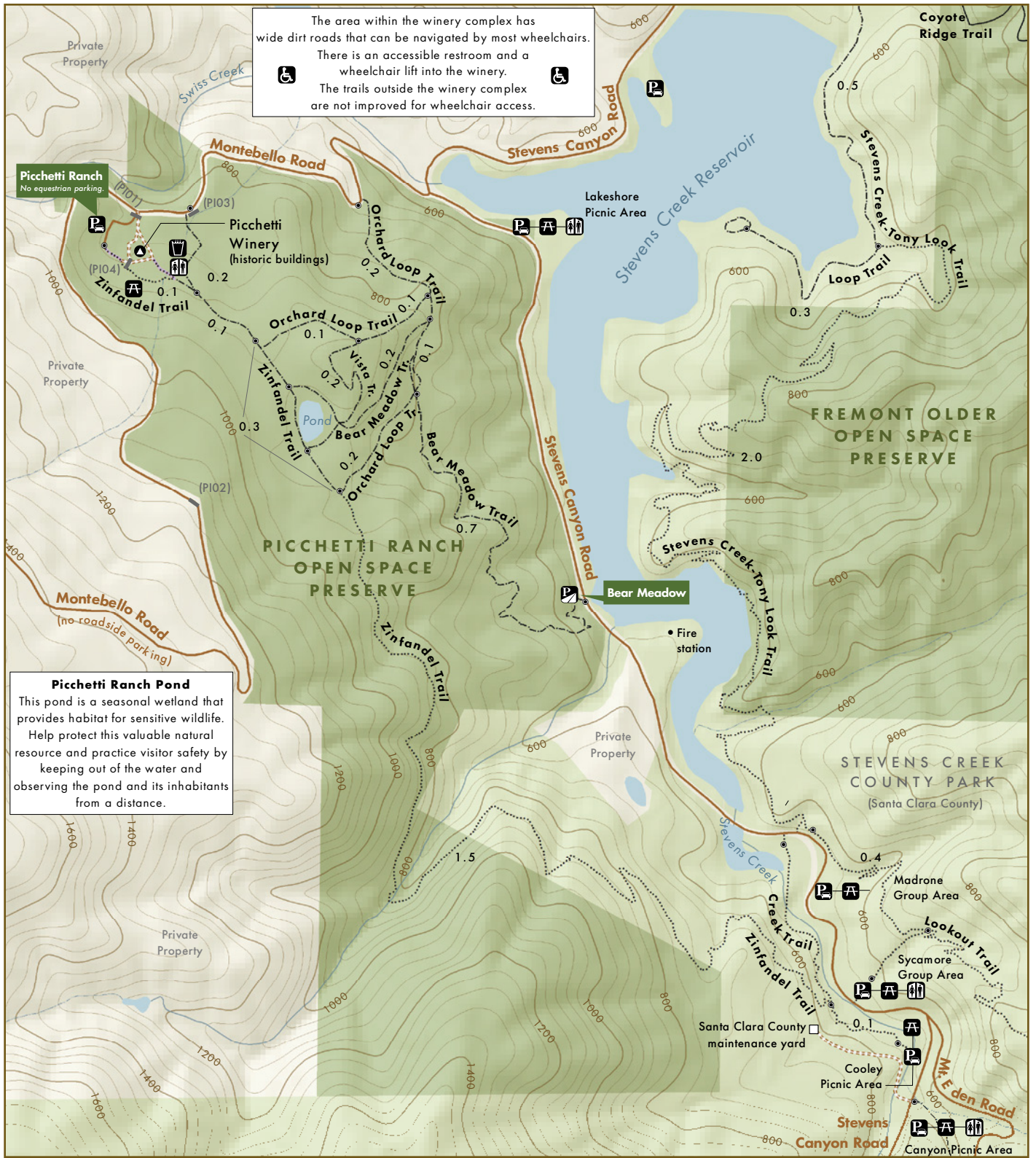
Variable Checkerspot Butterfly

The variable checkerspot (*Euphydryas chalcedona*) is usually black or brown with white and yellow spots dotting its wings.



If you like this, check out:

Rancho San Antonio	40
Windy Hill	66



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY



Avenza Maps

ALL TRAILS



OuterSpatial

DESIGNATED TRAILS



openspace.org

AVAILABLE



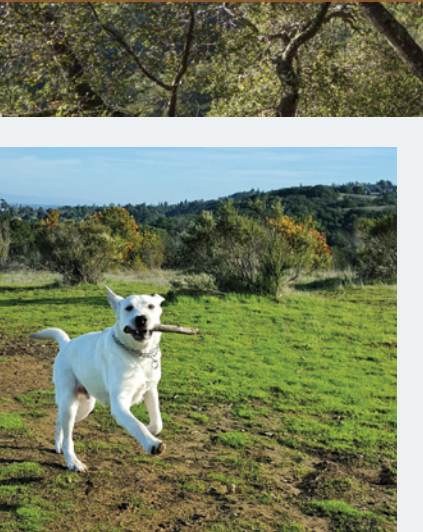
NOT AVAILABLE



SOUTH

PULGAS RIDGE

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



The winding branches of oak woodlands meet the scraggly shrub of chaparral habitat at Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve, Midpen's only preserve with an area where dogs are allowed off leash.

Once the grounds of the Hassler Health Farm, a tuberculosis sanatorium operated from 1926-1964 by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Pulgas Ridge became a Midpen preserve in 1983. Midpen demolished the dilapidated buildings to convert the land to open space. Remnants of the buildings, including rock retaining walls and steps, can still be spotted by a keen eye in the preserve.

Pulgas Ridge is one of a handful of locations where you can find patches of serpentinite, California's state rock. The surrounding serpentine soils are rich in magnesium and low in nutrients like nitrogen and calcium that most plants need to grow. Several native plants and wildflowers, however, have evolved to thrive in such extreme, inhospitable conditions. As in neighboring Edgewood County Park, part of the San Mateo County park system, the serpentine soils at Pulgas Ridge allow native wildflowers and rare plants to outcompete invasive, nonnative species, resulting in the rich biodiversity for which California is so famous. Serpentine also sequesters carbon through natural weathering processes by reacting with rainwater, so these soils have a potential for helping to reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

For more information visit openspace.org/pulgas-ridge



Black Phoebe

Black Phoebes (*Sayornis nigricans*) are fervent flycatchers that use mud to build cup-shaped nests against walls, bridges and culverts.



California Fetid Adderstongue

A member of the lily family, the California fetid adderstongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) is an early bloomer with a rather unpleasant odor – at least to humans.



Pacific Hound's Tongue

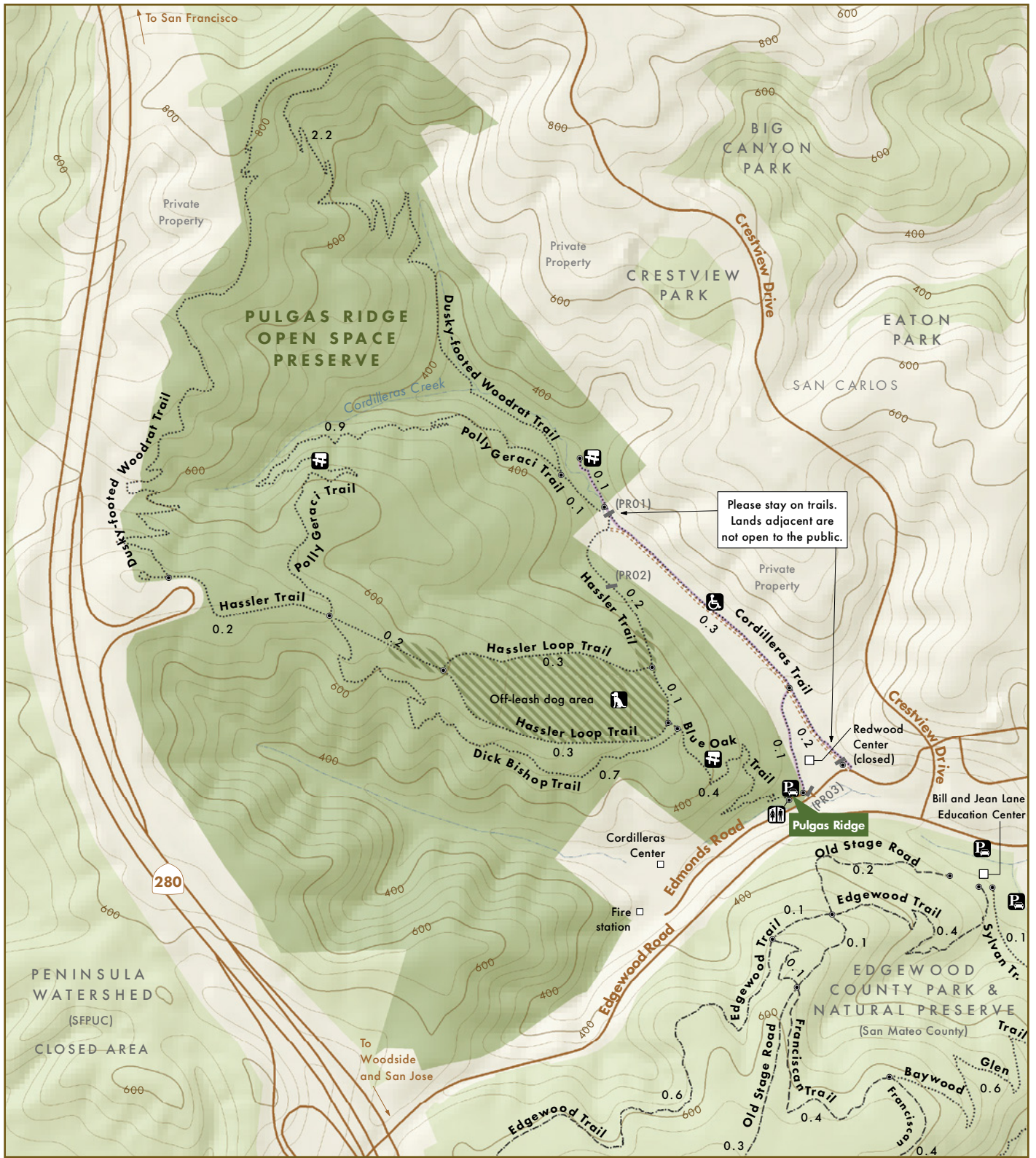
The intensely blue Pacific hound's tongue (*Adelinia grandis*) prefers to grow in light dappled shade and is commonly found beneath the oak trees of Pulgas Ridge.



If you like this, check out:

El Sereno	14
St. Joseph's Hill	58

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Karl Gohl
Left Top: Christopher Hunter
Left Bottom: Lynn Jackson



MAP LEGEND

- Off-leash dog area
- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



DESIGNATED TRAILS



AVAILABLE



NOT AVAILABLE



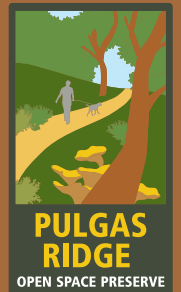
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PULGAS RIDGE
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

FOOTHILLS

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



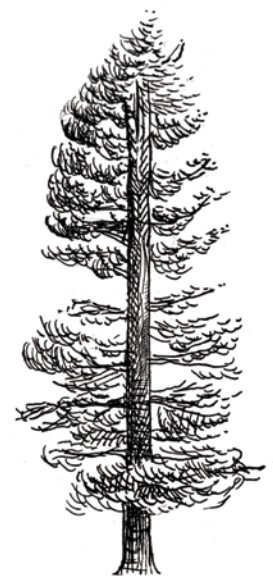
With its towering redwoods, rushing creek, and understory of ferns, berries, and wildflowers, it is easy to fall in love with Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

This preserve was established with a gift of \$2 million from the Save the Redwoods League and partially lies within Midpen's Coastside Protection Area. Purisima Creek Redwoods' slopes provide magnificent views, where you can take in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, especially from the Harkins Ridge and Soda Gulch Trails. The green canopies of coast redwoods, Douglas fir, madrone, tanbark oak and coastal scrub that fill Purisima Canyon are home to a variety of flora and fauna, including the endangered marbled murrelet, variable checkerspot butterfly, rough-skinned newt and California banana slug.

It's hard to imagine Purisima Creek Redwoods without its forested slopes, but in the early 1900s nearly all the trees, especially the coast redwoods, were cut down and milled for lumber. These redwoods were likely close to 1,000 years old when they were cut, with diameters between 10 and 20 feet. The large stumps along the Purisima Creek Trail are evidence of where these felled giants once stood. The second-growth redwoods seen in the preserve today are around 100 years old.

With more than 24 miles of developed trails and roads (historically used for logging), opportunities for easy walks or long, strenuous hikes or rides are abundant. There is more to come for this preserve, like the future Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail, which would serve as an important segment of the larger proposed 40-mile Bay-to-Sea Trail, intended to link the San Francisco Bay Trail and the California Coastal Trail. We invite you to wind through towering redwoods and enjoy the tranquility of this now protected and restored preserve.

For more information visit openspace.org/purisima-creek-redwoods



Coast Redwood

Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are the tallest trees in the world, growing up to 380 feet, and are only found along the western coast of the U.S., in a narrow band from southern Oregon to just south of Monterey.



If you like this, check out:

Bear Creek Redwoods	6
El Corte de Madera Creek	12
Thornewood	64

Starting at the Santa Cruz Mountain ridgeline, **Purisima Creek** flows west through the preserve for over 8 miles toward the Pacific Ocean. Now a protected watershed, the creek was once lined with seven logging mills between the mid-1800s until the early 1900s.

One of the most beautiful hikes in the preserve is a loop of North Ridge, Whitemore Gulch, Purisima Creek, **Craig Britton**, and Harkins Ridge trails.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Brittany
Left Top: Jawed Karim
Left Bottom: Frances Freyberg
Right: Travers Flynn



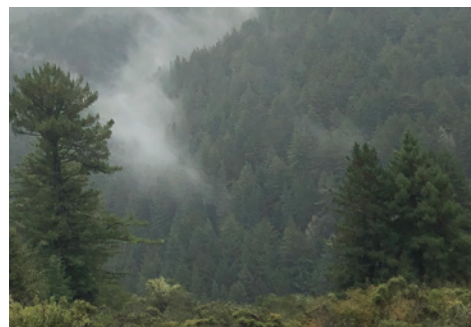
**PURISIMA CREEK
REDWOODS**
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

COASTAL



Marbled Murrelet

You are unlikely to see these secretive, endangered seabirds that nest high in redwood and Douglas fir trees here, however you can help the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) by keeping the forest "crumb" clean and packing out everything you pack in, including food waste.



PHOTOGRAPHY
 Top: Lanette Otvos
 Left Bottom: Randolph Weber
 Right Bottom: Tracy McCloud



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



Avenza Maps

DESIGNATED TRAILS



OuterSpatial

AVAILABLE



openspace.org

NOT AVAILABLE



PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

COASTAL

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



A highlight of the preserve is **Deer Hollow Farm**, a working farm with turn-of-the-century ranch buildings, an organic garden and a cow, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens and other animals.

Wildlife cameras are used to monitor and record wildlife activity and environmental conditions for scientific and educational outreach purposes. Data collected through these devices assist regional efforts to improve wildlife and habitat management.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Hongyun Liu
Left Top: ken Lunder
Left Bottom: Ken Hickman
Left: Alexandra Uti

Rancho San Antonio County Park & Open Space Preserve is by far the most popular of Midpen's open space preserves and it is easy to see why.

Rancho San Antonio offers a unique combination of diverse environments and habitats, cultural history and a variety of activities for all ages and abilities. It is managed by Midpen through an operations and management agreement with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department.

These lands were first inhabited by Indigenous peoples, now known collectively as the Ohlone, for thousands of years before the arrival of Spanish explorers. Following the Spanish colonial period, the land passed through various owners and uses, including ranching and other agricultural uses. In 1923, the Catholic Church purchased what had been known as Snyder Ranch and operated a college on site until the Loma Prieta earthquake badly damaged the buildings in 1989.

A variety of plant communities and wildlife habitats exist in the park and open space preserve. Environments range from mixed riparian and coast live oak woodlands to coastal scrub and grassy meadows. These habitats support valuable plant species, including willow, elderberry, alder, dogwood, blue and valley oaks, California bay, buckeye, poison oak, sage, toyon and coyote brush. Wildflowers, such as sticky-monkey flower, wild rose, lupine and blue-eyed grass, also bloom here in spring.

Wildlife abounds at Rancho San Antonio with deer leisurely grazing in the meadows and flocks of wild turkeys tottering along the trails. Raptors soar overhead and other birds flit amongst the trees that provide habitat for a variety of other species, too. Amphibians that occupy the riparian habitat include western toad, Pacific chorus frog (formerly known as the Pacific tree frog) and California newt. Reptiles include the alligator lizard, gopher snake and western rattlesnake.



Mountain Lions

Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in California face many challenges. They need large habitats, and because their native territories in the Santa Cruz Mountains have become hemmed in by roads and development, some mountain lions inhabit areas of open space near the wildland-urban interface. As a top-level predator, mountain lions play an important role in our local ecosystem.



Striped Coralroot

Striped coralroot (*Corallorhiza striata*) is a perennial wildflower orchid often found in forest and woodlands.



**RANCHO
SAN ANTONIO**
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

FOOTHILLS



The bird population varies with the season; look for woodpeckers, western bluebird, scrub jay, California quail, western tanager, robin, thrushes, red-tailed hawk and great-horned owl. Raccoon, black-tailed deer, rabbit, fox, opossum, bobcat, coyote and mountain lion also make their homes here.

The preserve's extensive 25.4 miles of trail are available for exploration to hikers and most trails are accessible to equestrians. A limited amount of designated trails that extend from the main entrance are also open to bikes. Trails can be combined to form loops of different lengths and difficulties. The 3-mile Wildcat Loop Trail, a popular route for hikers and joggers, follows the creek into a cool, fern-walled narrow canyon, ascends through chaparral to open meadows on the middle ridge, and loops back to Deer Hollow Farm. Lupine, poppies, and patches of blue-eyed grass bloom in the meadows in spring. Pause or picnic here and, on a clear day, enjoy spectacular views of Mount Tamalpais to the north and Mount Hamilton to the east.

Parking at the preserve is often congested, especially during peak hours. Bicycling, walking, use of ride apps or public transportation are encouraged.

For more information visit openspace.org/rancho-san-antonio

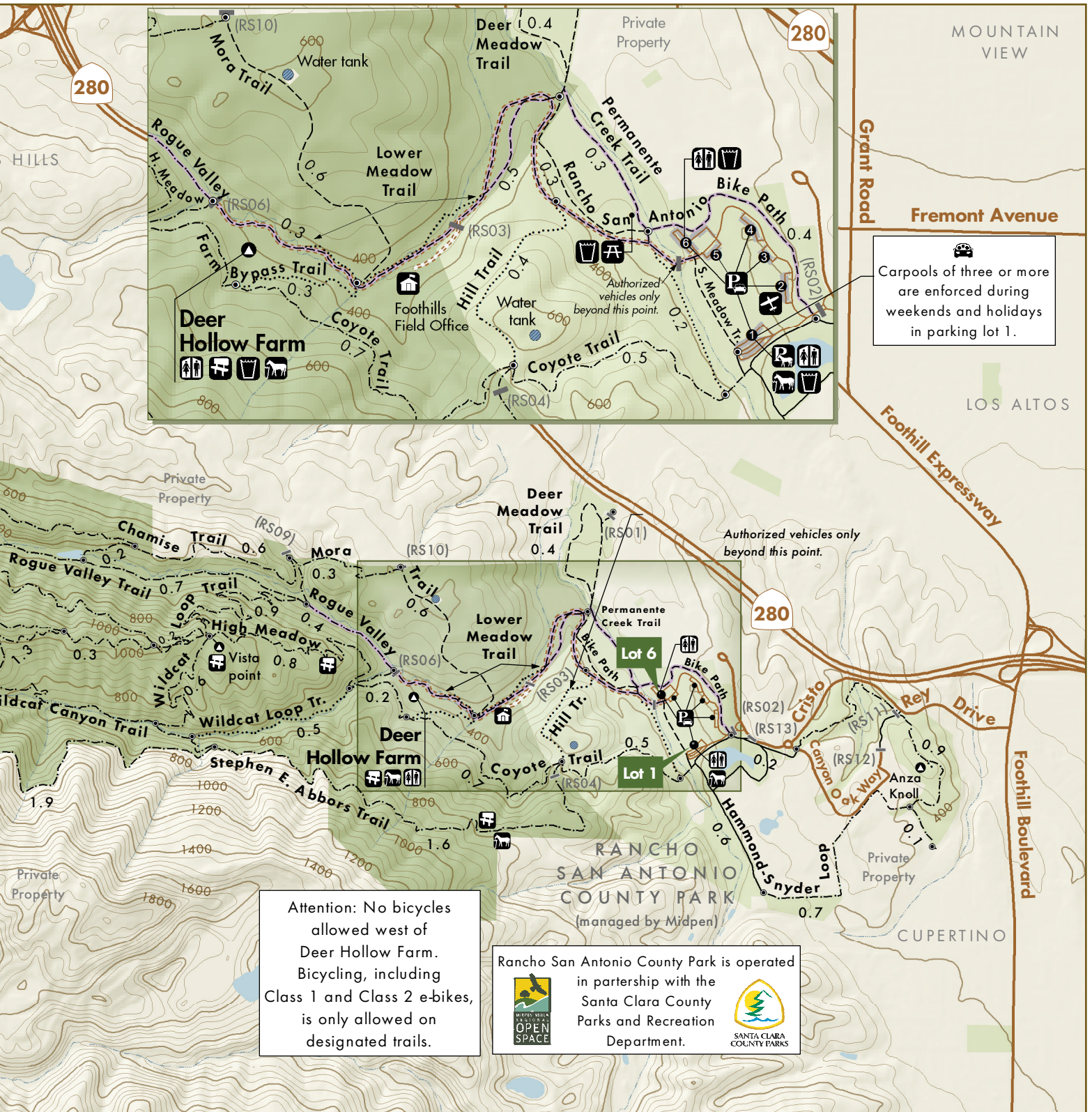
PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: James Snyder
Bottom: Mike Asao



Great Horned Owl

Great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) are fierce predators with excellent night vision and sensitive hearing to help them locate prey.

If you like this, check out:	
Fremont Older	18
Picchetti Ranch	32
St. Joseph's Hill	58



Attention: No bicycles allowed west of Deer Hollow Farm. Bicycling, including Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, is only allowed on designated trails.

Rancho San Antonio County Park is operated in partnership with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department.

MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY ALL TRAILS DESIGNATED TRAILS AVAILABLE NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



OuterSpatial

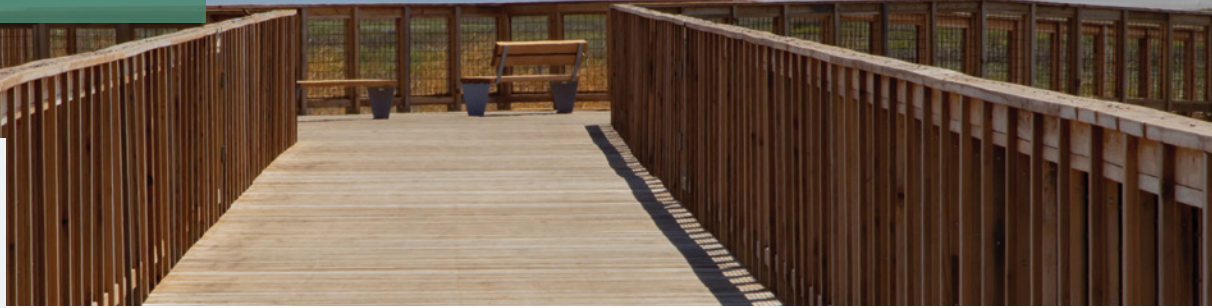


openspace.org



FOOTHILLS

RAVENSWOOD OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Ravenswood Open Space Preserve takes its name from a gold rush-era town that once thrived on the shore of San Francisco Bay, near present-day East Palo Alto.

In the 1950s, the Leslie Salt Company turned the marsh into a salt production pond by surrounding it with levees to keep out the tides. Midpen purchased the property from the Leslie Salt Company in 1981 and opened Ravenswood Preserve to public access in 1989. Restoration of the marsh began in 2000 when Midpen broke open the old levees, allowing bay water to bring life back to the area.

As part of the Pacific Flyway, San Francisco Bay marshes provide food, shelter, and habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife, and are a crucial winter refuge for millions of migrating birds that stop over each year. A great location for birdwatching, Ravenswood offers visitors a chance to catch glimpses of shorebirds, ducks and wading birds, like sandpipers, dowitchers and avocets. Great blue herons, white pelicans and egrets are also common. The Ridgway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse are two endangered species that depend on this sensitive habitat of marshland vegetation to survive.

While the Bay Trail is short, it's mighty, connecting more than 80 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail. With the help of 17 partner agencies, Midpen recently completed a boardwalk and trail connection that features a redwood boardwalk and bridge over sensitive wetlands. As part of the project, Midpen built high-tide refugia islands to protect marsh species from sea-level rise and did restoration seeding and vegetation planting to help restore the preserve's wetlands with the help of local partner Grassroots Ecology. The work was funded in part by Measure AA.

For more information visit openspace.org/ravenswood

Gumplant

Gumplant (*Grindelia camporum*) is a small yellow flowering plant that produces a sticky, milky substance which protects herbivores from the sun's ultraviolet rays.



Ridgway's Rail

Amongst the cordgrass of the salt marsh, the endangered Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) can be found foraging the shallow brackish waters for crustaceans, insects and fish.



Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

The endangered salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) relies upon marsh plants such as pickleweed to build its nests.



If you like this, check out:

Skyline Ridge	54
Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area	60

Tidal marsh provides an important buffer for high-tide events and rising sea levels. The marsh vegetation acts as a sponge, absorbing and filtering water from both the bay and upland creeks.

The Cooley Landing Education Center offers wide variety of educational opportunities for visitors and is managed by the city of East Palo Alto.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Top: Mike Kahn
Left Top: Anna George
Left Bottom: Leo Leung



Bicycling, including Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, is only allowed on designated trails. No dogs or horses are allowed.
* * *

Cooley Landing Park is managed by the City of East Palo Alto, in partnership with Midpen. All City of East Palo Alto regulations apply.

MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking, bicycling trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY



Avenza Maps

ALL TRAILS



OuterSpatial

NOT AVAILABLE



openspace.org



BAYLANDS

RUSSIAN RIDGE

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



From moss-covered ancient oaks with crooked, winding branches to spectacular views atop rolling grassland hills, there is plenty to see at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.

This preserve is named for Mr. Paskey, a Russian immigrant who leased this land to run a dairy farm from James “Sunny Jim” Rolph Jr., the then mayor of San Francisco, in the 1950s. Today, cattle still can be found along Mindego Hill Trail, controlling invasive species and promoting native grass and wildflower growth as part of Midpen’s Conservation Grazing Program.

Every spring, visitors flock to Russian Ridge as its rolling grassland hills often explode with the colors of blooming wildflowers. During wildflower season, parking at this preserve becomes very limited due to the high volume of visitors.

Borel Hill, the highest named point in San Mateo County at 2,572 feet, stands tall within Russian Ridge and offers a breathtaking 360-degree view of the entire region, from the Marin Headlands and Mt. Tamalpais to San Francisco and Mount Diablo. At such high elevation, Russian Ridge is one of the best places in the Bay Area to spot a raptor. Red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, Cooper’s hawks, sharp-shinned hawks and golden eagles have all been seen soaring through the sky above the preserve.

For more information visit openspace.org/russian-ridge



Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) use holes created by burrowing animals such as badgers and ground squirrels for nesting.



Johnny Jump Ups

The California golden violet (*Viola pedunculata*) is a variety of wild pansy with yellow petals also known as Johnny jump ups.

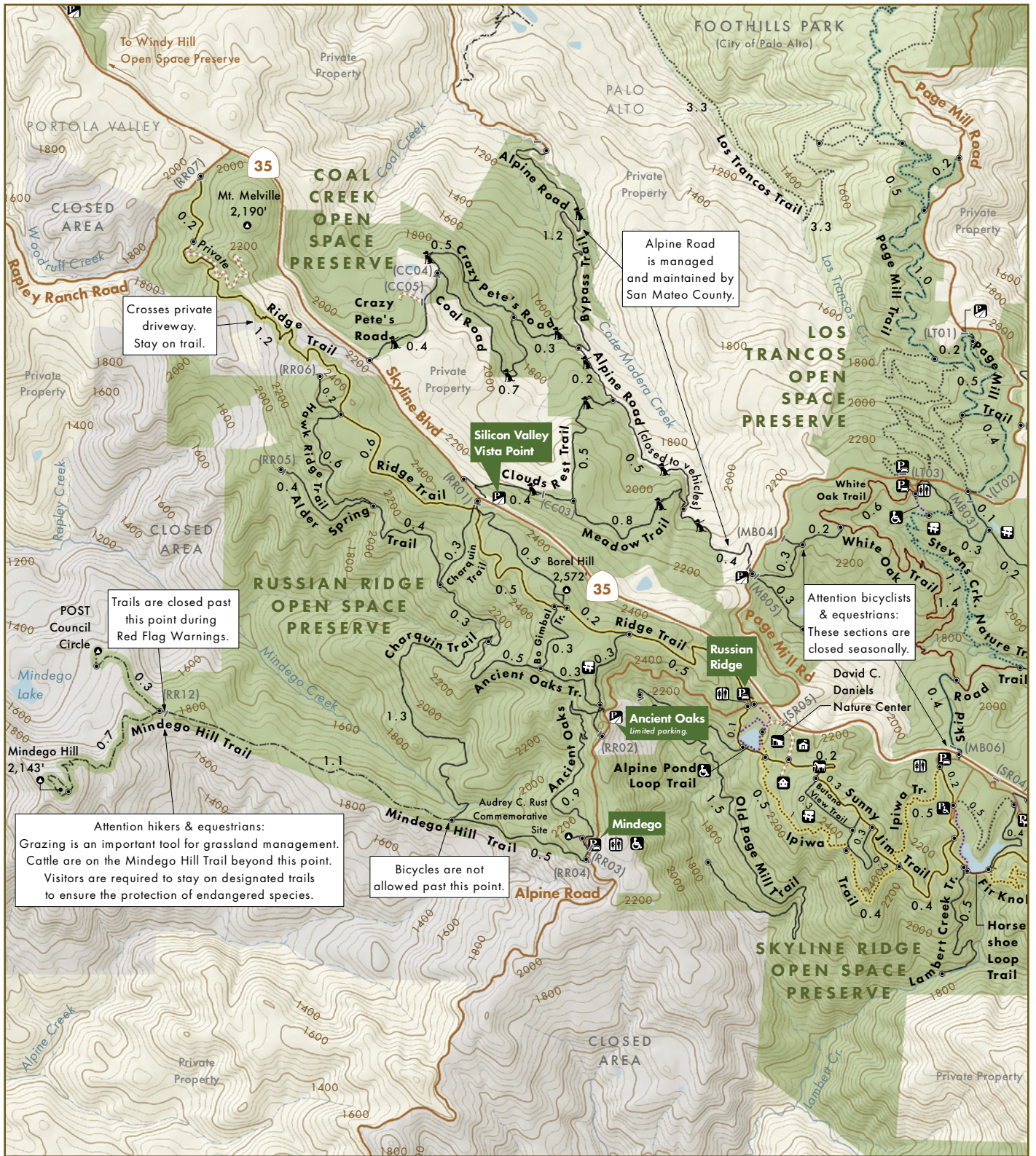
Bobcat

Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) communicate extensively through scent and visual signals to mark their home range, show interest in mating and indicate that a den is being used for cubbing.



If you like this, check out:

Long Ridge	22
Skyline Ridge	54



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Bay-to-Ridge Trail
- Stevens Creek Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY



Avenza Maps

ALL TRAILS



DESIGNATED TRAILS



OuterSpatial

AVAILABLE



openspace.org

NOT AVAILABLE



RUSSIAN RIDGE
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

SARATOGA GAP

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



The natural environment at Saratoga Gap lends itself to many atypical greeneries, such as trees covered by bright green moss and lighter green lichen blanketing boulders throughout the preserve.



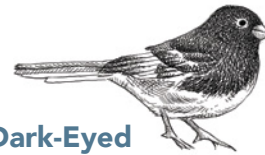
Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve's steep hillsides that plunge northeast toward Stevens Creek are home to a mix of evergreen and oak forests where Indigenous peoples historically foraged for nuts and bulbs.

The initial 165 acres of this preserve were a gift from Paul and Nessie Cheseborough, and The Sempervirens Fund provided critical support for additional acquisitions.

The Saratoga Gap Trail parallels Skyline Boulevard passing under the spreading branches of weathered oaks before dropping into a cool, wooded Douglas fir forest. The trail ends across from the Hickory Oaks trailhead toward Long Ridge Open Space Preserve and Highway 35. In the spring, beautiful purple lupine and bright orange poppies decorate the grassy slopes along many of the hillsides in this preserve.

For those who like long-distance travel, Saratoga Gap Trail serves as a crucial connection between an extensive trail network that include Sanborn and Upper Stevens Creek county parks, Castle Rock and Big Basin Redwoods State Parks, and other Midpen preserves: Long Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Russian Ridge and Monte Bello. The Saratoga Gap Trail is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and takes you past a delicate tafoni sandstone rock formation and attractive lichen-covered boulders that help make this preserve so scenic.

For more information visit openspace.org/saratoga-gap



Dark-Eyed Junco

The dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*) is a small, slate-colored sparrow that prefers the ground around large trees and shrubs.



Maidenhair Fern

California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*) is a native, perennial fern that grows often in shaded stream and hillsides.



If you like this, check out:

Long Ridge	22
Teague Hill	62



MAP LEGEND

- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



OuterSpatial

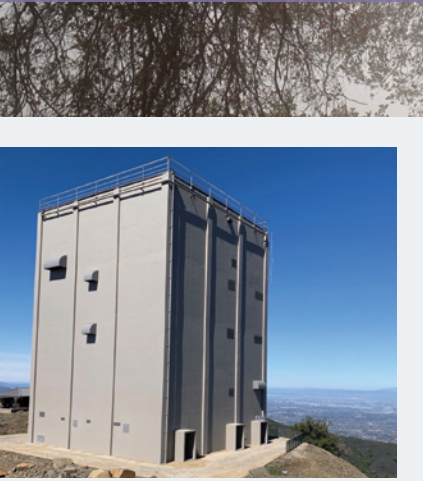


openspace.org



SKYLINE

SIERRA AZUL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Sitting high above the marine fog layer, Mount Umunhum pokes out with an iconic profile. The summit features the recognizable **radar tower**, a remnant from the Cold War era Almaden Air Force Base.



This Midpen preserve is the largest in acreage and highest in elevation, featuring 25 miles of multiuse trails along its rugged serpentine soils, chaparral, oak woodland and riparian ecosystems.

Encompassing nearly 20,000 acres, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve is known for more than its impressive size — it features varied landscapes including serpentine grasslands, craggy mountainous outcroppings, dense oak woodlands and iconic chaparral habitats. Sierra Azul, translated as “blue range,” comprises most of the southern section of the Santa Cruz Mountains and is perhaps best recognized for its iconic peak, Mount Umunhum.

Mount Umunhum figures prominently in Indigenous communities’ creation stories. In the Mutsun language, “umunhum” is the sound made by the wings of a hummingbird and means place of the humunya (hummingbird). Because peaks bring prayers closer to the creator and hummingbird brought the original people fire, the mountain is considered sacred to many. In restoring the summit, Midpen worked closely with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, constructing a 60-foot ceremonial circle that serves as a central place on the mountaintop for gatherings, prayer, quiet contemplation and reflection.

The nearby cube-shaped building that is visible for miles in most every direction was once a U.S. Air Force radar tower, scanning the skies for potentially hostile aircraft. The Cold War-era tower was part of Almaden Air Force Base, constructed by the military on the summit in 1958 and operational until 1980. The summit and a nearby hill were flattened to make room for more than 80 buildings, including a swimming pool and bowling alley, supporting a community of soldiers and families stationed at the base.



Anna's Hummingbird

Sierra Azul features both the Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) and Rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).



Purple Martin, Kangaroo Rat

Through the restoration of Sierra Azul, several surprising species have been observed within the preserve including purple martins (*Progne subis*) and the critically imperiled Santa Cruz kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys venustus venustus*), a keystone species that plays a vital role in maintaining chaparral plant communities by dispersing and caching seeds in underground burrows.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Top: Tian Lin
Left Top: Sheryl Schaffner
Left Bottom & Right: Erin Ashford

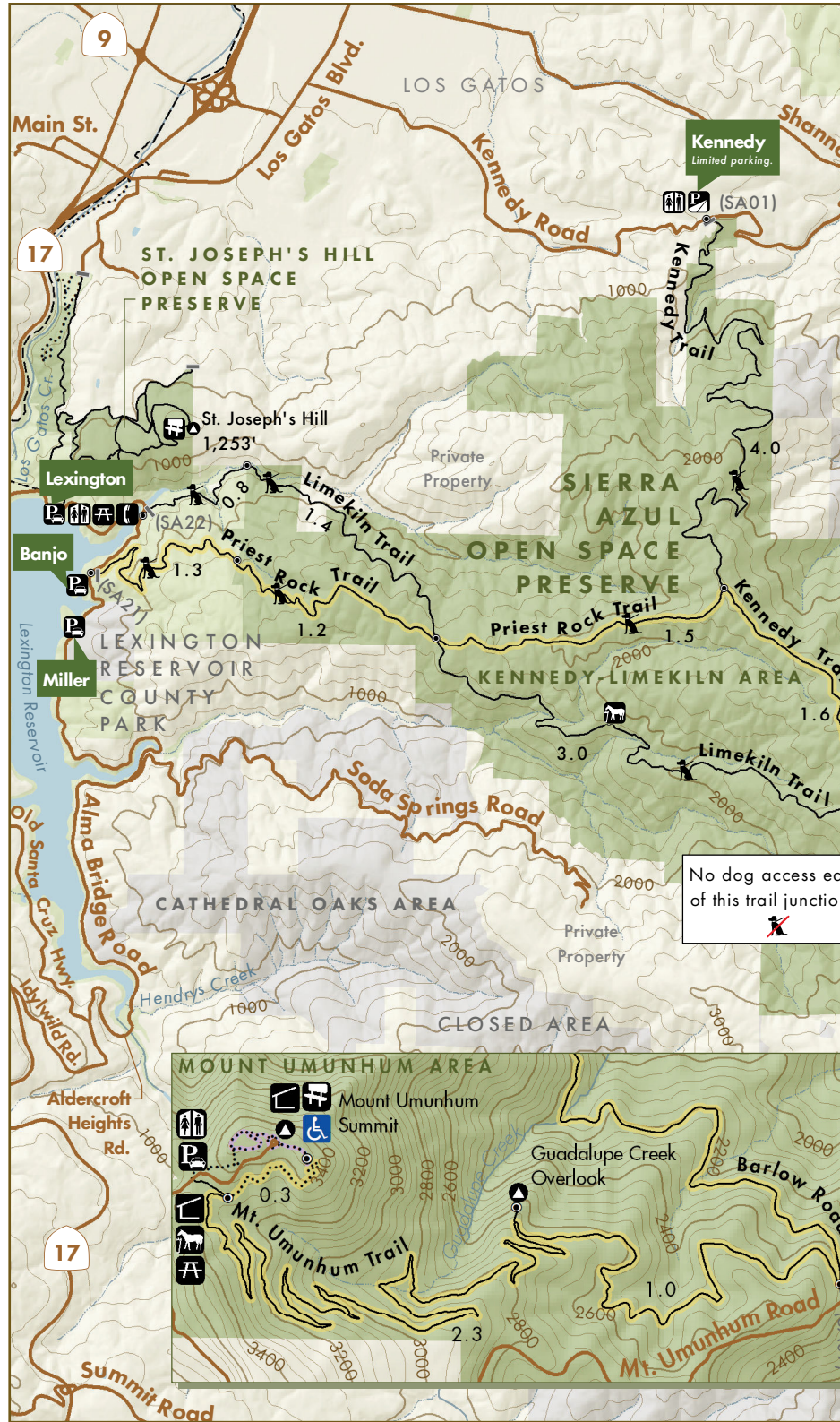


**SIERRA
AZUL**
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SOUTH

Midpen acquired the base and surrounding area in 1986 with the intention of restoring the natural wonder of the mountain and providing ecologically sensitive public access. By recontouring and naturalizing the topography, including rebuilding Bald Mountain, and planting native plants, Midpen was able to restore Mount Umunhum to a more natural condition. From the 3,486-foot summit, you can see across Silicon Valley and much of the San Francisco Bay region, as far north as Mount Tamalpais in Marin.

For more information visit openspace.org/sierra-azul



California Lilac

The California lilac (*Ceanothus*) has a strong fragrance that attracts birds and pollinators such as hummingbirds.



PHOTOGRAPHY
 Top: Erin Ashford
 Middle: Todd Ditchendorf
 Left Bottom: Amanda-Mills



If you like this, check out:

Bear Creek Redwoods	6
El Sereno	14
Fremont Older	18
Monte Bello	28



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling trail
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- 0.3 Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY ALL TRAILS DESIGNATED TRAILS AVAILABLE



SOUTH

SKYLINE RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



A great place to bring the family is the **David C. Daniels Nature Center**, which overlooks Alpine Pond and has a small viewing deck for the waterfowl and other aquatic life that can be discovered at the pond.

Archeological evidence shows Indigenous peoples used a site near Alpine Pond to grind acorns into flour with **grinding stones**.



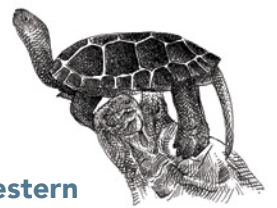
Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve offers a remarkably varied landscape that includes ridge vistas, expansive meadows, a pond for nature study, and a quiet lake frequented by migrating birds.

More than 12 miles of trails are available for exploration including two trails that are accessible to wheelchairs and baby strollers, the 0.5-mile trail encircling Alpine Pond and the 1-mile trail hugging the shore of Horseshoe Lake, where migrating birds often visit.

Skyline Ridge is in many ways the heart of Midpen. The Skyline Field Office, home base for rangers and field crewmembers, is located here and the preserve trail network connects to six other Midpen preserves. Skyline Ridge also features Midpen's official interpretive facility: the David C. Daniels Nature Center. Knowledgeable and friendly Nature Center Docents host visitors here from April through mid-November. Outdoor Education Docents provide Spaces & Species field trips for 3rd through 5th graders in the spring and fall.

The preserve also contains a 3-mile section of the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail that rewards you with views of the Lambert Creek watershed, Butano Ridge and Portola State Park. Equestrian parking is available at the preserve and marked trails are open to horseback riders. Within Skyline Ridge there is also a historic chestnut orchard that is believed to have been planted during the time of Spanish land grants in California. It is operated seasonally and open to the public each fall.

Much of the land that became Skyline Ridge (and adjacent Russian Ridge Preserve) was at one time owned by James Rolph, Jr. or "Sunny Jim," San Francisco's longest-running mayor and the 27th governor of California. After Rolph, Skyline Ridge



Western Pond Turtle

The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) is the only species of freshwater turtles native to California. They are often seen basking in the sun on logs or rocks to stay warm and produce vitamins through UV exposure.

Eight-Spotted Skimmer

The eight-spotted skimmer (*Libellula forensis*), a dragonfly with eight black markings on its wings, is often found in ponds and lakes.





SKYLINE RIDGE
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

Preserve was used for hogs and cattle, with Alpine Pond and Horseshoe Lake constructed in the 1950s to provide water for the ranching and agriculture operations. The property was eventually passed on to the Wasserman family who established the Christmas tree farm that still exists today.

For more information visit openspace.org/skyline-ridge



California Buckeye

California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) is a large, native shrub often coated in lichens and mosses with sweet-scented white or pink flowers.

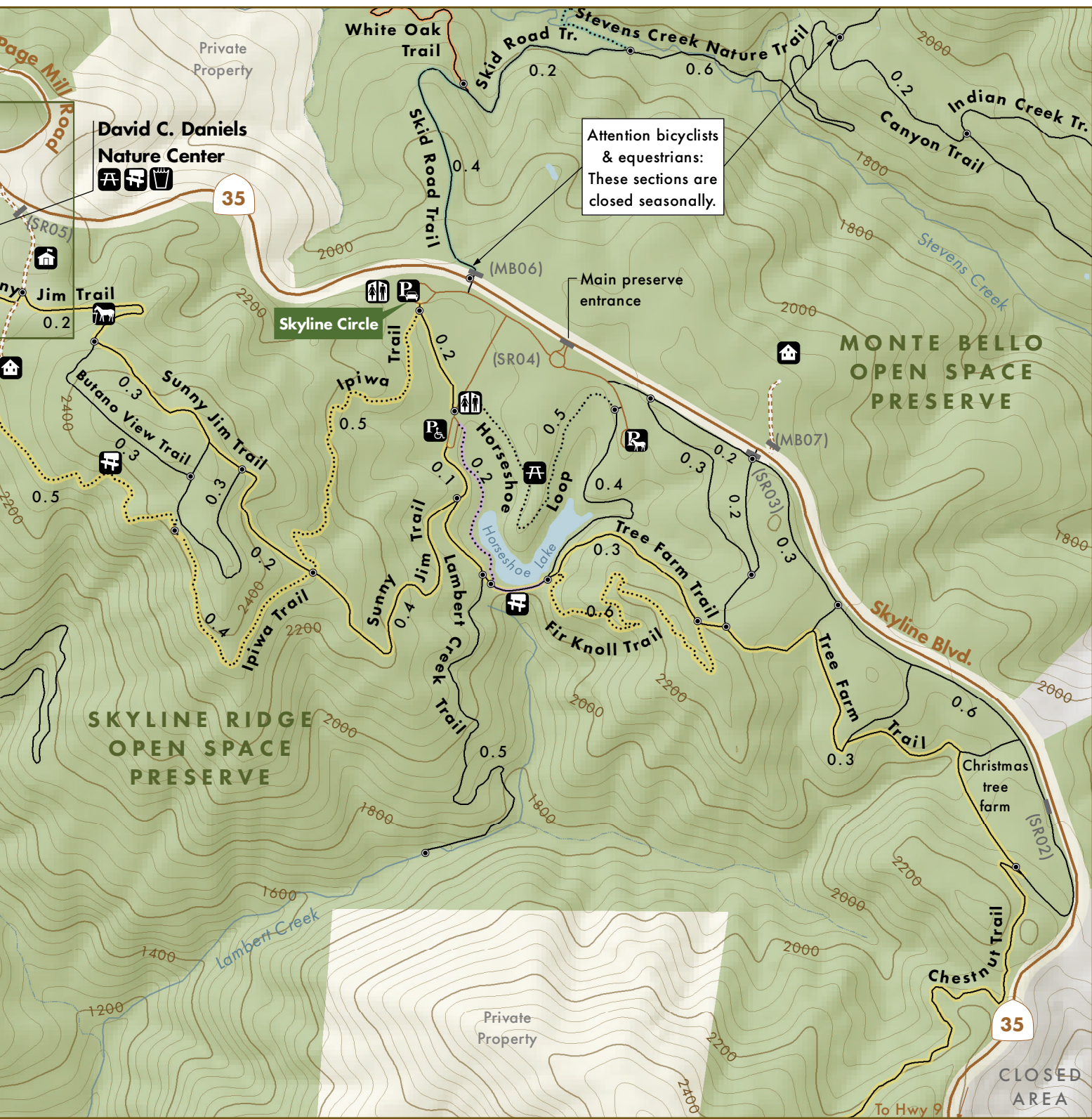


PHOTOGRAPHY
 Top: Sherilyn Reinhart
 Middle: Henri Lamiroux
 Left Bottom: Robert Clark



If you like this, check out:

Long Ridge	22
Ravenswood	44
Russian Ridge	46
Thornewood	64



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Bay-to-Ridge Trail
- Stevens Creek Trail
- 0.3 Trail distance (miles)

KID FRIENDLY



ALL TRAILS



DESIGNATED TRAILS



AVAILABLE



NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



OuterSpatial



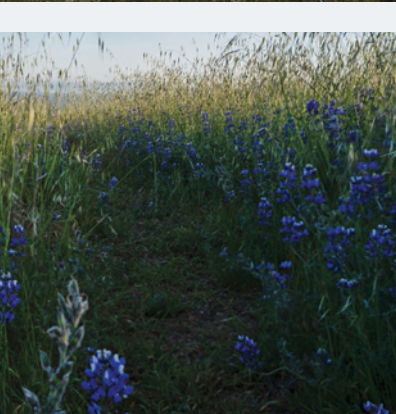
openspace.org

SKYLINE

SKYLINE RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

ST. JOSEPH'S HILL

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Visitors have two entry points to the preserve: coming in from the north near **downtown Los Gatos** on the Flume or Los Gatos Creek trails or entering from the south, near **Lexington Reservoir County Park**.

Rolling grasslands, manzanita-filled chaparral and grand oak woodland fill St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve, providing a wide array of experiences on the outskirts of Los Gatos.

Located a quick walk from downtown Los Gatos, St. Joseph's Hill offers an easily accessible urban escape in the South Bay. Midpen partnered with the Town of Los Gatos to acquire the property in 1982.

The preserve's name dates back to 1888, when the Jesuits founded a school, called a novitiate, and a winery on the hill. With close attention, you may see the remnants of abandoned vineyards on the upper slopes.

The hilltop itself rises 1,253-feet above Lexington Reservoir on the eastern edge of the preserve. Follow the Manzanita Trail for panoramic views of the Santa Clara Valley, the reservoir and the expansive Sierra Azul Range. The preserve is open for hiking and dog walking, as well as biking and horseback riding on designated trails. There is a fee for the Lexington Reservoir County Park parking area. The trail to St. Joseph's Hill starts opposite the boat launching area at the north end of the reservoir.

For more information visit openspace.org/st-josephs-hill

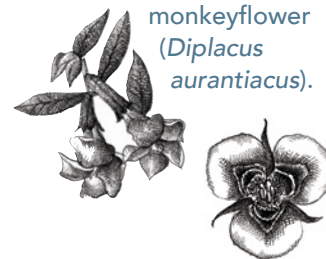


Spotted Towhee

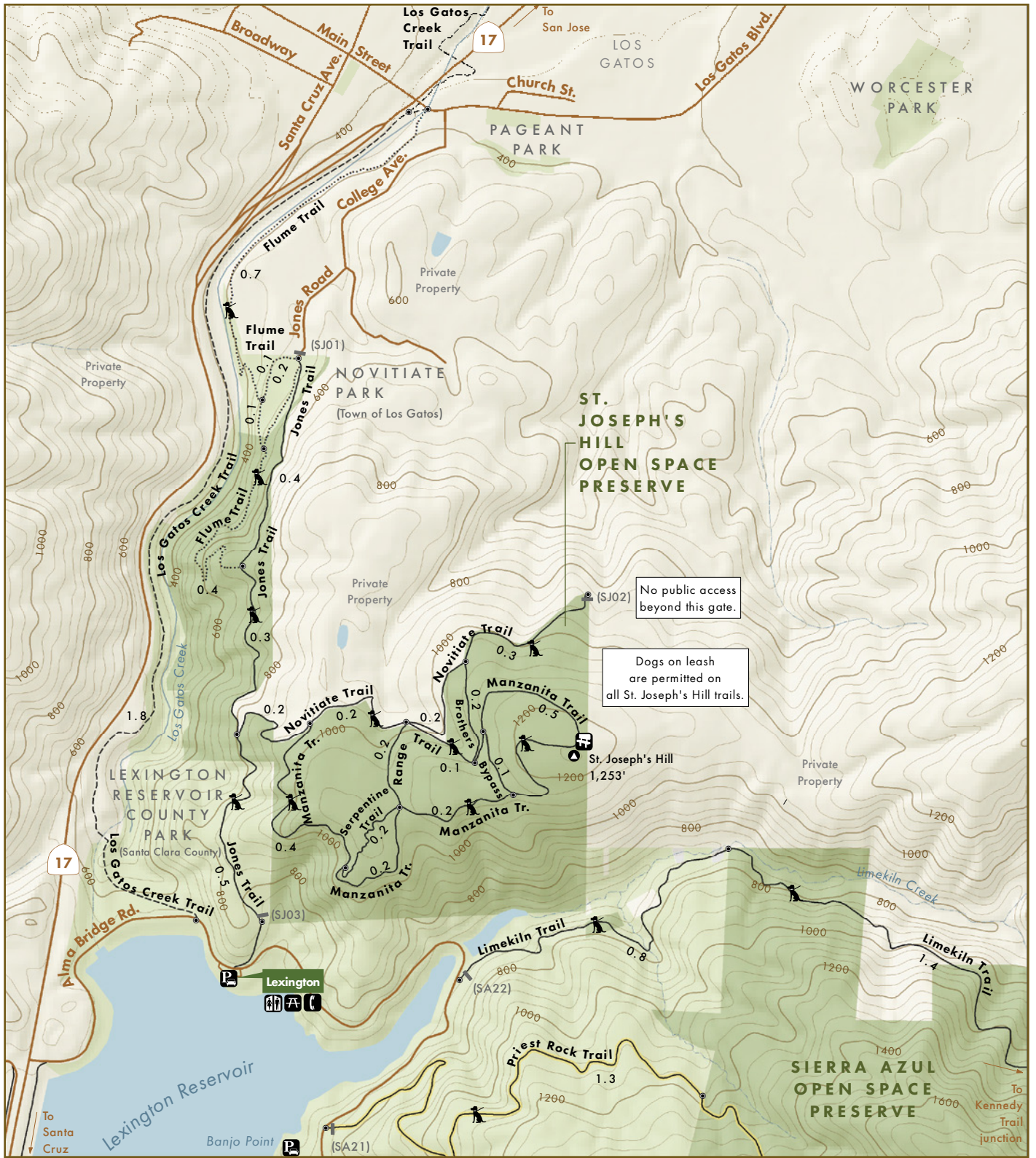
The spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) is a sparrow that can often be found in chaparral, mountain manzanita thickets and scrub oak habitats.

Clay Mariposa Lily & Orange Bush Monkeyflower

Serpentine soils support a unique wildflower community including the clay mariposa lily (*Calochortus argillosus*) and orange bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*).



If you like this, check out:
El Sereno



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- Hiking, bicycling trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



DESIGNATED TRAILS



NOT AVAILABLE



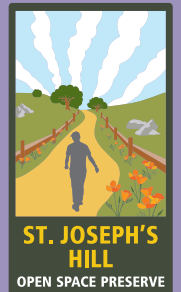
Avenza Maps



OuterSpatial



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ST. JOSEPH'S HILL
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SOUTH

STEVENS CREEK SHORELINE NATURE AREA

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area is a birder's paradise with views of a wide variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including black-necked stilts, mallards, snowy and great egrets, great blue herons, cormorants and pintails.

Acquired by Midpen from our nonprofit partner POST, previous construction of the salt-evaporation ponds to the north by the Leslie Salt Company removed the marsh from tidal action. Though vastly different from historical conditions, many species rely on the current unique ecosystem, which has existed here now for more than a century. A critical stopover along the Pacific Flyway, the San Francisco Bay provides habitat for more than a million migrating waterbirds each year and for many resident breeding shorebirds, including the federally protected western snowy plover.

There are currently several multiagency initiatives to restore the San Francisco Bay to a more natural and resilient ecosystem capable of countering the effects of climate change and sea-level rise. Actions include converting retired salt evaporation ponds back to tidal marsh, refurbishing salt ponds to be managed as intentional habitat for upland species like breeding plovers, and reestablishing transition zones to provide high tide refuge habitat for marsh species like the salt marsh harvest mouse.

For more information visit openspace.org/stevens-creek-shoreline-nature-area

Snowy Plover



Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area provides habitat for breeding western snowy plovers (*Charadrius nivosus*), a threatened species that nests in shallow curves in the ground lined with shells, grasses and pebbles.

Pickleweed

Pickleweed (*Salicornia* spp.) is a low growing, succulent plant that grows mainly in salt marshes, providing a protective cover for



marshland wildlife to build their habitat.

Visitors to Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area will see **sweeping views** of the southern end of San Francisco Bay.

The trails within the Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area are part of the **San Francisco Bay Trail**, a planned 500-mile walking and cycling path around the entire San Francisco Bay. With over 350 miles in place, the Bay Trail connects communities to parks, open spaces, schools, transit and to each other.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Top: Kwon Chiu
Left Top: Gary Brauch
Left Bottom: Dennis Smith
Right Clockwise: Joan Sparks, Nikki Weidner



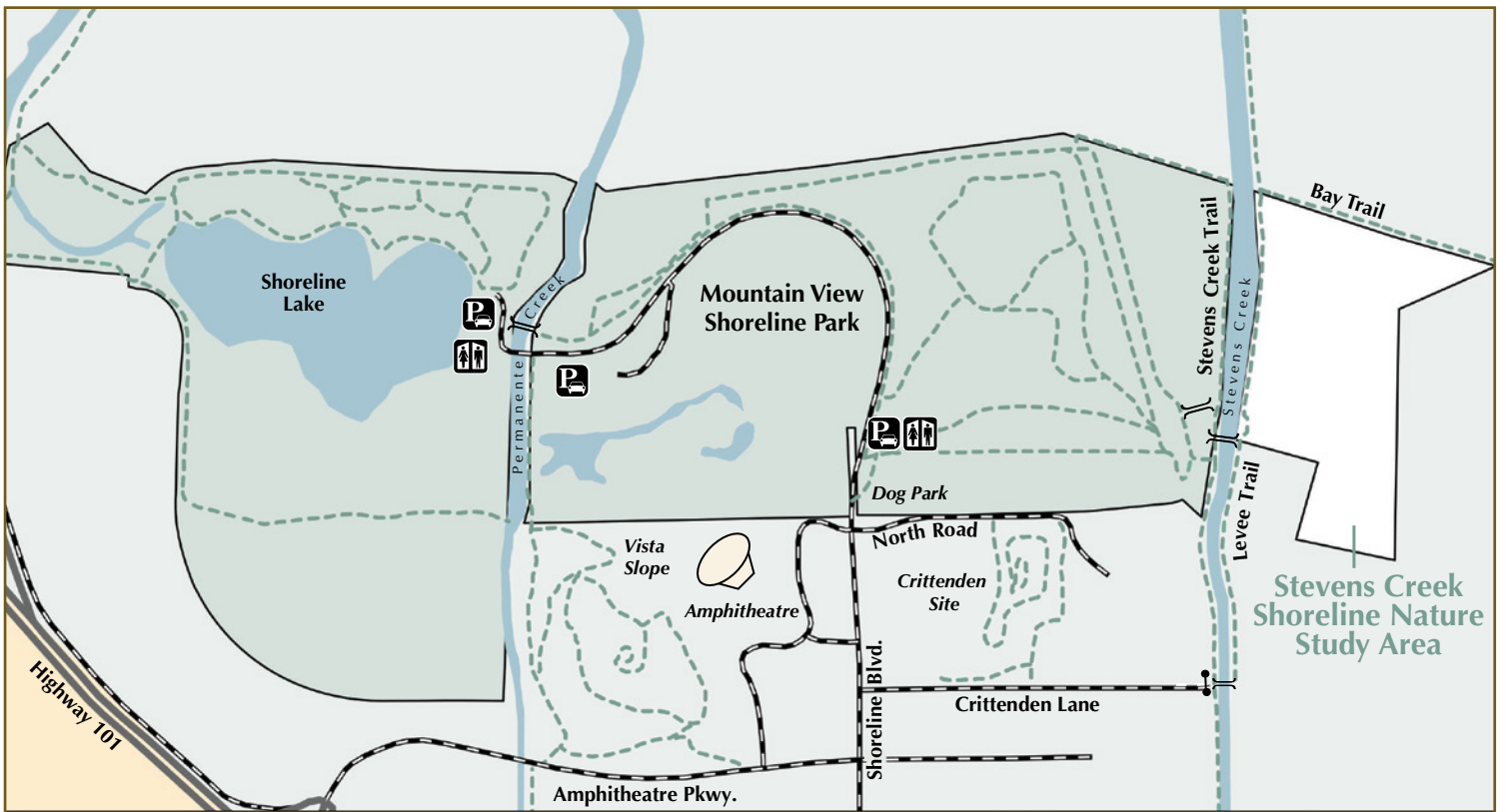
If you like this, check out:
Ravenswood

44



Least Tern

The least tern (*Sternula antillarum*) is the world's smallest tern.



MAP LEGEND

--- Hiking, bicycling trail

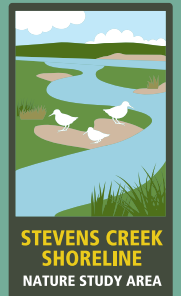
KID FRIENDLY



ALL TRAILS



NOT AVAILABLE



**STEVENS CREEK
SHORELINE**
NATURE STUDY AREA

BAYLANDS

TEAGUE HILL

OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Teague Hill offers a beautiful and unique array of Bay Area **woodlands** filled with oak and madrone trees. If you have a keen eye, you may even be able to spot a rare shrub endemic to the Bay Area Peninsula, the Kings Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos regismontana*).



A prime example of Midpen's dedication to creating interconnected habitat, Teague Hill Open Space Preserve helps bridge the space between surrounding Midpen preserves and other nearby protected open space.

Though a majority of Teague Hill is inaccessible to the public, the Bay Area Ridge Trail passes through the western corner. The rest of the preserve provides wildlife with safe passage in corridors of habitat, which helps increase the genetic diversity of their populations.

In the mid-1800s, a large sawmill operation took place in the area of Teague Hill and by 1865, all easy-to-reach locations had been timbered out. Production shifted instead to shingles since these could be manufactured by hand in more remote canyons and carried out by pack animals.

This quiet, immersive preserve is located west of the town of Woodside and is only accessible by the Skyline Trail section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which can be reached from trailheads at El Corte de Madera Creek and Purisima Creek Redwoods preserves.

For more information visit openspace.org/teague-hill



Bigberry Manzanita Tree

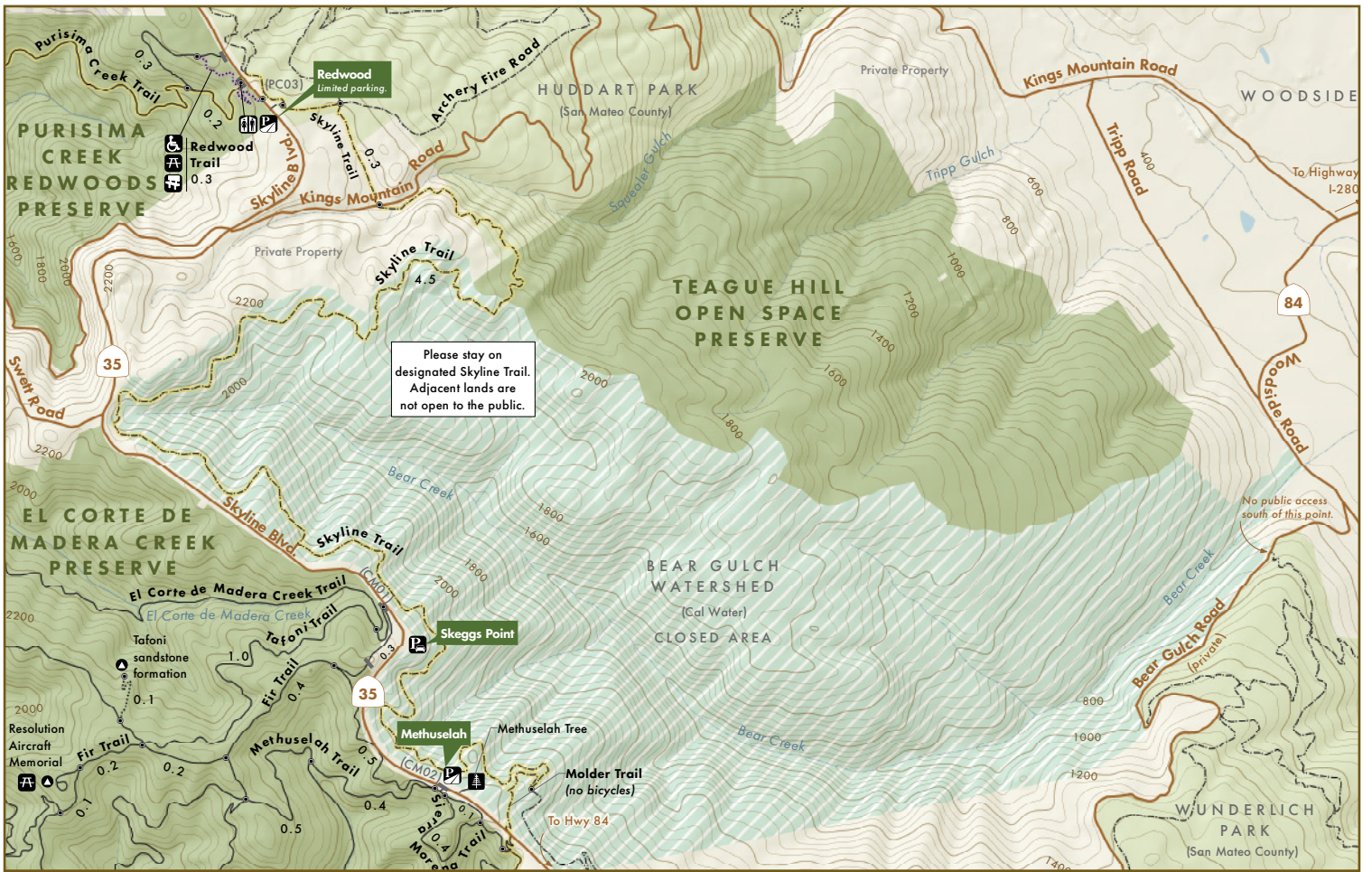
While spring is known as wildflower season, due to our region's biodiversity, blooms can be found in every season, including winter. The bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) produces clusters of lantern-shaped, white and pink flowers in the colder winter months.

San Francisco Dusky-Footed Woodrat

Commonly called "packrats," San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrats (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*) build extensive nests that can be 2-to-8-feet tall and have been seen placing bay leaves around the edges of their nests to control levels of fleas and other ectoparasites.



If you like this, check out:
Saratoga Gap



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Hiking-only trail
- - - - Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- - - - ● 0.3 Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



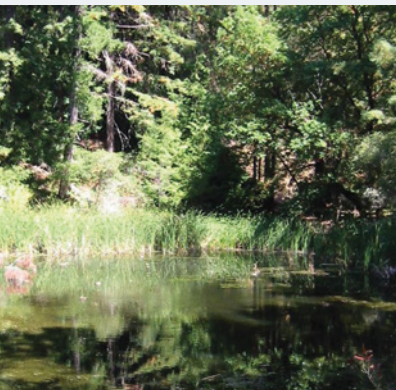
NOT AVAILABLE



TEAGUE HILL
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

THORNEWOOD OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Formerly an artificial pond, **Schilling Lake** is being allowed to fill in as a natural process known as succession. Eventually, shrubs and trees will establish and the meadow will become a forested area.

If you follow along **Bridle Trail**, second-growth coast redwoods are abundant throughout this small but mighty preserve.

The rich history found within ThorneWood Opens Space Preserve is just one of the many fascinating discoveries this preserve has to offer.

The historic ThorneWood estate, the once summer home of San Franciscans Julian and Edna Thorne, is an enchanting example of the gracious estate life of the 1920s. The estate was later purchased by August Schilling, a spice and tea mogul, who created several landscape features on the grounds including waterfalls, viewpoints, trails and a redwood-ringed artificial reservoir he called "Lake of the Woods," which was subsequently renamed Schilling Lake, and is now slowly and naturally converting to a wet meadow at the base of the preserve.

The 0.75-mile Schilling Lake Trail gradually winds through sunlit canopies of big-leaf maples and moss-covered oaks, eventually making its way into a cool forest of towering coast redwoods and Douglas fir trees. The variety of habitat and tree canopy along the trail make this preserve an ideal place for birding in late winter. In the spring, chaparral scrubs and blooming wildflowers make this trail spectacular viewing for botany enthusiasts.

To experience winding through serene second-growth redwood and Douglas fir forest, try spending a little time walking the Bridle Trail, just under a mile in length. The trail provides a hiking and equestrian route that brings visitors to ThorneWood's tranquil interior.

For more information visit openspace.org/thorneWood



Tanoak

The tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) is a broadleaf evergreen tree that lives in serpentine soils growing up to 130 feet tall.



Band-Tailed Pigeon

Larger than what you might find in city parks, the band-tailed pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) has a terminal tail band and iridescent plumage.

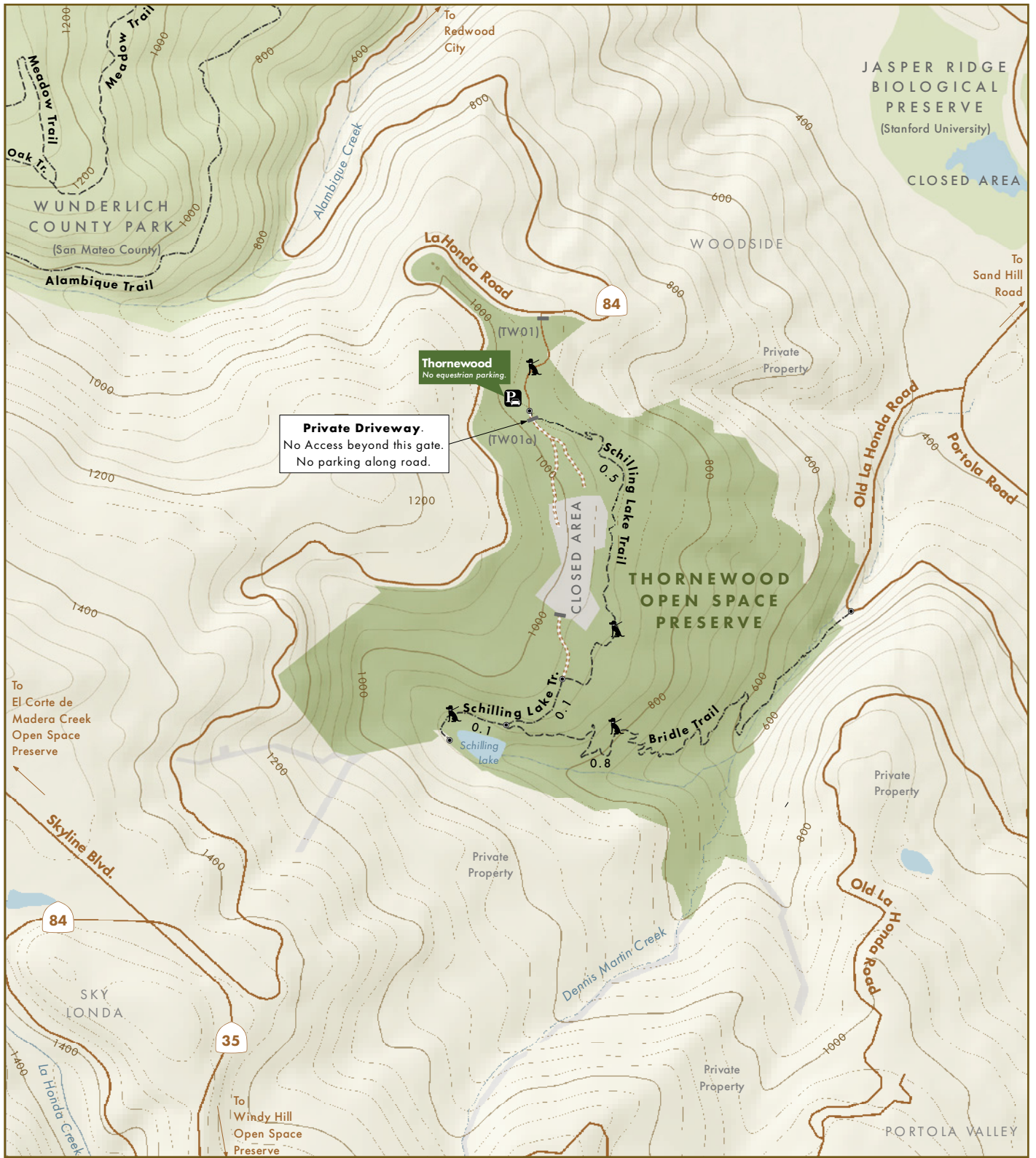
California Banana Slug

The regionally beloved California banana slug (*Ariolimax dolichophallus*) is a bright yellow, shell-less mollusk commonly found on the forest floor of redwood groves.



If you like this, check out:

Coal Creek	10
El Corte de Madera Creek	12



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- Vehicle driveway
- Hiking, equestrian trail
- Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS



NOT AVAILABLE



Avenza Maps



OuterSpatial



openspace.org



THORNEWOOD
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE

WINDY HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



Windy Hill is a northeast-facing **paragliding** and hang-gliding site. Excellent pilot judgment and skills are required to safely fly at this location. Permits are issued through the Wings of Rogallo Club. Visit wingsofrogallo.org/windy-hill to apply.

The 79-acre **Hawthorns Area of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve** was gifted to Midpen in 2011. Since then, Midpen has been working to restore native grasslands, improve community wildland fire safety and protect historic features on the property, with the goal of opening the property to the public.

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve was named for its distinctive, breezy grass-covered hilltop, which can be seen from many areas of the peninsula.

Windy Hill is a great spot to enjoy the magic of 360-degree views of the San Francisco Bay, the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Through the support of our nonprofit partner POST, Midpen was able to acquire this picturesque preserve that features sweeping grassland ridges and forests of redwood, fir and oak.

Windy Hill's variety of habitats and proximity to Portola Valley and surrounding communities make the trails popular here on weekends. Numerous parking lots along Skyline Blvd and in Portola Valley make this preserve accessible from both directions. Hikers and horseback riders often use the Hamms Gulch, Eagle, Razorback Ridge and Lost trails to make an 8-mile loop through forested ridges to the valley floor and back again. The Anniversary Trail provides a short hike atop Windy Hill, with spectacular views of the bay and surrounding valley. The Sausal Pond Loop weaves back and forth along the pond shoreline bringing views of waterfowl: wood ducks, mallards, hooded mergansers and more.

The Spring Ridge Trail, which descends from Skyline Boulevard and continues along a grassy ridge to Portola Valley to connect with the Meadow and the Betsy Crowder trails, is popular with bicyclists. The latter is named for a former Midpen board member, who also contributed hundreds of hours of service as a Midpen volunteer, served as a board member with several other organizations, and raised public awareness of the beloved Windy Hill area.

For more information visit openspace.org/windy-hill



Giant Trillium

Wildflowers are abundant at Windy Hill including hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*), and giant trilliums (*Trillium chloropetalum*).



Milkweed

Narrowleaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) is a perennial, flowering herb that provides food and habitat for the monarch butterfly.

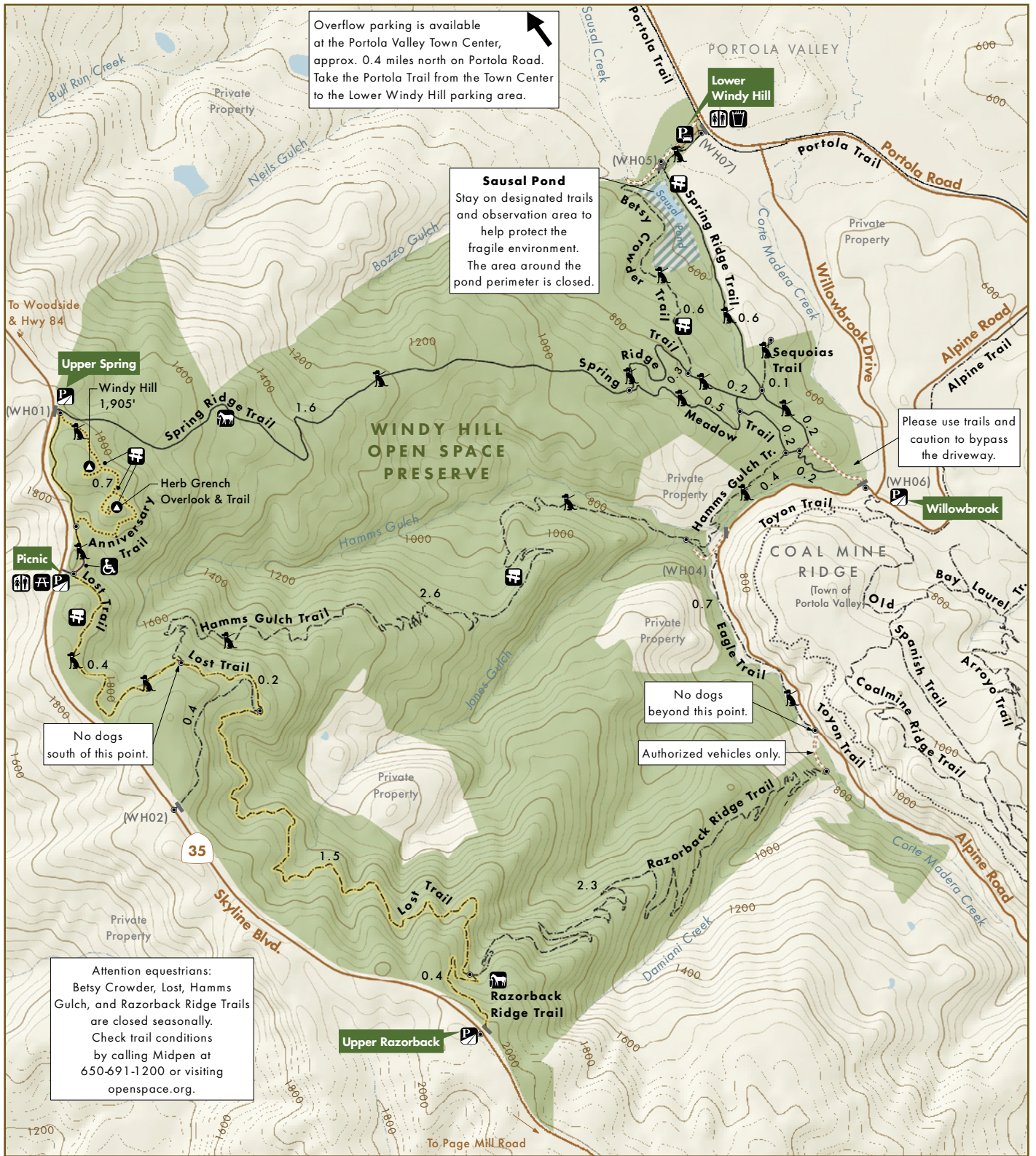
Golden-Crowned Sparrow

The golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) migrate to our area in the early fall from the far north to overwinter here. You can tell when they have arrived by their distinctive four-note call described as "I'm so weary". Look for the males with their bright yellow crowns among patches of shrub.



If you like this, check out:

Foothills	16
Monte Bello	28



MAP LEGEND

- Road
- - - - - Vehicle driveway
- Hiking-only trail
- · - · - · Hiking, equestrian trail
- Hiking, bicycling, equestrian trail
- Easy-access trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- - - - ● 0.3 Trail distance (miles)

ALL TRAILS DESIGNATED TRAILS AVAILABLE NOT AVAILABLE



WINDY HILL
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

SKYLINE



Rules & Regulations

Learn more at [openspace.org/trail-use-regulations](https://www.openspace.org/trail-use-regulations)

Biking

Most of Midpen trails are unpaved, wildland trails in steep, rugged terrain. Approximately 65% of these trails are multiuse trails open to bicyclists, which is the highest ratio of trails open to bikes among parks and open space in the Bay Area.

Please Note: Biking may not be designated on all trails within a preserve; always refer to the map and trail signage for where the activity is permitted. Some trails are subject to seasonal closures; always check trail conditions and refer to signage.

Access Guidelines:

Helmets: Bicyclists are required to wear helmets, even when riding uphill, that meet the standards of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Standard for bicycle helmets, or ANSI or Snell-approved bicycle helmets on all Midpen lands. Helmet straps must be securely fastened when riding.

Speed limits: Control your speed at all times and obey the 15 mph speed limit (5 mph when passing or on blind turns). Racing and reckless riding are strictly prohibited.

Closed areas/off-trail use: Ride on designated trails only (those shown on Midpen maps for bicycle use). Closed area or off-trail use, including straying off the trail for jumps, "wallrides" and "whoop-de-dos" is strictly prohibited.

E-bikes: E-bikes are not allowed on most Midpen trails. Per our Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices Policy, e-bikes can be used by individuals with a mobility disability on trails where bicycles are allowed. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are only allowed on limited improved trails at Rancho San Antonio and Ravenswood preserves. Please consult preserve maps for trail information.

Share the Trails

Some trails are multiuse (hiking, biking and horseback riding), while others are limited to a specific use. For the safety of all visitors and the protection of natural resources, please follow all Midpen regulations. Follow basic trail etiquette to allow everyone to enjoy the preserves: stay alert, don't block the trail and always yield to riders on horseback.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Top: Monte Bello Open Space Preserve (Lotti Dunbar), Bottom Right: Foothills Open Space Preserve (Kathleen Murphy) Opposite Page: Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Doug McConnell)

Plants & Wildlife

Please leave plants and wildlife undisturbed. If you encounter wildlife during a visit, do not approach, startle or feed it. Although wild animals are generally fearful of humans and will run away, some wildlife can be dangerous.

Fire

Fires are prohibited in preserves. If you see smoke or a fire, please call 911 immediately.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in preserves.

Water Areas

Swimming, wading or engaging in any water-contact activity is prohibited.

Weapons

Weapons of any kind are prohibited in preserves.

Drones

Drones and model rockets are not allowed. Model airplanes are allowed only in the designated area at Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve.



Horseback Riding

Twenty-one open space preserves are open to horseback riding. Many Midpen trails provide the long-distance opportunities for riding that are valued by equestrians, especially when trails allow connections between adjacent preserves or other public lands, such as along the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Speed Limits: Control your speed at all times and obey the 15 mph speed limit (5 mph when passing or on blind turns). A walk/trot pace is suggested. Select open areas or areas with long lines of sight and use caution to canter/lope. Racing and reckless riding are prohibited.

Close Areas/Off-Trail Use: Ride on designated trails only (those shown on Midpen maps for equestrian use). Closed area, use of trails posted no horses, and off-trail use are strictly prohibited.

Use of Fire Breaks/Disc Lines: Equestrians are permitted to ride on Midpen fire breaks/disc lines.

Rentals: Midpen does not rent or provide rental horses.

Safety: Ride with a companion whenever possible to be better prepared in the event of an emergency. Know your personal and physical limitations as well as your horse's. Choose a ride within the limits of your horse's ability. Plan your ride and know the name of the preserve(s) you will be going to, the trail(s) you will take, including the trail mileage you will travel and what to do if an emergency occurs on the trail. Being aware of the location of the closest phone or call box is recommended because cellular telephones may not have reception in the preserves. While on the trail, read gate numbers. If an emergency occurs, wait for incoming emergency responders.

Water Troughs: If you're planning a long or endurance ride, please plan accordingly and bring water if needed. Water troughs for horses are available on a very limited basis on Midpen's preserves.



Equestrian Parking Areas: Trailer parking is very limited at most preserves. Designated trailer parking is only available at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve (by permit), Rancho San Antonio County Park and Almaden Quicksilver County Park adjacent to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. Do not block driveways. When parking your truck or trailer, ensure you can back the trailer out and exit easily from the parking area. No at-liberty horse grazing. Horses must be tethered securely to the trailer. Use hay nets to help prevent the spread of nonnative invasive species.

Other: Horses are not allowed to be loose in the preserves. Horses must be attended and held or tied securely at all times. Carts and wagons are prohibited. If necessary while out on the trail, horses may be tethered to a tree.

Dogs

Midpen offers 11 dog-friendly preserves. Before heading out to one of these with your dog, please review our dog access guidelines below. Your cooperation and compliance are essential to ensure continued dog access, visitor safety, resource protection and an enjoyable experience for everyone using the trails.

The Following Rules Apply at all Times:

- Visitors may have no more than three (3) dogs per person.
- Dogs are not allowed in any Midpen water areas, including streams or ponds.
- Dogs must be on a leash 6-foot long or less. Self-retracting leashes are allowed with a maximum extended length of 25 feet. Extended leashes must be locked at 6-feet when in the presence of other visitors.
- Do not allow dogs to harass wildlife or other visitors.
- Bag and remove dog waste from the preserve by packing

it out. Do NOT leave bagged waste at the preserve or outside preserve restrooms.

Health and Safety

Remember, a dog depends on its owner. Be aware that dogs can overheat, particularly on strenuous trails and warm, summer days. With no sweat glands and only panting available to disperse body heat, dogs are much more susceptible to heat stroke than we are. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy panting, dry gums, weakness, confusion and inattention.

- Always carry water for your dog. No water is provided.
- Choose a hike within the limits of your dog's ability.
- Restrict exercise in the heat of the day and hike in the shade whenever possible.
- When your hike is finished, give your dog a thorough once-over for ticks and other bugs.

General Safety

Midpen trails and facilities are generally very safe. However, you are entering an environment where there are some naturally occurring hazards. Reasonable caution and common sense should be utilized when venturing into any outdoor environment.

- Travel in groups of two or more. Two or more people can assist each other in the event of an accident or emergency.
- Dress for the environment. Temperature changes can be sudden and you should dress in layers appropriate for the location, time of year and planned activities.
- Carry water with you. Drinking water is not available at most Midpen preserves so you should bring your own. Two quarts per person per 2-hour hike is recommended.
- Apply sunscreen and drink plenty of water prior to and during your outdoor activities.
- Be aware that cell service is very sporadic on the preserves.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Lock your vehicle and store valuables out of sight or take them with you on the trail.

Be Prepared and Aware

- Plan ahead before you leave. Check regulations and weather, download a map, pack water and first aid.
- Know your limits and take safety precautions.
- Rattlesnakes are native to this area and are especially active in warm weather.

- Poison oak grows on most preserves: Learn to identify and avoid it in all seasons.
- Ticks are present in this area and may carry diseases; stay on trails and avoid brushing up against vegetation.
- Mountain lions are a natural part of this region's environment and are occasionally seen.

Contact Information for Emergencies

To report an emergency on a Midpen preserve, call 911 to report:

- A medical, police, fire or other emergencies
- In-progress suspicious activity or crime
- A missing person
- Any urgent situation for which you need immediate assistance

Please have the name of the preserve and your location (e.g., the trail you are on, or if you're in a parking area) available to assist the dispatcher in sending you the appropriate resources.

To report maintenance needs, or for routine questions or information, call our Administrative Office at (650) 691-1200. This number is answered during regular business hours, and voice mail is available outside of regular hours. E-mail can also be sent to info@openspace.org.



Volunteer: Over 1,000 volunteers support Midpen each year by guiding activities and school field trips, patrolling trails, assisting with land stewardship and trail maintenance, and more. For more information, visit openspace.org/volunteer.

Guided Activities: Midpen offers free docent naturalist-led activities year-round, including nature walks, hikes, mountain bike and equestrian rides. Activities are posted at preserves, online and in our newsletter. To see what events

are being offered this month, visit openspace.org/guided-activities.

Leave No Trace: There are limited trash cans in the preserves, and it is your responsibility to pack out everything you bring in, including trash and dog waste. Do not leave bagged dog waste at the preserve or outside preserve restrooms. Your cooperation and compliance are essential to ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone using the trails.

Know Before You Go: Our rangers report consistently high visitation as people seek safe, local outdoor spaces for the emotional and physical health benefits that time spent in nature provides. To avoid crowding and protect each other and the natural environment, check out our Know Before You Go website at openspace.org/stories/know-before-you-go

Funding: Measure AA is a \$300 million general obligation bond, approved in June 2014 by over two thirds of District voters, to fund many of Midpen's top 25 Vision Plan priorities. Midpen operating funds come from a small share of county property taxes in portions of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.



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RUSSIAN RIDGE



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WINDY HILL



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BEAR CREEK REDWOODS



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LA HONDA CREEK



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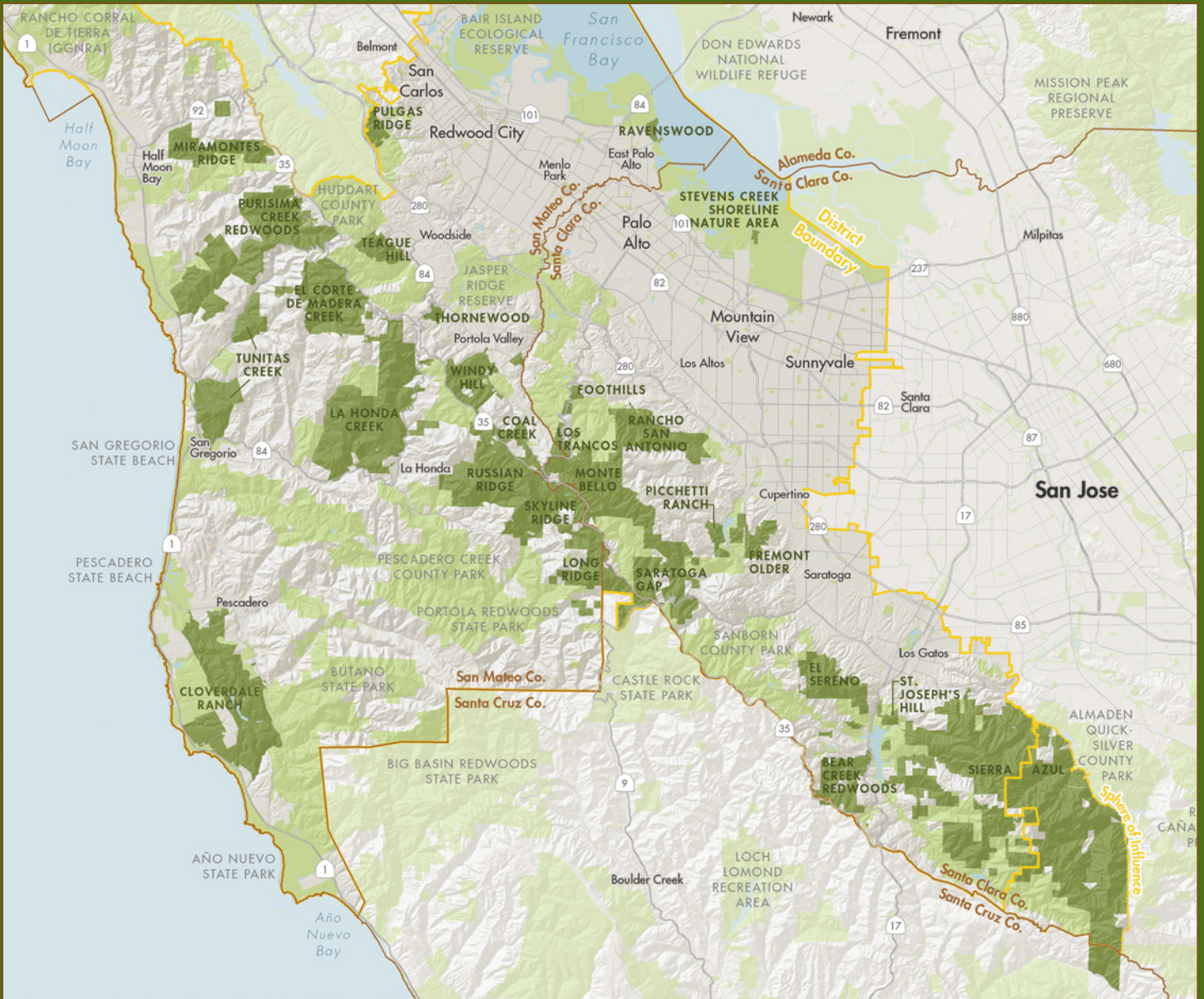
PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS



PROTECTED FOREVER

When you go on an outdoor excursion, you're transported to another place — and another mindset: Calm. Grounded. Inspired. Many of the preserves you enjoy today were originally protected by POST, then transferred to Midpen and other public agencies for ongoing management. We depend on the support of individuals like you to continue this important work.

OpenSpaceTrust.org/SupportPOST



Midpen Administrative Office

5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

You are welcome to stop by to pick up trail brochures, volunteer information, agendas and other information.

Contact Us

(650) 691-1200
email: info@openspace.org

If you experience an emergency Fire, accident or other immediate threat to life or property, call 911.
For nonemergencies, call (650) 691-1200.

