

Portfolio 23

(Closed)

Sierra Azul

Mount Umunhum Public Access and Interpretation Projects



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Nicole Gittleson)

DESCRIPTION

- Open Mount Umunhum for multiuse public access to summit via road and trail.
- Open Bay Area Ridge Trail and nearby trail connections.
- Preserve additional open space and complete wildlife corridor.

Original Allocation: \$27,972,000
Revised Allocation: \$21,814,891

Portfolio Expenditures Through 6/30/2023: \$21,814,891

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAA23-001 Mt. Umunhum Road and Trail Property Rights

Prior Years

- Purchased the 38.97-acre Meyer/Connolly property to protect additional open space and wildlife corridors.
- Purchased the 28-acre Rossetta property to secure public access rights along Mt. Umunhum Road and the Woods Trail in the Mount Umunhum area of Sierra Azul Preserve.

MAA23-002 Mt. Umunhum Trail

Prior Years

- Completed nearly 4 miles of the new Mt. Umunhum Trail to connect people to the summit.
- Completed major construction milestones on the Mt. Umunhum Trail, including the construction of an additional 0.5-mile trail segment, the narrowing of old, abandoned road cuts into a trail and the installation of three new pedestrian bridges and signage.
- Completed final preparations for opening Mount Umunhum, installing fencing, signs, horse trough, trail construction and new bridges.

MAA23-004 Mt. Umunhum Summit Restoration, Parking and Landing Zone

Prior Years

- Volunteers and contractors installed 1,085 nursery plants. A plant maintenance contractor continues to maintain the site with watering and weeding around previously installed nursery plants.
- Completed Phase 2 plant restoration and sign installation.
- Created a new contract with Grassroots Ecology's Native Plant Nursery to grow approximately 1,900 native plants and 5 pounds of native grass and forb seed for Phase 1 of the Mount Umunhum revegetation project.

Developed a habitat restoration plan for the Mount Umunhum Summit to enhance the native plant recolonization of the restored mountaintop, incorporating input from the Amah Mutsun tribal group on Native American restoration techniques.

Surveyed and mapped rare plant populations and collected native plant seeds in support of the restoration planting plan.

Completed the construction of the Mount Umunhum Summit restoration project, including a new parking lot, summit shelters, turnaround area, ceremonial circle, ADA pathways, stairs, trail steps and other site amenities. Opened Mount Umunhum Summit area to the public in September 2017.

Developed and created broad interpretive displays for the Mount Umunhum summit project, providing visitors with a substantially greater understanding of the site's rich history.

MAA23-005 Mt. Umunhum Guadalupe Creek Overlook and Bridges

Prior Years

Completed the design, permitting and construction for the Guadalupe Creek overlook (a featured overlook along Mt. Umunhum Trail), including permitting and construction of three new trail bridges along the trail.

Installed the Guadalupe Creek overlook railings and mitigation planting and removed trail debris to open the Woods Trail to the public.

MAA23-006 Mt. Umunhum Road Design/Permitting/Construction

Prior Years

Completed the construction of the Mt. Umunhum Road improvement project, including the installation of new culverts, asphalt concrete paving, drainage structures, gabion retaining walls, guardrail, mass grading and off haul, striping and other road safety improvements. Completion of the project opened public vehicular access to the Mount Umunhum Summit area.

MAA23-007 Twin Creeks Land Conservation

Prior Years

Incorporated an integrated pest management plan into the annual work plan. Completed FY20 invasive weed work.

Incorporated review of long-term management for bat species into ongoing core duties.

Completed site cleanup and demolition of structures to support land preservation and riparian habitat restoration.

Purchased the 153.59-acre Twin Creeks property providing water quality protection within the Los Alamitos Creek watershed, continuity of wildlife habitat corridors and the potential for a future trail connection with Rancho Cañada del Oro Preserve. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provided grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 toward the purchase of \$2,800,000.

MAA23-009 Vielbaum Property Acquisition

Prior Years

Purchased 41.76-acre Vielbaum property as an addition to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

In Support of MAA23

Prior Years

Discussing potential purchase of San Jose Water Company land, which would connect Mount Umunhum to the Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul Preserve.

Completed radar tower repairs at Mount Umunhum, including abatement of all interior hazardous materials, installation of a new roof and roof hatch, exterior concrete and rebar repairs, guardrail installation, gutters and downspout installation, ventilation louvers and wildlife screening installation, installation of interior floor coverings and miscellaneous interior item demolition and disposal. Notice of completion was filed and east summit area was reopened to the public.

Completed the Mt. Umunhum Road Improvements Project in June 2020, which included the installation of paved bicycle turnouts, repairs to roadside drainage scupper, curb repairs, the application of sharrows and installation of a solid double yellow centerline. Installed additional road safety signs and markers.

Completed the basis of design for the radar tower second assessment and presented it to the board in November 2019. The board selected the long-term repair option and approved the development of construction documents for the selected scope of work. Construction documents were in development by the project engineer. Draft 65% plans and specifications were delivered to Midpen in June 2020.

Finalized and recorded the Mount Umunhum public access easement, drainage easements, fee property and patrol/maintenance easement to Mt. Thayer, ensuring legal access to these areas of the preserve.

Continued to respond to wildlife entrapment issues at the Mount Umunhum radar tower.

Submitted an application to nominate Mount Umunhum as one of the 2018 Great Places in California, an award program under the American Planning Association California Chapter in March 2018. The APA Great Places jury selected Mount Umunhum as one of three Great Places in California for 2018.

Stayed in communication with Mount Umunhum neighbors for the summit and road projects before, during and after the grand opening.

Produced a “Stories of Mount Umunhum” audio tour app and made it available for free download on iTunes and Google Play. The app offers a virtual guided tour of the summit.

Held the Mount Umunhum grand opening on Sept. 17, 2017, with extensive media coverage.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

None—this portfolio is closed.

PROJECT NEXT STEPS

None—this portfolio is closed.

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Project	Expenditure Plan	Total Through Prior Period 6/30/22	Current Period 7/1/22 Through 6/30/23	Total Life-to-Date Through 6/30/23	Expenditure Plan Remaining	Percent Expended
Total Portfolio Allocation	\$21,814,891					
23-001—Mt. Umunhum Road and Trail Property Rights		\$1,271,318	\$0	\$1,271,318		
23-002—Mt. Umunhum Trail		\$959,548	\$0	\$959,548		
23-004—Mt. Umunhum Summit Restoration, Parking and Landing Zone		\$10,458,358	\$0	\$10,458,358		
23-005—Mt. Umunhum Guadalupe Creek Overlook and Bridges		\$259,311	\$0	\$259,311		
23-006—Mt. Umunhum Road Design/Permitting/Construction		\$6,282,378	\$0	\$6,282,378		
23-007—Twin Creeks Land Conservation		\$3,735,925	\$0	\$3,735,925		
23-009—Vielbaum Property Acquisition		\$168,053	\$0	\$168,053		
Subtotal	\$21,814,891	\$23,134,891	\$0	\$23,134,891	(\$1,320,000)	106.05%
23-004—Mt. Umunhum Summit Restoration, Parking and Landing Zone Grant Income		(\$570,000)	\$0	(\$570,000)		
23-007—Twin Creeks Land Conservation Grant Income		(\$750,000)	\$0	(\$750,000)		
Grand Total	\$21,814,891	\$21,814,891	\$0	\$21,814,891	\$0	100.00%



Total Life-to-Date Through 6/30/23
\$21,814,891

Expenditure Plan Remaining
\$0