



# ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



Appendix C

Final Draft

May 2019

Cover image credits (clockwise from left): John Green, Jack Gescheidt, Deane Little, and Deane Little

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## Appendix C: Public Outreach

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# Public Comment on the Draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Members of the public were invited to comment on the District's Draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The District collected comments throughout 2018 to understand the public's perspectives on providing accessible facilities and programs at District properties and program-level accessibility for projects and programs supported by the District. Comments from twenty individuals, including members of the ADA Compliance Committee of the San Mateo Commission on Disabilities, were received. A summary of all comments received during the public comment period follows.

## Self-Evaluation of Policy and Programmatic Accessibility

### *Policies – Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices*

- One commenter supported an increase in facilities that are accessible to mobility scooters and also allow dogs that do not necessarily qualify as service animals.
- One commenter requested clarification on how pedal assist bikes (a certain class of ebikes) are addressed by the ADA and the MROSD Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan and how the need for a power-driven mobility device can be verified.
- One commenter supported the District's policy of posting their Other Power-Driven Mobility Device Policy the website and including it in the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

### *Policies – Service Animals*

- One commenter supported the District's Service Animal Policy, which is posted on the website and referenced in the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

### *Policies – Benches and Seating*

- Several commenters expressed a desire for additional seating opportunities along Easy Access Trails.
- One commenters suggested providing a wheelchair-accessible picnic table and an improved route to the picnic area at **Rancho San Antonio**.

### *Access to Programs*

- Several commenters expressed concern regarding the lack of public transit serving District open space preserves. One recommended prioritizing improvements at preserves that are served by public transit routes and suggested the San Mateo County ADA Compliance Committee could advocate for transit opportunities in the County (such as contacting the Paratransit Coordination Council) depending on demand. Along similar lines, another commenter suggested that the District facilitate hiking "meet-ups" or a shuttle service from convenient parking lots in the valley to trailheads at open space preserves.
- One commenter requested information on how to participate remotely in Board meetings.
- One commenter noted that the Easy Access trail at the **Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve** was extremely crowded on weekends, which demonstrated the need for additional

longer distance accessible trails throughout the District. Along similar lines, another commenter suggested increasing the number of family-friendly, accessible trails that are two to four miles long closer to southern Santa Clara County.

### *ADA Coordinator*

- One commenter requested information on the District ADA Coordinator position: is it a full-staff position and, if not, what percentage of time is dedicated to the role of ADA Coordinator? Along similar lines, several commenters noted the challenges faced by the many public agencies that do not have full- or half-time ADA Coordinator positions and recommended that the District fund a full- or half-time position.

### *Public Outreach*

- One commenter recommended that the District reach out to disability groups that actively use the District's open space preserves and ask them to provide feedback on their experiences. Along similar lines, the commenter also recommended that the District encourage more people with disabilities to visit and provide feedback.
- Most commenters responded positively to the District's invitation to be added to the ADA Plan email list.

## Transition Plan

### *Facility Evaluations*

- One commenter reported trail surface and erosion issues on the **Cordilleras Trail at Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve** and recommended that the District provide a notice for wheelchair users to use the adjacent road until the eroded area is repaired. The commenter also reported an issue with the height of the ISA parking signs at the accessible parking spaces.
- One commenter reported that it was necessary to travel behind parked cars from the accessible parking spaces to reach the trailhead at the **Alpine Pond parking area at Russian Ridge Preserve** (the accessible parking space is located next to the restroom).
- One commenter recently observed work to widen a fence opening at **Windy Hill** and expressed support for removing physical barriers to access at District open space preserves.
- Two commenters expressed pleasure with the accessibility of the **Deer Meadow** and **Deer Hollow Farm Trails** and restroom at **Rancho San Antonio**.

### *Maintenance*

- One commenter noted the importance of annual maintenance for accessible trails and suggested it would be beneficial to have someone who uses a wheelchair help with the maintenance check of each accessible trail.
- One commenter expressed appreciation for the trail surface maintenance work at Overlook Trail in **El Sereno Preserve**.

### *Barrier Removal Scheduling and Funding*

- One commenter requested information on the District's budget for barrier removal projects and the anticipated number of projects. Along similar lines, a commenter suggested that the District consider safe harbor exemptions when prioritizing barrier removal projects.

## General

- Several commenters commended the District for taking a proactive approach for disability access planning and expressed how important access to open space is for people with disabilities.
- One commenter inquired about the extent of information available online for the inventory of Easy Access Trails and supported providing detailed trail information such as running and cross-slopes.
- Several commenters volunteered to assist the District in designing accessible trails and in evaluating and maintaining the accessibility of existing trails, particularly for hikers who use wheelchairs. One commenter questioned if the District had received input from environmental groups regarding conflicts between public access and habitat conservation.



# MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

The background of the slide is a photograph of rolling green hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A bird is visible in flight in the upper right portion of the sky. The hills are covered in lush green grass and some trees are scattered across the landscape.

## Introduction to the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update Process

**Board Meeting  
February 28, 2018**



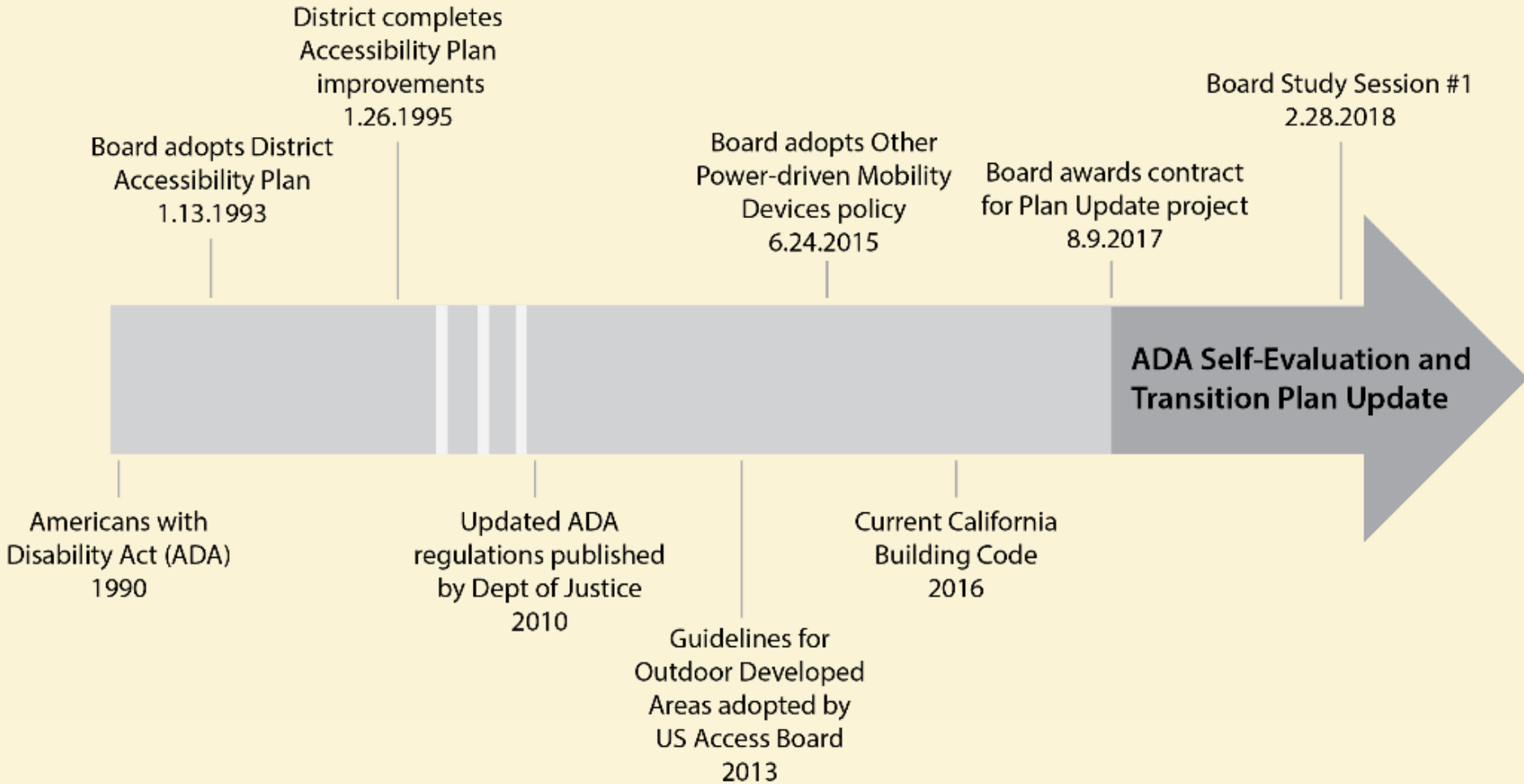


# Project Purpose

- Update the District's existing Accessibility Plan to comply with federal accessibility guidelines
  - Evaluating preserves and facilities;
  - Evaluating programs and policies;
  - Preparing a project database that integrates with the District's Enterprise GIS;
  - Supporting a public information portal on the District website;
  - Developing the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan;
  - Presenting draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to the Board and other groups; and
  - Conducting trainings for District staff and Board.



# History





**MIG, Inc**

**Timothy A. Gilbert, CASp, ICC, ASLA**  
**Principal**

**Ashley Tomerlin, CASp, RLA, ICC**  
**Access Planner, Landscape Architect**

# Question:

When you hear the word  
“disability”  
what image comes to mind?



**Visual**



**Hearing**



**Cognitive**



**Physical**

# Disability Statistics

- Number of persons with some disability: 54 million (20.6%)
- Number of persons with severe disability: 29 million (9.9%)

Of these numbers

- 1.8 million used wheelchairs
- **8.8 million had vision problems**
- **10.1 million had hearing problems**
- 1.6 million were blind
- 1 million were deaf

(Source: U.S. Dept of Commerce)

# Disability Demographics



## Aging:

- The largest and the fastest growing segment of the US population
- People are living longer with disabilities.
- Current estimates: by 2040 the number of disabled Americans will triple.
- People with disabilities demand access to recreational opportunities.



# Disability vs. Handicap

There is a distinction between a Disability and a Handicap

- A *Disability* is a condition caused by an accident, trauma, genetics or disease which may limit a person's mobility, hearing, vision, speech or mental function. Some people with disabilities have one or more disabilities.
- A *Handicap* is a physical or attitudinal constraint that is imposed upon a person, regardless of whether that person has a disability. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines handicap as to put at a disadvantage.

# Disability Language

## *Using “Person-First” Language*

<b>People-First Language</b>	<b>Language to Avoid</b>
Person with a disability	The disabled, handicapped, victim, defective, deformed
Person without a disability	Normal person, healthy person
Person with an intellectual, cognitive, or developmental disability	The mentally or developmentally disabled, retarded, moron, idiot
Person with an emotional or behavioral disability, person with a mental health or psychiatric disability	Afflicted or special person, insane, crazy, psycho, maniac, nuts
Person who is deaf	Deaf and dumb, deaf-mute
Persons who have hearing loss	Hearing impaired, hard of hearing
Person who is blind / visually impaired	Sight impaired
Persons with speech or language disorders	Speech impaired, mute
Person who uses a wheelchair	Confined or restricted to a wheelchair, wheelchair bound
Person with a physical disability	Invalid, cripple, lame
Person with limited literacy skills	Functionally illiterate
Accessible parking or restroom	Handicap or handicapped parking or restroom

# The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a **civil rights law** that mandates equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

The law is divided into different *titles*:

Title I: Employment

**Title II: State and Local Government Services –  
*Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District***

Title III: Places of Public Accommodations

# Title II Requirements

The primary responsibility of public agencies with regard to the ADA is to provide

***EQUAL ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES***

Title II agencies are required to:

1. Complete a ***Self-Evaluation*** of policies and programs
2. Designate a person who is responsible for overseeing Title II compliance, ***the ADA Coordinator***
3. Develop a ***Transition Plan*** if the Self-Evaluation identifies any structural modifications necessary for compliance

# Self-Evaluation

1. Identifies District policies, programs, activities and services; and
2. Recommendations for policies and practices that enable participation in District programs and services by individuals with disabilities

# Providing Programs at Existing, Non-compliant Facilities

Options:

1. Make alterations to the facility
2. Provide the same service in another accessible location
3. Provide auxiliary aides or services to assist the individual

# Transition Plan

1. Physical audit of District facilities open to the public for compliance with applicable building codes where programs, activities, and services take place
2. Develop a strategic plan and timeline for barrier removal where it impedes equal access to programs and experiences

Board Workshop #2 (Summer 2018) will go into further detail on Prioritization and the Transition Plan. There will be opportunity for input on criteria identified by staff for the prioritization process and to comment on developing the Draft Transition Plan.

# Access Regulations & Building Codes

The purpose of building codes is to eliminate architectural barriers that limit physical access to programs, activities and services. Codes and regulations establish the minimum requirements to provide physical access.

*Where federal and state standards differ you must use the most restrictive standard*



# Access Regulations & Building Codes

*What applies to Midpen?*

## **Required**

- 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2016 California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 11B

## **Recommended (and used for the outdoor facility evaluations)**

- 2015 Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas contained in the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) for federal agencies – *as an open space district, this provides guidance for elements and features in preserves that do not appear in the ADA or CBC.*

# Access “Triggers”

*When do you have to use the Access Regulations and Building Codes?*

1. New facilities must be fully accessible
2. Alterations in existing facilities
  - The area of alteration, structural repair or addition must be made accessible
  - Path of travel to the area of alteration
  - Restrooms, drinking fountains and telephones serving the area of alteration

Exemptions: maintenance activities, cosmetic work, reroofing, some electrical & HVAC work, removal of accessibility barriers, locations where the Conditions for Exception apply

# ABA Conditions for Exception

1. Compliance is not feasible due to terrain
2. Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices
3. Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or setting
4. Where compliance is precluded by:
  - *Endangered Species Act*
  - *National Environmental Protection Act*
  - *National Historic Preservation Act*
  - *Wilderness Act*
  - *Other federal, state, or local laws that address environmental, cultural, historical, or archeological protections*

# Building Blocks of Accessibility

**Routes**: walks, ramps, parking

**Maneuvering spaces**: clear floor space, strike edge clearance, knee and toe clearances

**Hazards**: overhanging or protruding objects, floor grates, drop-offs

**Reach ranges, hardware, operating mechanisms**: work surfaces, counters, controls

**Surfaces**: vertical changes of grade, carpeting, slip and fall, visual contrast

**Communication**: signs, telephones, assistive listening devices

# Accessible Trail Standards

Midpen staff developed a set of guidelines for the Easy Access Trail program informed by the then Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas.

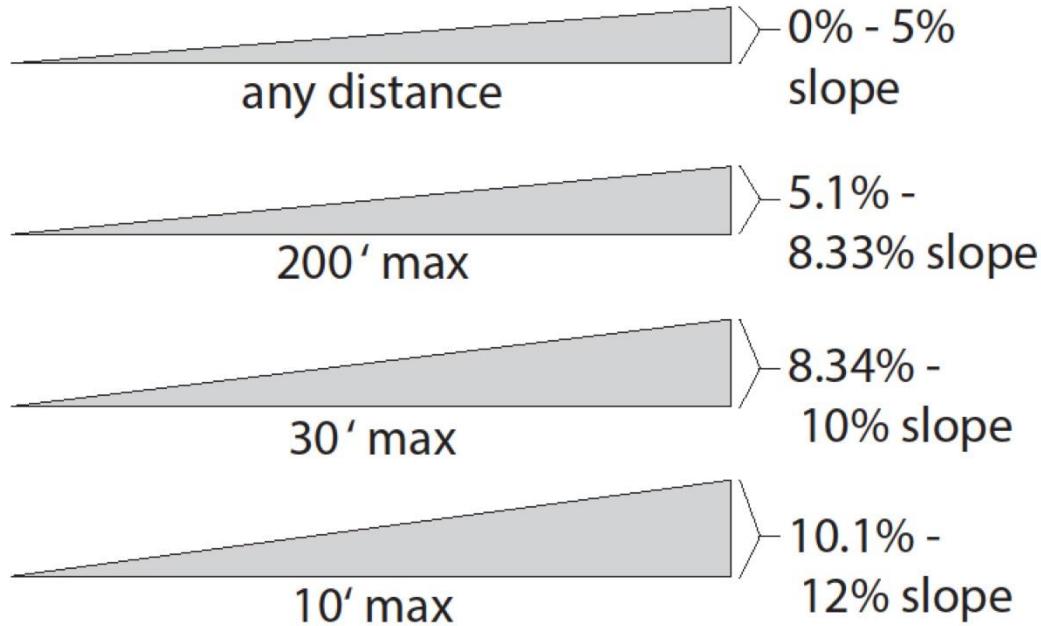
## **The Midpen Guidelines define limits for:**

- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Surface Condition
- Trail Width



# Running Slope

grade of the trail parallel with the path of travel



- usability of a trail
- need for and distances between resting intervals



# Cross Slope

grade of the trail perpendicular to the path of travel



- usability of a trail
- stability and balance of hikers and OPDMD users
- drainage across path of travel



# Surface Condition

trail surfaces and obstacles in the path of travel



- firmness and stability
- drainage channels
- obstacles greater than 2" including tree roots and rocks





# Trail Width

useable width of an accessible trail surface



- maneuvering clearances and passing spaces
- locations of resting intervals

# Facility Accessibility Principles

- Accessible features are maintained
- New purchases are evaluated with accessibility in mind
- Alterations and new construction is done in accordance with the access requirements of the California Building Code and the Federal ADA

# Initial Findings

## Good

- Easy Access Trails
- Restrooms overall
- Buildings
- Information
- Variety of accessible or potentially accessible opportunities and experiences

## Needs Improvement

- Parking
- Restroom accessories
- Gates and controlled entrances



# Considerations for Built Environment

- When a public entity chooses to alter any of its facilities, the elements and spaces being altered must comply with the 2010 Standards.
- When a public entity builds a new facility, it must comply with the 2010 Standards.
- Safe harbor exception allows facilities that meet certain criteria to remain as-is until a public entity plans an alteration to the structural feature.



# Considerations for Built Environment

- Public programs and services, when viewed in their entirety, must be accessible to people with disabilities, yet
  - not all facilities must necessarily be made accessible
  - no change to facility required if it would threaten or destroy the historical significance of a historic property
  - no change to facility required if it would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program or activity
  
- Public entities have an ongoing obligation to make programs and services accessible to people with disabilities.

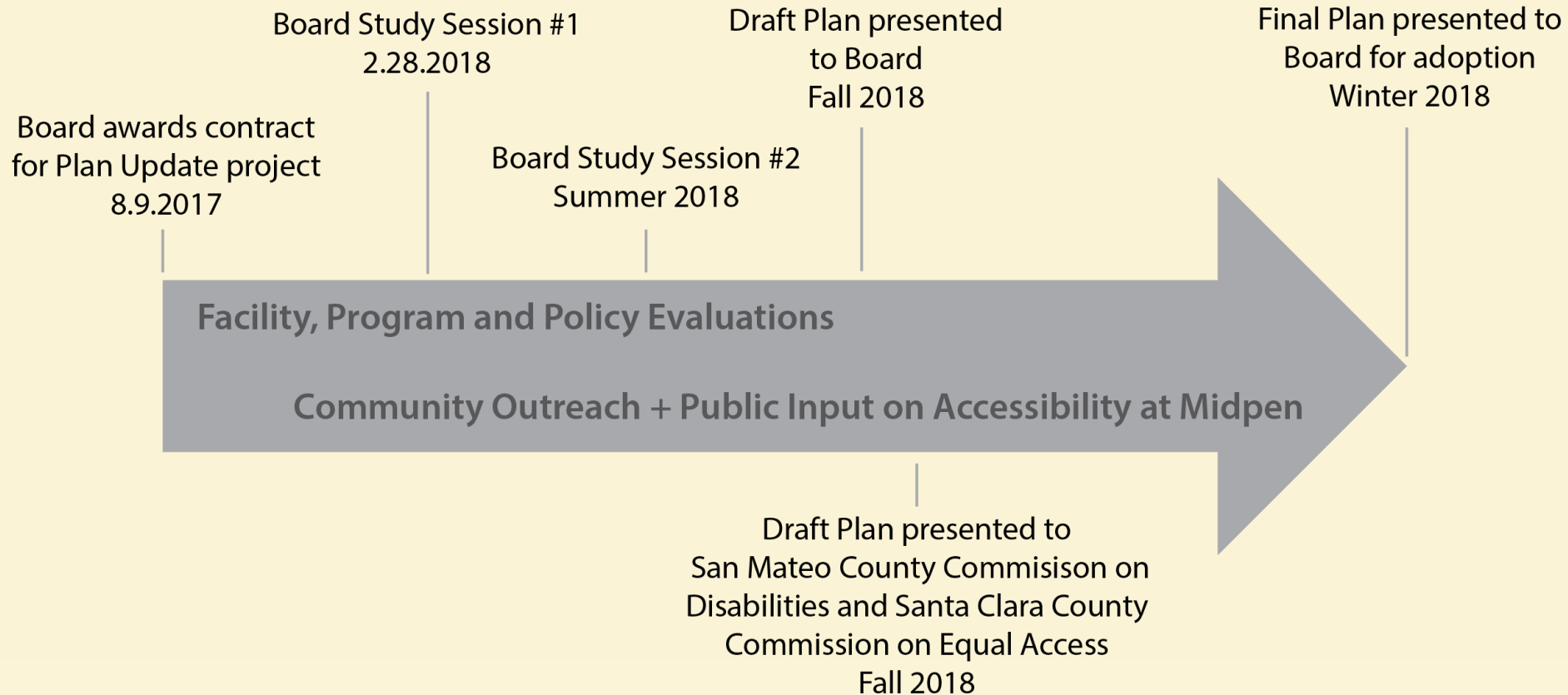


# Considerations for Outdoor Developed Areas

- ✿ Condition for Exception 1. Compliance is not practicable due to terrain.
- ✿ Condition for Exception 2. Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices.
- ✿ Condition for Exception 3. Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting.
- ✿ Condition for Exception 4. Compliance is limited or precluded by certain laws, such as ESA, NEPA, Wilderness Act, etc



# Project Timeline





# ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

**Questions?**



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# MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

**Meeting will begin at 6pm**

**Board Study Session  
August 22, 2018**



# MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

## Draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update

Board Study Session  
August 22, 2018



# Agenda

Project goals

Self-evaluation

Transition plan update

Prioritization criteria\*

Implementation process\*

\* Seeking Board input and questions



# Project Goals

- Assist the District in meeting its Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living goals of **improving and expanding access to open space lands for a wide variety of visitors** of abilities, ages, ethnicities, and interests
- Assist the District in **meeting requirements of title II of the ADA** by identifying and evaluating all its policies, programs, activities, services, and physical barriers to accessibility at District facilities
- Clarify applicable laws, standards, and ordinances regarding accessibility

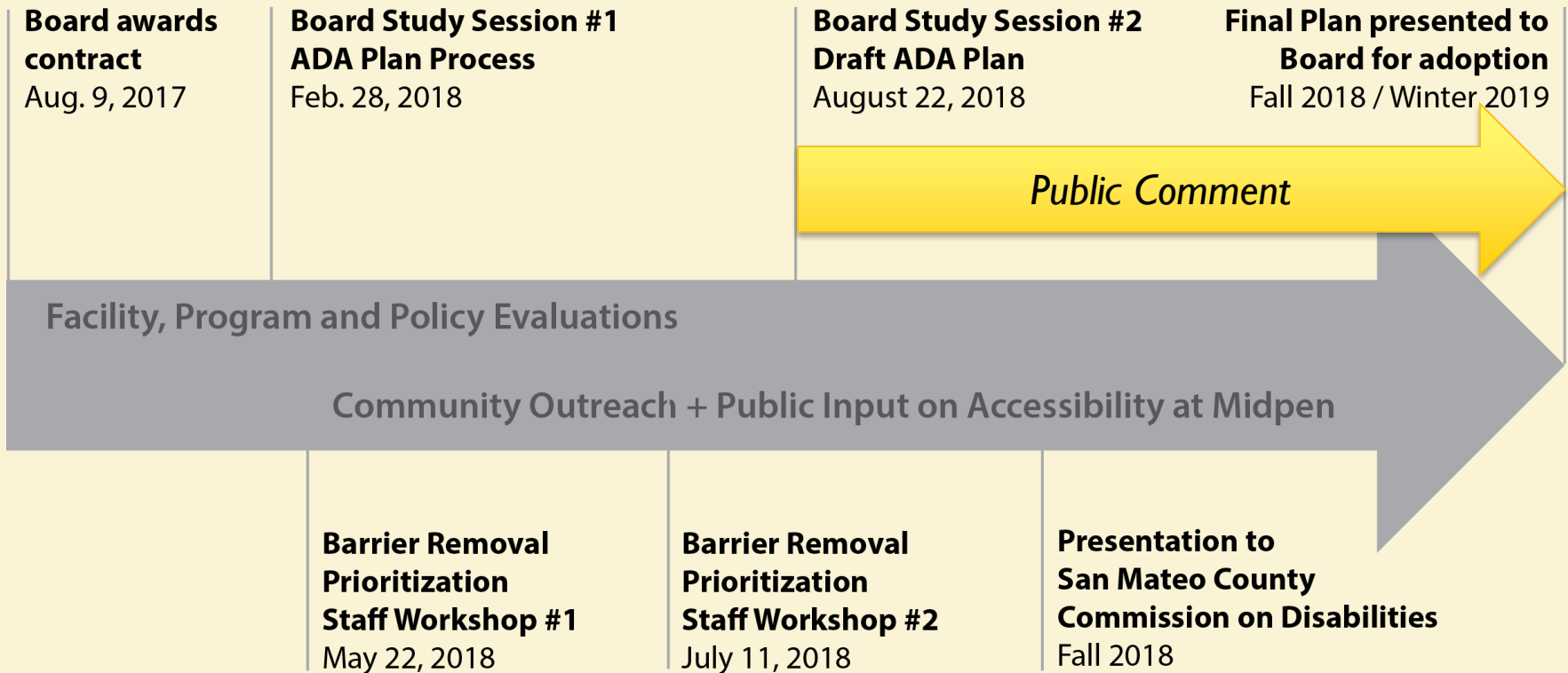


# Project Scope

- ✿ Update the District's existing Accessibility Plan to comply with federal accessibility guidelines
  - Evaluate programs and policies *January 2018*
  - Evaluate preserves and facilities *May 2018*
  - Prepare a project database that integrates with the District's Enterprise GIS *June 2018*
  - Support a public information portal on the District website *in process*
  - Develop the draft Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan *July 2018*
  - **Present draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to the Board Tonight**



# Project Timeline





MIG, Inc

**Laurel Kelly, RLA**  
**Access Planner, Landscape Architect**



# The Americans with Disabilities Act

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Title III: Places of Public Accommodations

# Title II Requirements

***EQUAL ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES***



# Title II Requirements

1. Complete a *Self-Evaluation* of policies and programs
2. Designate a person who is responsible for overseeing title II compliance, *the ADA Coordinator*
3. Develop a *Transition Plan* if the Self-Evaluation identifies any structural modifications necessary for compliance

# Self-Evaluation

1. Identifies District policies, programs, activities, and services and
2. Recommends policies and practices that enable participation in District programs and services by individuals with disabilities



# Process/Questionnaire

## Midpen ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

### **General description of the programs**

“Programs” refers to programs, activities, and services offered to the public.

Each division or program that provides direct public service should complete a questionnaire. For example, the Project Planning and Delivery departments would complete one survey for its Planning Department, one for its Real Property Department and another for its Engineering and Construction Department. Similarly, the Visitor Services and Land & Facilities departments would complete surveys for each division within the department.

**\* 1. Name of Department/Division:**

**\* 2. Name and title of person completing this questionnaire:**

# Policy and Program Findings

## Positive

- ADA coordinator
- Accessibility Web Page
  - Policy on Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability
  - Policies on OPDMDs and Service Animals
  - Notice of SETP preparation
- Accessible Open Space Web Page
- Easy Access Trails
- Accessibility Training

## Needs Improvement

- Tracking and reporting the removal of barriers
- Update District's Emergency Operation Plan to address persons with disabilities
- Standard District templates for accessible documents and presentations

# Transition Plan

1. Physical audit of District facilities open to the public for compliance with applicable building codes where programs, activities, and services take place.
2. Strategic plan and timeline for removing barriers where they impede equal access to programs and experiences



# Facility Reports

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Skyline Ridge

<b>Building</b>		
<b>8 - 1</b>	<b>Door/Gate</b>	<b>Category: 1</b>
<b>Attach loose mat to the floor surface</b>		<b>\$125</b>
Notes: Door mat at Nature Center is not securely attached to ground surface.		
ADA: 302.2		
Other: 2015 CBC 11B-302.2		
<b>Install or modify sign</b>		<b>\$250</b>
Notes: A tactile and braille EXIT sign is not provided.		
ADA: 216.4.1, 703.4.1		
Other: 2015 CBC 1011.4		
<b>Provide or modify door kick plate</b>		<b>\$225</b>
Notes: A smooth and uninterrupted kick plate surface is not provided on the door. A doorstop is located in the 10" space above the finished floor.		
ADA: 404.2.10		
Other: 2015 CBC 11B-404.2.10		
<b>Enlarge door opening</b>		<b>\$1,650</b>
Notes: Height of clear opening is 79-1/8" AFF (80" min).		
ADA: 404.2.3		
Other: 2015 CBC 11B-404.2.3		
<b>Provide strike edge clearance</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>
Notes: Strike-edge clearance on the pull side of the door is 14-1/2" (18" min).		
ADA: 404.2.4.1		
Other: 2015 CBC 11B-404.2.4.1		



# Access Regulations and Building Codes

## *What applies to Midpen?*

### **Required**

- 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2016 California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 11B

### **Recommended (and used for the outdoor facility evaluations)**

- 2015 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas (federal agencies)

# Accessible Trail Technical Requirements



A trail is often considered its own destination.

A trail is a route that is designed, designated, or constructed for recreational pedestrian use, including multi-use trails specifically designed for use by hikers or pedestrians.

# Easy Access Trails

Midpen staff developed a set of guidelines for the Easy Access Trail program informed by the then *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*.

- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Trail Width
- Surface Condition





# Trailhead Signs

enable people of all abilities to decide whether to hike a trail



- Length
- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Tread Width
- Surface Type

# Findings and Recommendations

## Positive

- Easy Access Trails
- Restrooms overall
- Buildings
- Information
- Variety of accessible or potentially accessible opportunities and experiences

## Needs Improvement

- Parking
- Restroom accessories
- Gates and controlled entrances
- Trailhead signs

# Transition Plan

2. Strategic plan and timeline for removing barriers where they impede equal access to programs and experiences



# Access 'Triggers'

*When is Midpen required to implement the Access Regulations and Building Codes?*

1. New facilities must be fully accessible
2. Alterations in existing facilities
  - The area of alteration, structural repair, or addition must be made accessible
  - Path of travel to the area of alteration
  - Restrooms, drinking fountains, and telephones serving the area of alteration

# Providing Programs at Existing, Non-Compliant Facilities

## Options:

- Make alterations to the facility,
- Provide the same service in another accessible location, or
- Provide auxiliary aids or services to assist the individual





# Considerations for Outdoor Developed Areas

- Compliance is not feasible due to **terrain**
- Compliance cannot be accomplished with the **prevailing construction practices**
- Compliance would fundamentally **alter the function** or purpose of the facility or setting
- Where **compliance is precluded** by federal, state, or local laws that address environmental, cultural, historical, or archeological protections

# Proposed Prioritization Criteria



- Geographic distribution
- Unique experiences and environments
- Usage level
- Public feedback and requests
- Other District-defined criteria
  - Existing capital improvement projects
  - **Consistency with Measure AA, the Vision Plan, and Strategic Plan**
  - Visitor and public safety



# Other Considerations

- Type of barrier removal and timeframe guidelines

<b>Barrier Removal Type</b>	<b>Timeframe Guideline</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Interim Solutions	1 to 5 years	Interim measures in place pending implementation of major barrier removal projects	Example: relocating programs to accessible facilities
Maintenance Improvements	1 to 5 years	Completed in-house; examples: new signage, relocating hand dryers, regrading trailheads; <\$5,000 each	Where possible, group with other planned projects and work items
Small Capital Improvements	1 to 10 years	Completed in-house or by contractor; <\$50,000 each	
Large Capital Improvements	1 to 15 years	Completed by contractor; >\$50,000 each	

- Sensitive resource stewardship considerations
- Safe Harbor



# Transition Plan Schedule (draft)

Facility	Years 1-5	Years 1-10	Years 1-15	N/A
Bear Creek Redwoods	X			
Coal Creek			X	
El Corte de Madera		X		
El Sereno			X	
Foothills			X	
Fremont Older		X		
La Honda Creek		X		
Long Ridge			X	
Los Trancos		X		
Monte Bello		X		
Picchetti Ranch		X		
Pulgas Ridge		X		
Purisima Creek Redwoods	X			
Rancho San Antonio	X			
Ravenswood	X			
Russian Ridge	X			
Russian Ridge (Mindego Hill)			X	

# Example: Ravenswood Open Space Preserve





# Example: Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

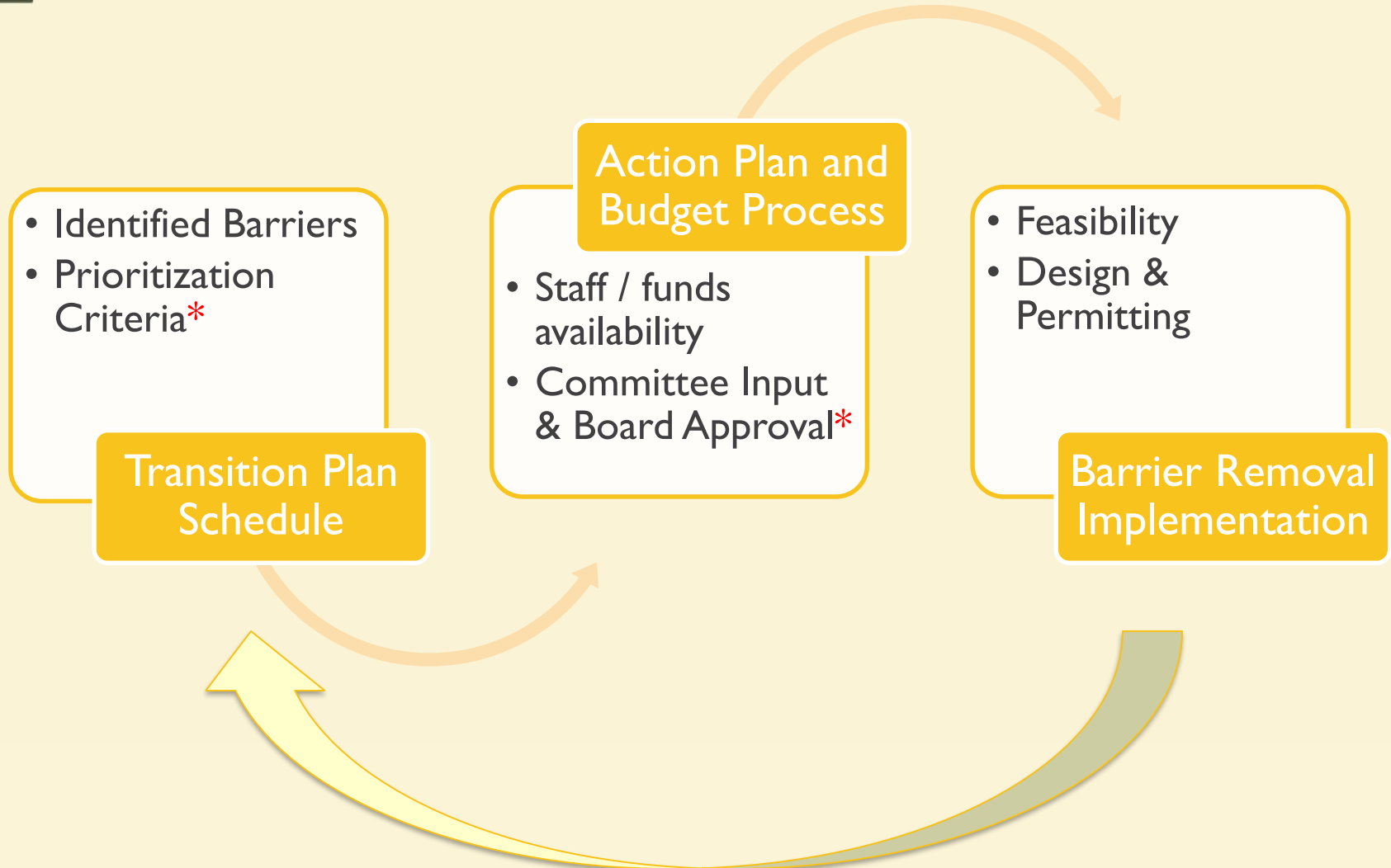
Criteria	
Geographic distribution	Baylands
Unique experiences and environments	Marshlands, migrating wildlife, San Francisco Bay Trail, transportation/commute benefits
Usage levels	High visitor use, proximity to urban area, diverse and underserved population
Public feedback and requests	High public interest
Other considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing CIAP projects</li> <li>• Consistency with Measure AA, the Vision Plan, and Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Sensitive resource stewardship</li> <li>• Public and visitor safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ravenswood Bay Trail Project</li> <li>• <b>MAA 2:</b> Bayfront Habitat Protection and Public Access Partnerships; <b>Vision Plan:</b> bridging gaps in Bay Trail and potential partnerships with East Palo Alto, Bay Trail, etc.</li> <li>• Restoration included in Ravenswood Bay Trail Project; CEQA completed in 2016</li> </ul>



# Transition Plan Schedule (under development)

Facility	Years 1 5	Years 1 10	Years 1 15	N/A
<b>Administrative Offices at 330 Distel Circle</b>				
<i>Maintenance Improvements</i>	X			
<i>Small Capital Improvements</i>				X
<i>Large Capital Improvements</i>				X
<b>Purisima Creek Redwood OSP</b>				
<i>Maintenance Improvements</i>				X
<i>Small Capital Improvements</i>				X
<i>Large Capital Improvements</i>	X			

# Budget & Implementation Process

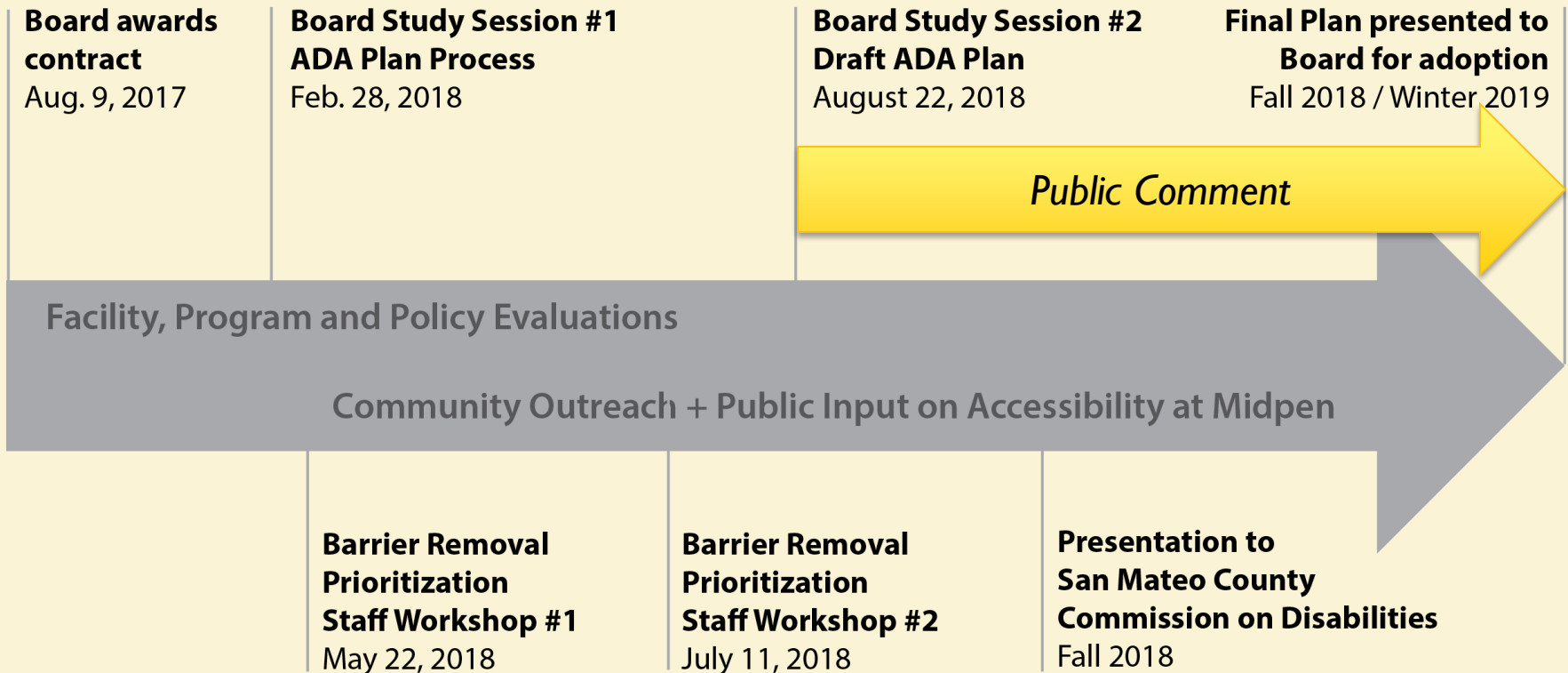


\* Board policy input





# Project Timeline and Next Steps





# Questions and Discussion

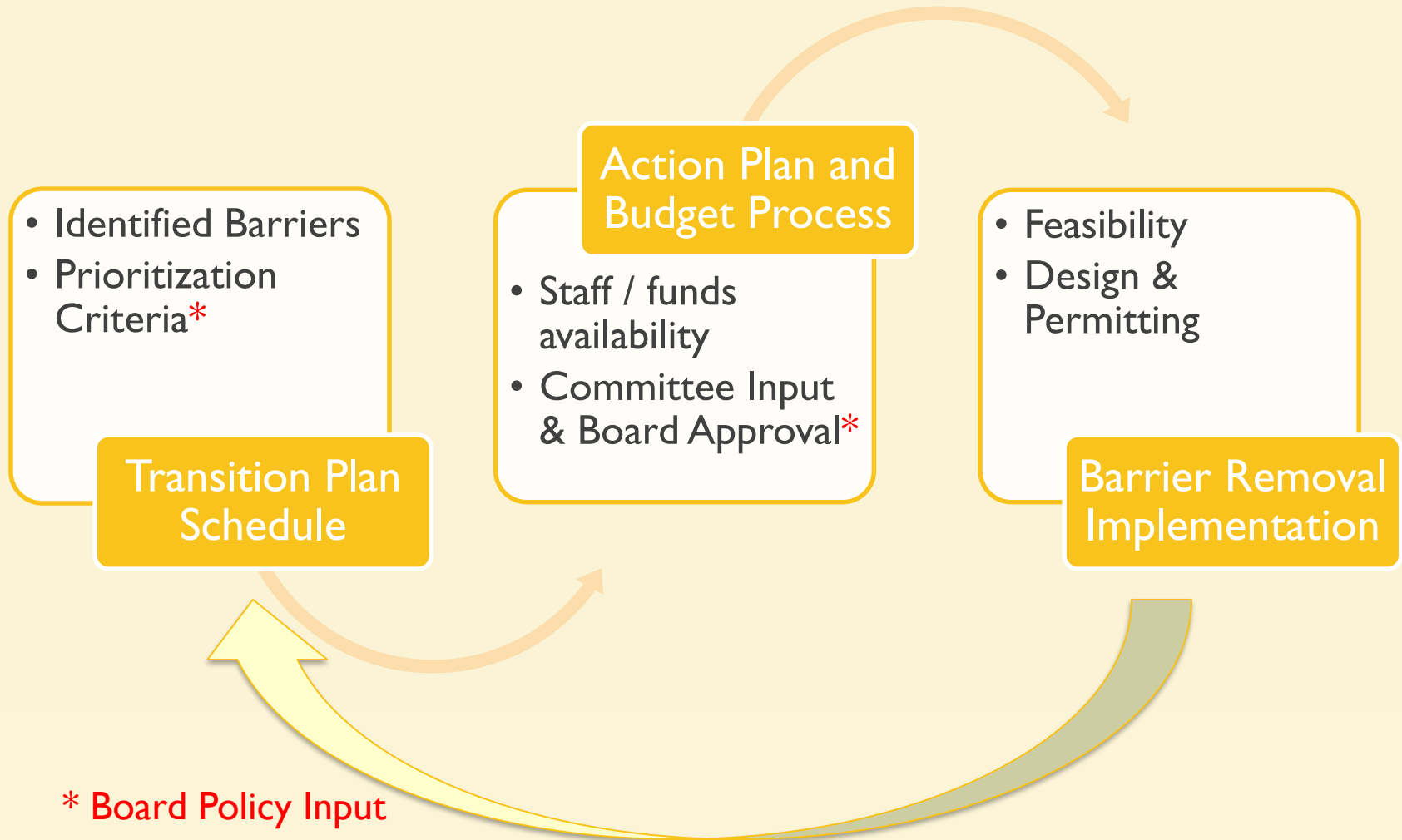
- Have we included appropriate prioritization criteria?
- Are there other items that should be considered during prioritization?
- What are your questions about the implementation process?
- Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

# Prioritization Criteria



- ‡ Geographic distribution
- ‡ Unique experiences and environments
- ‡ Usage levels
- ‡ Public feedback and requests
- ‡ Other District-defined criteria
  - Existing capital improvement projects
  - **Consistency with Measure AA, the Vision Plan, and Strategic Plan**
  - Visitor and public safety

# Budget & Implementation Process





# ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

## Discussion



# MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

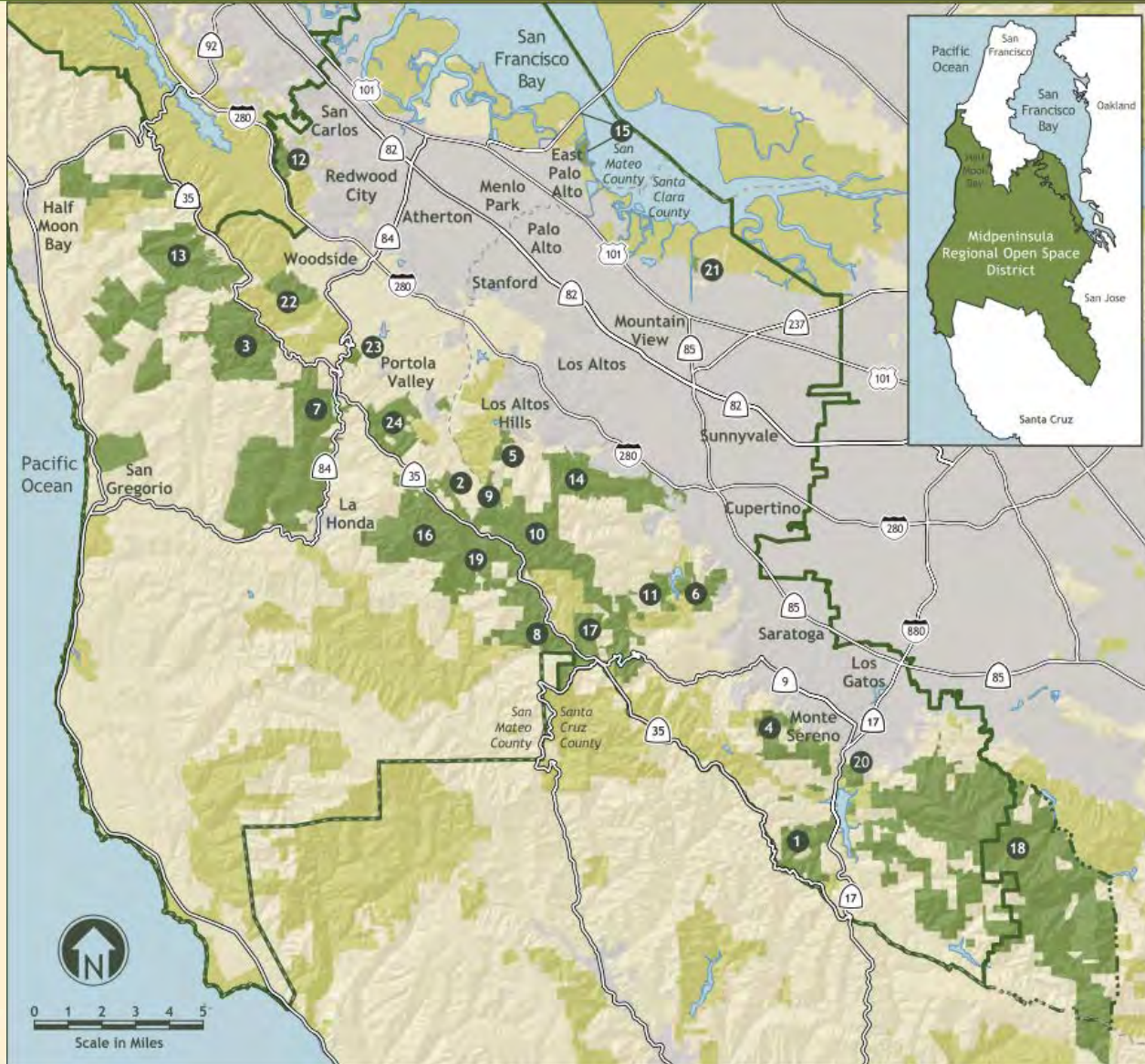
## Draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update

**San Mateo County  
Commission on Disabilities  
Compliance Committee**

**October 4, 2018**



# About Midpen





# Accessibility at the District

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for "VISIT A PRESERVE", "WHAT TO DO", "OUR WORK", and "ABOUT US", along with a search bar. The main header image is a landscape of rolling green hills under a blue sky with clouds. Below the header, there is a "MAP" button and a large section titled "ACCESSIBILITY".

**ACCESSIBILITY**

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is committed to making all practicable efforts to make Midpen facilities, programs, services, information, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people.

**NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** Midpen does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

**Effective Communication:** Midpen will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Midpen's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

**DISTRICT INFORMATION**

- [Fact Sheet & Map](#)
- [General Brochure](#)
- [Basic Policy](#)
- [Land Use Regulations](#)

**DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS**

Check out the latest Midpen newsletter to find out what's happening in your open space!

[READ NOW](#)

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links for "VISIT A PRESERVE", "WHAT TO DO", "OUR WORK", and "ABOUT US", along with a search bar. The main header image shows a person in a wheelchair on a paved trail next to a body of water. Below the header, there is a "MAP" button and a large section titled "EASY ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES".

**EASY ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Several preserves have easy access trails built to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, walkers and anyone desiring a less strenuous open space experience. Most of these easy access trails are at least 4 feet wide, have a grade generally not exceeding 5%, and a fairly uniform surface. Please note that other Midpen trails may have grades up to 20% and uneven surfaces with rocks, ruts and roots.

[Accessible Open Space brochure](#)

[Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices Policy](#)

**PRESERVES AND TRAILS**

**El Corte de Madera Creek**  
**Sierra Morena Trail • 0.3 mi.**  
 This trail travels through a lush mixed evergreen forest. Please note this is a narrow trail and a popular mountain biking destination.

**Monte Bello**  
**Stevens Creek Nature Trail • 500 ft.**

**TRAIL USE INFORMATION**

Useful information about using the trails on Midpen preserves.

- [Sharing the Trails](#)
- [Easy Access Opportunities](#)
- [Bicycle Access](#)
- [Dog Access](#)
- [Equestrian Access](#)
- [Trail Regulations](#)
- [Trail Conditions](#)
- [Permits](#)





# Project Goals

- Assist the District in meeting its Outdoor Recreation and Healthy Living goals of **improving and expanding access to open space lands for a wide variety of visitors** of abilities, ages, ethnicities, and interests
- Assist the District in **meeting requirements of title II of the ADA** by identifying and evaluating all its policies, programs, activities, services, and physical barriers to accessibility at District facilities
- Clarify applicable laws, standards, and ordinances regarding accessibility



# ADA Title II Requirements

*EQUAL ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES*





# Title II Requirements

1. Complete a ***Self-Evaluation*** of policies and programs
2. Designate a person who is responsible for overseeing title II compliance, *the **ADA Coordinator***
3. Develop a ***Transition Plan*** if the Self-Evaluation identifies any structural modifications necessary for compliance

# Self-Evaluation

1. **Identify and review** District policies, programs, activities, and services and
2. **Findings and recommendations** to policies and practices that enable participation in District programs and services by individuals with disabilities





# Policy and Program Findings

## Positive

- ADA coordinator
- Accessibility Web Page
  - Policy on Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability
  - Policies on OPDMDs and Service Animals
  - Notice of SETP preparation
- Accessible Open Space Web Page
- Easy Access Trails
- Accessibility Training

## Needs Improvement

- Tracking and reporting the removal of barriers
- Update District's Emergency Operation Plan to address persons with disabilities
- Standard District templates for accessible documents and presentations



# Transition Plan

1. ***Physical audit of District facilities*** open to the public for compliance with applicable building codes where programs, activities, and services take place.
2. ***Strategic plan and timeline*** for removing barriers where they impede equal access to programs and experiences





# Access Regulations and Building Codes

## **Required**

- 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2016 California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 11B

## **Recommended (and used for the outdoor facility evaluations)**

- 2015 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas (federal agencies)



# Accessible Trail Technical Requirements



A trail is often considered its own destination.

A trail is a route that is designed, designated, or constructed for recreational pedestrian use, including multi-use trails specifically designed for use by hikers or pedestrians.



# Easy Access Trails

Midpen staff developed a set of guidelines for the Easy Access Trail program informed by the then *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*.

- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Trail Width
- Surface Condition



# Trailhead Signs



- Length
- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Tread Width
- Surface Type

Providing information about actual trail conditions provides the necessary information for self-determining what is appropriate for the user.



# Findings and Recommendations

## Positive

- Easy Access Trails
- Restrooms overall
- Buildings
- Information
- Variety of accessible or potentially accessible opportunities and experiences

## Needs Improvement

- Parking
- Restroom accessories
- Gates and controlled entrances
- Trailhead signs



# Providing Programs at Existing, Non-Compliant Facilities

## Options:

- Make alterations to the facility,
- Provide the same service in another accessible location, or
- Provide auxiliary aids or services to assist the individual





# Considerations for Outdoor Developed Areas

- Compliance is not feasible due to **terrain**
- Compliance cannot be accomplished with the **prevailing construction practices**
- Compliance would fundamentally **alter the function** or purpose of the facility or setting
- Where **compliance is precluded** by federal, state, or local laws that address environmental, cultural, historical, or archeological protections

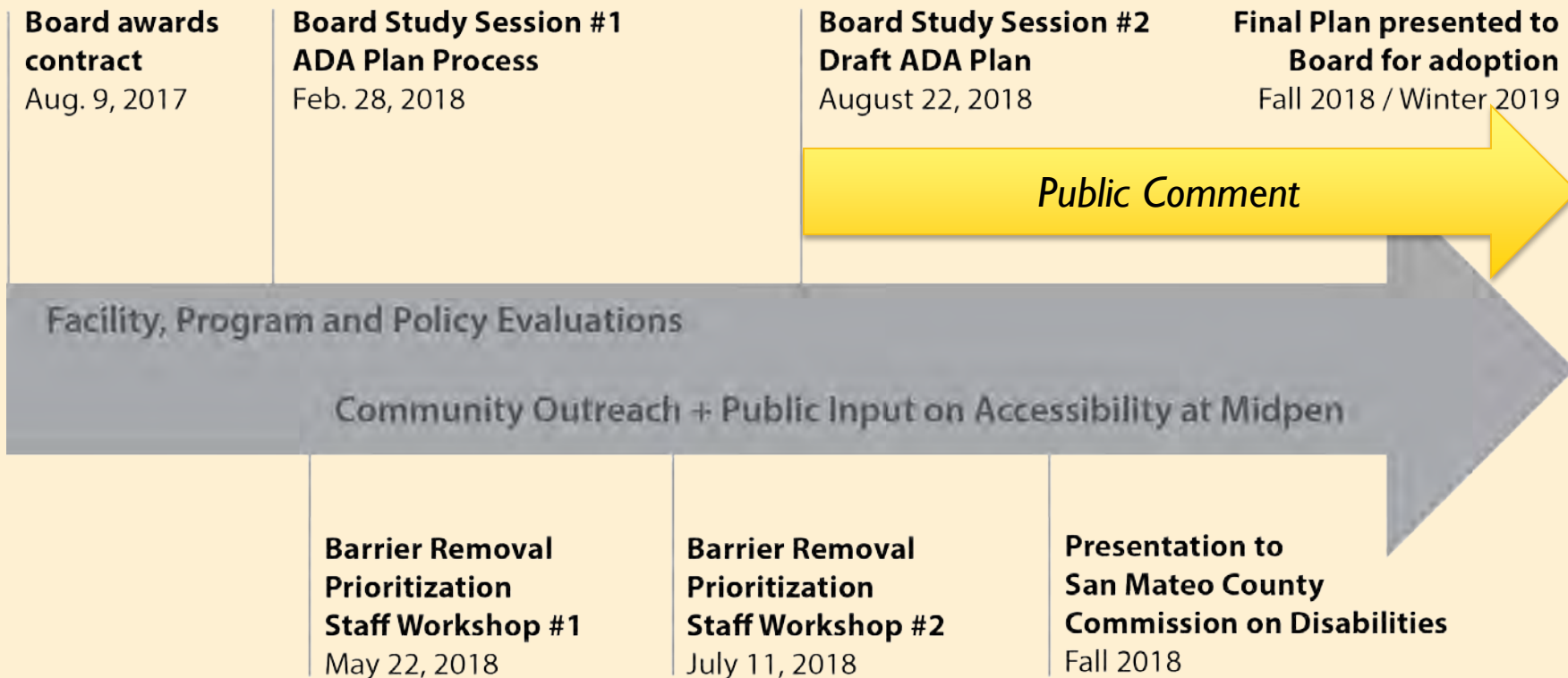
# Proposed Prioritization Criteria



- Geographic distribution
- Unique experiences and environments
- Usage level
- Public feedback and requests
- Other District-defined criteria
  - Existing capital improvement projects
  - Consistency with Measure AA, the District's Vision Plan and Strategic Plan
  - Visitor and public safety



# Project Timeline





# ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

**Comments/Questions?**

**[ADAPlanUpdate@openspace.org](mailto:ADAPlanUpdate@openspace.org)**

**[www.openspace.org/ADAPlanUpdate](http://www.openspace.org/ADAPlanUpdate)**





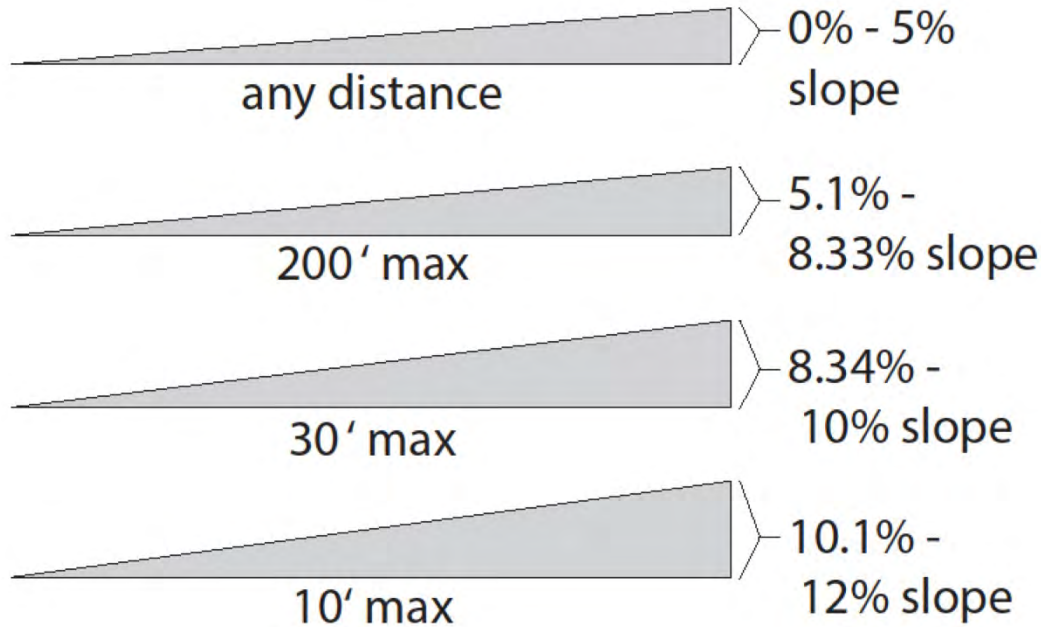
# David C. Daniels Nature Center





# Running Slope

grade of the trail parallel with the path of travel



- usability of a trail
- need for and distances between resting intervals



# Cross Slope

grade of the trail perpendicular to the path of travel



- usability of a trail
- stability and balance of hikers and OPDMD users
- drainage across path of travel



# Trail Width

useable width of an accessible trail surface



- maneuvering clearances and passing spaces
- locations of resting intervals



# Surface Condition

trail surfaces and obstacles in the path of travel



- firmness and stability
- drainage channels
- obstacles greater than 2" including tree roots and rocks



# Trailhead Signs

enable individuals with disabilities to decide whether to hike a trail

## SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH

**Trail Access Information** **A** **Warning:** Trail conditions may have changed since this trail was assessed. Temporary obstructions (e.g. fallen trees or land slides) may not have been mapped. Maximum grades and cross slopes may vary.  
**KNOW YOUR ABILITIES AND ALWAYS CARRY WATER**

<b>Kortum Trail</b> Arch View Parking Area to Blind Beach Parking Area	<b>Kortum Trail</b> Blind Beach Parking Area to Shell Beach Parking Area	<b>Shell Beach Bluff Trail</b>	<b>Kortum Trail</b> Shell Beach Parking Area to Grill Way Parking Area	<b>Kortum Trail</b> Grill Way to Carlevaro Way	<b>Kortum Trail</b> Carlevaro Way to Wright's Beach
Trail Length is approximately 1/2 Mile	Trail Length is approximately 2 Miles	Trail Length is approximately 1000 feet	Trail Length is approximately 1 Mile	Trail Length is approximately 1/2 Mile	Trail Length is approximately 1 Mile
Typical Grade is 6%, 14% Maximum	Typical Grade is 5%, 29% Maximum	Typical Grade is 2%, 5% Maximum	Typical Grade is 7%, 37% Maximum	Typical Grade is 4%, 23% Maximum	Typical Grade is 4%, 25% Maximum
Cross Slope is 33% maximum	Cross Slope is 29% maximum	Cross Slope is 5% maximum	Cross Slope is 22% maximum	Cross Slope is 28% maximum	Cross Slope is 23% maximum
Tread Width is 32" Minimum	Tread Width is 32" Minimum	Tread Width is 32" Minimum	Tread Width is 22" Minimum	Tread Width is 12" Minimum	Tread Width is 6" Minimum
Trail Surface is mown Vegetation; asphalt	Trail Surface is mown Vegetation; boardwalk	Trail Surface is Compacted Gravel	Trail Surface is mown Vegetation;	Trail Surface is mown Vegetation	Trail Surface is mown Vegetation; dirt road
Watch for Vehicles on Goat Rock Road	Seasonal mud may be encountered		Seasonal mud may be encountered		Seasonal mud may be encountered



- Length
- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Tread Width
- Surface Type



# Other Considerations

- Type of barrier removal and timeframe guidelines

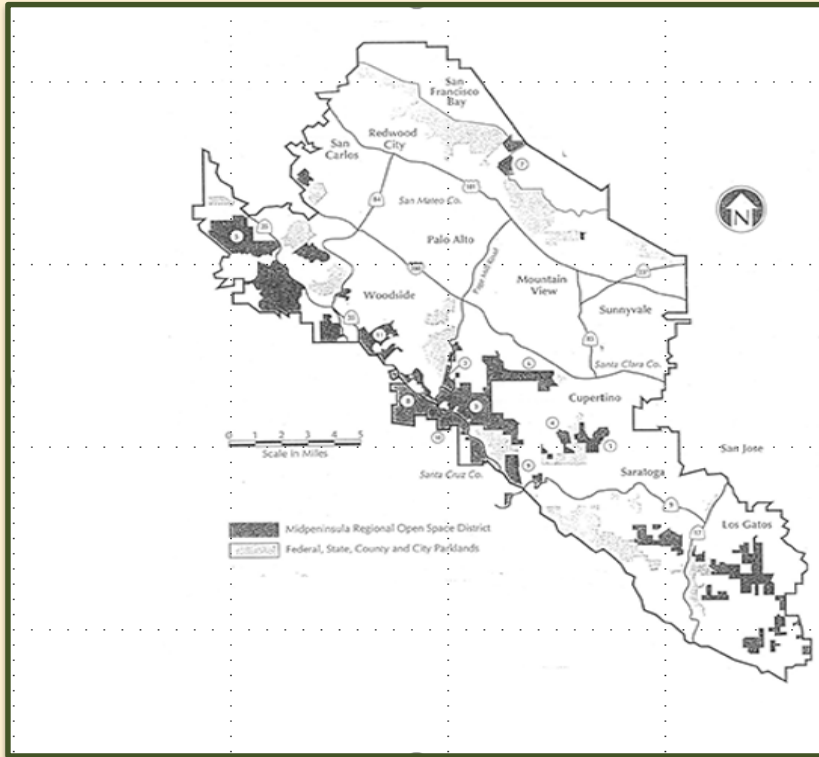
<b>Barrier Removal Type</b>	<b>Timeframe Guideline</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Interim Solutions	1 to 5 years	Interim measures in place pending implementation of major barrier removal projects	Example: relocating programs to accessible facilities
Maintenance Improvements	1 to 5 years	Completed in-house; examples: new signage, relocating hand dryers, regrading trailheads; <\$5,000 each	Where possible, group with other planned projects and work items
Small Capital Improvements	1 to 10 years	Completed in-house or by contractor; <\$50,000 each	
Large Capital Improvements	1 to 15 years	Completed by contractor; >\$50,000 each	

- Sensitive resource stewardship considerations
- Safe Harbor



# Accessibility at the District

1993



2017

