



VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT · SUMMER 2024



A hiker explores the recently improved Alpine Road Trail in Coal Creek Open Space Preserve. (Frances Freyberg)

Healthy Living



Midpen Improves Alpine Road Trail for Generations to Come

Recently, as bicyclists rode the Alpine Road Trail through Coal Creek Open Space Preserve for the first time since major improvements to it were completed, they thanked Midpen staff who had worked on the project as they pedaled by.

The full length of Alpine Road follows a natural corridor people have been using for hundreds of years to travel from the bayside of the Peninsula, up to the ridgeline of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and over to the San Mateo County coast. Much of the road is paved and owned by the County of San Mateo.

However, a 2.6-mile dirt section known as Alpine Road Trail climbs through Midpen's Coal Creek Preserve, skirts the boundary of the preserve on county land and terminates at upper Page Mill Road near Skyline Boulevard. Hikers, dog-walkers, equestrians and especially bicyclists use it as a safe way to travel from the Portola Valley area up to Skyline where they can access a greenbelt of trails and open space, much of it managed by Midpen.

And now, this section not only serves as an important regional trail connection, it is also more reliable for trail users, sustainable into the future and protective of nearby Corte Madera Creek thanks to a host of improvements made by Midpen. These include addressing erosion and trail stability issues by repairing and constructing culverts and retaining walls. Midpen staff also built a new, high-quality segment of trail and decommissioned



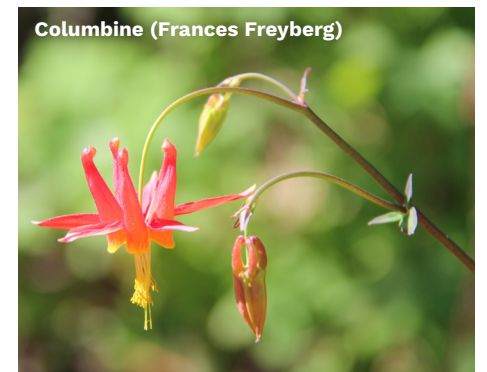
A mountain biker rides the improved Alpine Road Trail. (Frances Freyberg)

a steep, informal bypass trail that had been created around an old landslide.

The \$3.6 million in work occurred over two years, was identified in Midpen's community supported Vision Plan and was primarily funded by Measure AA with support from a County of Santa Clara grant. The County of San Mateo, which owns part of the trail segment Midpen improved, is a supportive project partner.

The calming rush of Corte Madera Creek, though mostly out of sight, can be heard along nearly the entire improved section. It flows into the larger San Francisco Creek Watershed, and the work done by Midpen was designed to significantly reduce the amount of sediment eroding into the watershed, making it healthier for fish and other aquatic life downstream.

Wildlife and wildflowers can be enjoyed along the improved route as well. On a recent day, the distinct call of a spotted towhee could be heard in the underbrush, while a pileated woodpecker drummed in the tree canopy and a pair of red-tailed hawks soared overhead. Areas that had once been thickets of poison oak that Midpen trail crews cut back when building the new stretch of trail are being replaced by swaths of sword ferns. Native



Columbine (Frances Freyberg)

“My favorite part of the new trail segment is the flow; how it meanders through the landscape.”

—Midpen Maintenance Supervisor Erik Viik

wildflowers dot the trailside including checker lilies, columbines and cream and lavender-colored irises. Near the upper reaches of Alpine Road Trail, visitors are rewarded with occasional glimpses of the San Francisco Bay and beyond through gaps in the trees.

Learn more and watch a new episode of OpenRoad with Doug McConnell and Friends exploring the improved Alpine Road Trail at openspace.org/Alpine-Road.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Free Docent Guided Activities
Midpen docent naturalists share their passion for nature with free activities throughout the summer.
Karl Gohl



A Watershed Moment
Data show decades of restoration work by Midpen is benefitting life in the San Gregorio Watershed.
Will Boucher



Nearly 10,000 Acres Preserved
Explore the diverse natural landscapes protected by Midpen over the last decade thanks to Measure AA.
Teddy Miller

A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Celebrating a Decade of Delivering Your Priority Open Space Projects



Ana María Ruiz

Since voters residing within Midpen boundaries voted “yes” on Measure AA in 2014, we have been making good progress on the projects promised. We’ve preserved in perpetuity nearly 10,000 additional acres of open

space, opened five new preserves or preserve areas to public access and added nearly 32 miles of new trail in eight different preserves. Although parking is often constrained at trailheads where the terrain is steep and the impacts to the natural environment must be balanced, we’ve been able to add three new parking areas.

Opening up some of Midpen’s most magical places to the public are the result of Measure AA investments: the Mount Umunhum Summit at Sierra Azul Preserve, the Alma Cultural Area

and western portion of Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, La Honda Creek Preserve and the Mindego Gateway area of Russian Ridge Preserve.

We’ve also invested nearly \$34 million in open space preservation, environmental restoration, public access and agricultural projects throughout Midpen preserves on the San Mateo County coast.

Five of the top 25 Midpen Vision Plan project portfolios are complete, and work continues on the rest.

Enjoy some of the current highlights of this progress throughout this issue of Views, and stay tuned as we continue sharing out all that Measure AA has allowed Midpen to accomplish on your behalf over the last decade.

Learn more at openspace.org/Measure-AA.

FUNDED BY

MEASURE AA

2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

Midpen’s Measure AA is a \$300 million, 30-year general obligation bond supporting priority projects in Midpen’s community supported Vision Plan.

Voters approved Measure AA to, “improve access to hiking and biking opportunities; protect and preserve redwood forests, natural open spaces, the scenic beauty of our region and coastline; critical wildlife habitat; restore creeks to protect water quality; and reduce forest fire risk.”

Midpen’s Vision Plan was finalized in 2014 with extensive community input, and directs Midpen’s work over forty years. Implementation of the top 25 priority project portfolios is supported by Measure AA. These projects fall under themes that align with our community’s values and Midpen’s mission, including **healthy nature, healthy living, landscape preservation and viable working lands.**



Participants celebrate the opening of the Measure AA-funded Mindego Hill Trail from the summit of Mindego Hill in Midpen’s Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. (Rich Jarvis)

Landscape Preservation

FUNDED BY **MEASURE AA**
2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

Nearly 10,000 Acres of Open Space Preserved in 10 Years

When local voters created Midpen in 1972, they tasked the public agency with preserving a regional greenbelt of open space lands during a time of rapid growth and development. Over the ensuing half century, Midpen has preserved more than 70,000 acres of public land across 27 open space preserves.

It hasn’t always been easy. The 2009 economic downturn and its aftermath constrained Midpen’s revenues, primarily made up of a small percentage of local property taxes, making ongoing land preservation difficult. In fact, Midpen’s ability to continue purchasing land was predicted to shrink from approximately 1,500 acres to about 200 acres per year.

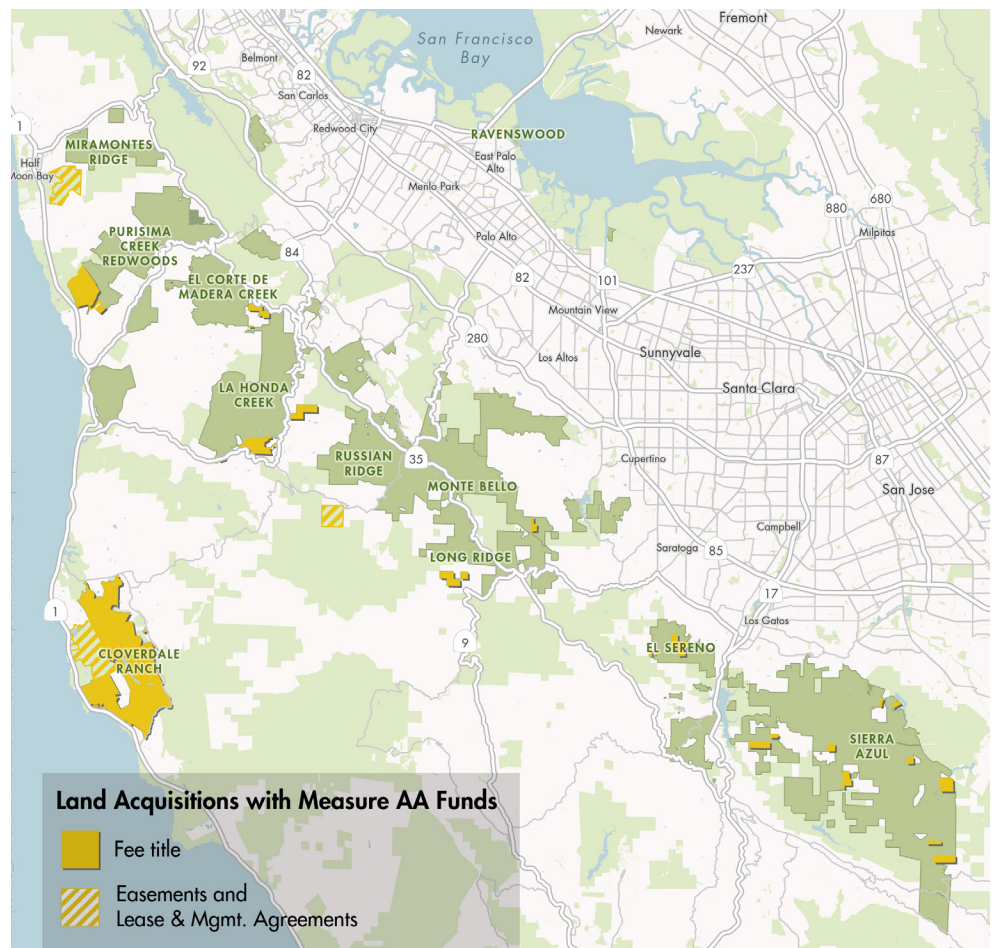
This prediction did not come to pass. Local voters reaffirmed their support for continued open space preservation both by helping to create Midpen’s ambitious Vision Plan for the future of public open space lands in its care, and by passing Midpen’s Measure AA in 2014 to help fund the Vision Plan’s top priorities. These include ambitious projects to preserve tens of thousands of additional acres of open space that will achieve goals including protecting redwood forests, preserving critical wildlife corridors, ensuring clean water for fish and people and supporting climate change resilience in our region.

Since voters passed Measure AA, Midpen has protected nearly 10,000 additional acres of open space land. Though these land-protection projects range in size, they all serve critical

Local voters reaffirmed their support for continued open space preservation both by helping to create Midpen’s ambitious Vision Plan, and by passing Midpen’s Measure AA in 2014 to help fund the Vision Plan’s top priority projects.

roles in making the regional greenbelt functional and healthy. Examples include:

- A purchase of nearly 100 acres added to Midpen’s La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve that not only protects redwood forests and the headwaters of La Honda Creek, but also significantly narrows the gap towards physically joining two Midpen preserves and their trail systems.
- Adding 612 acres to Midpen’s Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, finally securing the corridor of open space lands needed to make the long-envisioned Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail possible. Trail and parking area planning efforts are currently underway.
- Creating an entirely new 5,100-acre open space preserve called Cloverdale Ranch, which supports ongoing agriculture in the region while also connecting to more than 30,000 acres of surrounding protected lands that



Land Acquisitions with Measure AA Funds

- Fee title
- Easements and Lease & Mgmt. Agreements

■ Midpen preserves ■ Other preserved lands

together make up important wildlife corridors and habitats.

If you look at a map showing Midpen preserves today, particularly alongside other lands protected by parks and open space partners in the region, you can see the regional greenbelt Midpen’s founding voters envisioned ringing the populated urban areas of the Peninsula and South Bay. Yet there is still more work to be done. With the support of

Measure AA, Midpen continues pursuing land preservation opportunities that align with our Vision Plan in order to link together intact habitats for plants and wildlife, support the continued viability of local agriculture and connect trail networks for the health and enjoyment of the people in our region.

Learn more about Midpen’s community supported Vision Plan at openspace.org/vision.



El Corte De Madera Creek near the Methuselah Trail in Midpen's El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve. (Karl Pingle)

Healthy Nature

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2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

Restored Watershed Provides a Ripple-Effect of Benefits

Midpen's Watershed Protection Program and follow-up monitoring was a huge, two-decade undertaking throughout our El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve intended to improve the health of the San Gregorio watershed by reducing the amount of sediment washing into El Corte de Madera Creek. And we've been watching closely to see if the program was successful.

"When Midpen acquired the land that became El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve, we inherited a portion of the San Gregorio watershed," Midpen Senior Planner Meredith Manning said. "We also inherited a large piece of land with a history of logging and off-road motorcycling."

When it rained, runoff flowed down these steep former logging and motorcycle roads, picked up fine sediment and

washed it into El Corte de Madera Creek. Downstream, this sediment was filling in the natural gravel creek-bed habitat that rare fish such as coho salmon and steelhead trout need to lay their eggs.

Enter Midpen's Watershed Protection Program which began in 2001, and affected 24 miles of trail within El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. Work included decommissioning old logging roads, building new sections of trail and bridges, installing crossings and replacing or removing numerous culverts. Today, rather than overly steep and eroding former logging roads, the preserve's large trail network better follows the mountainous, forested landscape's natural topography with the goal of supporting a healthy, functional watershed and habitat for wildlife.

Midpen monitored the amount of sediment in El Corte de Madera Creek

during, and for several years after the Watershed Protection Program work was complete. The data show that the program achieved its goal of reducing the amount of fine sediment washing into El Corte de Madera Creek. For example, stream gage and sediment sample data taken during winter storms shows that approximately 62 percent less fine sediment is leaving the preserve than before.

"The new, undulating trails reduce runoff, but also, these trails that were once steep and difficult are much more enjoyable for preserve visitors."

—Midpen Senior Planner
Meredith Manning



The Measure AA-funded Oljon Trail was part of Midpen's Watershed Protection Program. (Leigh Ann Gessner/Midpen)

The final portion of the Watershed Protection Program's road and trail work and the sediment monitoring efforts were funded by Measure AA, Midpen's \$300 million, 30-year bond approved by local voters in 2014. The work has helped this watershed become healthier and more resilient to storm events, not only for wildlife such as the fish downstream, but also for people.

Learn more about Midpen's Watershed Protection Program at openspace.org/wpp.

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Midpen helps plants, animals and people thrive throughout the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region by preserving a connected greenbelt of more than 70,000 acres of public open space. Midpen is a public agency created in 1972 by a grassroots voter initiative to protect the green spaces in parts of Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. We manage 27 open space preserves with more than 250 miles of trails for you to explore, free of charge, all year long.

Our Mission: To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

Our mission on the San Mateo County Coast: 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.

BOARD MEETINGS

Are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. in-person and via Zoom. For details visit openspace.org/board-meetings.

Ana María Ruiz, General Manager
Leigh Ann Gessner, Open Space Views Editor
Ellen Tjosvold, Guided Activities Editor

Viable Working Lands

FUNDED BY
MEASURE AA
2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

Conservation and Agriculture Go Hand-in-Hand on the Coastside

Within Midpen preserves on the San Mateo County coast, where agricultural roots run deep, conservation and agriculture are often intertwined. Recently, a 160-year-old barn was restored as both a nod to the region's heritage and an important habitat for native bats.

The remaining undeveloped lands on the San Mateo County coast have long histories of agricultural uses, many that continue today providing an important source of local food.



A restored barn on protected Coastside open space. (Leigh Ann Gessner/Midpen)

Midpen's boundaries expanded to include the Coastside in 2004, and the unique mission guiding our work there includes preserving agricultural land and encouraging viable agriculture.

In the decade since the passage of Midpen's Measure AA by voters in 2014, Midpen's ability to carry out our critical mission on the Coastside has been accelerated, including the recent

creation of the Cloverdale Ranch Open Space Preserve near Pescadero and a current project to add more than 600 acres to Miramontes Ridge Open Space Preserve near Half Moon Bay.

Midpen's unique mission specific to the San Mateo County coast includes protecting agricultural land of regional significance, preserving rural character and encouraging viable agricultural use of land resources.

"Both of these Measure AA-supported Midpen Vision Plan projects are excellent examples of our coastal mission and critical partnerships at work on behalf of the public," said Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz.

Exactly one year ago, Midpen, a public agency, finalized the purchase of 5,100 acres from our nonprofit land trust partner Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to create Midpen's 27th open space preserve. Cloverdale Ranch Preserve is one of the largest contiguous undeveloped properties remaining on the Coastside. Its coastal grasslands and abundance of water support rare, grassland- and water-



Midpen often works in partnership with POST to preserve agricultural and open space lands on the Coastside. (Leigh Ann Gessner/Midpen)

dependent wildlife. This landscape has been grazed with cattle for generations, and that work continues today as part of Midpen's conservation grazing program, which is one of the primary ways Midpen supports viable agriculture on the coast. Carefully managed grazing in partnership with ranchers is a land management tool Midpen uses to enhance and maintain coastal grasslands, one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in North America.

POST is retaining 400 acres of prime agricultural lands surrounding Cloverdale Ranch Preserve as part of their Farmlands Program, with the intention of eventually transferring it to farmers with a conservation easement that protects it from future development.

Wilbur's Watch is currently the only public trail at Cloverdale Ranch Preserve. Accessible from a small parking area off Highway One, 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. Balancing the protection of the natural and working lands with creating additional public access will take time. In the interim, Midpen is offering guided access opportunities provided by trained volunteer docent naturalists. Check for summer offerings included in this newsletter and on our website.

Learn more about Midpen's current projects on the San Mateo County coast at openspace.org/Coastside.

Summer 2024 Docent Naturalist Guided Activities

Coastal fog envelops Purisima Creek
Redwoods Open Space Preserve.
(Alex Song)

Are you ready to explore and enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves? We invite you to discover these extraordinary places that include many thousands of acres of permanently protected open space, from redwood forest to bay shoreline. All guided activities are developed and provided by docent naturalists who have completed an extensive training program. These docents volunteer their time to enrich your experiences and share knowledge with you about natural and cultural history.

To pique your interest, take a look here at the list of guided activities and then refer to our website openspace.org/guided-activities for all additional needed details. The activities are FREE and only some require reservations. Please note that some preserves have more than one access point and some activities meet at a preserve or location other than where the guided activity will occur. If there is no special "where to meet" information then the activity meets at the preserve's main parking area.

June

History on Two Wheels

Saturday, June 1
8:45 – 11:15 a.m.
Fremont Older Preserve
11 miles **R S L B**

Ohlone Medicine

Saturday, June 1
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Long Ridge Preserve
5 miles **M L**



Banana slug (Mark Gerow)

Earthquakes in the Fault Zone

Sunday, June 2
1 – 4 p.m.
Los Trancos Preserve
2 miles **M**

Water Wonders

Monday, June 3
8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
8 miles **S L**

Rogue Valley Aerobic Hike

Tuesday, June 4
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
6 miles **S**

Explorer Hike: Skyline to Sempervirens

Wednesday, June 5
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Saratoga Gap Preserve
4.5 miles **M L**

Mindfulness Hiking

Friday, June 7
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
3.5 miles **M L**

From Canyon to Summit

Saturday, June 8
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
7 miles **S L**

A Cold War Sentinel at Mt. Umunhum

Saturday, June 8
1 – 2:30 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Mount Umunhum
Summit Parking Area
0.25 mile **M**

Family Night Hike

Saturday, June 8
6:30 – 9 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
1 mile **R E F L**

Wonders of Cherry Springs

Sunday, June 9
9:35 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Directions emailed
2.5 miles **R M**

Among the Redwoods, Bushes and Flowers

Monday, June 10
9 – 11:45 a.m.
Thornewood Preserve
4 miles **M**



California quail (Ajinkya Athavale)

Ramble at Rancho

Monday, June 10
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
7 miles **S L**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday, June 12
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
5 miles **S**

Finding Fauna on the Lost Trail

Thursday, June 13
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Picnic Tables Roadside Parking
5.5 miles **M**

Butterflies of Sierra Azul

Friday, June 14
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Bald Mountain Parking Area
5 miles **M L**

MEASURE **AA**

Sky Island Tour

Wednesday, June 19
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Mount Umunhum
Summit Parking Area
4 miles **S L**

A Longer Hike for a Long Day

Friday, June 21
8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Long Ridge Preserve
7 miles **S L**

MEASURE **AA**

Summitting Mt. Umunhum

Friday, June 21
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Bald Mountain Parking Area
8.5 miles **S L**

The Spirit of Methuselah

Friday, June 21
9 a.m. – Noon
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
2.75 miles **M**

Loupe Loop: Picchetti Pond

Saturday, June 22
9 – 11 a.m.
Picchetti Ranch Preserve
1.25 miles **E F**

Little Naturalists

Saturday, June 22
10 a.m. – Noon
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
2 miles **R E F**

MEASURE **AA**

Summer Morning Hike

Saturday, June 22
10 a.m. – Noon
La Honda Creek Preserve
2.5 miles **M**

Morning Meander: Canyon to Chaparral

Wednesday, June 26
9 – 11 a.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Jacques Ridge Parking Area
2 miles **E**

Summer Hike and Qi Gong

Friday, June 28
9:30 a.m. – Noon
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
2.5 miles **M**

In Search of Tiger Lily

Saturday, June 29
9 a.m. – Noon
La Honda Creek Preserve
4 miles **R M L**

MEASURE AA

Scenic Skyline Sampler

Sunday, June 30
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
7.5 miles **S L**

July

Faultlines, Hippies, Salamanders, and Wildflowers!

Tuesday, July 2
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
3 miles **M**

Happy In(ter)dependence Day

Wednesday, July 3
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
7 miles **S L**

MEASURE AA

Explorer Hike: Redwoods and Creeks

Wednesday, July 3
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve
5.5 miles **S L**

Loupe Loop: Alpine Pond

Saturday, July 6
9 – 11 a.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
1 mile **E F**

Discovering Dragonflies

Sunday, July 7
9:30 a.m. – Noon
Skyline Ridge Preserve
2 miles **E**

Earthquake Walk

Sunday, July 7
1 – 3:30 p.m.
Los Trancos Preserve
2 miles **M**

MEASURE AA

Ramble at Rancho

Monday, July 8
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
5.5 miles **S**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday, July 10
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Saratoga Gap Preserve
5 miles **S**

MEASURE AA

Bay Trail Boardwalking

Friday, July 12
10 a.m. – Noon
Ravenswood Preserve
2.5 miles **E W**

MEASURE AA

Top of the World

Saturday, July 13
9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Mount Umuñum
Summit Parking Area
5 miles **S L**

Following in Ohlone Footsteps

Saturday, July 13
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
2.5 miles **M L**

Pond to Pond

Tuesday, July 16
9 a.m. – Noon
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
5 miles **S**

Qi Gong Along the Trails

Wednesday, July 17
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
4 miles **S L**

Signs of Summer

Thursday, July 18
9 a.m. – Noon
Pulgas Ridge Preserve
4 miles **M**

The Old Summit Road

Friday, July 19
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saratoga Gap Preserve
Meet: Hickory Oaks Roadside Parking
7.5 miles **S L**

55th Anniversary of Apollo 11

Saturday, July 20
5:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
5 miles **R S L**

Morning Meander: Follow the Creek

Wednesday, July 24
9:30 a.m. – Noon
Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve
Meet: Purisima Creek Road Parking Area
2.5 miles **R E**

MEASURE AA

Trail Trek Thursday

Thursday, July 25
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
5.5 miles **S**

Summer with Banana Slugs

Saturday, July 27
9 a.m. – Noon
Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve
Meet: Purisima Creek Road Parking Area
3 miles **R E F**

Wonders of Cherry Springs

Sunday, July 28
9 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Directions emailed
2.5 miles **R M**



Emily McNally

Boots on the Ground

Experiencing the Benefits of Measure AA First-Hand

MEASURE AA

Throughout 2024, Midpen is celebrating 10 years of accomplishments that Measure AA has allowed us to make on furthering our mission and implementing the priority projects in our community-supported Vision Plan.

Midpen's amazing docent naturalists share these accomplishments with you by highlighting some of the completed projects during many of their free guided outings throughout the summer.

Join one of the guided activities in this guide marked with the Measure AA logo, and see first-hand some of the landscapes that have been protected in perpetuity, explore new trails that have been created and appreciate how nature has been cared for to benefit plants, animals and people thanks to the support of Measure AA.

August

Whose Fault is It?

Sunday, August 4
1 – 4 p.m.
Los Trancos Preserve
2 miles **M**

MEASURE AA

Ramble at Rancho

Monday, August 5
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
5 miles **M**

Trolling the Toll Road

Thursday, August 8
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Long Ridge Preserve
Meet: Saratoga Gap Vista Point
Parking Area
4.5 miles **S**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday, August 14
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
5.5 miles **S**

Surviving Paradise

Friday, August 16
9 a.m. – Noon
Pulgas Ridge Preserve
3 miles **S**

Exploring the Hawthorns Area

Friday, August 16
10 a.m. – Noon
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Directions emailed
2 miles **R M**

What a View

Saturday, August 17
9 a.m. – Noon
Cloverdale Ranch Preserve
Meet: Directions emailed
3 miles **R E F**

Blue Moon on Black Mountain

Monday, August 19
6 – 10 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
6 miles **R S L**

Trail Trek Thursday

Thursday, August 22
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve
Meet: Purisima Creek Road Parking Area
7 miles **R S L**

Merry Berry Scavenger Hunt

Friday, August 23
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
2 miles **F M**

Geocaching Hike

Saturday, August 24
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Los Trancos Preserve
2.5 miles **R F M L**

Signs of Late Summer

Monday, August 26
9 a.m. – Noon
Pulgas Ridge Preserve
4 miles **M**

Rogue Valley Aerobic Hike

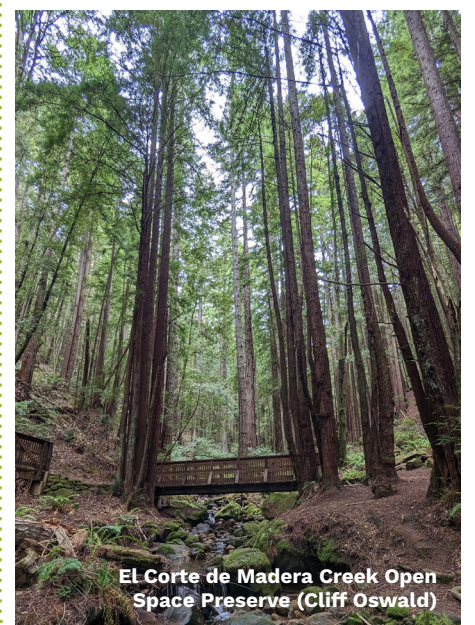
Tuesday, August 27
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
6 miles **S**

History on Two Wheels

Saturday, August 31
8:45 – 11:15 a.m.
Fremont Older Preserve
11 miles **R S L B**

Loupe Loop: Sausal Pond

Saturday, August 31
9 – 11 a.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
1.25 miles **E F**



El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve (Cliff Oswald)

Legend

E Easy Hike/Walk: Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace. Frequent stops. Usually less than 3 miles.

M Moderate Hike: Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Total elevation gain 200 to 600 feet. Leisurely to moderate pace. Usually between 3 and 5 miles.

S Strenuous Hike: Steep hills and/or long distances. Total elevation gain greater than 600 feet. Moderate to vigorous pace. Usually more than 5 miles.

B Bike Intermediate: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; able to climb and descend steep and moderately rough trails. Recreational ride at a moderate/brisk pace; 8+ miles on a wide range of fire roads and single-track trails. For experienced riders in very good physical condition with good endurance.

L Meal/Snack Break: Bring a lunch, dinner or snack as appropriate.

F Family Friendly: Suitable for children; must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. See the activity description for any additional information.

W Wheelchair Accessible

R Online Reservations Required: openspace.org/guided-activities will accept reservations two weeks in advance of an activity date and allow a maximum of four people per reservation. No walk-up participation allowed. Please cancel your reservation if you can no longer attend.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Sign up to receive Midpen's print or electronic newsletters, and email updates on preserves and projects.

openspace.org/opt-in

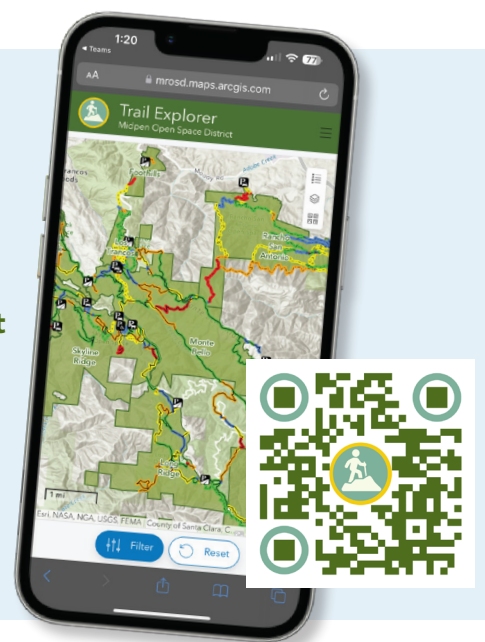
Follow us on social media:



Try Midpen's New Award-Winning Online Trail Explorer

Midpen's expert map-makers recently released a new interactive online tool allowing you to filter for 10 different criteria and find the Midpen trails that are best suited to you. Midpen's more than 250 miles of trail offer a wide range of experiences from contemplative nature study to easy-access trails a family can enjoy together and more challenging routes for outdoor exercise and more.

Check it out at openspace.org/maps.



Explore Your Open Space

Midpen's New Preserve Guide Shows the Way

From Bear Creek to Windy Hill, learn what Midpen's 25 publicly accessible preserves have to offer through our new preserve guide. Using a printed or digital version of this booklet, you can view the preserves at a glance or dive into details about each preserve's trails as well as cultural and natural history.

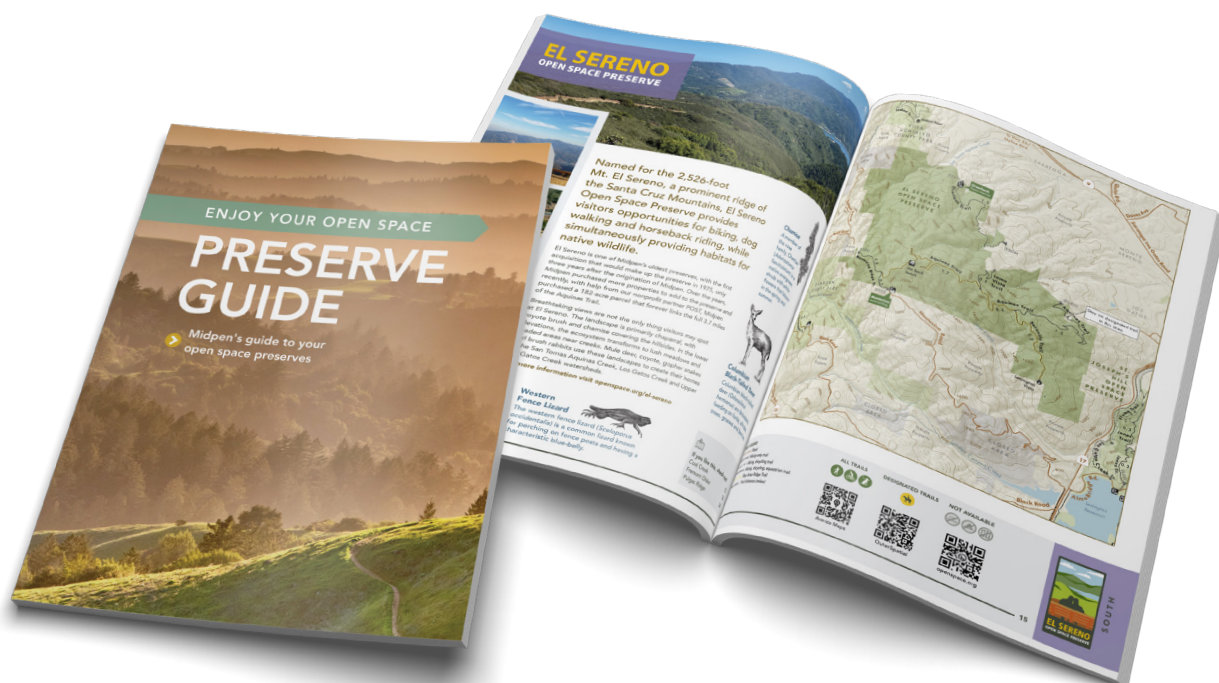
Each preserve page also contains maps and QR codes for apps like Avenza and OuterSpatial to help you navigate on your next hike or ride. Throughout the guide, enjoy illustrations and interpretive information showcasing the native plants, birds and other wildlife that call these protected lands home.

The guide can also help you expand your horizons, and explore Midpen preserves that may be less familiar to you, and that provide a similar experience in nature or are nearby

to preserves you already know and love. For example, if the ever-popular Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve has a full parking lot, the preserve guide page will suggest nearby Fremont Older or Picchetti Ranch preserves as an enjoyable alternative. Midpen preserves are free and open to the public daily, one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset.

We invite you to explore and enjoy the forests, grasslands, baylands and woodlands that provide us all with room to breathe.

Pick up your free copy at Midpen's administrative office located at 5050 El Camino Real in Los Altos during business hours, at outreach events attended by Midpen staff or online at openspace.org/preserve-guide.



Participants on a docent naturalist-led outing take photos in Midpen's El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve. (Frances Freyberg)

Capturing Awe and Wonder

Midpen's Annual Photo Contest Open for Submissions

Whether you're a shutterbug, or simply snap a cell phone photo when nature stops you in your tracks in Midpen preserves, we invite you to participate in our annual photo contest.

Submissions are accepted online through July 31 in the following categories:

- Wildlife
- Plant Life
- Landscapes
- People in Nature
- Aspiring Photographers (students K-12)
- The Trail Less Traveled (Midpen's lesser-visited preserves)

A winner from each category will receive a \$100 REI gift card and Midpen gear.

Get all of the photo contest details at openspace.org/photo-contest.