



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Wedding and Commitment Ceremonies in the Open Space Preserves

Thank you for contacting us about the possibility of holding your ceremony on District lands. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District provides opportunities for low-impact recreation in undisturbed wildland settings. Parking is limited, and participants must use hiking trails to access the sites. After considering safety, resource protection, and the need to accommodate regular preserve use, staff selected the locations listed on pages 2–4 for you to choose from for your ceremony.

Small ceremonies (less than 20 people) do not require a permit, but they must follow the **General Conditions** listed below.

General Conditions

The preserve remains open to other visitors and there is no charge. Because parking is limited at most sites, serious attention to carpooling is frequently required. Other conditions include:

- All participants must follow the appropriate [COVID-19 protocols](#) as described on the District website.
- Do not impede any traffic on the trails, vistas or access for other preserve visitors in any way.
- No vehicle access into preserve without prior authorization from the District.
- Please carpool.
- No balloons, decorations, tents, or catering.
- No amplified music (acoustic music is allowed).
- No confetti, birdseed or rice (bubbles are allowed).

Reserving a Ceremony Site

We suggest that you visit our available sites. If you find an area that is right for you, contact us at permits@openspace.org to reserve the date and location and to request a permit. We recommend that you make your request at least eight weeks in advance. Sometimes, depending on location, one car trip in and one trip out would be allowed to transport people who have trouble walking. You may be required to rent a portable toilet and to designate a person or two for traffic control. Note that the parking capacities for each of the sites on pages 2–4 are the total capacities for those lots, open to all. Parking spots cannot be guaranteed or reserved.

Locations

The following four sites hold a maximum of about 100 people.

Russian Ridge. Hike up Ridge Trail to ridge - grassy area with **good views**

Walking distance 10–15 minutes

Parking: 26 cars in Russian Ridge lot and some roadside parking, except on weekends.

For weekends a shuttle from Skyline Ridge lot (one mile south) to the pullouts is required. You may also use up to five spaces in the Russian Ridge lot.

Restroom: One on site

No vehicle access. May get windy.

Windy Hill, north gate - Spring Ridge Road

Parking: along Skyline Blvd., traffic control required

Restroom: None

Walking distance: 5 minutes

Time restriction: Before 11:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays because area gets heavy use. No weekday events on top of hill because of hang gliding and soaring activities.

Events for more than 50 people require approval from the Town of Portola Valley, in addition to the required District permit.

Monte Bello, next to permit lot, which is about ½ mile up Page Mill from the regular parking lot. Lone Oak Hill, about a 15-minute walk along Canyon Trail, may also be used.

Parking: 40–50 cars in permit lot (gate MB-04). A flagger will be required for large events due to the blind corner.

Restroom: None. There is one ½ mile down Page Mill at the regular lot.

Six weeks-notice is preferred due to need to mow lot.

El Corte de Madera at Gordon Mill Trail by gate CM-03 - Loggers Camp. Grassy knoll surrounded by redwoods and fir.

Parking: 20 cars on Skyline Blvd. and about 5 on a roadside pullout near CM-03. Car pooling required.

Walking distance: 5 minutes

Restrooms: None

Time restrictions: None

Vehicle access: 2 cars maximum, one round trip each.

The following sites are available for small gatherings.

La Honda Creek

Maximum number of people: 25–30

Location: Allen Road access

Description: Grassy areas with great views of the ocean

Parking: Parking for 10 cars only inside gate

Walking distance: 10 minutes

Restrooms: none

Time restrictions: none

Long Ridge

Maximum number of people: 20–25

Location: Hickory Oak Knoll area

Description: Oak woodland area with good view

Parking: Restricted to 8–10 cars on Skyline Boulevard. No other parking is available.

Walking distance: 5–10 minutes

Restrooms: None

Time restrictions: Before 11:00 a.m. only, on weekends

Special conditions: Cars may park on east side of Skyline Blvd. only; no more than 10 cars.

Activity must be over by 12:00 p.m. because of increase in late morning traffic.

Purisima Creek Redwoods

Maximum number of people: 20–25

Location: Higgins/Purisima entrance off Hwy 1

Description: Variety of small redwood groves

Parking: 10 cars in parking area

Walking distance: 5 to 15 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Time restrictions: None

Special conditions: Area is remote.

Russian Ridge

Maximum number of people: 25

Location: Near Caltrans vista point

Description: Grassy areas with good views

Parking: Roadside parking for 10 cars

Walking distance: 10 minutes

Restrooms: No

Time restrictions: None

Special conditions: Can get windy

Skyline Ridge

Maximum number of people: 20

Location: Horseshoe Lake Picnic Area

Description: Small picnic area (2 tables) on hill overlooking lake. Shaded by oaks.

Parking: 40 cars at equestrian lot

Walking distance: 10 minutes

Restrooms: Yes

Time restrictions: None

Thornewood

Maximum number of people: 60

Location: Picnic and barbecue area (one large grill/fireplace)

Description: Secluded area surrounded by oak trees

Parking: Small parking area inside gate (7 cars), overflow parking for 15 cars (must be mowed) below site. Carpooling and parking monitor required.

Walking distance: 5 minutes

Restrooms: No

Time restrictions: None

Special conditions: Private residence adjacent to site; must stay out of lease area.