



# Explore Your Open Space



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

## Daniels Nature Center

The David C. Daniels Nature Center is open weekends spring through fall. Volunteers help you explore touchable wildlife skulls, skins and engaging displays about the surrounding environment. A self-guided tour and interpretive signs connect you with nature along the easy-access trail around Alpine Pond. Afterward, enjoy a picnic or explore the surrounding Skyline Ridge Preserve.

## 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.

## Backpack Camp

The Black Mountain Backpack Camp at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve is the only campsite in Midpen preserves. The campground is a 1.5-mile hike from the Page Mill Road parking lot and includes a 500-foot uphill climb. Four single campsites and one group site are available for one- or two-night stays throughout the year. Reservations are required at [openspace.org](https://openspace.org).

Above: Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Lubor Ptacek). Below, left to right: Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Robert Miles); La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Frances Freyburg); Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Alisha Laborico); Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Doug McConnell).



## Midpen 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.

## Coastside Mission

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.

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Travers Flynn)

## Funding

Measure AA is a \$300 million general obligation bond, approved in June 2014 by over two-thirds of District voters, to fund the top 25 of Midpen's 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.

FUNDLED BY

MEASURE  AA

2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

# Welcome

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972; the result of a grassroots effort by local citizens who wanted to preserve “room to breathe” after seeing the Santa Clara Valley filled in by development. Midpen is an independent special-purpose district that helps plants, animals and people thrive throughout the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region by preserving a connected greenbelt of public open space. These diverse and scenic landscapes, from bay wetlands to redwood forests and coastal grasslands, host an incredible diversity of life, making our region one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots.

Today, we manage more than 65,000 acres of public open space land in 26 preserves across parts of Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. Once the land is protected forever, our real work begins. Many Midpen preserves have histories that include clear-cut logging, mining, military or other industrial activities that have altered natural geologic features and ecosystems. To counter centuries of intensive human use, Midpen must actively care for the land, balancing natural resource protection with ecologically sensitive public education and enjoyment. To promote and a healthy ecosystem, we rely on scientific research and best practices to adaptively manage the lands. By caring for the land, the land in turn takes care of us, providing tangible and intangible benefits like clean air and water, flood protection, climate resiliency, and the opportunity for restorative experiences in nature.

We offer many ways to connect with nature through environmental interpretation, docent naturalist-led activities and volunteer opportunities. Public access areas of Midpen preserves are free and open a half-hour before sunrise until a half-hour after sunset. Use this map brochure to discover how you can enjoy your open space and learn more at [openspace.org](https://www.openspace.org).

# HOW MIDPEN SERVES THE COMMUNITY



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Ashi-K)

## PRESERVE & PROTECT

We protect over 65,000 acres of coastal prairies, redwood forests, green foothills, oak woodlands, salmonid streams, bayland salt marshes and more.



Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Alisha Laborico)

## EDUCATE

Midpen offers free activities to connect people to open space. Learn about local places, plants and animals at [openspace.org](https://www.openspace.org).



Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Midpen Staff)

## CARE FOR

Active land management is critical to protect flora and fauna on public lands from intensive human use, climate change, drought and wildland fire.



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve (Karl Gohl)

## ENJOY

Explore 250 miles of hiking trails, over half of which are multiuse trails, open to bicycles and horseback riding.

# CONNECT

## Free Nature 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.

## 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.

## Contact Us

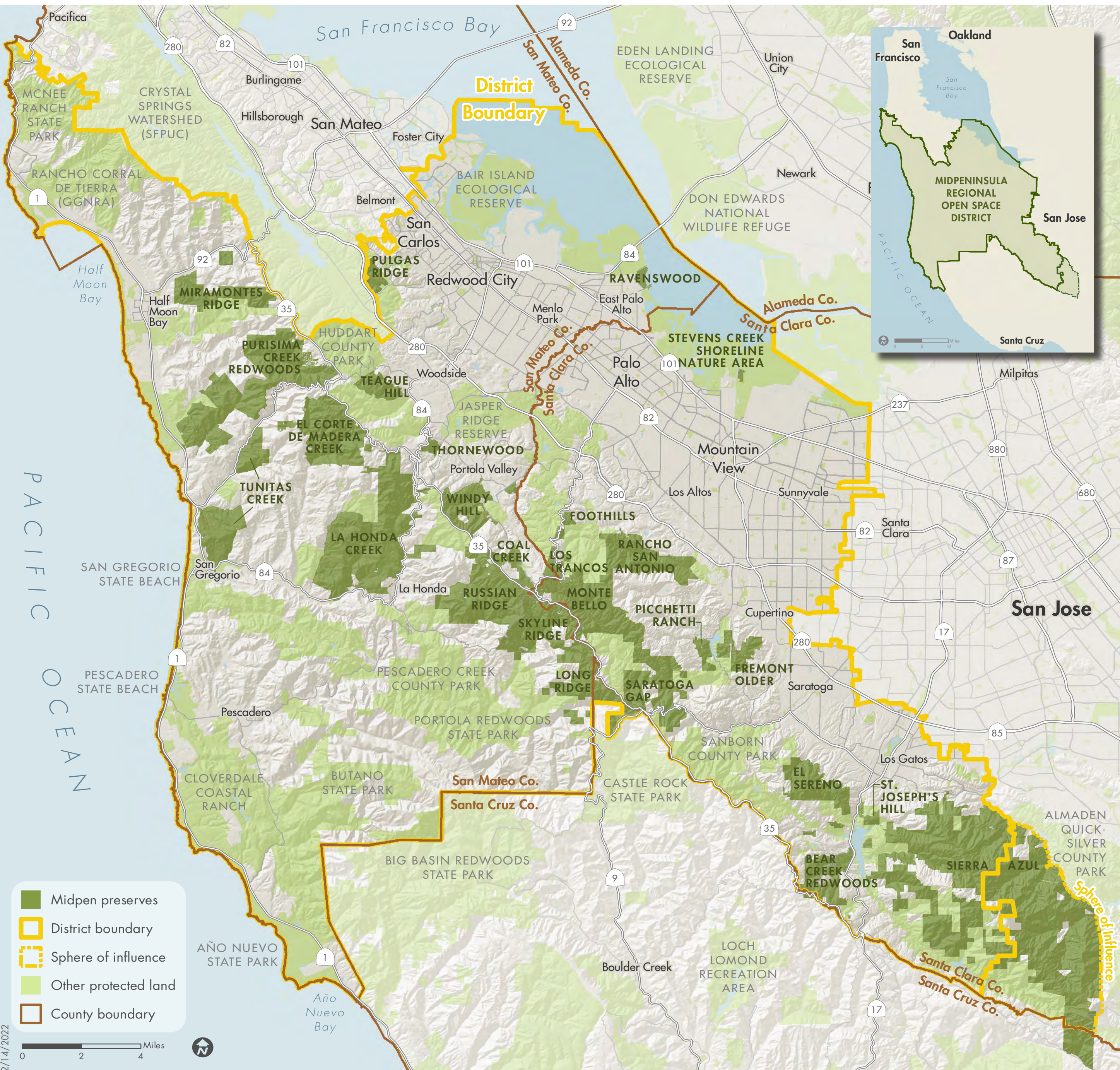
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[openspace.org](http://openspace.org)



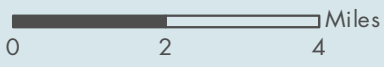
# EXPLORE YOUR PRESERVES



**LEGEND**

- Midpen preserves
- District boundary
- Sphere of influence
- Other protected land
- County boundary

2/14/2022



**LEGEND**

- Hiking
- Equestrian
- Cycling
- Dog walking
- Easy-access trails
- Restrooms

- All trails
- Designated trails only
- \* No public access at this time

PRESERVE						
Bear Creek Redwoods	●	○		○	●	
Coal Creek	●	○	●	○	●	
El Corte de Madera Creek	●	○	○	○	●	
El Sereno	●	○	●	●		
Foothills	●	○	●	●		
Fremont Older	●	○	○	●	●	
La Honda Creek	○	●	○	○	●	
Long Ridge	●	○	○	○	●	
Los Trancos	●	○				

PRESERVE						
Miramontes Ridge*	●	○	○		○	●
Monte Bello	●	○	○		○	●
Picchetti Ranch	●	○			○	●
Pulgas Ridge	●	○		●	○	●
Purisima Creek Redwoods	●	○	○		○	●
Rancho San Antonio	●	○	○		○	●
Ravenswood	●	○	●		○	●
Russian Ridge	●	○	○		○	●
Saratoga Gap	●	○	●		○	●

PRESERVE						
Sierra Azul	●	○	○	○	○	●
Skyline Ridge	●	○	○	○	○	●
St. Joseph's Hill	●	○	○	○	○	●
Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area	●	○			○	●
Teague Hill	●	○				
Thornewood	●	○		●		
Tunitas Creek*	●	○				
Windy Hill	●	○	○	○	○	●

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