



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Preserve Name by Photographer Name/Source

District Introduction and Update

Jed Cyr, Board Member, Ward 3
Yoriko Kishimoto, Board Member, Ward 2

February 2, 2021



Midpen Mission(s)



“To acquire 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.”

San Mateo County Coastside Mission (2004):

“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.”



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve





About Midpen

- Public agency, created in 1972 by a grassroots voter initiative
- 770,000 constituents (2018)
- Elected board: seven directors
- Funded primarily through property tax
- 26 Preserves in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties
- 65,000 acres, 240+ miles of trails
- Preserves are free and open to the public
- Main office in Los Altos + field offices
- 180 employees, 600 volunteers
- \$300 million voter-approved General Obligation Bond passed in 2014 to support public priorities





Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Midpen Jurisdiction and Open Space Preserves



#	Preserves
1	Bear Creek Redwoods Opening in 2019
2	Coal Creek
3	El Corte de Madera Creek
4	El Sereno
5	Foothills
6	Fremont Older
7	La Honda Creek
8	Long Ridge
9	Los Trancos
10	Miramontes Ridge
11	Monte Bello
12	Picchetti Ranch
13	Pulgas Ridge
14	Purissima Creek Redwoods
15	Rancho San Antonio
16	Ravenswood
17	Russian Ridge
18	Saratoga Gap
19	Sierra Azul
20	Skyline Ridge
21	St. Joseph's Hill
22	Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area
23	Teague Hill
24	Thornewood
25	Tunitas Creek
26	Windy Hill



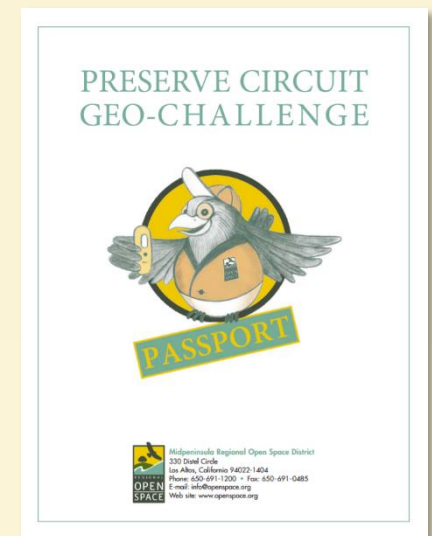
Long Ridge Open Space Preserve





Free Open Space Activities

- 240 miles of open space **hiking** trails
- 16 preserves with **mountain bike** trails
- 11 preserves are **dog-friendly** (1 off-leash area)
- Black Mountain **Backpack Camp**
- Dozens of free **docent-led hikes**
- Geocaching** challenge
- Volunteer** opportunities
- Equestrian** trails





Mount Umunhum





Guided Activities

- ✿ 100+ free docent-led hikes offered: all-seasons, weekends + weekdays
- ✿ All ages and abilities welcome
- ✿ www.openspace.org/what-to-do/calendar





Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve



Volunteer Programs



- ✦ Preserve Partner
- ✦ Trail Patrol Volunteer
- ✦ Nature Center Host
- ✦ Outdoor Activity Docent
- ✦ Outdoor Education Leader





Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve



Outdoor Education Areas

✿ Daniels Nature Center

- Skyline Ridge Preserve
- Learn about pond habitats
- Explore Alpine Pond
- Open on weekends, spring-fall



✿ Deer Hollow Farm

- Rancho San Antonio Preserve
- Working historic farm
- Goats, chickens, pigs & more





What's New(t)? – Project Updates



Ravenswood Bay Trail Segment Completion



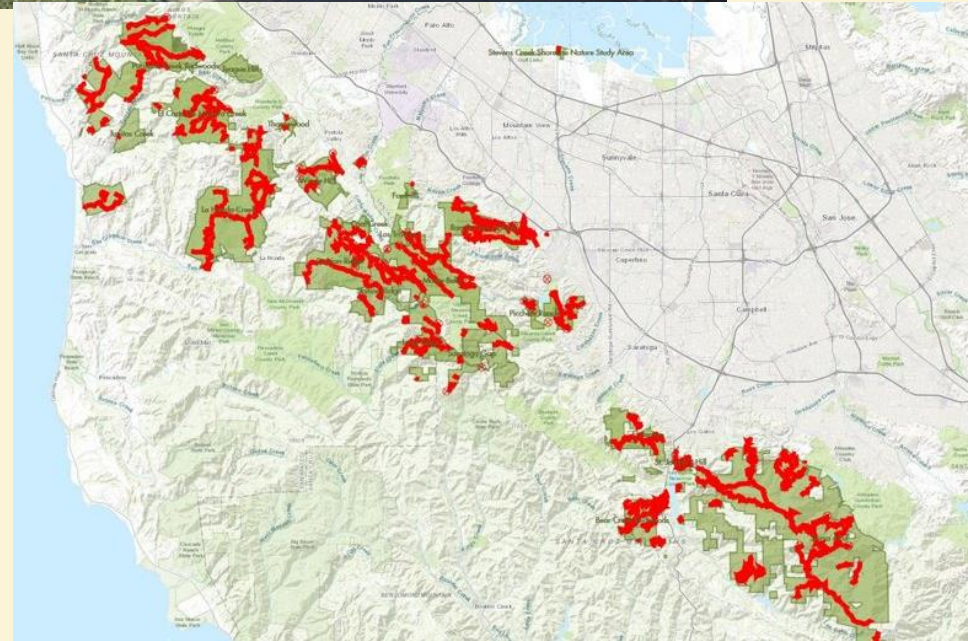


Wildland Fire Resiliency Program



Current Practices – Vegetation Clearing Along Roads

- ~235 miles of road
- 114 miles of narrow trail
- Emergency access for fire suppression
- Evacuation routes



Current Practices – Fuel Breaks

- ✿ Shaded Fuel Breaks
- ✿ 12 miles of mowed lines
- ✿ >26 miles of disc line
- ✿ Temporary Refuge Areas
- ✿ Emergency staging areas
- Helicopter landing zones



Current Practices – Conservation Grazing

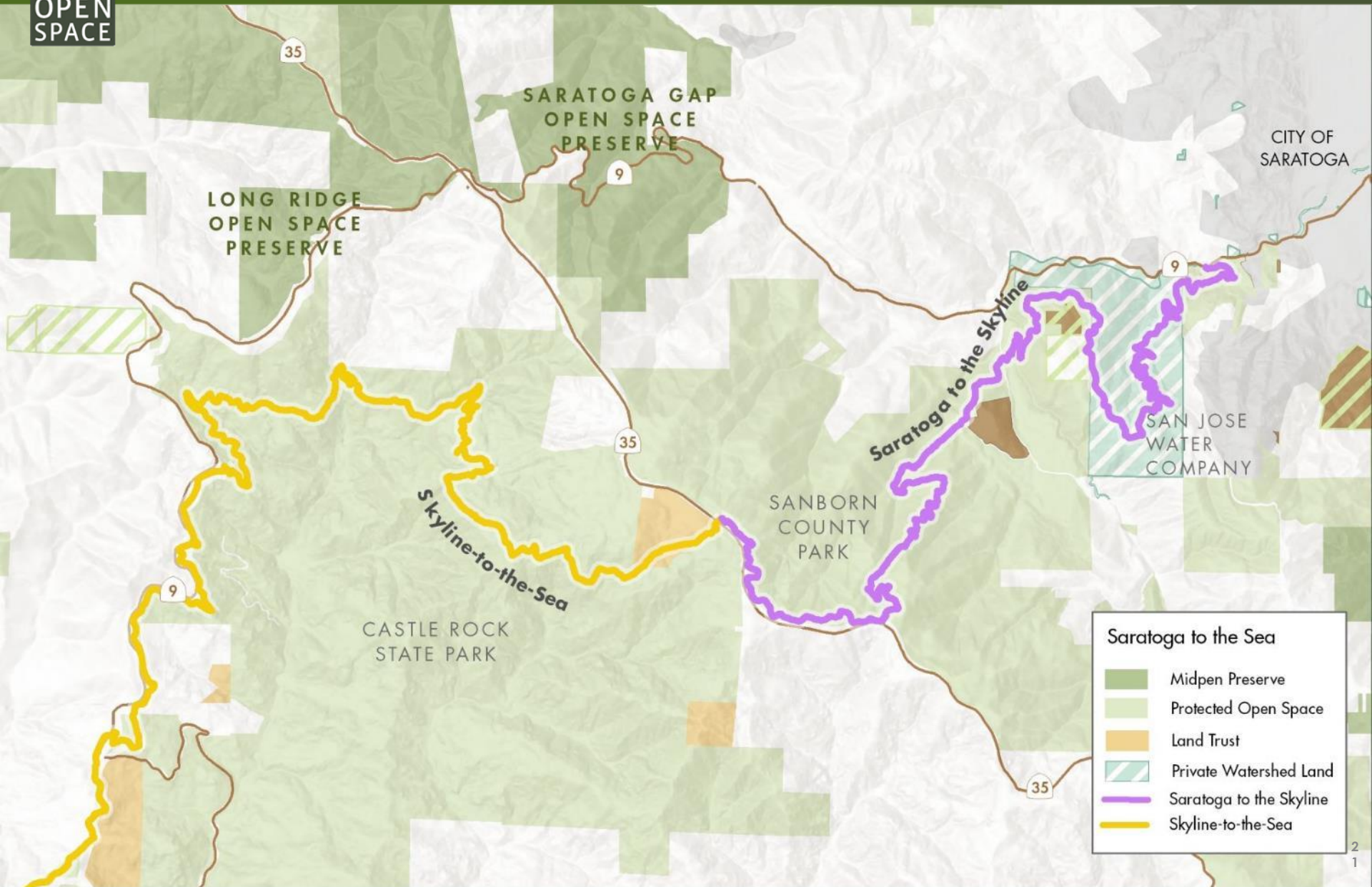
Fuel Reduction of >8,000 acres of grassland through active grazing

- Reduces fire fuel loads
- Controls invasive species and preserves biodiversity





Saratoga to the Sea: Saratoga to the Skyline Trail Regional Trail Context



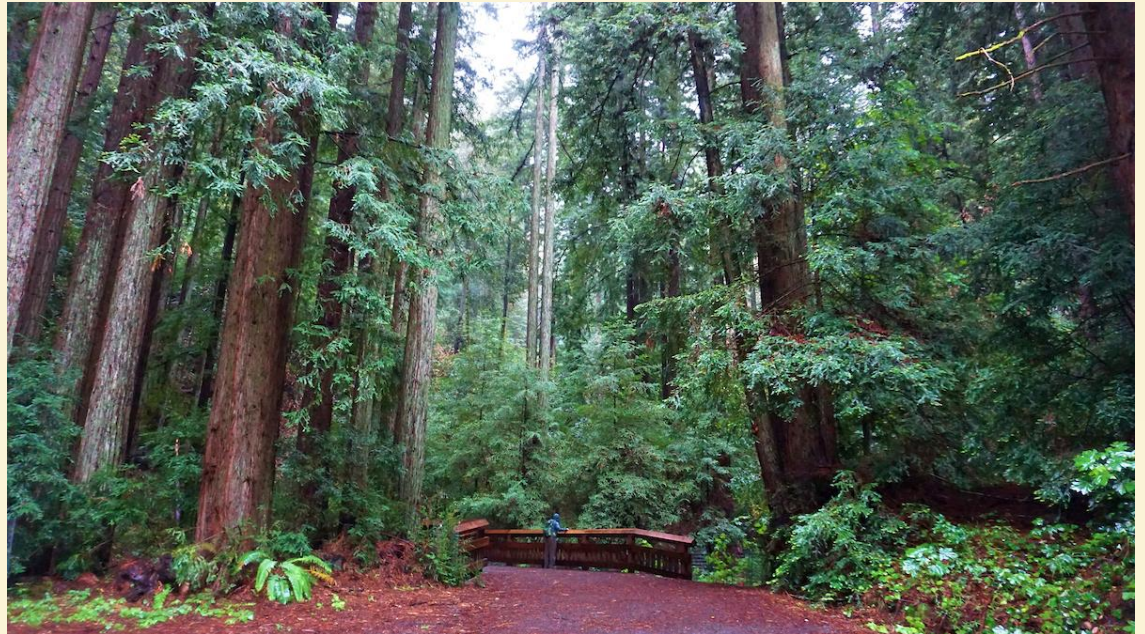


Saratoga to the Sea: Saratoga to the Skyline Trail

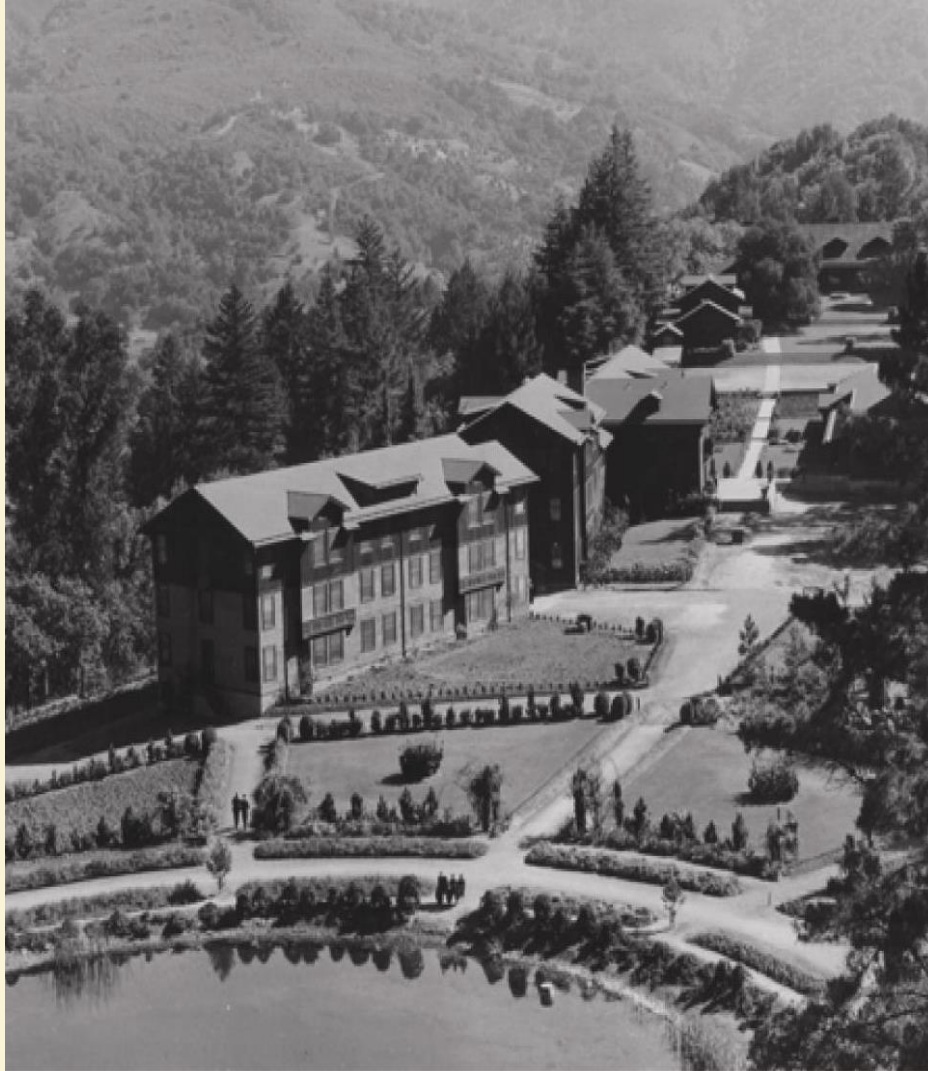




Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Reserve



Alma College Cultural Landscape Rehabilitation





Questions?



www.openspace.org

info@openspace.org

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www.openspace.org/enewsletter

Maximum Yearly Acreage

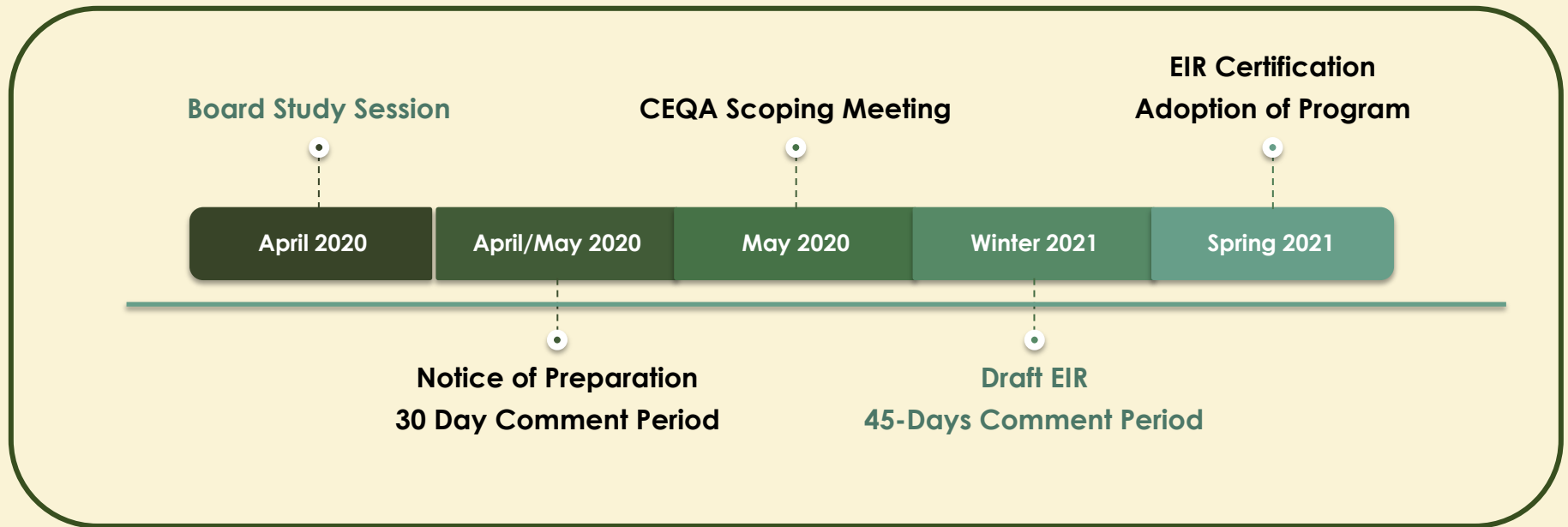
Current (ac./year)	
New*	0
Maintenance	365
Total	365
* No major fuelbreak can be created	



Fire Resiliency Plan			
	Fire Management (ac./year)	Ecosystem Resiliency (ac./year)	Total (ac./year)
New	730	500	1,230
Maintenance	900	500	1,400
Total	1,630	1,000	2,630

> 600%₂ increase

Timeline / Public Comment Opportunities



2021-22 (Tentative) – Public input and EIR for prescribed fire.