

# Welcome to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Deane Little

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) is a regional greenbelt system in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is comprised of over 63,000 acres of land in 26 open space preserves protected for public enjoyment making a preserve system of diverse and unparalleled beauty in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country. Preserves include redwood, oak, and fir forests, chaparral-covered hillsides, riparian corridors, grasslands, and wetlands along the San Francisco Bay.

Preserves, ranging from 55 to over 18,000 acres, are open to the public free of charge, 365 days a year. Visitors will find over 245 miles of trails, ranging from easy to challenging terrain.

## History

Midpen was founded in 1972 to preserve the regional greenbelt in northwestern Santa Clara County. The voters expanded Midpen in 1976 to include southern San Mateo County and again in 1992, to add a small portion of Santa Cruz County. In 2004, through the Coastsides Protection Program, Midpen's boundary was extended to the Pacific Ocean in San Mateo County.



Jack Gescheidt

## 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.

## Board of Directors

Midpen is governed by a seven-member elected board of directors. Each board member is elected to serve a four-year term and represents a geographic ward of approximately equal populations. The Board holds its regular public meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m., at Midpen's administrative office: 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA.

## Staffing

The staff currently includes over 175 employees in 11 departments: Budget and Analysis, Engineering and Construction, Finance, Human Resources, Information Systems and Technology, Land and Facilities Services, Natural Resources, Planning, Public Affairs, Real Property, and Visitor Services.

## Funding

General funding is provided by a small share of the annual total property tax revenues collected within Midpen boundaries, except on the San Mateo County Coastsides.

The FY2018-19 Midpen revenue estimate totals \$58.8 million with 92% coming from property tax receipts. Other revenue sources may include federal and state grants, interest and rental income, donations, land gifts, and note issues.

## Measure AA

In June 2014, voters passed Measure AA, which authorized Midpen to issue up to \$300 million in bonds over the next 20-30 years for specific capital projects. The increase in tax rate will not exceed \$3.18 per \$100,000 of assessed property value within Midpen's entire jurisdiction.



Karl Gohl

## Volunteer Opportunities

Approximately 1,000 volunteers assist Midpen each year ranging from one-day projects to ongoing natural history education, trail patrol, maintenance, and restoration programs. Programs are described online at [www.openspace.org/volunteer](http://www.openspace.org/volunteer).



**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

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## Legend

- Hiking
- Equestrian
- Cycling
- Dog Walking
- Easy Access Trails
- All Trails
- ◐ Designated Trails Only

#	Preserves	Acres					
1	Bear Creek Redwoods	1,437	●	◐			◐
2	Coal Creek	508	●	●	●	●	
3	El Corte de Madera Creek	2,906	●	◐	◐		◐
4	El Sereno	1,430	●	◐	◐	●	
5	Foothills	212	●	●		●	
6	Fremont Older	739	●	◐	◐		
7	La Honda Creek	6,144	◐	◐		◐	
8	Long Ridge	2,226	●	◐	◐	◐	
9	Los Trancos	274	●	◐			
10	Miramontes Ridge	1,716					
11	Monte Bello	3,537	●	◐	◐		◐
12	Picchetti Ranch	308	●	◐			◐
13	Pulgas Ridge	366	●			●	◐

#	Preserves	Acres					
14	Purisima Creek Redwoods	4,798	●	◐	◐		◐
15	Rancho San Antonio	3,988	●	◐	◐		◐
16	Ravenswood	374	●	◐	◐	●	
17	Russian Ridge	3,491	●	◐	◐		◐
18	Saratoga Gap	1,613	●	◐	◐		
19	Sierra Azul	18,939	●	◐	◐	◐	◐
20	Skyline Ridge	2,143	●	◐	◐		◐
21	St. Joseph's Hill	270	●	◐	◐	●	
22	Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area	55	●		●		
23	Teague Hill	626	●	●			
24	Thornewood	167	●	●		●	
25	Tunitas Creek	1,660					
26	Windy Hill	1,414	●	◐	◐	◐	◐