



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8/12/2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Regular Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor, Wise
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Agenda Review

None.

D. Public Comment

- Peter Banzhaf spoke in support of the oversized vehicle ordinance enforcement.
- Michelle Huang spoke in support of safer streets and daylighting around schools.
- Keith Quiggins spoke in opposition of the overnight parking restrictions in the Downtown.
- Jacqui Cebrian spoke on concerns related to license plate reader data access.
- Victorino Roman spoke on concerns on the limited space at Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) and need for an additional pool table.
- Alberto T. Garcia spoke on concerns about a lack of progress on the senior requests for the BHCC.
- Glafira Garcia spoke on concerns about the July 30 alarms r and lack of an evacuation plan and in support of additional classes provided by authorized teachers.
- Judith Schwartz spoke on concerns about the impacts to the aquatics program and in support of city support of the pools.
- Celia Vilchs requested assistance with parking issues with the apartments on Willow Road.
- Rebecca Eastman spoke in support of Team Sheep and the strong pool community.
- Eplanet Thunderstriker spoke on concerns of electronic intelligence (EI) suppressing and providing misinformation impacting civic transparency, democratic engagement and public trust.

E. Presentations and Proclamations

- E1. Presentation: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District update

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board members Karen Holman and Margaret MacNiven made the presentation (Attachment).

E2. Presentation: Annual Complete Streets Commission report out (Presentation)

Complete Streets Commissioner Jacqui Cebrian made the presentation (Attachment).

- Adina Levin spoke in support of the completed and upcoming complete streets projects and requested that the city and Complete Streets Commission revisit bike lanes on El Camino Real.
- Jenny Michel spoke in support of the completed and upcoming complete streets projects and provided recommendations for the Coleman Avenue pilot.
- Katherine Dumont spoke in support of the completed and upcoming complete streets projects and in support of additional Downtown street safety.

The City Council discussed working with San Mateo County on Coleman Avenue and looking at all city streets as a whole.

E3. Presentation: Annual Parks and Recreation Commission report out (Presentation)

Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Joseph Grass made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed the Menlo Park's park and recreation activities and events, working across city commissions and increasing interactions with the Youth Advisory Commission

F. Advisory Body Vacancies and Appointments

F1. Consider applicants and make an appointment to fill one unexpired vacancy on the Housing Commission (Staff Report #25-111-CC)

Deputy City Clerk Sarah Sandoval introduced the item.

- Theresa Fox spoke in support of their appointment to the Housing Commission.
- Pam D Jones spoke in support of Charles Chapa's appointment to the Housing Commission.
- Jenny Michel spoke in support of representation by District and on concerns related to the citizen-initiated ballot measure and Housing Element for Housing Commissioners.

The City Council appointed Charles Chapa to the Housing Commission.

G. Consent Calendar

G1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for June 24, July 7 and July 8, 2025 (Attachment)

G2. Receive and file the investment portfolio quarterly reports for June 30 (Staff Report #25-112-CC)

G3. Adopt a resolution approving the fiscal year 2025-26 investment policy for the City and the Successor Agency (Staff Report #25-113-CC)

G4. Authorize the city manager to enter into an agreement with San Jose Conservation Corps for ranger services at Bedwell Bayfront Park in an amount not to exceed \$231,426 for the first year of

service with an option to extend for up to three additional years, depending on performance, that could potentially include expanded services to additional City parks (Staff Report #25-114-CC)

- G5. Authorize the city manager to purchase library books and media from current vendor Ingram Content Group in total amount not to exceed \$130,000 during fiscal year 2025-26 (Staff Report #25-115-CC)

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Wise), to approve the consent calendar, passed unanimously.

H. Regular Business

- H1. Introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 12.18 of Title 12 (Buildings and Construction) of the Menlo Park Municipal Code to adopt local amendments to the 2022 California Building Standards Code (Staff Report #25-117-CC)

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer and Retired Annuitant – Assistant Community Development Director Ron La France made the presentation (Attachment).

- Audra Loh spoke in support of Option 3.
- Dashiell Leeds spoke in support of Option 3.
- John McKenna spoke in support of Option 3.
- Angela Evans spoke in support of Option 3.
- Anne Pernick spoke in support of Option 3.

The City Council received clarification on flex path triggers and measures.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Taylor), to accept the cost effectiveness study, and introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance adopting local amendments to the 2022 CBSC in Chapter 12.18 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code that include expanded pre-wiring requirements; installation of heat pump space heating equipment instead of air conditioner, or installation of air conditioner with energy efficiency measures; expanded energy efficiencies for single family alterations and additions and include the following modification:

1. Section 4: Effective Date This ordinance shall be in effect thirty (30) days after the date of adoption, and implemented upon the California Energy Commission's approval.
 2. Attachment C – update 510 to $\leq 5\%$
 3. updating section numbers for all attachments and
 4. minor formatting changes for consistency,
- passed, 4-1 (Combs dissenting).

I. Informational Items

- I1. Preparation of a comprehensive cost of services study with Government Consulting Partners, Inc. (Staff Report #25-116-CC)
- I2. Police department quarterly update / Q2 April – June 2025 (Staff Report #25-110-CC) (Informe de Personal #25-110-CC)
- I3. Short-term rental compliance update (Staff Report #25-118-CC)

I4. City Council agenda topics: August – September 2025 (Staff Report #25-119-CC)

J. City Manager Report

City Manager Murphy reported out on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief attendance at the meeting and the final Summer Concert at Fremont Park August 13.

K. City Councilmember Reports

Mayor Combs reported out on National Night Out and meeting with Sister City Galway Mayor Mike Cubbard and City Councilmember Eddie Hoare.

Vice Mayor Nash reported out on Peninsula Clean Energy, Resource and Management Climate Protection Committee and Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) meetings.

L. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting September 9, 2025.

District Introduction and Update

Karen Holman, Board Member, Ward 5

Margaret MacNiven, Board Member, Ward 6

August 12, 2025

North Ridge Trail, Purisima Creek Redwoods (Eric Gouldsberry)



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Midpen's Mission(s)



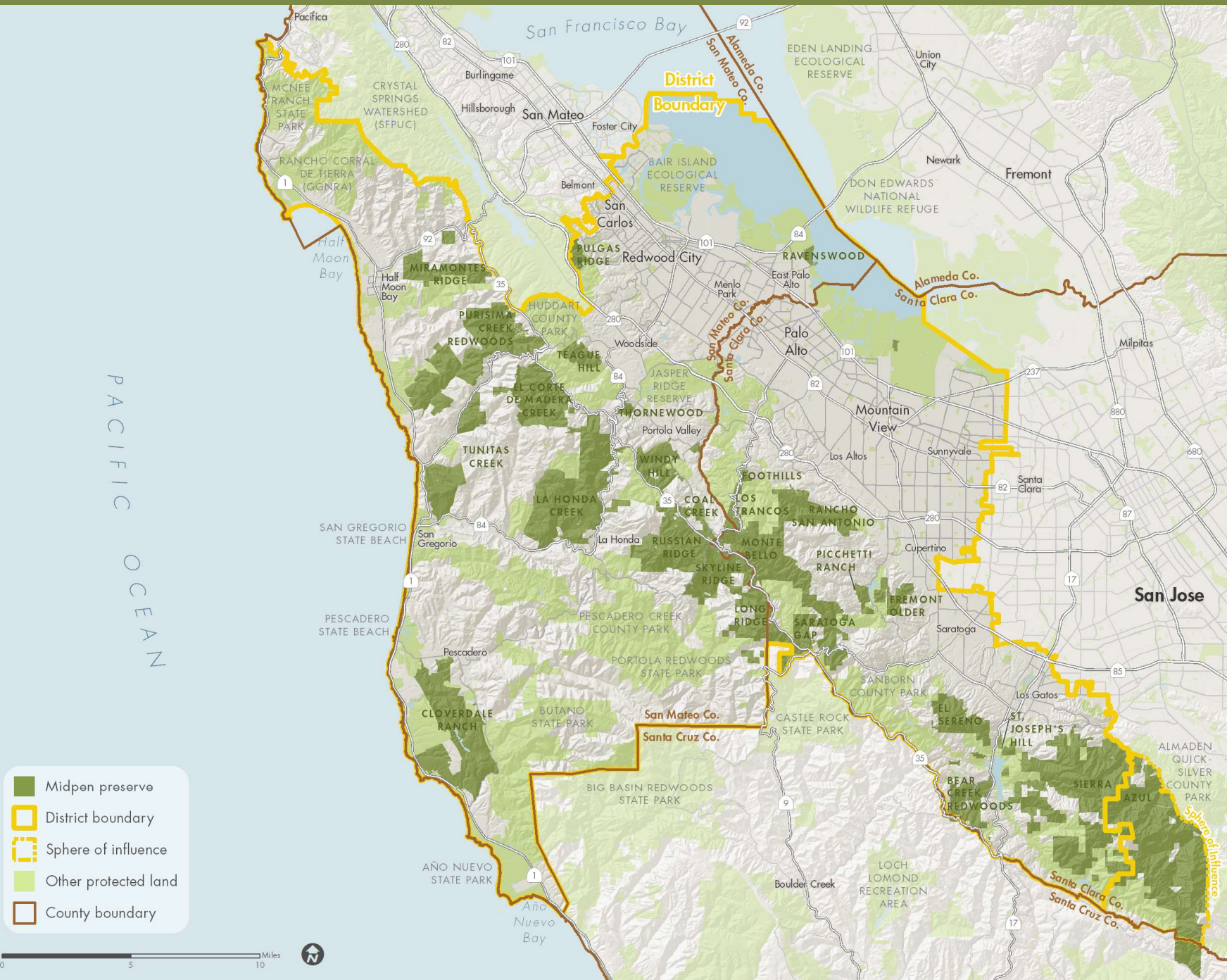
Midpen's mission: to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

On the Coast, Midpen has an expanded mission to acquire and preserve agricultural land of regional significance, preserve rural character and encourage viable agricultural uses of land resources.



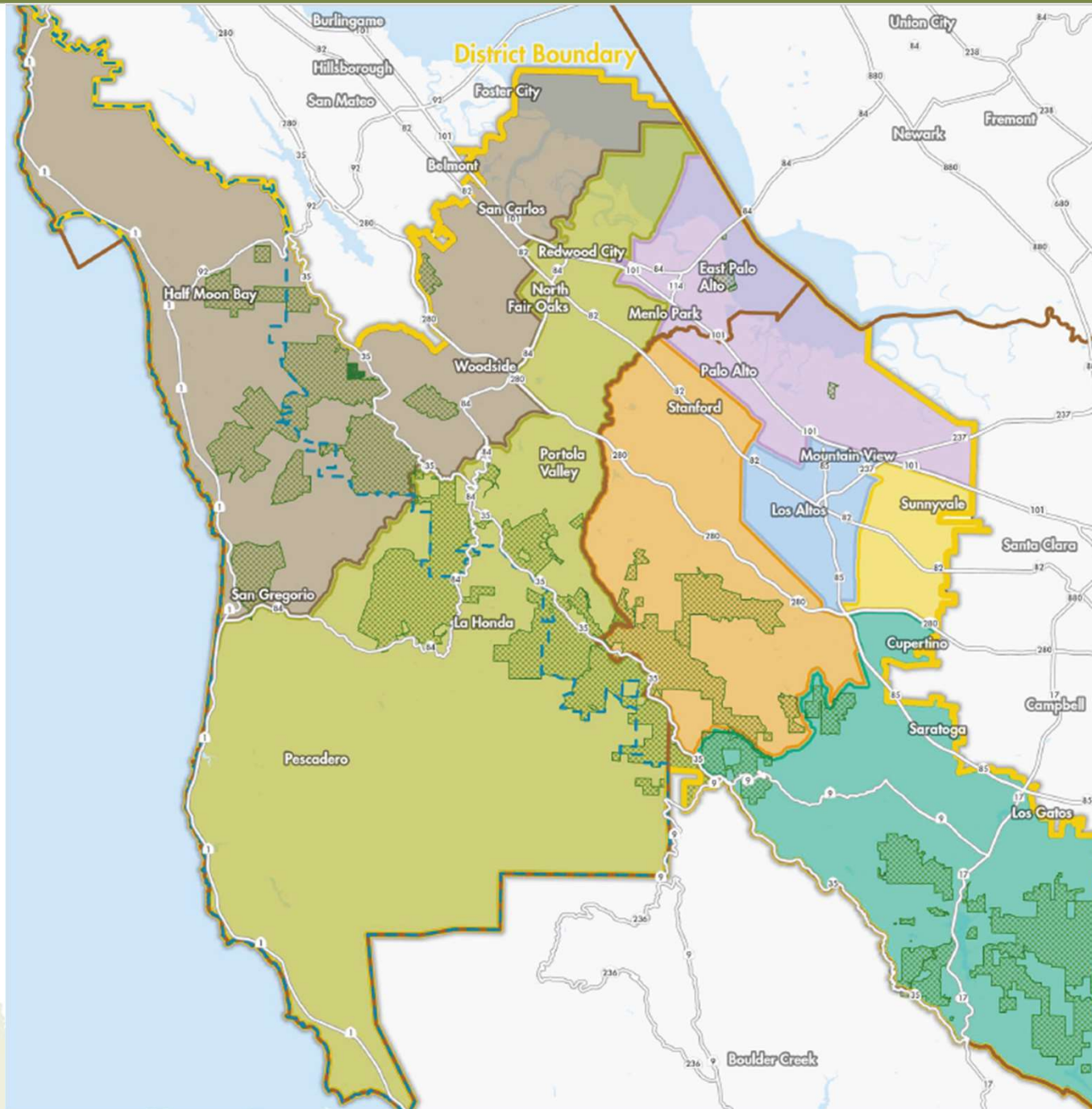
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Midpen's Lands



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Midpen's Board of Director Wards



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Some Midpen Facts

- Public agency, created in 1972 by a grassroots voter initiative
- 763,000 constituents (2020)
- Elected board: seven directors
- Funded primarily through property tax
- 27 Preserves in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties
- Preserved over 72,000 acres, 250+ miles of trails
 - Over 15,000 acres of grazing land on the San Mateo Coast
- Preserves are free and open to the public every day of the year
- Main office in Los Altos + field offices
- ~240 employees, ~1000 volunteers
- Measure AA: \$300 million voter-approved general obligation bond passed in 2014 to support public priorities



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Nearby Preserves



Photo: Erica Namba



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Windy Hill Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Evan Collins

openspace.org

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Eliot Margolies

openspace.org

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve



Photo: Frances Freyberg



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Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Karl Gohl

openspace.org

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Benjamin Orcutt

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Thornewood Open Space Preserve

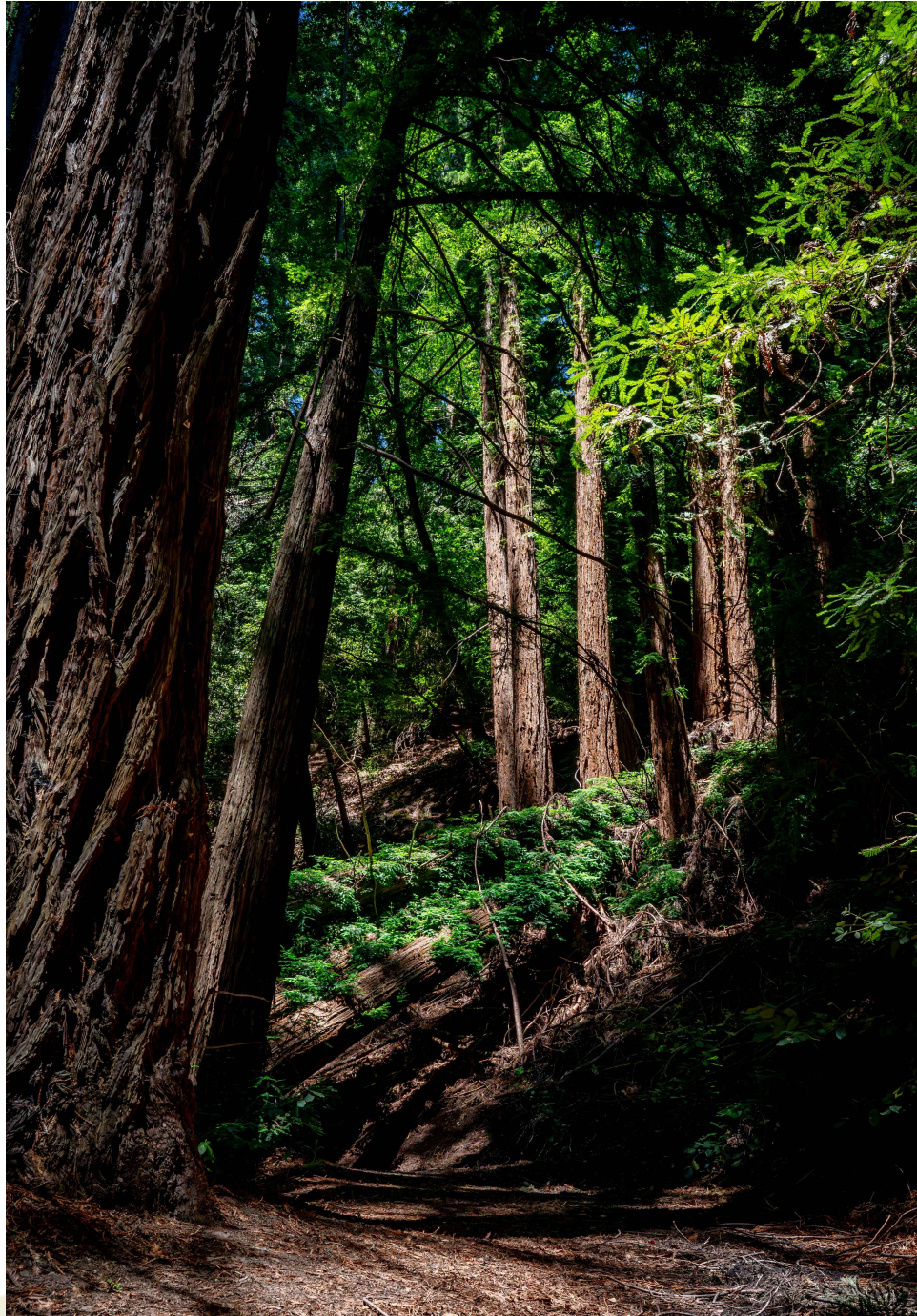


Photo: Mallie Brathwaite



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Project Updates



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Wildland Fire Resiliency Program Implementation



Cherry Springs Prescribed Burn, 2024

Photo: Michael Gorman



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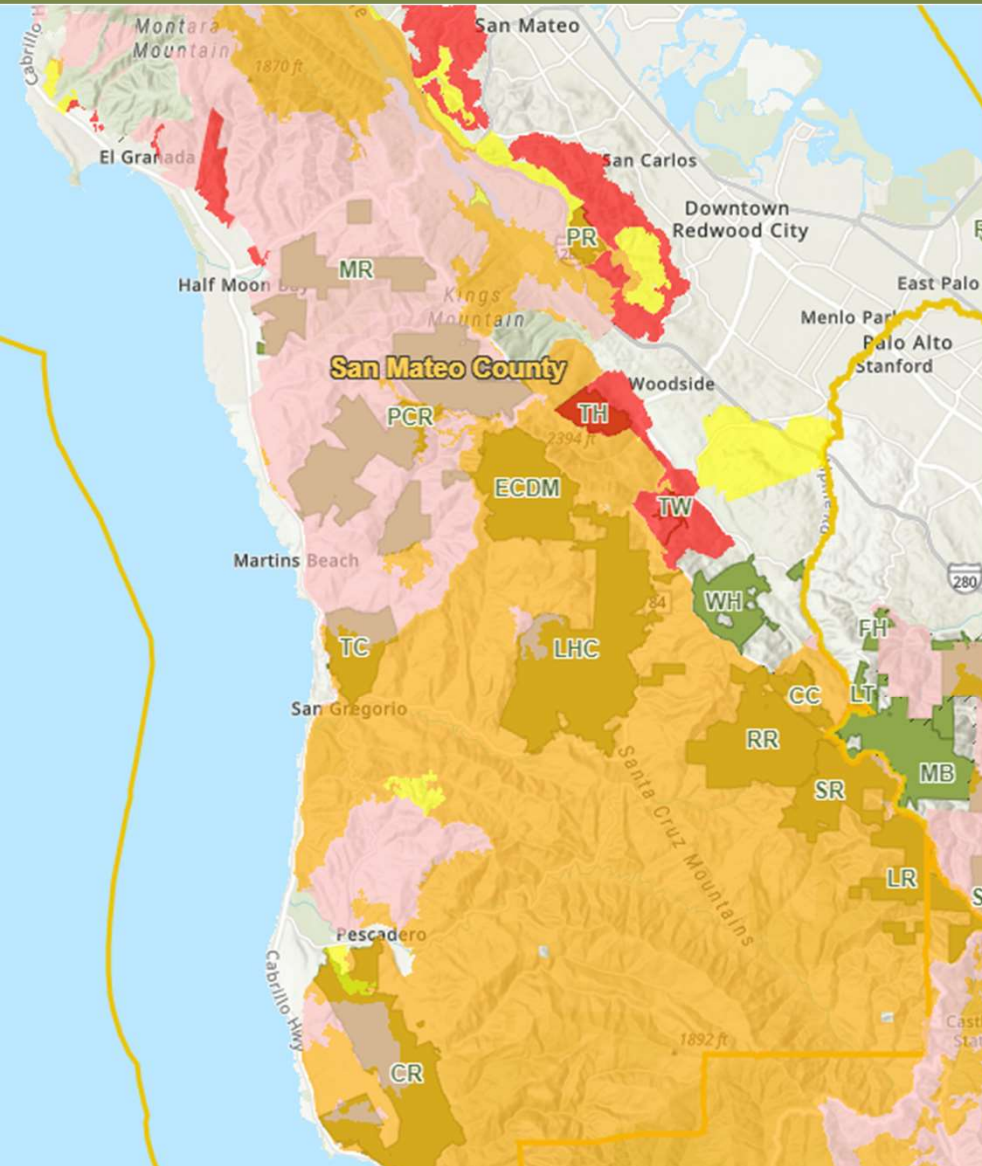
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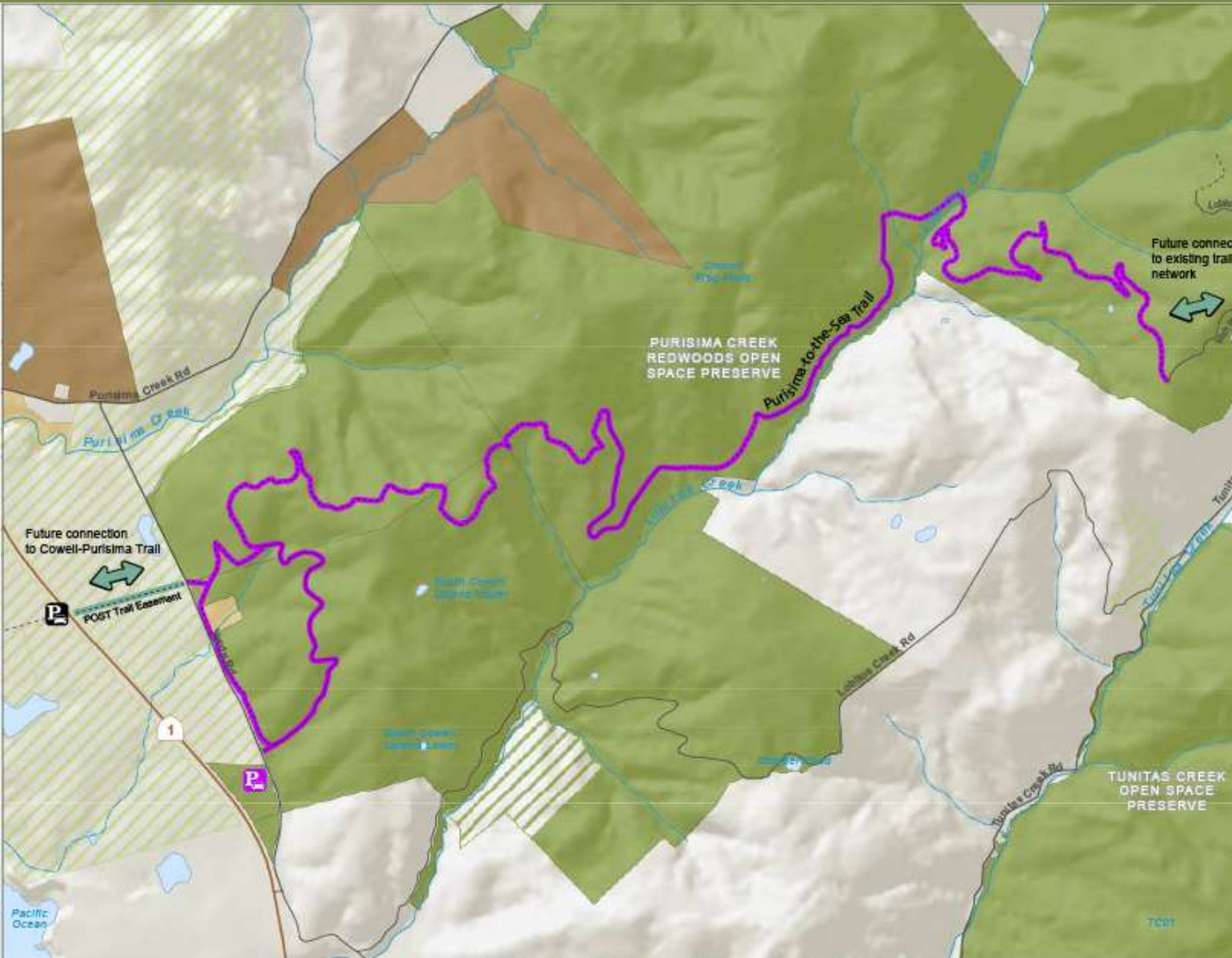
Wildland Fire Resiliency Program



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For more information visit
openspace.org/what-we-do/projects/wildland-fire-resiliency

Purissima-to-the-Sea Trail



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Bay-to-the-Sea Trail



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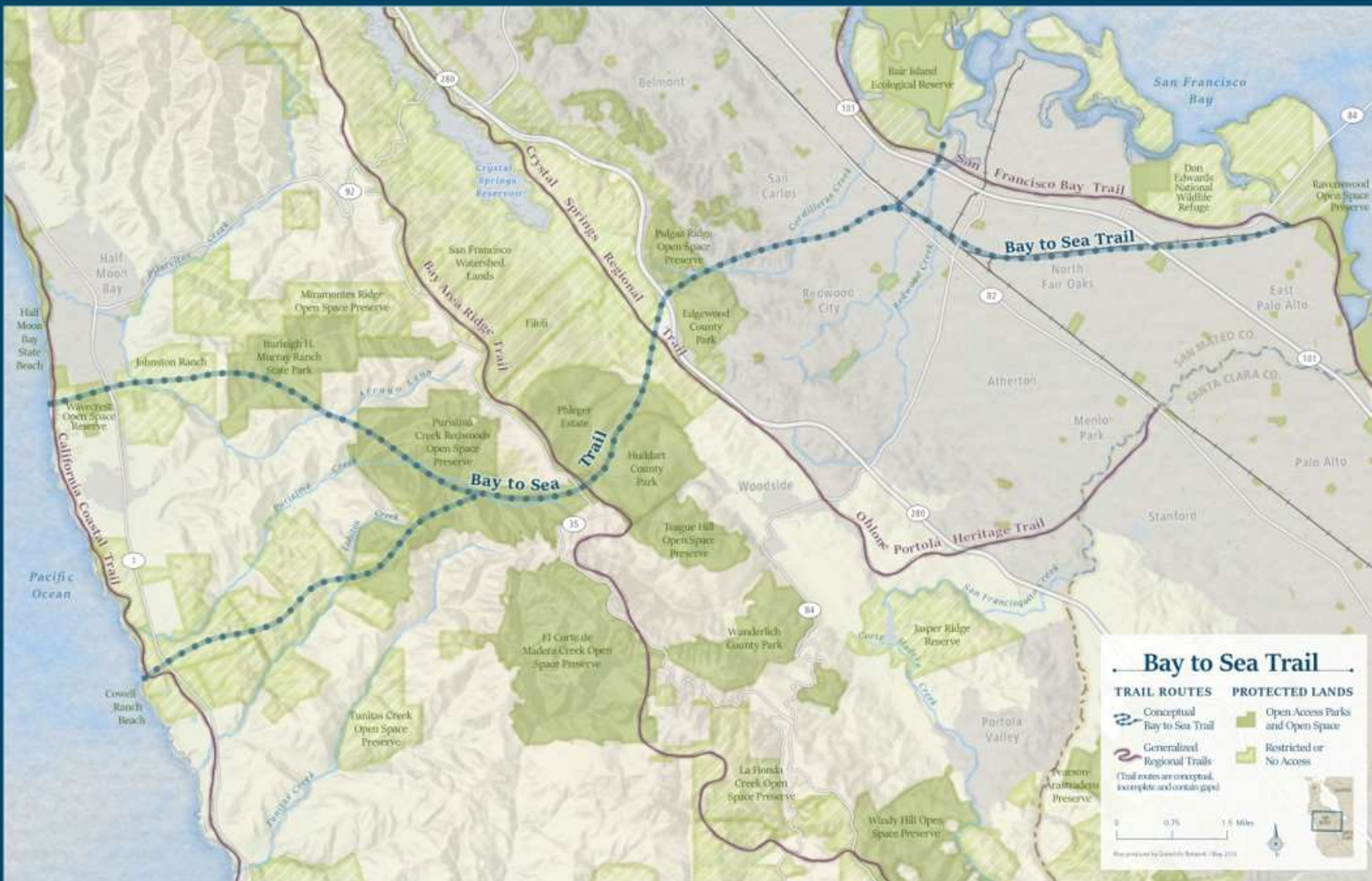
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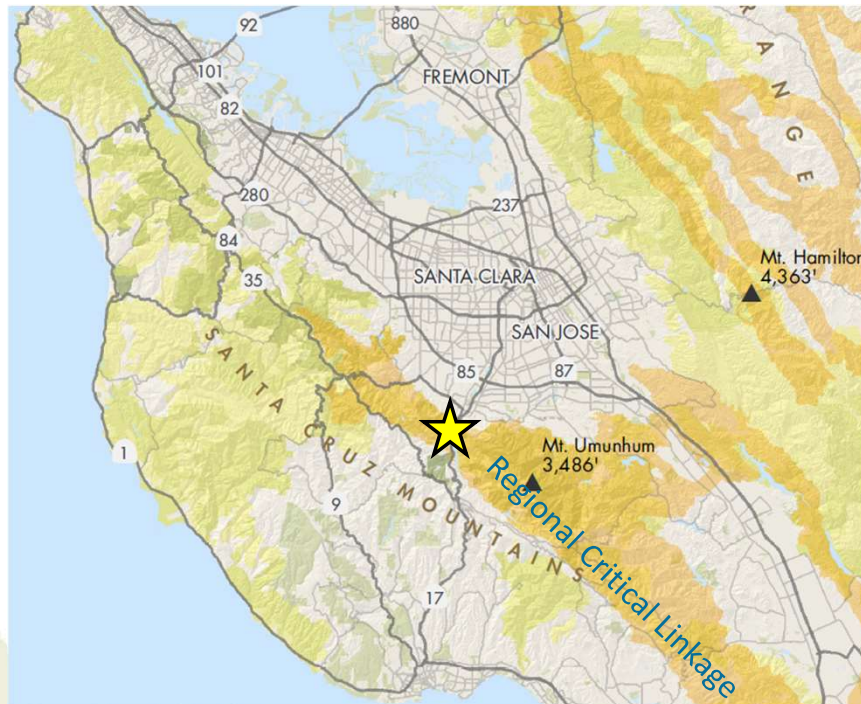
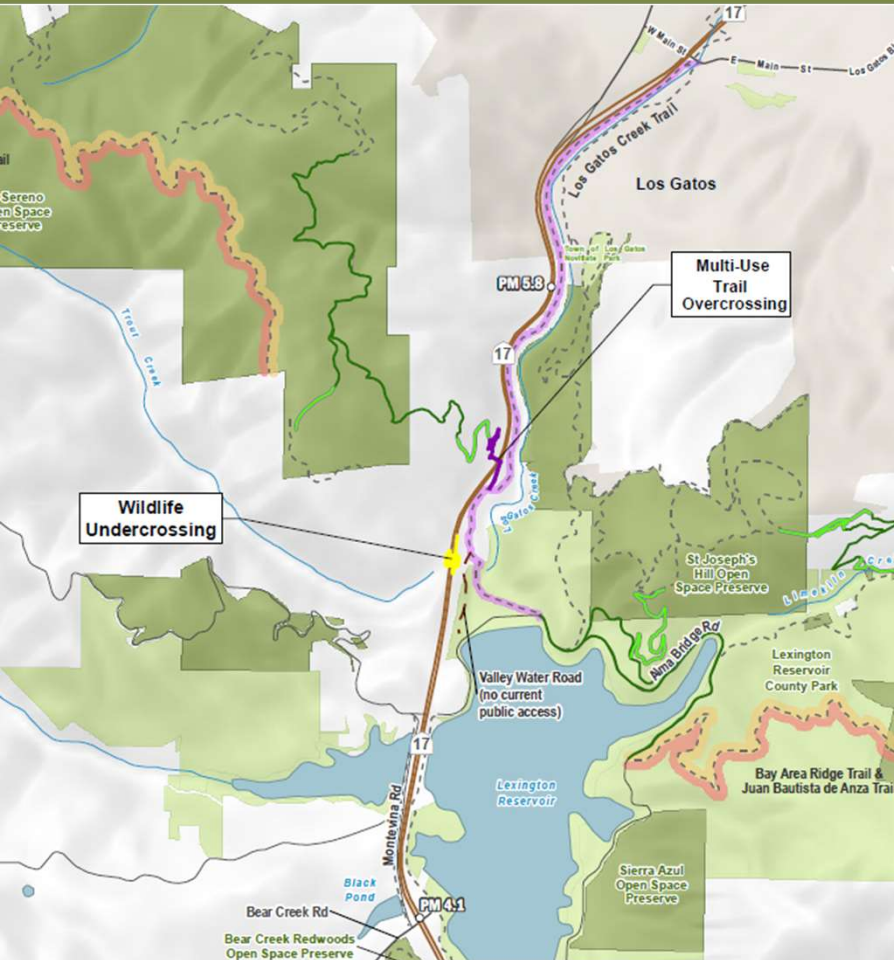
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Highway 17 Crossings



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Outreach Partnership Program

- Provides opportunities to engage surrounding communities through educational, enriching outings and events provided by our partners that work with underserved demographics.
- Designed to allow for the organic building of relationships and is broken into three tiers of partnership and financial support.

Our outreach partnership program participants include:

Increased Engagement

Tier 1 - Pilot partnerships

- East Palo Alto Library
- Puente de la Costa Sur
- Coastside Children

Tier 2 - Formal contracts

- Bay Area Older Adults
- Boys and Girls Club of the Coastside
- Branching Out Adventures
- Saved by Nature
- Silicon Valley Bike Coalition
- Student Conservation Association
- Vista Center for the Blind

Tier 3 - Multi-Year, Deeply collaborative contracts

- Latino Outdoors



Latino Outdoors at El Corte De Madera (Latino Outdoors)



East Palo Alto Library at El Corte De Madera (EPA Library)



Vista Center at Rancho San Antonio (Midpen Staff)



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Rodenticide Outreach



POISON TRAVELS: Rodenticide use in neighborhoods impacts local wildlife



For more information visit openspace.org/rodenticides.



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Measure AA 10th Anniversary - 2024

Progress since 2014

- ✓ Preserved over 9,600 acres of open space
- ✓ 4,200 acres opened to the public at five preserves/preserve areas
- ✓ Opened 31.4 miles of trails to public access, with 10+ miles in construction, and 19+ miles of new trails in the planning stages
- ✓ Opened 3 new parking areas, creating a total of 126 new parking spaces



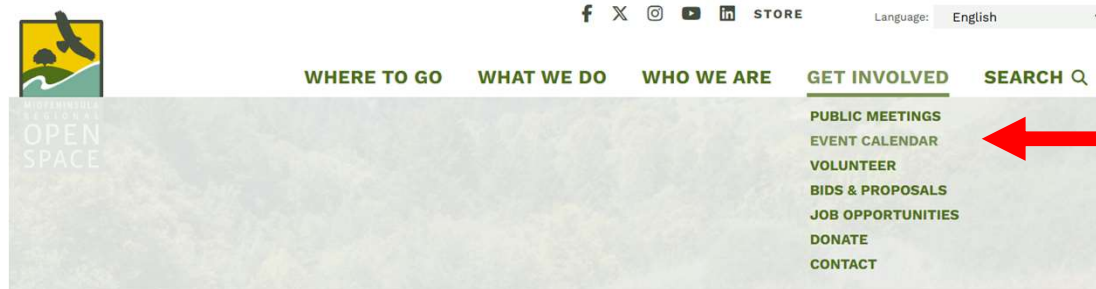
***Thank you for your
trust in us!***

(Karl Gohl)



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Join Us! Midpen Events Calendar



Events & Activities

HOME > GET INVOLVED > EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY TYPE

- Guided Activity
- Meeting
- Volunteer Project

ACTIVITY SUB-TYPE

- Hike
- Bike
- Dogs

PRESERVE

- Sierra Azul Preserve
- Monte Bello Preserve
- Long Ridge Preserve
- SHOW MORE

ACTIVITY RATING

Check out our event listing below to see everything that's happening at Midpen! You can join a guided activity along the trails led by one of our docent naturalists, take part in a volunteer project to restore and maintain open space lands, visit with us at a community event or attend a public meeting. Click on the terms in the yellow boxes to create a filtered view by activity type, preserve or level of difficulty.

Some activities require online reservations. Details are provided in the description if reservations are required.

Activity	Title	Date ^	Category	Preserve	Miles
GUIDED ACTIVITY	Wonders of Cherry Springs	Wednesday, Jun 04, 2025 9:30 am		Sierra Azul Preserve	2.25
GUIDED ACTIVITY	Explorer Hike: Nutmegs of Red Mountain	Wednesday, Jun 04, 2025 10:30 am		Long Ridge Preserve	5
VOLUNTEER PROJECT	Habitat Restoration: Jointed Goatgrass Removal	Thursday, Jun 05, 2025 9:30 a.m.		Los Trancos Preserve	
VOLUNTEER PROJECT	Upper Pete Siemens Trail - Habitat Restoration: Forget-Me-Nots Removal	Thursday, Jun 05, 2025 9:30 a.m.		Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve	

Find us at openspace.org/events



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Questions?

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Sign up for eNews at:
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Complete Streets Commission 2024-25 Report Out

Jacqui Cebrian, Commissioner

Agenda

- 2024-2025 work plan
- Project highlights



January 8, 2025 - Complete Streets Commission meeting

2024-25 work plan

Complete Streets Commission work plan		
#	Goals/priorities	Tasks
1	Transportation Master Plan (TMP)	Evaluate key corridors for TMP project prioritization Advise on Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project
2	Citywide transportation policies/programs	Evaluate driveway stopping sight distance Advise on Vision Zero strategies
3	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program	Participate in the Safe Routes to School task force
4	Development projects	Provide input on impact to transportation networks based on impact on streets, safety and transportation accessibility.
5	Downtown access programs	Improve access and support downtown businesses

Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project

- Reviewed traffic calming measures that are currently being implemented as part of the Middle Avenue resurfacing project.



Coleman Avenue Pilot Project

- Reviewed Pilot Project design, along with pilot project methods of observation and measures of success



Pilot Project Implementation Photos

UC Berkeley SafeTREC Assessment

- SafeTREC report was received Sept 2024
- Projects from this report have been selected for grant funding for implementation



Images captured during field assessment

Berkeley SafeTREC

City of Menlo Park Complete Streets Safety Assessment

PS 24048

Issues, Opportunities, and Suggested Strategies



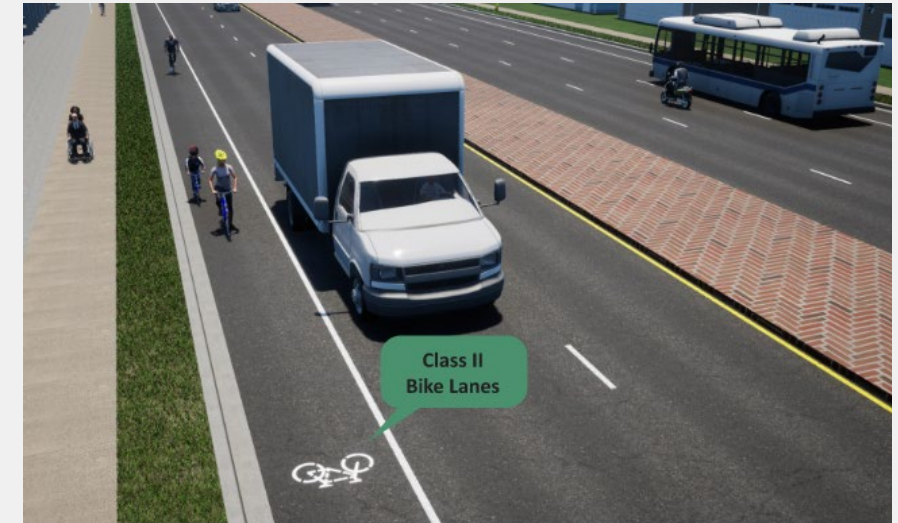
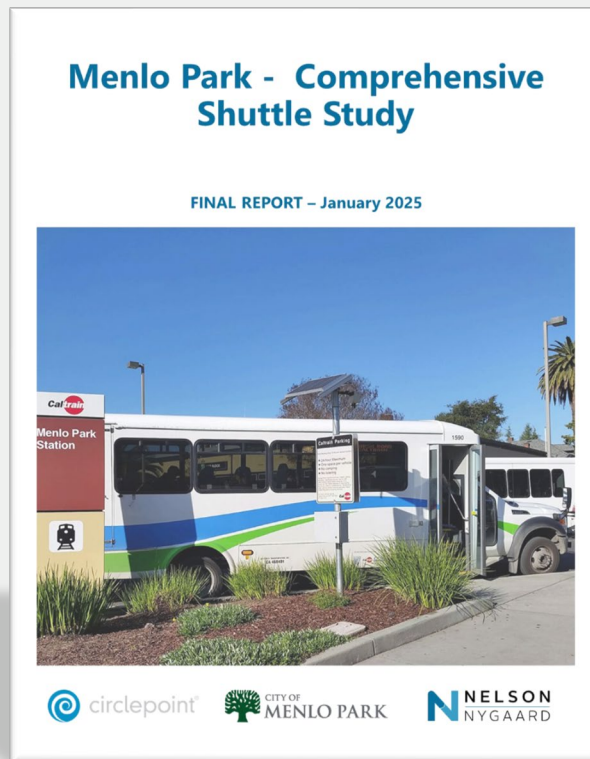
Final Report

September 2024

Disclaimer text. This report was produced in cooperation with the City of Menlo Park. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The opinions, findings, and conclusions are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OTS, the University of California, and/or the agencies supporting or contributing to this report. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation. The agency that is the subject of this report is hereby granted a non-exclusive right to copy and distribute this report for its own or its stakeholders' non-commercial use. All other uses of this report require written permission from the University of California, Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC).

Project and Program Review

- Willow Road Class IV
- Citywide Shuttle Program



Willow Road Class IV Renderings

The background of the slide is a photograph of several bright orange poppies in bloom. A semi-transparent blue rectangular overlay covers the middle portion of the image, providing a background for the "Thank you!" text.

Thank you!



Parks and Recreation Commission: Update on 2024-2025 Work Plan

PRC Vice Chair Joseph Grass



PRC work plan 2024-25 includes 11 goals

■ Primary goals

- Providing a forum for public information and discussion about City park and recreation issues and facilitate robust public comment and participation at commission meetings
- Supporting and advising the recreation program development and operations of the Belle Haven Community Campus
- Reviewing progress toward the goals in the 2019 Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan





PRC work plan 2024-25 includes 11 goals

- Additional goals include
 - Participating in park and recreation facility tours
 - Advising on the maintenance and upgrade of recreational facilities
 - Receiving staff presentations and reports about major service areas and programs
 - Annually review departmental budget proposal
 - Reviewing public-facing recreation policies and recommending updates
 - Maintaining a 12-month schedule of planned commission agenda items
 - Review and advising on potential synergies with or support from other City departments





Goal 1: Act as a Public Forum

- The PRC heard feedback from hundreds of commenters at multiple meetings of the PRC and at joint meetings with the Library Commission (LC). Public comments touched on a range of topics including but not limited to: aquatics, tennis and pickleball courts, athletic fields, and Bedwell Bayfront Park.
- The PRC advised the development of a citywide survey on libraries, recreation and parks in March; and reviewed the survey results in May and July.
- The PRC reviewed the results of a citywide survey on aquatics in November, 2024.





Goal 2: Support and Advise

- Program development and operations of the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC)
- The PRC continues to receive updates on BHCC:
 - Staff presented an update regarding operations at BHCC in July.
 - Feedback from users is being collected and reviewed monthly.







Goal 3: Review Progress

- Toward goals in the 2019 Park and Recreation Facility Master Plan
 - The PRC received a presentation about the athletic field allocation process in July.
 - The PRC received updates about the Kelly Park turf and track renovation project in October 2024.
 - The PRC received a presentation on parks policy enforcement in September, 2024.







Summary of Additional Areas of Focus

- Updated PRC work plan
- Selected new chair and vice chair
- Reviewed draft RFP for park ranger services
- Departmental policies reviewed:
 - Facility Rental Policy
 - Signage Display Policy
- Received presentations from staff on aquatics annual report
- Received an update on LCS Strategic Plan goal, CAPRA Accreditation
- Convened an ad hoc committee to support planning for a 5K fun run
- Provided a monthly forum for public transparency and input related to park and recreation services in Menlo Park

Recognizing Parks and Recreation Commissioners



■ 2024-2025

- Kevin Dawkins
- Dawn Emms
- Joseph Grass
- Wonman Lee (Vice Chair)
- Peter Joshua (Chair)
- Michelle Sherman
- Justin Van Buren

2025-2026

- Yongdan Chunyu
- Kevin Dawkins
- Joseph Grass (Vice Chair)
- Wonman Lee (Chair)
- Shilpa Patel
- Michelle Sherman
- Justin Van Buren

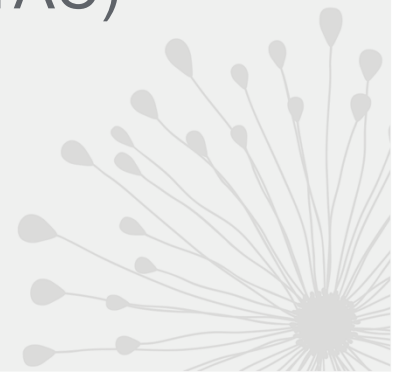






Ongoing Commission Tasks for 2024-2025

- Onboarding new commissioners
 - One commissioner joined in May 2024
 - Three of the commissioners joined in July 2024
- Collaboration and coordination with the Library Commission on topics of common interest such as programs and services at Belle Haven Community Campus
- Support the work of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)







Moving Forward

- The PRC will continue to support operations at the Belle Haven Community Campus
- PRC will continue to support vibrant and relevant community centers and recreation services for Menlo Park residents
- Parks and Recreation Commission is looking forward to City Council's feedback on their 2025-2026 work plan
- Thank you for your support!





Thank you!





Building code local amendments

Presented by

Ron La France, Extra Help Retired Annuitant Assistant Community Development Director
Rachael Londer, Sustainability Manager



Background

- The California Building Standards Code (CBSC) is updated every three years and cities are allowed to adopt local amendments
- Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), TRC consultants, and the investor-owned utility funded statewide reach codes program team support cities in developing local amendments to the Energy Code and CALGreen





Options

- 1) Expanded pre-wiring requirements(Attachment A)
- 2) Expanded pre-wiring requirements and installation of heat pump (HP) space heating equipment instead of air conditioner (AC), or installation of air conditioner with energy efficiency measures also known as AC to HP (Attachment B)
- 3) **Recommended: Expanded pre-wiring requirements and air conditioner (AC) to heat pump (HP), and flex path (Attachment C)**

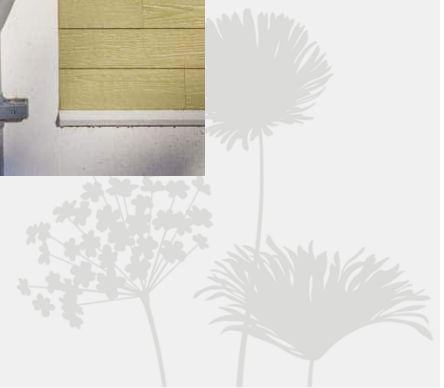


Recommendation

- Consider options for amending the 2022 California Building Standards Code (CBSC), accept the cost effectiveness study, and introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance adopting local amendments to the 2022 CBSC in Chapter 12.18 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code that include:
 - expanded pre-wiring requirements;
 - installation of heat pump space heating equipment instead of air conditioner, or installation of air conditioner with energy efficiency measures;
 - and expanded energy efficiencies for single family alterations and additions.

Expanded pre-wiring

- Updates would expand existing requirements to:
 - Ensure conduits for future electric appliances are installed with electrical and other work (kitchen, laundry, garage/water heater closet)
 - Require conduit installation with outdoor gas appliances (BBQ, heaters, pool heater)
 - There are exceptions





Air conditioner (AC) to heat pump (HP)

- Requires the installation of heat pump space heating equipment instead of air conditioner, or installation of air conditioner with energy efficiency measures;
 - There are exceptions
- Prepares residents for Bay Area Air District rules beginning Jan. 1, 2027
- Same level of cooling, with additional heating option in a single piece of equipment
 - Does not require removal of gas heating equipment





Flex path

- Amends the Energy Code to require expanded energy efficiencies for single family alterations and additions with an estimated project cost of \$100K or more
 - There are exceptions
- Energy efficient measures and electrification:
 - Installing insulation (attic, wall, floor, around accessible hot water piping)
 - Replace fuel gas water heater with heat pump water heater
 - Complete a Home Energy Score or Home Energy Audit report and implement one or more recommendations included in report
 - Replace all screw in incandescent and CFL lamps with lamps of efficiency of 45 lumens per watt or greater



Edits

- Minor formatting errors
- Section 4: Effective Date
 - This ordinance shall be in effect thirty (30) days after the date of adoption, and implemented upon the California Energy Commission's approval.
- Attachment A, B, and C
 - Under 4.106.5.1, updating section numbers to 4.106.5.1.1, 4.106.5.1.2, 4.106.5.1.3
- Attachment C:
 - 4.507.3 typo that reads 510 when it should read \leq 5%



Timeline of next steps

- After adoption, staff will file the ordinance with California Building Standards Commission
- Pre-wiring is effective 30-days after adoption
- AC to HP and flex path shall be in effect thirty (30) days after the date of adoption, and implemented upon the California Energy Commission's approval.



Recommendation

- Consider options for amending the 2022 California Building Standards Code (CBSC), accept the cost effectiveness study, and introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance adopting local amendments to the 2022 CBSC in Chapter 12.18 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code that include:
 - expanded pre-wiring requirements;
 - installation of heat pump space heating equipment instead of air conditioner, or installation of air conditioner with energy efficiency measures;
 - and expanded energy efficiencies for single family alterations and additions.



Thank you