Discover Your Open Spaces

Open Space Preserves

The best way to discover our open space lands is to visit them! Come to hike, mountain bike, or ride your horse! Our preserves are open year-round, free to visit, and offer great opportunities to connect with nature, spend quality time with your friends and family, or just take some time for yourself.

We also maintain protected lands that are closed to the public for their conservation values. While these properties are on their way to becoming preserves, we hold special access events throughout the year, so you can experience the beauty they hold. For more information on protected lands, visit openspaceauthority.org.

Year-Round Events

We offer a vibrant event program where you can enjoy Docent-led hikes, look through a telescope at the stars in the sky, or bring your friends and family to learn and discover all that nature has to offer. Every month brings something new to explore. Each program lets you experience the great outdoors, whether it be for learning, for your health, or for its exquisite beauty.

We also partner with local parks and agencies to offer programs and events in our urban open spaces. Sign up to receive our monthly emails to offer programs and events in our urban open spaces. Sign up to receive our monthly emails.

Urban Open Spaces

We strongly believe that everyone should have access to nature, no matter where they live. Through Measure Q, we contribute to programs that create healthy and safe open spaces for our communities. These urban open spaces will give everyone access to places such as parks, community gardens, and the trails that connect them.

We have contributed to projects such as Martial Cottle County Park, Three Creeks Trail, and Bill’s Backyard at the Children’s Discovery Museum. These urban projects are great successes and are already vital to our communities. Learn more about all the projects at openspaceauthority.org/successstories.
Did you know that nature provides physical AND mental health benefits? When we hike, bike ride, or stroll through natural areas, our brain's performance improves. Studies show that a short amount of time spent outdoors can decrease the likelihood of depression. Plus, it's fun — so take advantage of open spaces and explore what nature has to offer!

The Open Space Authority also works with local farmers and ranchers and invests in community gardens and urban edge agriculture to help sustain healthy local food sources.

“Protection of our community’s water supply is essential to our survival.”
— Matt Freeman, Assistant General Manager

Fresh, clean water resources can never be taken for granted. The rivers, streams, and creeks that flow through Santa Clara Valley are the lifeblood of urban and rural communities and all natural ecosystems such as forests and grasslands. A rapidly growing population in our region coupled with the impacts of climate change require a focused effort to help maintain reliable and healthy water resources. The Open Space Authority works to protect the critical open space lands and natural systems that capture rainfall and snowmelt, act as a filter to remove toxins and pollutants, and deliver water into the reservoirs that serve our communities.

“We take pride in caring for this land property.”
— Justin Fields, Rancher

The impacts of climate change are altering the delicate balance of nature that both human and natural communities rely upon for clean air, fresh water, stable weather patterns, secure habitat, and natural food sources. Climate change scenarios predict an increase in drought and flooding, spread of invasive species, intensity and frequency of wildfires, and extinction of species. When we protect connected habitat, wildlife can move and adapt to changing conditions. By reducing levels of greenhouse gases through protection of farm and ranchland, the Authority can help human and natural communities become more resilient. Conservation awareness inspires us to preserve the natural resources that are essential to our well-being.

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