

# OPEN SPACE is for everyone

Open space lands are yours to protect, respect, explore, and enjoy! Those of us lucky enough to live in Santa Clara Valley are surrounded by exquisite landscapes teeming with wildlife and natural beauty. The Open Space Authority works hard to provide everyone with opportunities to connect with nature by building and maintaining preserves, providing outdoor activities, protecting open space lands, and much more!

Your vote for Measure T in 2020 has allowed the Open Space Authority to continue to protect open space lands, water and wildlife, and invest in urban open space projects throughout Santa Clara Valley. Since our start, we have protected and are working to restore 30,000 acres of natural and working lands for public benefit. The Open Space Authority was created by passionate, engaged citizens and established by the California State Legislature in 1993. We proudly serve the cities of Campbell, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara, San José, and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County.

**“This is your open space, so come discover it, enjoy it, and help protect it.”**

— Andrea Mackenzie,  
General Manager

## Get Involved



Volunteering at the Open Space Authority offers you beautiful settings in which to work and have fun. Whether helping visitors, improving habitat, or leading interpretive hikes, volunteers play a pivotal role

in our mission.

There are a number of activities to choose from:

- **Docent** – Share your love of nature and outdoors as you lead special interest hikes.
- **Trail Patrol** – Get out on the trails and report on conditions and educate visitors.
- **Community Outreach** – Attend festivals and help spread the word about open space.
- **Stewardship** – Get your hands dirty while maintaining and restoring open space lands.
- **Trail Masters** – Complete important trail maintenance and field work alongside Authority staff.

For more information on joining the volunteer team, visit: [openspaceauthority.org/volunteers](https://openspaceauthority.org/volunteers).

## Connect with Us!

[www.openspaceauthority.org](https://www.openspaceauthority.org)



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# SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

Preserving and Stewarding the Natural  
and Working Lands of Santa Clara Valley



# Discover Your Open Spaces



## Open Space Preserves



The best way to discover your 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](https://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 and start planning your outdoor adventures! Visit [openspaceauthority.org/events](https://openspaceauthority.org/events).

## Urban Grant Programs



We strongly believe that everyone should have access to nature, no matter where they live. Through Measure Q and Measure T funds, we award grants to projects that create healthy and safe open spaces for our communities. These projects give everyone access to nature through parks, community gardens, trails, and environmental education programs.

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 projects are great successes and are already vital to their communities. Learn more about all the projects at [openspaceauthority.org/successstories](https://openspaceauthority.org/successstories).



## Building Healthy Communities



## Protecting Our Water Supply



## Adapting to Climate Change

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.



**“Our survival depends on the health of our local water supply – we work hard to protect it.”**

— Aaron Hébert,  
Natural Resources 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.

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.



**“This is where we come to get in touch with nature, take a deep breath, and say life is beautiful.”**

— Visitor at Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve



**“We take pride in caring for this land properly.”**

— Justin Fields, Rancher

