



Renewing Our Investment in Nature

Protecting Our Quality of Life

Since local citizens worked with State Legislators to create it in 1993, the [Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#) has protected over 26,000 acres of open space lands, agricultural lands, watersheds, and wildlife habitat and created open space preserves and trails open to the public year-round.

The Open Space Authority's operational funding comes from a local property assessment and Measure Q, a 2014 voter-approved \$24 annual parcel tax, leveraged with state, federal, and foundation grants for specific projects.



Investing in Nature: Five-year Report

The Authority has been able to make significant investments in the health of nature and the health of our communities. Over the past five years Measure Q has helped us accomplish:

- Increased the number of acres of Authority-protected open space to over 26,000, including the permanent protection of 937 acres in North Coyote Valley, an essential landscape for water resources, working lands, wildlife, and connecting with nature.
- Provide and maintain 26 miles of walking, hiking, and biking trails open 365 days a year with visitation increasing to over 300,000 residents annually and more than 600,000 during the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Invested close to \$3 million in 30 different community-based projects to connect people and nature.
- Connected over 21,000 people to nature in the urban areas through 835 different environmental education programs and events.



Funding Measure Renewal - Measure T

To continue protecting and providing access to open space in our community, the Authority's Board of Directors has placed Measure T on the November 2020 ballot to renew the Measure Q \$24 annual parcel tax, *with no increase*, until ended by voters. Measure T, if approved by voters, will provide dedicated and consistent long-term funding necessary to support ongoing operations, maintenance, and natural resources stewardship for the Authority's growing system of open space lands.



All funds will be spent in the Authority's jurisdiction which includes the cities of Milpitas, Santa Clara, San Jose, Campbell, Morgan Hill, and a large portion of unincorporated of Santa Clara County. Measure T includes an [Expenditure Plan](#) which outlines how the proceeds of the Special Parcel Tax will be used.

The Expenditure Plan specifies that funding from Measure T will be used to:

- Protect open space, redwood forests, wildlife habitat, scenic hillsides, and agricultural land;
- Protect land around creeks, rivers, and streams to prevent pollution and improve local water quality and supply;
- Open, improve, and maintain parks, open space, and trails;
- Provide urban open space, parks, and environmental education programs through a competitive Urban Grant Program.

Measure T will continue to utilize an Independent Oversight Committee to review the expenditure of all funds on an annual basis.

Measure T will allow the Authority to continue providing the following to the public:

- Protecting and maintaining access to open space for walking, hiking, biking, and experiencing nature.
- Access to safe, well-maintained trails, improved air and water quality, and protection of views that open space provides.
- Protecting our remaining open spaces and hills.
- Keeping our communities safe by reducing the risk of drought, flood, and wildfires by preserving and maintaining natural areas and floodplains that capture and slow floodwater and serve as wildfire buffers.
- Preserving local family farms and healthy food sources.

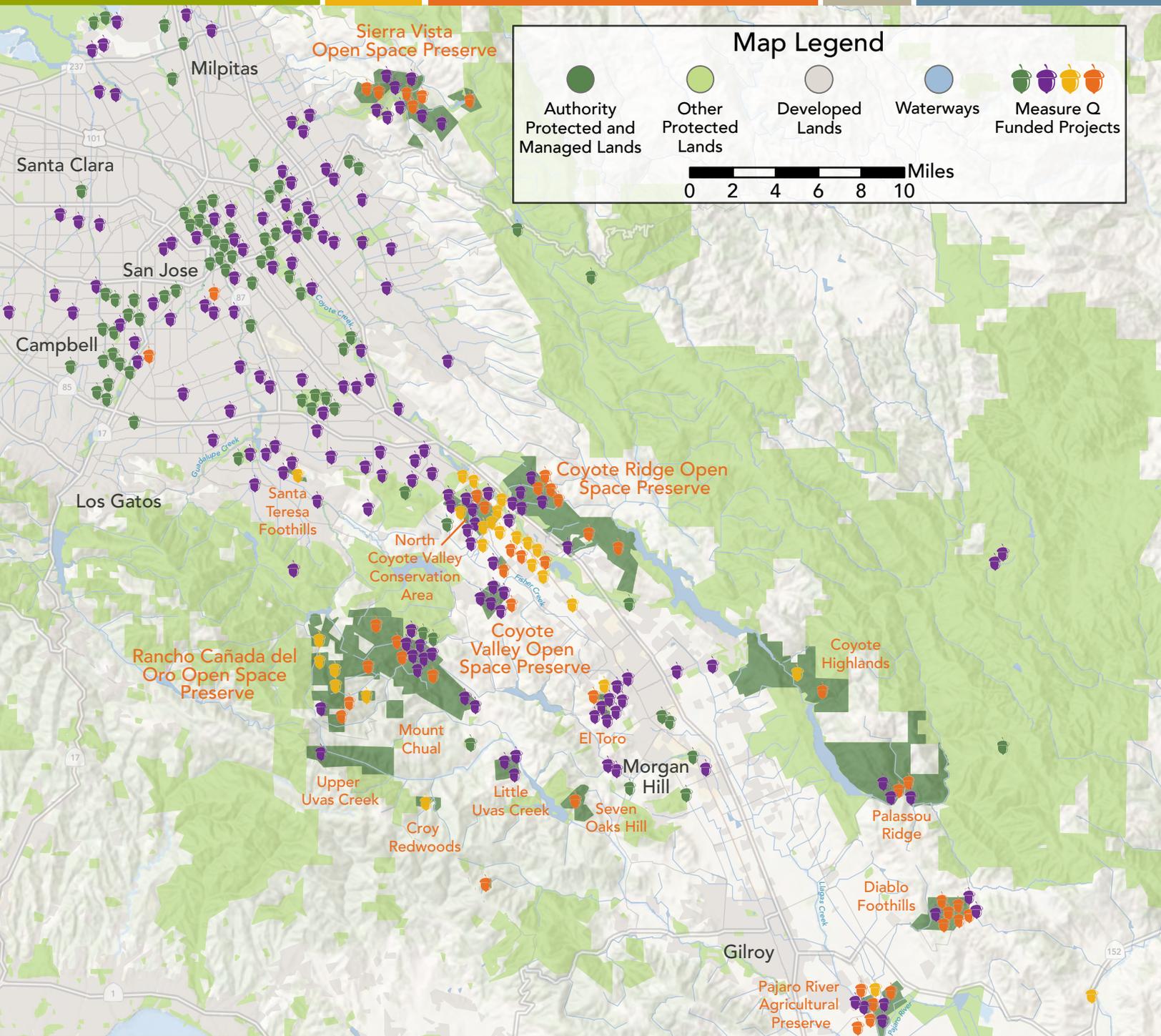
Next Steps

You can learn more about the Authority's work to invest in nature in our Five-year Impact Report to the Community: <https://arcg.is/1bqOv5>.

To share your thoughts, contact General Manager Andrea Mackenzie at info@openspaceauthority.org or (408) 224-7476.



For more information about the measure, read the FAQ at
www.openspaceauthority.org/2020renewal



Measure Q Funded Projects



Nature in Your Neighborhood

The Authority helps connect people to the outdoors by funding nearby parks, trails, urban community gardens, and environmental education programs.



Connecting Communities to Nature

Starting with a better understanding of the Authority's communities, the agency is regularly finding new ways to increase public access to open space while providing a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors.



Protecting Nature

The Authority has made strategic investments to preserve the many benefits of the valley's open space while providing recreational and educational opportunities.



Healing Nature

The Authority is committed to stewardship – caring for and restoring the land, including natural beauty, habitat values, resilience to climate change, and reduced flood risk.

To learn more about these Measure Q funded projects, visit the Impact Report at <https://arcg.is/1bqOv5>.