



Senior Open Space Planner

Public Access Capital Improvement Project Management

Applications Due: November 14, 2022, at 5:00 PM

Posted on 10/12/2022

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority seeks a Senior Open Space Planner to connect people and communities to nature to promote healthy lifestyles and ensure quality of life in the Santa Clara Valley through effective open space planning and delivery of public access capital improvement projects on the Authority's system of open space preserves.

Our mission is to conserve the natural environment, support agriculture, and connect people to nature by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations. To date we have protected over 28,000 acres of natural and agricultural lands across the Santa Clara Valley. Our agency manages and conserves a network of open space lands and natural resources, while providing compatible opportunities for hiking, biking, and equestrian uses, with a focus on increasing equity of access to the outdoors for all our constituents.

We know our continued success depends on our employees and the work they do. We are committed to providing a collaborative and inclusive work environment that encourages growth and development; and acknowledges individual and team achievements.

The Ideal Candidate

You are a detail oriented and experienced planner with passion and enthusiasm for parks, open space, and land conservation. Your personal drive will be enhanced by a mission and values focused work environment. We are seeking a resourceful self-starter to manage and participate in the preparation of short- and long-range plans to guide the use and management of open space preserves; facilitate stakeholder and equitable public engagement in the preserve planning process; manage, design and deliver capital improvement projects; ensure project compliance with regulatory agencies and statutes; and engage in review of local partner agencies' projects and development of land use policies. You are confident to lead project teams and work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders, partners, political boards and committees, consultants, and colleagues.

You are a highly skilled and discerning professional looking for a unique opportunity to contribute to the quality of life in the Santa Clara Valley by engaging in the planning for new open space preserves, creating public access facilities, and integrating ecological considerations in your projects. You have outstanding written and verbal communication skills; additionally, you have strong ability to visually relay information and ideas using diagrams, graphics, drawings, and/or maps.

You have earned a Bachelor's degree in Environmental, Urban or City and Regional Planning, Geography, Natural Resources Management, Landscape Architecture, or a closely related field. You bring a minimum of five years' professional experience, where you have broadened your skills and knowledge in the areas of parks, open space, land use planning, design, resource management and project delivery for public open space and parks.

You possess demonstrated experience with project delivery including: all phases of project planning and design; CEQA compliance; experience with local and state permitting and regulatory agency approval processes; and familiarity with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California Building Code accessibility requirements. Your ability to lead internal and consultant teams, think critically, gather data, and provide analysis and recommendations are critical functions that allow your work style to support the mission of the Open Space Authority. Your outstanding project management skills facilitate completion of high-quality projects that connect people to nature.

You are excited by the challenge of current and upcoming planning and capital improvement projects. A sampling of these projects include:

- Construction of a new staging area and public access amenities at Coyote Ridge Open Space preserve. Public access improvements will allow for the 1,800-acre preserve to be opened for year-round access to the public for the first time.
- Design and construction of accessibility improvements and expanded public use amenities at Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.
- Planning, design and construction of new public access amenities at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, including short-range planning for an expanded trail network and construction of a new bridge over Llagas Creek to a new day use area.
- Participate in the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan to restore a vital valley floor landscape promoting wildlife connectivity, supporting a vibrant ecosystem, and connecting people to nature and agriculture.

Please review the complete position classification here: <https://bit.ly/3pc0Df2>

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

- Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in Environmental, Urban or City & Regional Planning, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, Natural Resources Management, or a related field.
- Five (5) years of increasingly responsible experience in land use planning and/or capital project delivery/management preferably in parks, open space, or a related field, including three (3) years of supervisory or managerial experience.
- Strong written, oral and graphic presentation skills.
- Strong knowledge and familiarity with software programs such as: Microsoft Office 365, ArcGIS Pro, AutoCAD, Sketchup, and Adobe Creative Suite.
- Experience or interest in planning and design for climate resilience and adaptation.
- Experience or expressed interest in designing and implementing inclusive, innovative, and meaningful processes for public engagement that reach diverse and underrepresented communities.
- This position is required to take and pass a pre-employment background check.

Compensation & Benefits

The salary range for this full-time, exempt position is \$55.59 to \$67.58 hourly, depending on experience and qualifications. To complement this salary, we offer a robust benefits package that includes medical, dental, and vision insurance for employees and their dependents – we cover 100% of the cost for these premiums. We participate in CalPERS retirement programs as well as offering a separate 457 Plan for tax deferred retirement savings. A basic life insurance policy is provided to all eligible employees with the option to purchase additional personal insurance benefits.

Application and Selection

All application materials must be received prior to November 14, 2022, at 5:00 PM. To be considered for this opportunity, submit your application materials including cover letter and a self-prepared resume at the application link provided below. The Open Space Authority utilizes a robust process that will ask qualified candidates to engage in multiple steps leading up to a final panel interview. We encourage applicants to closely monitor email communication from the Authority's hiring team. Final panel interviews are tentatively set for November 30, 2022.

Go here to apply for the job: <https://bit.ly/3KdfYm9>

Workplace Culture Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

The staff of the Open Space Authority are passionate about conservation and driven to make an impact in the community through their work. Everyone brings a unique skillset to their role and the creative collaboration of all staff maximizes talent to realize the Authority's mission. We have established values and defined supporting

behaviors that are shared and demonstrated by every employee at the Authority. Together all of these reflect the culture that makes the Authority the high performing agency that it is. We are Intentional, Respectful, Accountable, Empowering, Innovative, Collaborative, and Inclusive. You can learn more about the staff of the Authority and how everyone works together [on our website here](#).

The Open Space Authority envisions the Santa Clara Valley as a region dense with beautiful natural areas, where a vibrant network of interconnected open spaces, trails, wildlife habitats, and thriving agricultural lands enrich our communities. [Learn more about the Authority tackles these goals](#).

The Authority values Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access in our work to preserve the natural environment, support agriculture, and connect people to nature:

- We have **Accessible, Collaborative, and Accountable** processes to engage the diverse communities we serve in our programs, projects, careers, and governance opportunities.
- We have **Respect** for the land and all people in our community.
- We are **Inclusive** and acknowledge current and historic land stewards.
- We **Empower** future generations of conservation leaders.
- We invite everyone to join and connect to nature with us.

The Authority is committed to the principles of equal employment. We are earnest in our efforts to comply with all state and federal laws providing Equal Employment Opportunities, and all other employment laws and regulations. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or physical disability. We are committed to creating a safe environment where people are treated with respect and appreciated for their unique differences, where issues are promptly raised and resolved and where communication flows across all levels of the agency.