



OSA Outlook

Introducing the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*

The Open Space Authority's *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint* is the culmination of 18 months of collaboration among scientists, conservation planners, stakeholder groups and the general public. This detailed land and resource conservation vision outlines an innovative, 21st century approach to land conservation and will guide the agency's work over the next 30 years.

"Santa Clara County is the fastest growing county in the Bay Area," states Andrea Mackenzie, the Authority's General Manager. "The *Valley Greenprint* was created to help us achieve a critical balance between development and open space, to preserve our quality of life for generations to come."

The *Valley Greenprint* identifies the 10 highest priority areas for conservation—

"Our goal is to achieve healthy, sustainable and livable communities well beyond the 21st century."

MATT FREEMAN
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Conservation Focus Areas—like the Baylands, which provide habitat for more than 500 species; and Coyote Valley, an area with critical access routes for wildlife movement between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range.

"The *Valley Greenprint* provides a roadmap to help navigate a difficult and changing landscape and make informed conservation decisions and

wise investments," says Assistant General Manager, Matt Freeman. "Our ultimate goal is to achieve healthy, sustainable and livable communities well beyond the 21st century."

Read the *Valley Greenprint* at our website at openspaceauthority.org.

who am I ?

I am a species of flowering plant in the borage family native to western North America, from British Columbia through California. I am a perennial

herb (some call me a weed), and I usually grow in shady areas in woodland and chaparral. With my dainty petals and bright blue hue, it's strange that I'm named after a part of canine anatomy. [See answer on the next page.]

KEY FINDINGS IN THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY GREENPRINT

Rancho Cañada del Oro (Derek Neumann)

The *Valley Greenprint* identifies nearly 122,000 acres of natural and agricultural landscapes for conservation, including the top 10 geographic priorities. The vision provides strategies for open space land acquisition and stewardship for the protection of water, wildlife, greenbelts, farms and ranchlands, and for connecting urban residents to nature.

The *Valley Greenprint* concludes that, despite a rich legacy of open space protection in Santa Clara County, there is an urgency to conserve the region's most critical natural resources.

WATER

Demand for water is expected to exceed supply by 2035. More than 228 miles of streams and essential groundwater supplies in the Santa Clara Valley are polluted, and 60% of recharge areas that absorb rainfall have already been paved over.

- The *Valley Greenprint* prioritizes the protection of open space lands near rivers, lakes and streams as a key water conservation strategy, and includes the water-rich areas upstream of the Chesbro and Uvas reservoirs.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Santa Clara Valley's history as one of the nation's greatest agricultural regions has been a boon to the local economy,

while providing important environmental benefits. In the last 30 years, 45% of the region's agricultural land has been lost to development. Only 27,000 acres remain, and over half of that is at risk of development in the next 30 years.

- The *Valley Greenprint* advocates for protection of agricultural and ranchlands in the southern part of the County, including the Coyote Valley, east and south of Gilroy, and the Pacheco Valley—all of which will help sustain the economic viability of agriculture and ranching in the region.



Rancho Cañada del Oro
(OSA Archive)

RECREATION AND EDUCATION

Despite past investment in parks and trails at the County and local levels, there are significant gaps in key trail systems and a need for increased recreation opportunities.

- The *Valley Greenprint* proposes new open space and trail projects in urban areas including the Upper Penitencia Creek/East Foothills region that would increase recreation opportunities in Alum Rock and Berryessa neighborhoods and close gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

URBAN OPEN SPACE

Access to nearby parks and open space supports increased physical activity, resulting in better overall health and fewer instances of chronic conditions such as diabetes, osteoporosis and cancer.

- The *Valley Greenprint* emphasizes a neighborhood-focused approach to projects that supports local needs and interests. Projects may include community gardens, trails and greenways that connect underserved or transit-oriented communities to nearby schools, parks and open spaces.



Ulistac Natural Area
(Liv Ames)



Answer: I am a Grand Hounds Tongue—also known as Pacific Hounds Tongue and Western Houndstongue. Some say I got my name because my rough-textured leaves are said to resemble an actual hound's tongue. Others say it is because of an old folk belief that putting my leaves in one's shoe could prevent dog attacks.

OPEN SPACE ROUND-UP

Rachel Santos, Associate Open Space Planner

Rachel Santos infuses both her work and play with a deep love of nature and a strong sense of responsibility for our environment. With a degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis on wilderness and open space preservation, Rachel has worked in open space preservation for over 15 years. Along the way, her conservation sensibility merged with her sense of style, and Dante Robles Design—with its collection of “upcycled” handbags and accessories—was born. Rachel’s designs transform end-of-life materials, specifically mountain and road bike



Rachel Santos

inner tubes, into artfully woven, environmentally friendly (and super fashionable!) products.

Coming Soon! New Free Public Parking Area at Sierra Vista

Recently, the Open Space Authority’s Board of Directors gave a green light for a staging area (free public parking area) off Sierra Road, which allows the public to park right at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve (rather than in Alum Rock Park). The Board also approved the creation of 1.3 miles of trail at Sierra Vista, including a connector to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Follow us online (openspaceauthority.org and on Facebook and Twitter) to receive project news and updates as they happen.



Sierra Vista (OSA Archive)

Coyote Valley HARVEST FEAST

Saturday, September 27, 2014
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Experience the taste of fresh farm foods in the beautiful 348-acre Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve!

Register for this FREE EVENT at
harvestfeastcv.eventbrite.com



FREE
ADMISSION
& PARKING

All green &
zero waste

NATURAL
HEALTHY
DELICIOUS

Delicious food at
an affordable cost



FREE, FUN
ACTIVITIES

Live animals
& family
entertainment



6980 Santa Teresa Blvd., Suite 100 • San Jose, CA 95119

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 500
San Jose, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Foran	Alex Kennett
Kalvin Gill	Dorsey Moore
Sequoia Hall	Mike Potter
Virginia Holtz	

openspaceauthority.org



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Sol Searching

Saturday, May 24 • 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Alviso Marina County Park, 1195 Hope St., Alviso

See the sun like you've never seen it before! Join solar astronomers for a unique, family-friendly look at our brightest star, the Sun. Fun facts, stories, activities and giveaways will leave even the smallest guests awed and inspired.

Rain cancels. Directions: Hwy. 237 to North 1st Street. Continue as 1st St. becomes Taylor. Turn left on Hope St. and follow to the Marina. Visit our website at openspaceauthority.org for a complete list of activities.



Starry Nights

Saturday, May 17 • 9:00 – 10:30 pm
Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve

Looking for something different to do with the family on Saturday night? Join our friendly docent astronomers, our friends from the San Jose Astronomical Association, and other stargazers for an evening under the stars. It is so dark here you can see the Milky Way! No telescope? No problem! Our docents are happy to share theirs. Families and children are welcome. Visit our website at openspaceauthority.org for a complete list of activities.