



The Parks and Trails

Development of this wilderness and open space parkland is limited to preserve the pastoral atmosphere of the park. A multi-purpose trail system provides access to canyon views, ridgetop vistas, and remote, deep-canyon streams, offering opportunities to explore wide-open spaces and hidden recesses.

The parkland spills down off Pleasanton Ridge into upper Kilkare Canyon, up onto Sunol Ridge, and into Stonybrook Canyon. To the northwest, the park encompasses most of the upper Sinbad Creek watershed, lying between Sunol Ridge to the southwest and Main Ridge to the northeast.

The northern sections of the Ridgeline Trail afford magnificent panoramic views to the north, east, and south. To the northwest, Ridgeline Trail connects with Sinbad Creek Trail, which descends from the ridge down into the heavily wooded and riparian depths of upper Kilkare Canyon.

Thermalito Trail, running along the west side of the park, is named after the Thermal Fruit Company which cultivated orchards of apricot, cherry, prunes, and almonds from 1904 to the early 1930s.

Oak Tree Trail gently ascends from the Foothill Staging Area to the ridgeline, then connects with the Ridgeline and Thermalito trails. Woodland Trail provides an alternate route. Olive Grove Trail passes through the historic olive tree orchards, planted between 1890 and the 1920s.

From the Tyler Ranch Staging Area, the Sunol Ridge Trail leads up to Sunol Peak, the highest peak in the park at 2,191 feet.



Lisa Rochon

Vegetation

Grassland is the dominant plant community in this parkland. Found mostly on the Pleasanton and Sunol ridges and on drier south- and west-facing slopes, this habitat supports an abundant variety of wildflowers that blossom throughout the late winter and spring months. A handful of hearty, late-flowering species appear among the golden-brown grasses that characterize the summer and early fall landscape. The cycle of growth is repeated with the onset of the autumn rains, resulting in a new carpet of green vegetation.



Alan Mendez

The woodland communities in the park are made up of individual or mixed stands of coast live oak, California bay laurel, blue oak, black oak, valley oak, and Oregon oak. Other trees, like California buckeye, bigleaf maple, and toyon, may also be seen. The woodland undergrowth contains numerous grasses and wildflowers, along with coyote brush, poison oak, California sagebrush, ocean spray, and bush monkeyflower.

Riparian woodland occurs in a narrow band along Sinbad Creek and in some steep canyons and ravines. Of particular note are the large, magnificent, mottled-barked sycamores that grow where ground or surface water is accessible along the stream course. The various ponds and springs in the park provide valuable habitat for plant and animal species that require water or a wetland environment for all or part of their life stages.

Wildlife

Each plant community supports diverse native species, some of which are migratory and use the area seasonally. The grasslands are home to meadowlarks, horned larks, and Western bluebirds, red-tailed hawks, and golden eagles. Ground squirrels, alligator lizards, and western fence lizards may also be seen, along with gopher snakes, king snakes, and rattlesnakes. These should be observed from a distance and not disturbed in any way. The wrentit, California quail, and California thrasher reside in the interspersed brushlands, where the threatened Alameda whipsnake may be seen on rocky outcrops.

The woodland plant community hosts Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and various species of owls, along with brush-dwelling birds such as the California quail, rufous-sided towhee, and song sparrows. Many cavity-nesting birds such as the acorn woodpecker, northern flicker, and white-breasted nuthatch find homes in the woodland areas. The riparian woodland is home to red-shouldered hawks, garter snakes, and newts, as well as aquatic insects in the creeks. The park's springs and ponds support many of the above species, and may also support the western pond turtle, western toad, chorus (Pacific tree) frog, and the threatened California red-legged frog. Many of the ponds contain large populations of bullfrogs, a non-native species that threatens the California native species.

Mammals range throughout the park and include opossums, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, black-tailed deer, grey foxes, bobcats, mountain lions, and numerous rodent and bat species.

Ours to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely and help protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

Safety

- Stay on trails. Shortcuts are dangerous and damage natural resources.
- Bring plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Keep the parks clean. Pack out what you pack in.
- Inform someone where you are going and when you will be back.
- Save our 24/7 Dispatch Center number on your mobile phone: Emergency (510) 881-1122; Non-emergency (510) 881-1833.

Rules

- Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, in picnic areas, developed areas, where grazing animals are present, and as posted. Dogs must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet: bag it, bin it.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only; stay to the right side of trail; and ring or call out when passing.
- Bicyclists yield to pedestrians. Both yield to equestrians.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear a helmet. All bicyclists and equestrians are encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- The following are prohibited:
 - Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas
 - Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
 - Feeding or approaching wildlife
 - Releasing animals into parklands
 - Damage to plants, geological or archaeological features
 - Graffiti
 - Smoking/vaping
 - Skateboarding
 - Drones

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See ebparks.org/rules.



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Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

GPS Coordinates

Castleridge Trailhead: 37.660081, -121.911618
 Foothill Staging Area: 37.614818, -121.881837
 Tyler Ranch Staging Area: 37.594855, -121.895568

East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605
 1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)
ebparks.org



Regional Parks Membership
 RECEIVE FREE DAY-USE PARKING, SWIMMING,
 DOG PASS, AND MORE. 510-544-2220
REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG

Cover photo: David Silva

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

PLEASANTON, SUNOL



East Bay 
 Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

Year Opened:
1990

Acres: 9,090

Highlights
Hiking, biking, horseback riding in undeveloped open space; ridgetop vistas.

Did you know?
Five olive orchards containing several different varieties of olives were planted along Pleasanton Ridge in the 1890s and are still producing fruit.

Fees
There are no fees at Pleasanton Ridge.



PLEASANTON RIDGE REGIONAL PARK

- Paved Trail: Hiker, Biker, Horse
- Unpaved Trail: Hiker, Biker, Horse
- Hiker, Horse
- Mileage Between Points
- Markers at Trail Junctions
- Paved Road
- Seasonal Stream
- Seasonal Pond
- ADA Accessible
- Parking (# Spaces)
- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- Information panel
- Picnic Area
- Horse Staging Area
- Horse Water
- Peak
- Gate
- No Trespassing

Scale: 0, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 Mi., 1 Mi.
Contour Interval 40 feet

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