

From Ohlone Land to Parkland

Year opened: 2005 *Acres:* 1,979
Highlights: Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding.
Did you know? During the Gold Rush era, Brushy Peak was a favorite hideout of the legendary Mexican bandit Joaquin Murietta.

HISTORY Brushy Peak is a 1,702-foot landmark at the juncture of the San Francisco Bay Area, the California Delta, and the Central Valley. The peak and its environs have been recognized as sacred by generations of native Californians. Due to its geographical position, the area lies at the center of a network of ancient trade routes that linked Bay Area Ohlones, Bay Miwoks, and Northern Valley Yokuts, who were drawn to the area for economic, social, and ceremonial events. The Ssaoam tribelet of the Ohlone peoples was probably the most closely linked to the Brushy Peak area, living in the surrounding dry hills and tiny valleys around the peak and nearby Altamont Pass. Ssaoam populations, in the dry summer months, may have dispersed and converged at various camps throughout the year. The tribelet hosted trade feasts near Brushy Peak, acting as brokers in a regional trade network with the Volvons, a tribelet of the Bay Miwok, and the Tamcans of the Northern Valley Yokuts. The Ssaoam's ability to prosper may have had as much to do with their occupation of this strategic trading location as with their ability to use the area's food and limited water resources.

By the early nineteenth century, life had changed for these tribes. In 1772, Pedro Fages made the first European expedition into west-central California, passing through the Livermore Valley on his return to Monterey. From 1806 to 1836 the Ssaoam lived at Mission San Jose, founded in today's Fremont in 1797. By the mid-1800s, as mission lands were divided into Mexican ranchos, some of the former Mission San Jose Indian people became laborers on the new ranchos. By 1848, at the conclusion of the Mexican-American War, the rancho lands of central California had become part of the United States. During California's Gold

Rush period, the rocky outcrops of Brushy Peak became retreats for bandits. During the 1870s, homesteads were settled on and around Brushy Peak. Between the 1890s and World War I, local ranch families held picnics and dances around the rock outcrops, and in 1900 and 1901 San Francisco's Bohemian Club held outings on the peak for prominent local citizens. During the 1920s and 1930s Joseph Laughlin built farm buildings on the property, which are probably the remains of the buildings seen in the parkland today.

Brushy Peak was identified as a potential park by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPd) in the 1970s, and 507 acres were acquired in 1994. In 1997 an agreement between LARPd and the East Bay Regional Park District pledged cooperation in the further acquisition, planning, and protection of Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

WELCOME!

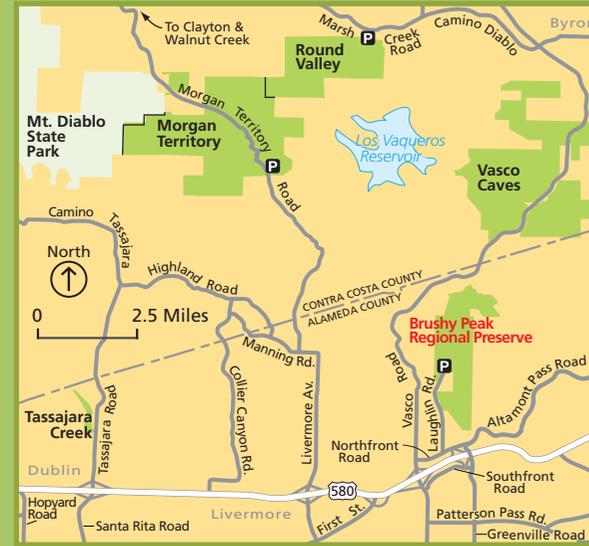
Please be safe and enjoy Brushy Peak, and help us protect and preserve this precious parkland. Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See www.ebparks.org/rules.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES

Dogs must be kept on leash at all times while in the preserve, including in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns, and on trails. They must be under voice control at all times.



GPS Coordinates: 37.748540, -121.709023

To Reach Brushy Peak:

From I-580 in Livermore, exit north at Vasco Road and immediately turn right onto Northfront Road. After about .8 miles turn left onto Laughlin Road and proceed approximately two miles to the staging area at the end of Laughlin Road.

Brushy Peak

Regional Preserve

Livermore

East Bay Regional Park District



A Partnership with the



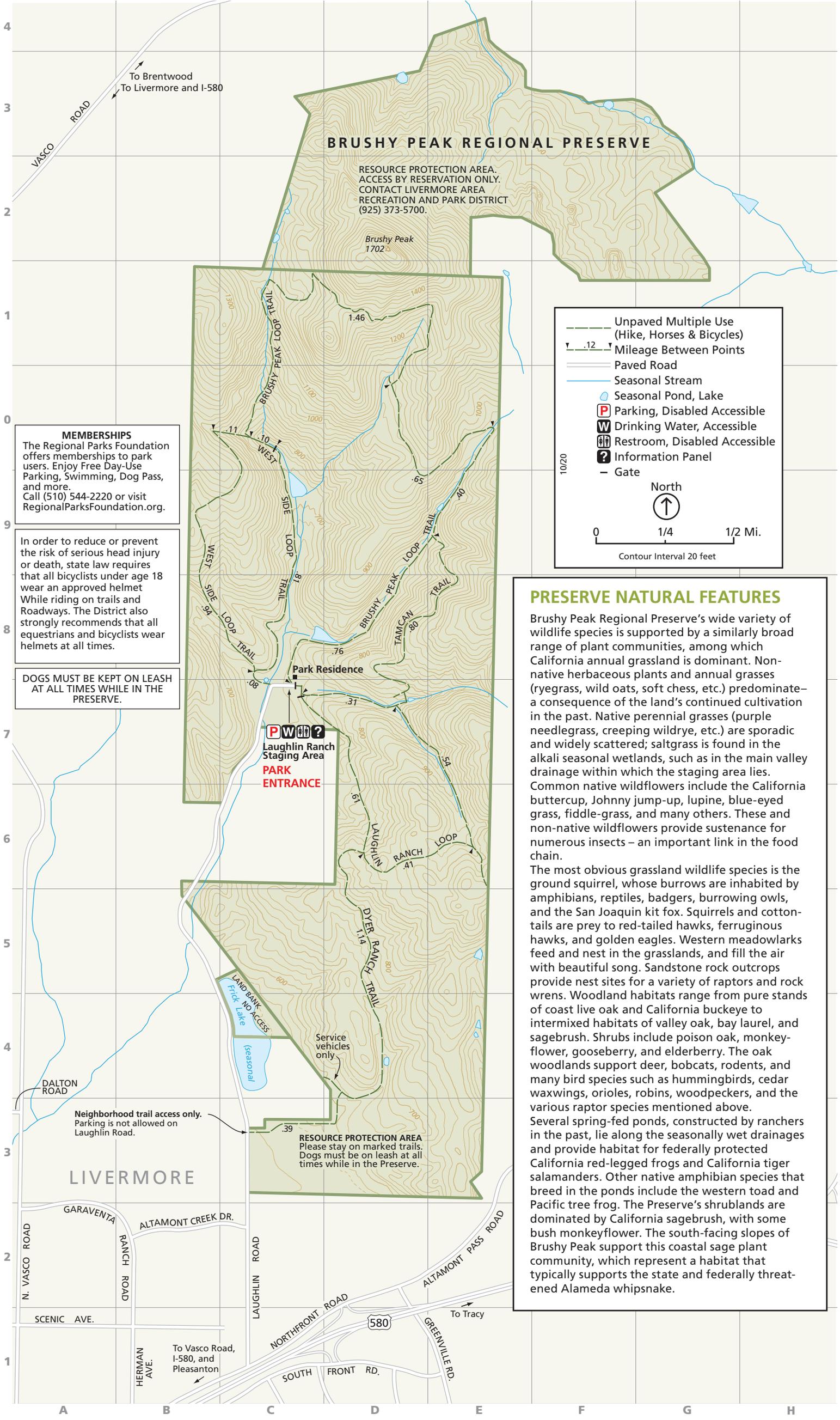
4444 East Ave.
 Livermore, California 94550-5053
 (925) 373-5700
<http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us/>



East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court
 Oakland, CA 94605-0381
 1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS) (TRS 711)
www.ebparks.org Reprint: 10/20

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY9-1-1
 EBRPD HEADQUARTERS 1-888-327-2757
 PARK OFFICE.....1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4565



MEMBERSHIPS
 The Regional Parks Foundation offers memberships to park users. Enjoy Free Day-Use Parking, Swimming, Dog Pass, and more. Call (510) 544-2220 or visit RegionalParksFoundation.org.

In order to reduce or prevent the risk of serious head injury or death, state law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet. While riding on trails and Roadways. The District also strongly recommends that all equestrians and bicyclists wear helmets at all times.

DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN THE PRESERVE.

--- Unpaved Multiple Use (Hike, Horses & Bicycles)
 ▽ .12 ▽ Mileage Between Points
 — Paved Road
 — Seasonal Stream
 ● Seasonal Pond, Lake
 P Parking, Disabled Accessible
 W Drinking Water, Accessible
 ♿ Restroom, Disabled Accessible
 ? Information Panel
 — Gate

10/20

North

0 1/4 1/2 Mi.

Contour Interval 20 feet

PRESERVE NATURAL FEATURES

Brushy Peak Regional Preserve's wide variety of wildlife species is supported by a similarly broad range of plant communities, among which California annual grassland is dominant. Non-native herbaceous plants and annual grasses (ryegrass, wild oats, soft chess, etc.) predominate—a consequence of the land's continued cultivation in the past. Native perennial grasses (purple needlegrass, creeping wildrye, etc.) are sporadic and widely scattered; saltgrass is found in the alkali seasonal wetlands, such as in the main valley drainage within which the staging area lies. Common native wildflowers include the California buttercup, Johnny jump-up, lupine, blue-eyed grass, fiddle-grass, and many others. These and non-native wildflowers provide sustenance for numerous insects – an important link in the food chain.

The most obvious grassland wildlife species is the ground squirrel, whose burrows are inhabited by amphibians, reptiles, badgers, burrowing owls, and the San Joaquin kit fox. Squirrels and cottontails are prey to red-tailed hawks, ferruginous hawks, and golden eagles. Western meadowlarks feed and nest in the grasslands, and fill the air with beautiful song. Sandstone rock outcrops provide nest sites for a variety of raptors and rock wrens. Woodland habitats range from pure stands of coast live oak and California buckeye to intermixed habitats of valley oak, bay laurel, and sagebrush. Shrubs include poison oak, monkeyflower, gooseberry, and elderberry. The oak woodlands support deer, bobcats, rodents, and many bird species such as hummingbirds, cedar waxwings, orioles, robins, woodpeckers, and the various raptor species mentioned above. Several spring-fed ponds, constructed by ranchers in the past, lie along the seasonally wet drainages and provide habitat for federally protected California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders. Other native amphibian species that breed in the ponds include the western toad and Pacific tree frog. The Preserve's shrublands are dominated by California sagebrush, with some bush monkeyflower. The south-facing slopes of Brushy Peak support this coastal sage plant community, which represent a habitat that typically supports the state and federally threatened Alameda whipsnake.

LIVERMORE

Neighborhood trail access only. Parking is not allowed on Laughlin Road.

RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA
 Please stay on marked trails. Dogs must be on leash at all times while in the Preserve.

Service vehicles only

LAND BANK NO ACCESS
 Frick Lake (seasonal)

Park Residence

P W ?
 Laughlin Ranch Staging Area
PARK ENTRANCE

BRUSHY PEAK REGIONAL PRESERVE

RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA. ACCESS BY RESERVATION ONLY. CONTACT LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT (925) 373-5700.

Brushy Peak 1702

To Brentwood
 To Livermore and I-580

VASCO ROAD

DALTON ROAD
 N. VASCO ROAD
 GARAVENTA RANCH ROAD
 SCENIC AVE.
 HERMAN AVE.

ALTAMONT CREEK DR.
 LAUGHLIN ROAD
 NORTHFRONT ROAD
 SOUTH FRONT RD.

LAUGHLIN ROAD
 NORTHFRONT ROAD
 SOUTH FRONT RD.

ALTAMONT PASS ROAD
 GREENVILLE RD.

To Tracy

To Vasco Road, I-580, and Pleasanton

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