

Welcome to Pleasanton Ridge

Year opened: 1990 Acres: 9,086
Highlights: Hiking, biking, horsback 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. Other fruit, nut and ornamental trees are scattered throughout the park.

THE PARK AND TRAILS Development of this wilderness and open space parkland has been intentionally 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 Kilcare 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. Thermalito Trail runs along the west side of the park, overlooking Kilcare Canyon. The trail is named after the Thermal Fruit Company, which operated from 1904 until the early 1930s and cultivated orchards of apricot, cherry, prunes, and almonds. One can still see the faint marks on some hillsides from the now-gone rows of trees.

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 for trail users. Olive Grove Trail passes through the historic olive tree orchards, planted between 1890 and the 1920s.

To the northwest, Ridgeline Trail connects with the Sinbad Creek Trail, which descends from the ridge down into the heavily wooded and riparian depths of upper Kilcare Canyon.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY 9-1-1
PARK INFORMATION 1-888-327-2757, EXT. 4549
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS 1-888-327-2757
WEB SITE..... www.ebparks.org
TRS RELAY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED 7-1-1

Please respect private property and the natural environment by staying on the designated trails.

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.

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, big-leaf 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 wrenit, 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 nut-

hatch 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.

WELCOME!

Please enjoy our Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

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.
- Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. 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 leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38), available online at www.ebparks.org/ord38.



To Reach Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park:

From I-680 in Pleasanton, exit at Castlewood Drive and go west. Turn left (south) onto Foothill Road, towards the town of Sunol. The Foothill Staging Area is about two miles from Castlewood Drive, on the right.



East Bay Regional Park District
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ebparks.org

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Regional Park

Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol

East Bay Regional Park District



Long-beaked Filaree. Photo: Allan Mendez.

Spotted towhee. Photo: Jerry Ting.

