## Crockett Hills Regional Park

Year opened: 2006 Acres: 2,125 Highlights: Hiking, biking, equestrian trails, birdwatching, Bay Area Ridge Trail.

HISTORY Crockett Hills was once home to two Ohlone tribes—Huchiun-Aguasto and Carquin. Their "well flavored" acorn soup, "toasted hazelnuts," flavored seed cakes, and sturgeon fishing from tule boats on Carquinez Straits were first described in literature in the 1770s.

The Huchiun-Aguasto and Carquin worlds began to collapse after 1776, when the Spanish established a mission and presidio in present-day San Francisco. To resist Spanish expansion, some Ohlones retreated to the north side of the Straits, where 40 remained until 1811.

In 1843, 22 years after Mexican independence from Spain, the Mexican government granted the entire southern shore of the strait, including Crockett Hills, to Teodora de Soto. Native laborers at de Soto's Rancho Canada del Hambre y las Bolsas made possible shipment of thousands of pounds of cattle hides and tallow to New England.

After Mexico ceded California to the United States in 1848, Mexican citizens had to defend their property rights in U.S. courts. De Soto paid attorney Joseph Crockett with 1,800 acres that included Crockett Hills. To discourage squatters, in 1865 Crockett invited Thomas Edwards to farm the property, which Edwards eventually bought, subdivided, and with associate John Heald, developed into the town of Crockett.

In 1903 the California and Hawaiian Sugar Co. leased Cockett's one-time flour and sugar beet refining mill, producing sugar from Hawaiian cane. C&H also bought the land south of what is now Cummings Skyway and leased it for cattle grazing, an activity that continues to the present day.

In 1994, the East Bay Regional Park District acquired 1,300-acre Crockett Hills from A & B Properties, a subsidiary of the company that purchased C&H in 1993.

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PARK OFFICE .......1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4521

Throughout these years, Carquins and other Ohlones continued to live and work in the Bay Area, where they are involved in protecting ancient sites, including Ssogoreate, a village along Carquinez Strait.

**VEGETATION & WILDLIFE** This landscape is characterized by bay and oak woodland, grassland, chaparral, and intermittent creeks that support abundant wildlife, including hares, skunks, deer, bobcats, gray fox, coyotes and raptors.

FACILITIES Crockett Hills offers a welcome respite from the bustle of urban life. There is a restroom, drinking water, picnic tables and an information panel at the staging area on Crockett Boulevard where Edwards ranch buildings remain. From the staging area a network of trails leads through woods up the hill to a tunnel under Cummings Skyway that accesses the rest of the park, open to pedestrians, bicycle riders and equestrians.

#### **WELCOME!**

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help protect and preserve the 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.
- Be prepared for 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.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in. RULES
- Pets 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.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
   Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18
  wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and
  roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are also strongly
  encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.

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



### 1300 Crockett Blvd., Crockett, CA 94525 To Reach the Crockett Ranch Staging Area:

From Hwy. 4, exit at Cummings Skyway and drive north to Crockett Boulevard. Turn right onto Crockett Boulevard and drive to the staging area on the left, about 1/2 mile from Pomona Street in Crockett.

From I-80, exit at Cummings Skyway and drive southeast to Crockett Boulevard. Turn left onto Crockett Boulevard and drive to the staging area on the left.

# Crockett Hills

Regional Park

Crockett, Hercules











East Bay Regional Park District

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www.ebparks.org 6/2020

