

MISSION PEAK THEN . . .

1904 “The Landmark that dominates the whole region, however, is Mission Peak, with its scarred front, the result of ancient and more recent landslides . . .

“Perhaps the denizens of this valley are so accustomed to the sight of Mission Peak that they fail to appreciate the dignity and individuality which it gives to the landscape. Whether the outlines, snow-capped may be, are sharp and distinct on a clear, frosty morning in winter, or overspread with the purple afterglow of a summer sunset; whether rising grim and rugged against black storm clouds, or emerging into sunlight from unwinding fog wreaths, the mountain has a majesty of its own. The rain torrents of winter have for ages beaten upon it, the scorching heat of summer suns has fallen upon it, but unmindful of the elements, of changes wrought by men, this grand old peak stands overlooking the entire valley, a giant sentinel forever on guard.

“It is a singular fact that many living in the township, even some born and reared here, have never ascended this mountain. They have gone to Tamalpais, tramped to Diablo, and to other mountains farther off, ignorant of the vast and wonderful landscape to be seen from their own. Standing on the top, when the day is clear, we can see far in the east the shining summits of the high Sierra . . . Spread out between is the great plain of the San Joaquin, and the smaller valleys of San Ramon, Livermore and Sunol. The canyon immediately in front drops down 2,000 feet into Rosedale, and on the other side are the serrated crags of the Calaveras. Far and faint in the south is the huge bulk of the Gabilans, while nearer is flat-topped Loma Prieta, and closer still the silver dome and clustered dwelling of Lick Observatory, with the higher top of Mount Hamilton behind. Due north rise the splendid double peaks of Mount Diablo, the giant of the Coast Range.”

Excerpted from *History of Washington Township*
Stanford University Press.



View from Mission Peak. Photo by Kevin Fox.

. . . AND NOW

Mission Peak/Monument Peak Regional Preserve offers 2,999 acres for your hiking enjoyment. Trails begin at Fremont’s Ohlone College campus and at the east end of Stanford Avenue off Mission Boulevard. The Bay Area Ridge Trail passes through the park into Ed Levin County Park. Mission Peak’s spectacular panorama includes the southern arm of San Francisco Bay and the area from San Jose to Mount Tamalpais. To the north can be seen Mount Diablo, the San Ramon Valley, and the Hamilton Range. Coyote Hills Regional Park is visible to the west by the Dumbarton Bridge, and eastward is Sunol Regional Wilderness. There is no drinking water available along the trails, so bring along water. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a lunch to enjoy at the top. Please keep the area free of litter so that others may enjoy the beauty as you do.

The Wings of Rogallo has an agreement with the Park District to conduct hang gliding and paragliding activities at Mission Peak Regional Preserve, so if you stay at the peak for long, don’t be surprised if a quiet hang glider whisks ’round the peak or overhead. You can wave to the pilot – at eye level.

The South Bay Soaring Society (SBSS) has an agreement with the Park District to use R/C Hill to fly remote-controlled aircraft. No motorized or gas-powered aircraft are allowed. All remote-controlled pilots launching at R/C Hill must be members of SBSS and must have in their possession a current membership card. No other sites within Mission Peak Regional Preserve are approved for this activity.

INTERPRETIVE HIKES The interpretive staff at Coyote Hills Regional Park plans organized hikes along the slopes and the peak. For information on these and other naturalist-led activities, call the Coyote Hills Visitor Center at (510) 795-9385, or see www.ebparks.org/events.htm.

BICYCLE POLICY Safe multiple use on these trails requires your cooperation. The East Bay Regional Park District’s Bicycle Ordinance is summarized below:

- Bicycles shall not be ridden in a negligent, unsafe, or reckless manner, or in a way that endangers the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Bicycles are permitted on paved roads, paved bike trails, and unpaved roads over 8 feet in width, unless otherwise posted.
- Bicycles are not permitted on single-track hiking or horseback riding trails.
- Bicycles are not permitted to ride cross country on regional parklands. All bicycles use is restricted to permitted trails only.
- Bicycles shall not be ridden at a speed exceeding 15 miles per hour on any trail with a posted speed limit.
- Bicycles shall not be ridden at excessive speeds,

especially when passing other trail users or in areas with short sight distances, or in an irresponsible manner in violation of published trail etiquette or posted bicycle speed limits.

- Bicycles must travel in single file on the right side of the trail when on turns or blind corners.
- Bicycles are not permitted in any park or area posted pursuant to a resolution of closure or restriction adopted by the Park District Board of Directors.

TO REACH THE PARK Mission Peak is accessible from both Mission Blvd. exits off I-680 in Fremont. The Ohlone College staging area is just south of the northern Mission Blvd. exit (in the Mission San Jose area); the Stanford Ave. staging area is just north of the southern Mission Blvd. exit.

From southbound I-680 in Fremont (coming from Pleasanton or Oakland): for the Ohlone College staging area, take the Mission Blvd./Hwy. 238 exit and turn left (south). Go 1.1 miles and turn left on Anza-Pine Road into the Ohlone College campus. Park in lots M, N, O, or P. Purchase an Ohlone College parking ticket from the vending machine. Parking without a ticket may result in a citation. Proceed to the Park District information panel at the trailhead. For the Stanford Ave. staging area, continue south on Mission Blvd. for 1.7 miles to Stanford Ave. and turn left. Proceed 0.6 miles to the staging area.

From northbound I-680 in Fremont (coming from Santa Clara County): for the Stanford Ave. staging area, take the Mission Blvd. exit and go 0.7 miles to Stanford Ave. Turn right and go 0.6 miles to the staging area. For the Ohlone College staging area, continue north on Mission Blvd. for 1.7 miles to Anza-Pine Road. Turn right on Anza-Pine Road into the Ohlone College campus. Park in lots M, N, O, or P. Purchase an Ohlone College parking ticket from the vending machine. Parking without a ticket may result in a citation. Proceed to the Park District information panel at the trailhead.

Mission Peak is also accessible from Sunol Regional Wilderness via the Ohlone Wilderness Trail with an Ohlone Trail Permit in possession; and from Ed Levin County Park in Santa Clara County via the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200, fax (510) 635-3478, TDD (510) 633-0460, or info@ebparks.org.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY ... **9-1-1**
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS.....(510) 635-0135
SUNOL HORSE RENTAL.....(925) 862-0175



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MISSION PEAK REGIONAL PRESERVE

