

LINGER AWHILE . . .

HISTORY Bedrock mortars used by Native Americans for pounding acorns that were found in the area are reminders of Sunol's first inhabitants. For the past century, however, the land known today as Sunol Regional Wilderness was used almost exclusively as ranch land. Under the East Bay Regional Park District's multi-use land management policy, cattle continue to graze in the 6,858-acre wilderness.

GEOLOGY Exploration will reveal sandstone outcrops with fossils deposited in what was once ancient seabed. Great boulders of greenstone, schist and metachert indicate a turbulent past. The massive basalt outcrop at Indian Joe Cave Rocks provides sport and challenge to rock climbers.

VEGETATION Alameda Creek, Alameda County's largest stream, harbors an inviting creekside community of alder, willow and sycamore. Coast live oaks abound along with valley and blue oak, elderberry, madrone and gray pine. Spring brings wildflowers, including California poppies, mustard, goldfields and lupines, which carpet vast areas in yellow, orange and blue. A wildflower identification kit may be checked out at the Visitor Center.

ANIMALS Ground squirrels, magpies and red-tailed hawks may be seen by visitors year round. Observant campers and hikers may notice raccoons, skunks and blacktail deer. Mountain lions are uncommon, but are occasionally sighted. Birding is superb along Alameda Creek; persistent birdwatchers may identify 20 to 40 species in a single morning. The acorn woodpecker, black phoebe, titmouse, turkey vulture and yellow-billed magpie are commonly sighted. A bird list is available at the Visitor Center.

HIKING A description of park trails is found on the other side of this brochure. Please do not short-cut trails in steep areas, or slide in the grass on hillsides or banks. Erosion is ugly and expensive to control.

PICNICKING Picnic sites and barbecue pits are provided along Alameda Creek.

FAMILY CAMPING Overnight tent camping sites are available on a reservable basis by calling (510) 636-1684. The fee is \$12 per night (subject to change) for up to 10 consecutive nights, and includes the parking fee.

GROUP CAMPING Several sites are available by advance reservation only. Phone (510) 636-1684 on weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. High Valley Camp is a hike-in camp located a steep, one-mile walk from the Visitor Center. Camp Ohlone is a seven-mile hike from the park entrance. School Camp is a short hike from the Visitor Center. Group areas are available November through May. The camps and the park itself are subject to closure or fire restriction during fire season – June through October.

HORSE RIDES Guided trail rides, overnight camps, lessons, and special events are available by reservation with Sunol Wilderness Pack Station: (925) 862-0175 or www.sunsetridingacademy.com.

SUNOL BACKPACK AREA A permit is required to camp overnight in these designated backpack camps. Dogs are not permitted overnight. A group site is available. Obtain a new permit before each trip. Camping is by reservation only; phone (510) 636-1684 for details. The fee is \$5 per day per person (subject to change). The backpack area is open year round.

OHLONE WILDERNESS TRAIL Hikers who cross into the San Francisco Water Department lands that connect Mission Peak Regional Preserve, Sunol, Ohlone Regional Wilderness and Del Valle Regional Park must carry the Ohlone Wilderness Trail map/permit. Hikers must sign in at trailheads as they enter these lands. Dogs are permitted for day use only. The permit/map is available for \$2 at Sunol and Del Valle entrance kiosks, and for \$2.50 by mail. Send your name, address, phone number and \$2.50 to Ohlone Wilderness Trail, EBRPD, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605-0381. Camping on the Ohlone Wilderness Trail is allowed by reservation only at designated sites. Phone (510) 562-2267 for information. Separate arrangements may be made for overnight camping at Del Valle Regional Park by calling (510) 562-2267.

LITTLE YOSEMITE Little Yosemite is a scenic gorge on Alameda Creek about two miles upstream from the Visitor Center. It is open to the public through a lease agreement with the San Francisco Water Department, which owns the property. Please abide by the boundary signs and do not trespass onto Water Department lands that are not part of the lease arrangement. Also, swimming is not allowed in Alameda Creek in the Little Yosemite area.

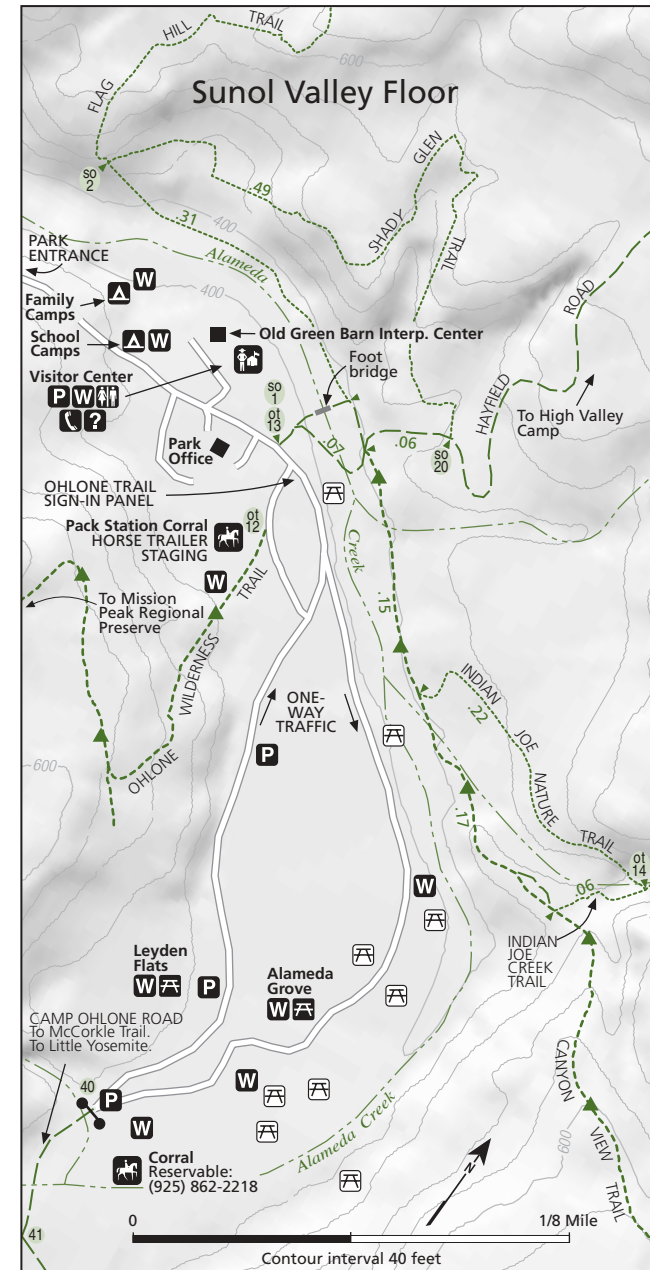
PARK HOURS Sunol Regional Wilderness is open from 7 a.m. to dusk all year. Gates are locked at night. Campers must arrive and be signed in before dusk. The park is subject to closure or fire restriction during fire season, which is June through October.

FIRE HAZARD PARK CLOSURE Call (510) 544-2222 to check if the park is closed due to extreme fire hazard.

TO REACH THE PARK **From the Fremont area**, drive north on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road. Turn right on Calaveras and proceed four miles to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park. **From the Oakland-Berkeley area**, drive east on I-580 to the junction with I-680 in Pleasanton. At the junction, go south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of the town of Sunol. Turn left onto Calaveras Road and proceed four miles to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park. **From the Walnut Creek-Danville area**, go south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of the town of Sunol. Turn left onto Calaveras Road and proceed four miles to Geary Road, which leads directly into the park.

REGIONAL PARKS MEMBERSHIPS

The Regional Parks Foundation offers memberships to park users. Benefits include free parking and swimming, a member newsletter, and off-season camping discounts. For information call (510) 544-2203.



East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381 (510) 562-PARK
<http://www.ebparks.org>