

## AN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE PRESERVED

Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve occupies two major ridges located within a region of rolling hills and valleys south of Mt. Diablo. Elevations range from about 600 to 1,000 feet.

The Bay Miwok Tatcan tribe inhabited the Sycamore Valley when, in 1772, Fr. Juan Crespi with an expedition led by Captain Pedro Fages, noted the good quality of the land in the San Ramon Valley and considered it a good location for a Franciscan mission. The mission was ultimately located in present-day Fremont, and the San Ramon valley was utilized as grazing land. By 1850 the first Anglo-Americans had arrived to farm the valley. Since the main road between Mission San Jose and the State Capitol in Benicia ran through the San Ramon Valley, businesses were encouraged to establish in the area. Throughout the last half of the 1800s, Sycamore Valley farmers established the area as a productive agricultural region. The first American settler in the vicinity of today's Preserve is recorded as Leonard Eddy in 1850. But in 1862 the Wood family began a farm and over five generations came to own and farm most of what is the Preserve today. By the end of the twentieth century Sycamore Valley land use had converted to housing. Much of the hilly ridge lands, including the Preserve, was dedicated for open space preserves. The 328-acre southern portion of the Preserve known as the Sherburne Hills unit, located south of Camino Tassajara, was acquired by the Park District in 1989. In 1998 the District acquired 255 acres north of Camino Tassajara from the Town of Danville, and an additional 106 acres from Wood Ranch developers, bringing the Preserve's northern Short Ridge Unit to 361 acres.

The Sherburne Hills Unit is almost entirely grassland, and the Short Ridge Unit is mostly grassland with scattered oak savanna with trees consisting of valley oak, coast live oak, and buckeye. This habitat supports gopher snakes, racers, Northern Pacific rattlesnakes, acorn woodpeckers, scrub jays, black-tailed titmouse, Western bluebirds, Northern orioles, lazuli buntings, and loggerhead shrikes (which also occur in the southern unit). The mature woodlands of the northern unit support nesting red-tailed hawks and great-horned owls, and provide cover for California quail, wild turkeys, and gray fox.

The Preserve's steep-sided gullies drain into Sycamore Creek. These intermittent drainages, along with several ponds located in the Preserve, provide limited wetland habitat for garter snakes, Pacific tree frogs, and red-legged frogs. The drainages also support raccoons, striped skunks, deer, coyotes, and bird species including ruby-crowned kinglets, chestnut-backed chickadees, vireos, warblers, red-winged blackbirds, and great blue herons. Raptors seen hunting in the Preserve include the northern harrier, Cooper's hawk, and white-tailed kite.

## PARKLAND RULES

Welcome to your Regional Parklands. Help protect park resources and ensure an enjoyable visit for everyone by complying with these rules and any posted regulations. Violators will be subject to citation or arrest. For more information, ask a Park Ranger, Public Safety Officer, or telephone (510) 881-1833.

**PARK GATES ARE OPEN** to the public during hours posted at the park entrance. Unless otherwise posted, CURFEW is between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., except for persons possessing a permit to remain on parklands.

**MOTOR VEHICLES** are restricted to paved public roads and designated parking areas only. Vehicles must exit at posted gate closure hours. **BICYCLES** may be ridden on designated bicycle trails, and on fire or service roads, unless otherwise posted. Bicycles are not permitted, either ridden, walked or carried, in areas posted "No Bicycles," or on narrow hiking or narrow equestrian trails. State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. Riders should call out or sound a warning when overtaking other trail users.

**DOGS** must be leashed (six-foot maximum) and under control at any posted area, parking lot, picnic site, lawn or developed area. No dogs or other animals are permitted at any swimming pool, beach, wetland, or marsh. Owners must always carry a leash (six-foot maximum). Dogs may be off-leash in open space and undeveloped areas of parklands, provided they are under control at all times. Dangerous animals are not allowed in the parks. Please dispose of your dog's waste by placing it in a garbage can. Persons who walk more than three dogs at a time on Regional Parks trails must obtain a permit; commercial dog walkers are required to obtain a permit regardless of how many dogs they walk at one time (limit of six). Please call (510) 544-3009 for information.

**SWIMMING, WADING** and other water contact activities are permitted only in designated areas. **DIVING** is permitted only from designated diving boards and swim platforms. **SCUBA diving** is prohibited in any District lake or inland waters unless authorized by the District. **PLANTS, ANIMALS, GEOLOGIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC OR HISTORIC OBJECTS** are protected by law. Please do not disturb or remove any of these features.

**HELP PROTECT OUR PARK WILDLIFE** by not releasing or feeding ducks, cats or other animals. Do not feed wild park animals; enjoy them from a distance.

**FIREWORKS** are not permitted in any regional park.

**FIRES** are not permitted at Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve. Regional Parks that permit fires allow them in barbecue pits or personal cooking equipment in designated picnic areas or irrigated turf areas only, placed at least 30 feet from flammable materials. Please do not place hot coals on the ground or in a garbage can. Dispose of hot coals or other burned fuel in barbecue pits or in designated hot coal disposal receptacles.

**CAMPING** is not permitted within District parklands without a permit. **FISHING** is not permitted at Sycamore Valley Regional Open Space Preserve. In Regional Parks that permit fishing, a state fishing license is required, and a District Daily Fishing Access Permit is required when posted.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** are not permitted at pools, swim beaches or within 50 feet of paved roads or parking lots, or in posted areas. Otherwise, beer and wine are permitted at picnic areas and elsewhere on parklands.

**GAMES and ACTIVITIES**, including model rockets, model airplanes, hang gliding, golf and other activities with potential risk to property or park visitors are permitted only in designated areas. **ASSEMBLIES, PERFORMANCES, SPECIAL EVENTS** or similar gatherings require a permit.

Please be considerate of other park visitors if you use a **RADIO**. A permit is required for **AMPLIFICATION** of voice, music or other sounds.

**GENERATORS** may not be used without a permit.

**FIREARMS or BOWS AND ARROWS** are not permitted on Regional Parklands except at established ranges. Crossbows, spears, slingshots, air pistols or rifles, and other dangerous weapons are prohibited anywhere on Regional Parklands.

**PARK VISITORS** are responsible for knowing and following park rules.



**TO REACH THE PRESERVE:** From I-680 in San Ramon, exit at Sycamore Valley Road and head east. Sycamore Valley Road becomes Camino Tassajara. Continue on Camino Tassajara to Holbrook Drive. Turn left on Holbrook Drive and park in the staging area.

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](mailto:info@ebparks.org).



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

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# SYCAMORE VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**