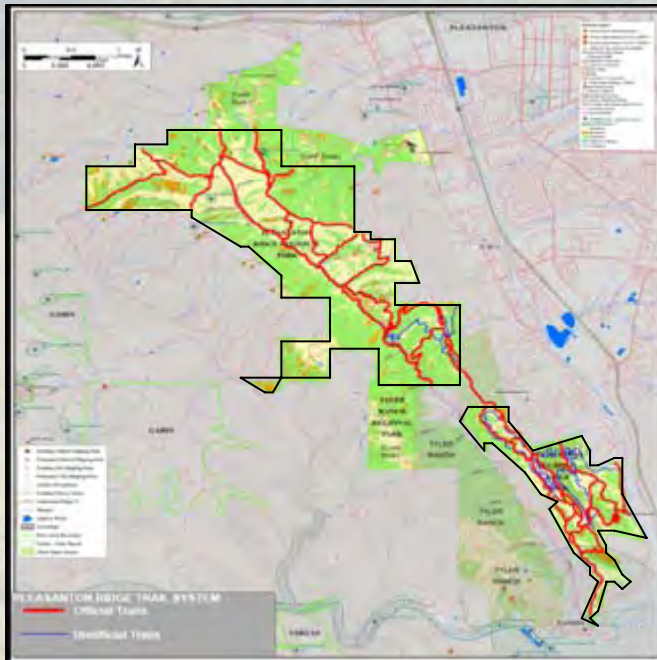


# Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park Land Use Plan

## PLEASANTON RIDGE REGIONAL PARK

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park is located in Alameda County along the western perimeter of the City of Pleasanton. Access to the property is currently limited with the primary access located off Foothill Road at the Foothill Staging Area. The 7,352 acre property includes over 30 miles of trails on 5,152 acres that are currently open to the public. The Land Use Plan will add 2,200 acres to the park providing opportunities for new access points into the park along with additional trails and recreation amenities.

A **Regional Park** is , “...a spacious land area with outstanding natural features including rare species of flora and fauna...[and] sufficient land area to support many outdoor recreation opportunities.” In accordance with the Park District master plan a **minimum of 70% land area of a regional park is to be comprised of scenic or natural resources**, while a maximum of 30% of the land area can be dedicated to facilities to accommodate recreation activities.



## LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS COMMENCED

The East Bay Regional Park District has begun the process of developing a Land Use Plan for Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. This is an important long-range planning process for the entire park that will:

- 1) Evaluate the park's existing resources and facilities;
- 2) Document legal agreements and restrictions related to use of the park; and
- 3) Recommend programs for: managing and conserving resources, and identifying future recreation uses and service facilities.

The process began with a public scoping meeting on Monday June 29, 2009. At this meeting Park District staff described existing park resources and identified opportunities and constraints relative to cultural and natural resources, range management, public access and recreation, and park operations. As part of this effort the Park District was pleased to welcome over 70 people to the initial scoping meeting. We also received a number of letters from the community explaining their interests with regard to future use of the park.

The Land Use Planning Process is expected to take approximately a year and a half and there will be several additional opportunities for community members to participate.

## THE LAND USE PLAN

The Land Use Plan will define the purpose and vision for the park and address appropriate land use, circulation and facility development, natural and cultural resource management, and interpretation. A number of goals have been established to guide the development of the Plan. They are to:

- 1) Provide **RESOURCE STRATEGIES** that protect park resources while providing recreational opportunities.
- 2) Provide **OPERATIONS STRATEGIES** for protecting rare threatened, and endangered species and cultural resources in accordance with state and federal laws.
- 3) Provide **RECREATION STRATEGIES** that will result in:
  - A stacked loop trail system that provides a range of parkland experiences accommodating a broad range of skill levels & multi-use connections to parkland destinations
  - Interpretive and recreation programs appropriate to site characteristics
  - Public access that minimizes impacts to adjacent neighbors.

## **SCOPING MEETING - Summary of Key Issues and Community Interests and Concerns**

### **Cultural Resources**

- ♦ Known & unknown prehistoric sites
- ♦ Protection/evolution of American farm era heritage

### **Natural/Water Resources/Permitting**

- ♦ Regulatory constraints relating to: Local Species of Concern (e.g., Congdon's tarplant); Federal threatened species (e.g., Calif. red-legged frog); Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act; State Fully Protected Species; Federal critical habitat (e.g., Alameda whipsnake); and Conservation Easement/Bank in northern area of park
  - ♦ Protection/enhancement/ connectivity/interpretation of existing and historic sensitive & threatened species habitat
  - ♦ Protection/enhancement of watershed integrity (e.g., native vegetative cover & diversity) to improve creek water quality
- Community Interests & Concerns:* Possibilities for converting roads to narrower trails in conservation easement area; constraints related to regulatory agency regulations; comparison of District resource management practices to other similar agencies; schedule and costs for resource management planning and permitting

### **Range Management**

- ♦ Balancing the type & number of stock and season/range area to benefit native grassland and riparian and wetland resources and recreational visitor safety/comfort
- Community Interests & Concerns:* Concerns about overgrazing; revenue generated from grazing; desire to exclude sheep and cows from park

### **Access**

- ♦ Adequacy of Foothill Staging Area
  - ♦ Potential traffic increase & neighborhood effects
  - ♦ Rugged terrain, distance between staging areas & parkland linkages
  - ♦ In-holdings – timed acquisitions
- Community Interests & Concerns:* Buffers for neighbors - existing houses and new development; need for/location of additional access points into the park

### **Recreation, & Trails**

- ♦ Over wide & eroding official trails
- ♦ Accommodating shared use
- ♦ Development of new trails in critical habitat/protection of endangered species
- ♦ Use of unofficial, unmapped trails
- ♦ Bikes & single track/narrow trails

*Community Interests & Concerns:*

Desired Activities & Facilities: Backpack camping sites; trail connection to H.A.R.D. Rodeo property and Dublin Hills linking to Las Trampas; trail access to Tehan Falls and other waterfall features; single track trails that permit mountain bikes; designation of some single track trails for hikers and equestrians, some for bicyclists – main access trail for all; “cycling-favored” multi-use trails in remote areas; more opportunities for drinking water in the park; opportunities to enjoy views; technical features to improve skill practice & reduce speeds of bicyclists; no mountain bikes on single track trails; a multi-use trail system for equestrians, hiking and biking; modification of some of the steeper roads into narrower trails with switchbacks; multi-use trails- inclusion of all user groups

Desired Programs: Trail etiquette education

Timing of Improvements: Availability of funding for Tyler acquisition; Completion of the Calaveras Ridge Trail- Schedule for opening Garms / Tyler staging areas; timeline for completion of the concept plan/development timeline

Process for: Establishing new trails (relationship of this planning effort to Ordinance 38); opening land bank parcels; determining acreage dedicated to recreational development/uses compared with natural areas

### **Maintenance & Operations**

- ♦ Limited staff presence
- ♦ City/Town – District partnerships (e.g., Augustin Bernal Park/access to northern area of park, access to the park from Pleasanton & Sunol)
- ♦ Facility deficiencies – Determining location of highest & best use
- ♦ Good neighbor relations

*Community Interests & Concerns:* Park residences-number, location, function

### **Public Involvement**

- ♦ Inform - Present key issues
- ♦ Solicit Input – Park vision
- ♦ Ground truth draft access and trail concepts

*Community Interests & Concerns:* Involve public in trails/recreation proposals; provide information on opportunities for volunteering; post meeting summary



**STAYING INVOLVED & CONNECTED**

Your participation will help us ensure that the Land Use Plan is founded on the best possible information and that the ideas and desires of the community are taken into consideration. There are several easy ways for you to participate:

**Get on the e-mail mailing list:** We are interested in your ideas. Letters sent to: [plan\\_pleasantonridge@ebparks.org](mailto:plan_pleasantonridge@ebparks.org) will be reviewed regularly and your ideas will be considered throughout the planning process. While we may not respond to individual emails, we will post summaries of community ideas and concerns and report on the general progress of the planning process periodically through group e-mail messages.

**Visit our website:** Information pertaining to the planning process can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.ebparks.org>

**Attend public planning workshops & presentations:**  
We will host a series of public workshops during the development of the Land Use Plan. Notices for these meetings will be posted on our website, at the Park and distributed to people on our e-mail and postal mailing lists.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The District has many opportunities for volunteering. Information about our volunteer program can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.ebparks.org>

**TIMELINE OF PLANNING PROCESS AT A GLANCE**

