HISTORY
Most of Briones Regional Park was once part of Rancho Boca de la Canina del Pinole, popularly known as Rancho San Felipe. In 1829, Felipe Briones built a home near what is now the Bear Creek entrance to the park, cultivating the land and raising cattle. In 1842 Felipe's widow, Maria Manuela Valencia Briones, petitioned Governor Alvarado for a grant to the land the family had occupied. The grant, covering three square leagues, was issued in June 1842. Later, much of the rancho was purchased by Simon and Elias Blum. In addition to Rancho San Felipe, the current park includes small portions of Rancho Boca de la Canada del Pinole.

In the 1850s and 1860s, Alhambra Valley was developed into rich orchards and vineyards. It became Contra Costa County's most important fruit growing area. Cattle grazing is also a major industry. Hay and grain have been produced in the valleys intermittently for some years, as well as truck crops.

In 1906, the People's Water Company began purchasing land in the San Pablo and Bear Creek areas for watershed lands. The East Bay Municipal Utility District acquired People's Water Company in 1916 and built San Pablo Dam in 1923. In 1957 Contra Costa County and EBMUD agreed to a land conveyance that established a large open space park in the Bear Creek watershed to be called Briones.

In 1964, when portions of Contra Costa County were annexed to the East Bay Regional Park District, the County and the Park District agreed to a transfer of county land to the Park District, with the District to carry out additional land acquisition. Since 1966, watershed lands and other acquisitions have combined to form today's parkland.

THE PARK TODAY
This park is a popular destination for many recreational activities:

**Picnicking** A number of first-come, first-served picnic sites with tables and barbecues are located at the Bear Creek Staging Area and the Alhambra Creek Staging Area. The park also has two larger, reservable group picnic areas at the Bear Creek Staging Area: Oak Grove (capacity 50), and Newt Hollow (capacity 150). Crow, (capacity 50), is located at the Alhambra Staging Area.

**Archery Range** The Briones Archers archery club range is accessible off the Crescent Ridge Trail from Briones' west-side Bear Creek Road entrance. For information, visit www.brionesarchers.org.

**Group Camping** The three group camping areas are: Wee-Ta-Chi, Maud Whalen, and Homestead Valley—must be reserved at least 5 business days in advance.

**Highlights:** hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, picnicking, archery range, group camping, wildflowers in season.

Did you know? From 1,483-foot Briones Peak, hikers can enjoy 360-degree views of the California Delta, Mount Diablo, Mount Tamalpais, and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness. • Naturalist John Muir, a resident of nearby Martinez, hiked these hills in the late nineteenth century.

Fees: Check website.

**Year opened:** 1967  
**Acreage:** 6,256

**Park Office:** 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4508

**Fees**
- Check website.

**Highlights**
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**Fees:** Check website.
WELCOME!

To Orinda/Richmond

STONEHURST DR.

Rev. 12/19

500

A B C D E F G H I J

NATURE

RIDGE

STAGING AREA

HILL

PARK

LN.

To Hwy. 24

MEMBERSHIPS
The Regional Parks Foundation offers Memberships to park users, see www.regionalebparksfoundation.org, or call (510) 544-2220.

Mileage Between Markers

With Trail Post Numbers

Dead End

Private Property Ahead

Road

Creek

For trail continuation

see inset at bottom left.

Contour interval 40 feet

Tree TR.

TR.

To Alhambra Valley

Visitor's are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules and regulations.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

• Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and can cause erosion.

• Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.

• Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.

• Be prepared for sudden 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.

• Horses have the right-of-way on trails.

• Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES

• Dogs 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. All bicyclists under age 18 must wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. The district also strongly recommends that all equestrians and bicyclists wear helmets at all times.

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

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

A springtime view of Briones Regional Park.