HISTORY Brushy Peak is a 1,702-foot landmark at the juncture of the San Francisco Bay Area, the California Delta, and the Central Valley. The peak and its environs have been recognized as sacred by generations of native Californians. Due to its geographical position, the area lies at the center of a network of ancient trade routes that linked Bay Area Ohlones, Bay Miwoks, and Northern Valley Yokuts, who were drawn to the area for economic, social, and ceremonial events. The Ssaoam tribelets of the Ohlone peoples was probably the most closely linked to the Brushy Peak area, living in the surrounding dry hills and tiny valleys around the peak and nearby Altamont Pass. Ssaoam populations, in the dry summer months, may have dispersed and reconverged at various camps throughout the year. The tribelet hosted trade feasts near Brushy Peak, acting as brokers in a regional trade network with the Volvons, a tribelet of the Bay Miwok, and the Tamcans of the Northern Valley Yokuts. The Ssaoam’s ability to prospection, planning, and protection of Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

WELCOME!
Please enjoy our Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE
• Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes 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.
• Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
• Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
• Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES
Dogs must be kept on leash at all times while in the preserve, including in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns, and on trails. They must be under voice control at all times. Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38), available online at www.ebparks.org/ordin38.

To Reach Brushy Peak: From I-580 in Livermore, exit north at Vasco Road and immediately turn right onto Northfront Road. After about 8 miles turn left onto Laughlin Road and proceed approximately two miles to the staging area at the end of Laughlin Road.

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. PLEASE LET US KNOW how this map may be improved to help you use this park. Write, email, or call with your suggestions: 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605; info@ebparks.org; (510) 544-2210.

Rush period, the rocky outcrops of Brushy Peak became retreats for bandits. During the 1870s, homesteads were settled on and around Brushy Peak. Between the 1890s, and World War I, local ranch families held picnics and dances around the rock outcrops, and in 1900 and 1901 San Francisco’s Bohemian Club held outings on the peak for prominent local citizens. During the 1920s and 1930s Joseph Laughlin built farm buildings on the property, which are probably the remains of the buildings seen in the parkland today. Brushy Peak was identified as a potential park by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) in the 1970s, and 507 acres were acquired in 1994. In 1997 an agreement between LARPD and the East Bay Regional Park District pledged cooperation in the further acquisition, planning, and protection of Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

From Ohlone Land to Parkland

Year opened: 2005
Acres: 1,979
Highlights: Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding.

Did you know? During the Gold Rush era, Brushy Peak was a favorite hideout of the legendary Mexican bandit Joaquin Murietta.
To Brentwood
To Livermore and I-580

DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN THE PRESERVE.

IN ORDER TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE RISK OF SERIOUS HEAD INJURY OR DEATH, STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL BICYCLISTS UNDER AGE 18 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.

PRESERVE NATURAL FEATURES

Brushy Peak Regional Preserve’s wide variety of wildlife species is supported by a similarly broad range of plant communities, among which California annual grassland is dominant. Non-native herbaceous plants and annual grasses (ryegrass, wild oats, soft chess, etc.) predominate—a consequence of the land’s continued cultivation in the past. Native perennial grasses (purple needlegrass, creeping wildrye, etc.) are sporadic and widely scattered; saltgrass is found in the alkali seasonal wetlands, such as in the main valley drainage within which the staging area lies. Common native wildflowers include the California buttercup, Johnny jump-up, lupine, blue-eyed grass, fi dde-grass, and many others. These and non-native wildflowers provide sustenance for numerous insects—an important link in the food chain. The most obvious grassland wildlife species is the ground squirrel, whose burrows are inhabited by amphibians, reptiles, badgers, burrowing owls, and the San Joaquin kit fox. Squirrels and cottontails are prey to red-tailed hawks, ferruginous hawks, and golden eagles. Western meadowlarks feed and nest in the grasslands, and fill the air with beautiful song. Sandstone rock outcrops provide nest sites for a variety of raptors and rock wrens. Woodland habitats range from pure stands of coast live oak and California buckeye to intermixed habitats of valley oak, bay laurel, and sagebrush. Shrubs include poison oak, monkeyflower, gooseberry, and elderberry. The oak woodlands support deer, bobcats, rodents, and many bird species such as hummingbirds, cedar waxwings, orioles, robins, woodpeckers, and the various raptor species mentioned above. Several spring-fed ponds, constructed by ranchers in the past, lie along the seasonally wet drainages and provide habitat for federally protected California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders. Other native amphibian species that breed in the ponds include the western toad and Pacific tree frog.

The Preserve’s shrublands are dominated by California sagebrush, with some bush monkeyflower. The south-facing slopes of Brushy Peak support this coastal sage plant community, which represent a habitat that typically supports the state and federally threatened Alameda whipsnake.

INFORMATION

The Regional Parks Foundation offers Memberships to park users. For information call (510) 544-2220 or see www ebparks.org.

To Livermore and I-580

RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA
ACCESS BY RESERVATION ONLY
CONTACT LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
(925) 373-5700

UNPAVED MULTIPLE USE (Hike, Horses & Bicycles)

LEGEND
MI. 1/2 1/4 1/8

Unpaved Multiple Use
(Hike, Horses & Bicycles)

- Mileage Between Points
- Paved Road
- Seasonal Stream
- Seasonal Pond, Lake
- Parking, Disabled Accessible
- Drinking Water, Accessible
- Restroom, Disabled Accessible
- Information
- Gate

Contour Interval 20 feet

REMAINDER OF TEXT

To Tracy

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