A Unique Botanical Treasure

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve is an ecological jewel. The native plant community found here is so unique that nowhere else in the Bay Area and represents a rare plant association found only in certain areas in California where ideal soil and climatic conditions exist.

The vegetation association of this Preserve finds its roots in past climates and geologic history. The plants originated in the distant past along the coastal area of California when the climate was more moist and tempered by the cool coastal fog. Today, similar vegetation is found on the slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains and in scattered pockets on the mainland coast from Point Conception to Moutara Mountain south of San Francisco.

Huckleberry Preserve has a year-round display of blooming plants, many rare to the Bay Area, including many of the rarest members of the Coast Silktassel (Peraxilla californica) and the rare pallid manzanita (Arctostaphylos pallida). Other interesting species include the rare western leatherwood (Chelone occidentalis), the rare coast huckleberry (Vaccinium californicum), and the coast silktassel (Peraxilla californica).

Besides the extremely poor water holding capacity of this soil due to its fractured and gravelly texture, the nutrient values are low relative to other local species. This unusual edaphic (soil-influenced) association found only in certain areas in California demonstrates the importance of past climates and geologic history. The plants originated in the distant past along the coastal area of California when the climate was more moist and tempered by the cool coastal fog. Today, similar vegetation is found on the slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains and in scattered pockets on the mainland coast from Point Conception to Moutara Mountain south of San Francisco.

The unusual edaphics of this shale/chert formation will greatly slow this successional process. Just how long it takes for the early pioneer stages of its successional stages to develop into the late stages, no one knows for sure. These early successional stages, or the presence of these unique chapparal species, are the basis for the Preserve.

An unusual feature of the Preserve is the year-round display of plants in bloom. The rare pallid manzanita is clothed in clusters of small, white-to-rose-tinted, urn-shaped flowers as early as November. Coast silktassel is adorned with long, drooping silky catkins in late December. The rare western leatherwood dangles golden blooms in early January, and the pink-flowering currant displays pink blooms somewhat later. Crummy-white and pinkish floral sprays of ceanothus, and opening silktassels appear from May through July. The bush monkey flower’s orange, funnel-shaped blossom contrasts against the silvery-gray foliage and sky blue blossoms of the silver bush lupine. Late summer and fall bring opening huckleberries and the red-berried clusters of the Pacific madrones.

As winter approaches, the bare twigs of deciduous shrubs display this toss of new life as young leaves unravel and silken catkins glean in the morning dew. There is an endless array of color and form in leaves, twigs, flowers, and fruits year-round along the Huckleberry Interpretive Loop Trail.

Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve
Oakland, CA 94611

Help Protect and Preserve

Please enjoy your 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 illegal.
• Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injury and death.
• Be prepared for sudden weather changes.
• Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed at your own risk.
• Wildlife may be present on the trails. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
• Keep the park beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

Rules
Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38), available online at ebparks.org/rules.
• Dogs and horses are not allowed but they can pass through Huckleberry on the Skyline National Trail.
• Cycling, camping, wading and/or swimming is prohibited.
• Alcoholic beverages are not permitted within 50 feet of roadways or parking lots, or in posted areas.

To Reach Huckleberry:
7087 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA 94611

By Car:
From Highway 24 in Oakland, take the Fish Ranch Road exit west past the Caledonia Tunnel. Travel 8 miles to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn left and go 2.4 miles on Grizzly Peak to Skyline Boulevard. Continue on Skyline Boulevard for one-half mile to the park entrance on the left; past roadsides to the park entrance on the right.

Public Transit:
Call AC Transit to plan your trip by dialing 511 or see 511.org.

Tilden Regional Park
Reinhardt Redwood State Park
Eastshore State Park
Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve.

Grizzly Peak Boulevard to Skyline Boulevard

Bicycling:
• Contact the US Forest Service for a copy of the visitor guide and current information.
• Keep your bike on the trails.
• Bikes on the roads are prohibited.

Volunteer:
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The Regional Parks Foundation offers Memberships to park users. Benefits include free parking, swimming, and dog entry, with discounts on camping, fishing, admission, and more. For information, call 510-544-2220 or see RegionalParksFoundation.org.