Discover Morgan Territory

NATIVE AMERICANS Morgan Territory is located within the homeland of the Yokwot, a six-band Miwok-speaking tribe whose members had a deep knowledge and understanding of the natural world, and a profound social, political, economic, and religious heritage. They were among the Native people who resisted Spanish missionization, but by 1806 that resistance had crumbled. Some of today’s Miwoks honor their ancestors by working to preserve ancestral cultural sites.

RANCHING Jeremiah Morgan, the region’s namesake, was born in 1818 in the Cherokee Nation, Alabama. He joined a wagon train to California in 1849, but, unsuccessful as a gold miner, returned to Iowa in 1850. In 1853 he relocated his family to the Ygnacio Valley. By October 1857 he had established a 10,000-acre ranch and built a home and barn 4.5 miles northeast of the park staging area, having seen the land on an 1856 bear hunt.

TRAIL NAMES Contrary to its current name (diablo means “devil”) Mount Diablo was the sacred birthplace of the world for some local tribes and others as distant as the Sierra Nevada. Their creation accounts describe how the First People – supernatural beings who created people and “everything everywhere so people could live.” The First People had traits and abilities of the heroic acts of the First People – supernatural beings who created people and “everything everywhere so people could live.”

Year opened: 1975

Acres: 5,061

Highlights: Undeveloped wilderness area for hiking, biking, and horseback riding; trail connections into Mt. Diablo State Park; one reservable backpack camping area, wildflowers in season.

Did you know? Family lore says Jeremiah Morgan, after whom the larger region was named, referred to the area he lived as “the morning side of Mount Diablo.” Morgan hunted out the region’s grizzly bears in the late 1850s through 1874, reportedly killing at least 46 in one year.

RidgeTop views reveal Mt. Diablo to the west, Mt. St. Helena to the north, and the Sierra Nevada to the east. Lowland valleys cradle the headwaters of Marsh Creek.

WELCOME! Please enjoy the 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 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.
• Wildlife may be present on the trail at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
• Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
• Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.
• Dogs are prohibited.
• Smoking is prohibited, except in overnight campsites.

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