

# Sycamore Valley Open Space Preserve

Sand Hill/Shady Slope/Short Ridge

Length: 2.2-mile loop Elevation Gain: 449 feet

Location: Danville

GPS Coordinates: 37.80913,-121.94823

Intensity: Easy



**Park Features:** This park is a small oasis in the midst of an urban area. It offers a quiet and welcome respite from the city, as well as sweeping views at the trail's crest. The grassland preserve, with scattered oak savanna, supports wildlife ranging from Western bluebirds, and gray fox, to Pacific tree frogs. Once home to the Bay Miwok native peoples, the lands were later used for grazing and farming by local settlers who established the Sycamore Valley as a highly productive agricultural region.

**Trail Highlights:** This hike takes place in the Short Ridge section of the park. Though short, this trail is quite steep in sections. It is also almost entirely exposed to the sun. Bring water and be prepared to take lots of breaks as you head up the hill. However, the hard climb is rewarded with views at the top. In the rainy season a strong creek rushes under the bridge on the path.

**Trail Directions:** From the parking lot on Sherburne Hills Road, follow the signs toward the Shady Slope Trailhead. Cross through the cattle gate onto Shady Slope Trail and continue uphill for .43 miles. At the next signpost, turn right to continue following Shady Slope Trail. After .18 miles, turn right at the crest of the hill onto Short Ridge Trail. Continue for .51 miles. Keep straight until you reach the 4-way intersection for Sand Hill Trail, then turn right. Take Sand Hill Trail downhill for .73 miles, then cross through the cattle gate. Follow the path down past the baseball fields until you come to a soccer field, then turn right and follow the paved path along the edge of the field. At the end of the field, turn left on the paved path and walk for about 40 feet, then take the stairs right back onto the parking lot.

**Driving Directions:** From I-680 S, take exit 38 for Sycamore Valley Road in Danville. Follow Sycamore Valley Road for 1.5 miles, then continue on to Camino Tassajara. Turn left onto Sherburne Hills Road, then turn right to find parking.

**Park Hours:** 5am-10pm (unless otherwise posted).

**Fees:** No fee.

**Website:** [www.ebparcs.org/parks/sycamore](http://www.ebparcs.org/parks/sycamore)

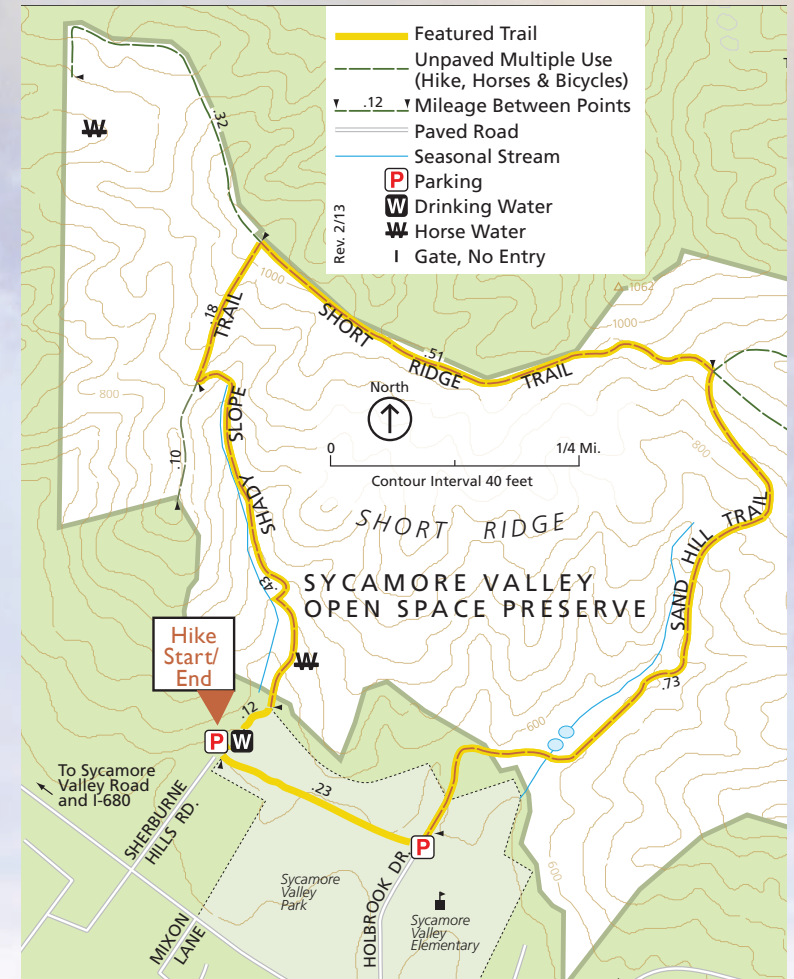


Photo: Shelly Lewis