

Brushy Peak Regional Preserve

Brushy Peak Loop Trail/West Side Loop Trail Loop

Length: 4.3-mile loop Elevation Gain: 754 feet

Location: Livermore

GPS Coordinates: 37.74703,-121.70896

Intensity: Moderate



Park Features: Brushy Peak and the surrounding area has been recognized as sacred by generations of native Californians. It was once home to the Ssaoam people, a tribelet of the Ohlone peoples who lived and traded in the lands surrounding the peak. The park's open grasslands support a diversity of wildlife, especially ground squirrels and cottontails that are prey for a variety of hawks, and golden eagles. South-facing slopes of the peak host a coastal sage community of plants.

Trail Highlights: This trail takes you almost to the very top of Brushy Peak, and has some fairly steep sections. Although the terrain is initially grassy and relatively smooth, as the trail climbs, it begins to pass through outcroppings of sandstone that add texture to the landscape. The large ponds at the base of the peak provide habitat for frogs and turtles, as well as the occasional San Joaquin kit fox. At the apex of the climb, you are rewarded with views of the sweeping ranchland and rolling hills that surround the park, as well as the windmills of Altamont Pass. This trail is best when the grasses are green during or just after the wet season.

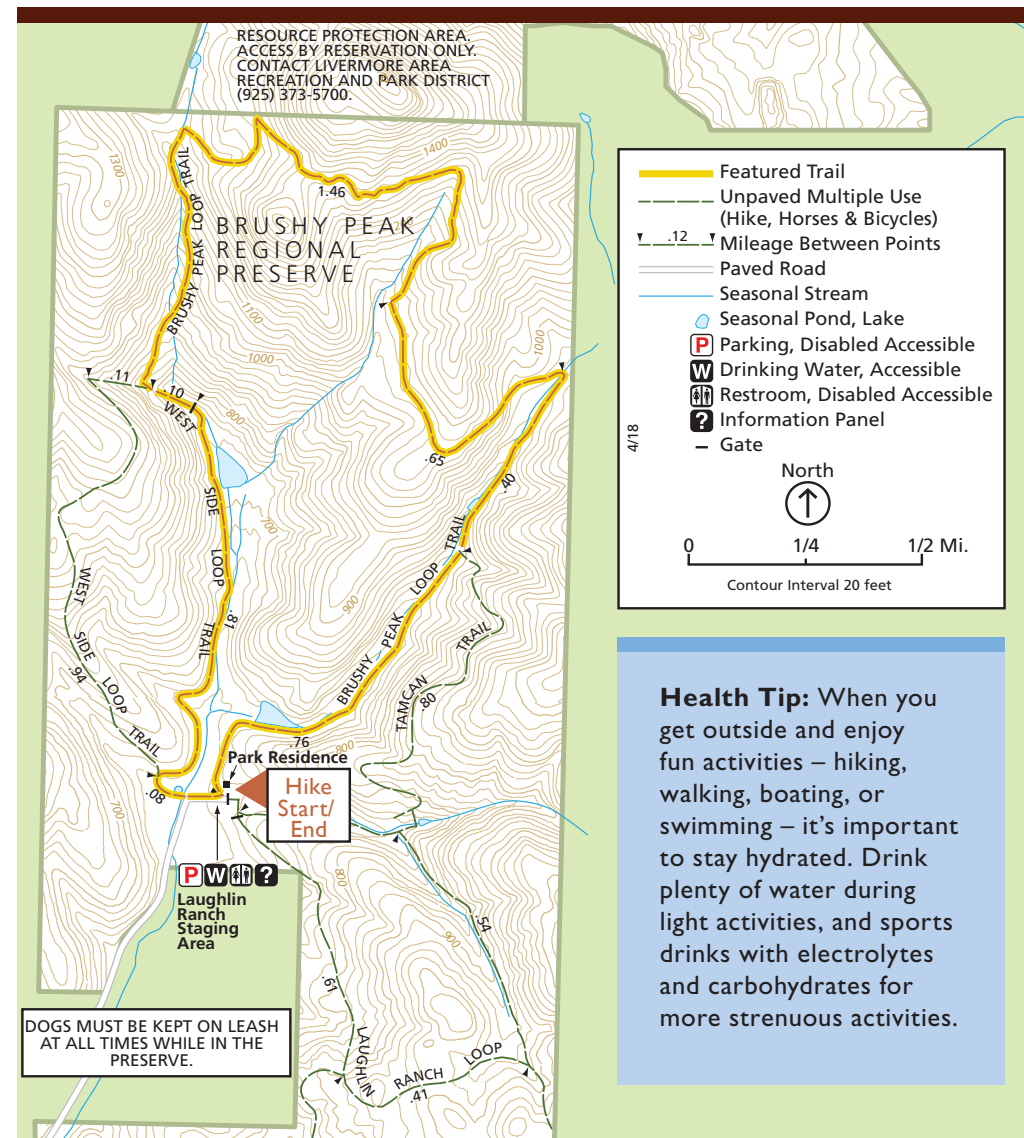
Trail Directions: From Laughlin Ranch Staging Area, head slightly uphill to find the trailhead marked Brushy Peak Loop Trail. Follow Brushy Peak Loop Trail for 1.16 miles, until you reach a cattle gate. Cross through the gate, and then head west to stay on Brushy Peak Loop Trail for another 2.1 miles. Once you reach the junction with West Side Loop Trail, take a left and continue downhill to finish the loop. Make sure to keep right around the cattle pond, as there are many branching, small trails. Continue for 0.93 miles, then safely cross Laughlin Road to re-enter Laughlin Ranch Staging Area and finish your hike.

Driving Directions: From I-580 westbound in Livermore, take the N. Greenville Road/Laughlin Road exit (Exit 57). Turn left at the exit onto Altamont Pass Road, then right onto Laughlin Road and drive about 2 miles into the park. From I-580 eastbound, take the Vasco Road/Brentwood exit (Exit 55) and turn left at the exit onto Vasco Road (follow the signs for Vasco Road northbound), then right onto Northfront Road. Take Northfront a short distance to Laughlin Road and follow it to the park.

Park Hours: Jan 1 – 31: 8am-5pm; Feb 1 – Mar 12: 8am-6pm; Mar 13 – Apr 17: 8am-7pm; Apr 18 – Sep 5: 8am-8pm; Sep 6 – Nov 5: 8am-7pm; Nov 6 – Dec 31: 8am-5pm.

Fees: None.

Website: www.ebparcs.org/parks/brushy_peak



Health Tip: When you get outside and enjoy fun activities – hiking, walking, boating, or swimming – it's important to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water during light activities, and sports drinks with electrolytes and carbohydrates for more strenuous activities.



Photo: Robin Mayoff