Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks
High Ridge/Newt Pond/Old Homestead/Vista Peak Loop/Ziele Creek/Garin Woods/Vista Peak Loop/Old Homestead Trails Loop

Length: 5.23-mile loop  Elevation Gain: 1,207 feet
Location: Hayward
GPS Coordinates: 37.62871,-122.02959
Intensity: Moderate

Park Features: The park’s rolling hills and narrow valleys were home to years of farming and ranching. Explore the history at the Garin Barn Visitor Center, open weekends in summer. Today the park also features kite flying, hiking, birdwatching, and horseback riding, and picnicking. In fall the park hosts an annual apple festival. At the south end of the park, the Dry Creek Garden is a beautiful spot.

Trail Highlights: Though Garin Regional Park is not that far off the beaten path, the contours of its valley and the quality of its scenery makes it feel secluded and wild. Newt Pond Trail in particular is narrow and has heavy vegetation, for which long pants may be necessary. Zeile Creek Trail is shaded by lush oaks and bays, and the creek usually runs well after the rainy season. Please note: this area of the park gets very muddy in a wet winter.

Trail Description: From the Garin Barn Visitor Center, head straight, following signs for High Ridge Loop Trail. Cross through the cattle gate and take the right-hand path (the wider path) for about .5 miles. At the next signpost, make a left and continue for about 100 feet until you come to a sign for Newt Pond Trail. The trail is immediately to your right, and is small enough to look like a cattle trail. Take Newt Pond Trail for .38 miles, then cross the stream and turn left at the next signpost onto Old Homestead Trail. After .08 miles, turn right at the fork to head up to Vista Peak Loop. After .25 miles, turn right at the signpost and continue on Vista Peak Loop for .78 miles. Make sure to keep left at the Bailey Ranch Trail signpost to stay on Vista Peak Loop. When you come to the junction with Zeile Creek Trail, turn right. Follow Zeile Creek Trail for .59 miles, then head left at the next fork to take Garin Woods Trail for .23 miles. At the next fork, turn right to follow the lower trail. The lower and upper trails reconnect after .36 miles. Turn left onto Zeile Creek Trail. In .17 miles, turn left on Vista Peak Loop Trail. Stay on this trail, keeping right at the intersection after .44 miles. Head straight at the next intersection, after .80 miles, then turn right onto Old Homestead Trail. Follow Old Homestead Trail about .3 miles to the end at the Arroyo Flats entrance. Walk through the parking area to return to the Visitor Center area where you started.

Driving Directions: From I-580 eastbound, take the I-238 exit and keep left for downtown Hayward. Continue onto Foothill Blvd. for about 2 miles. Use any lane to turn right onto A Street, then use one of the three left lanes to turn left onto Missions Blvd. Follow Mission Blvd. 3.8 miles and then turn left onto Garin Avenue and drive uphill into Garin Park.

From I-580 westbound, take the Strobridge Avenue exit. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Strobridge Avenue. At the first stop light turn left onto Castro Valley Blvd. Follow Castro Valley Blvd. under the freeway and then turn left onto Foothill Blvd. and then follow directions above.

Park Hours: 8am-sunset (varies seasonally).
Fees: $5/vehicle; $2/dog.
Website: www ebparks org/parks/garin/