

Leona Canyon Open Space Regional Preserve

Leona Trail/Pyrite Trail

Length: 4.28-mile round trip Elevation Gain: 784 ft.

Location: Oakland

GPS coordinates: 37.7753222, -122.1457889

Intensity: Easy/Moderate

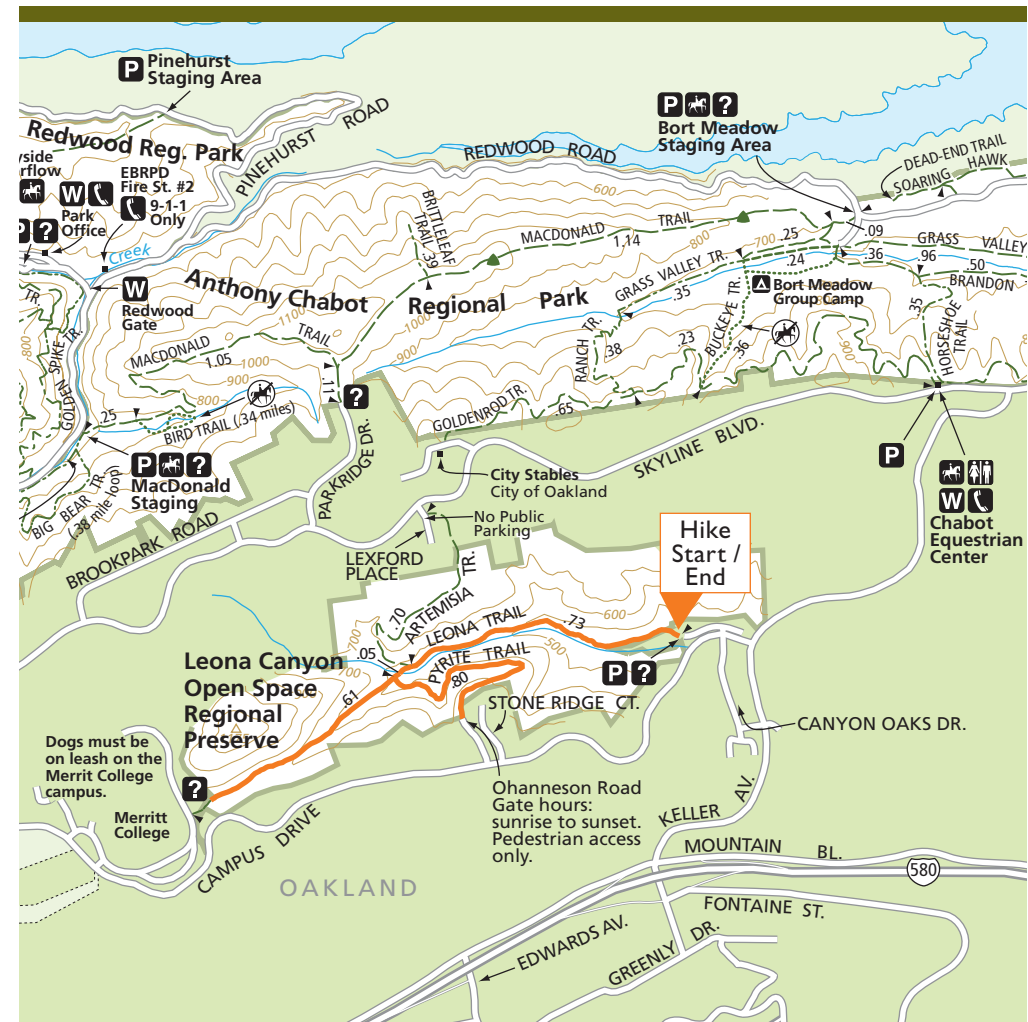


Park Features: Nestled between hillside neighborhoods and Merritt College, Leona Canyon offers a 290-acre sanctuary to those seeking a quick and easy escape into nature. Dog owners and walkers alike adore this park due to its accessible location. With lush groves of trees hanging over the trails and creekside terraces, this park provides just the right amount of space to take a break from your day and breathe some fresh air. There are no developed facilities here and no water provided. Restrooms are available at Merritt College during class hours. Water and restrooms are also located at the Anthony Chabot Equestrian Center, 14600 Skyline Blvd. Park maps and a self-guided trail map titled “Local Indian Uses of Plants” are available at the Leona Canyon trailhead.

Trail Highlights: This route is “easy to moderate” because you can decrease the distance to make it an easier challenge since it is not a loop trail. The entire hike is 4.28 miles, but you could skip the Pyrite Trail (which is steep and has some storm damage) and make this hike 2.68 miles instead. Halfway up, when the Pyrite Trail hooks right and levels out, you will find two clearings on the left that offer peaceful terraces for resting with overlooks of Leona Canyon. Whether you choose to take the Pyrite Trail or prefer an easier hike by staying on the Leona Trail, it is important to know that both trails are out-and-back routes – just retrace your steps to get back to the parking lot.

Trail Directions: This trail begins at Leona Canyon’s parking lot below Campus Drive. Enter the park and stay on the upper trail to the right to begin Leona Trail. Hike 1.34 miles until you reach the end of the trail at Merritt College. Turn around and hike .61 miles back to find the Pyrite Trail on your right. Take a right to begin the steep, but short, trail, which is .80 miles one way. Once you reach the EBRPD gate marking the park boundary line at the end of the trail, turn around to retrace your steps back to Leona Trail. Turn right here and make your way back to the parking lot.

Driving Directions: From I-580 in Oakland, exit Keller Avenue and turn east toward the hills. Turn left onto Campus Drive and make an immediate right onto Canyon Oaks Drive into the Ridgemont at Skyline development. Turn left immediately and continue to the Leona Canyon parking lot. From Hwy 13 in Oakland, exit Redwood Road toward Carson Street. Turn sharply left onto Redwood Road, heading uphill. Turn right on Campus Drive. Turn left onto Canyon Oaks Drive into Ridgemont at Skyline development. Turn left immediately and continue to the Leona Canyon parking area.



Access is also available at Merritt College. The lot charges a fee and is closed on weekends. AC Transit #54 serves Merritt College weekdays only.

Park Curfew/Hours: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees: None

Website: www.ebparcs.org/parks/leona