**Diablo Foothills Regional Park**

*Stage Road/Shell Ridge Loop/Briones-to-Mt-Diablo/Buckeye Ravine/Briones-to-Mt-Diablo/Borges Ranch/Shell Ridge Loop/Castle Rock Trails*

**Length:** 3.3-mile round trip  
**Elevation Gain:** 748  
**Location:** 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek  
**Intensity:** Moderate

**Park Features:** This hike travels around the beautiful Castle Rock Recreation Area which features a seasonal swimming pool, a softball field, volleyball court, picnic sites and restrooms. Trail connections to Briones Regional Park, Shell Ridge Open Space, and Mt. Diablo State Park make Diablo Foothills an important connecting area in the Diablo region.

**Trail Highlights:** Old Borges Ranch, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is currently used as a ranger station for Walnut Creek Open Space, and features a preserved early 20th century farm complete with barn, blacksmith, and farm animals. This route provides the full experience of the Mt. Diablo ridgeline in a less strenuous hike that you can complete in an afternoon.

**Trail Directions:** Head south along the paved Stage Road Trail towards Castle Rock Recreational Pool and continue down the paved road past the pool along Pine Creek. Take a right onto the Fairy Lantern Trail and follow it about .20-miles. At the next fork make a left, following the signs for Briones-to-Mt. Diablo Trail. Take this section for only a few hundred feet before making the left onto the narrow-gauge Buckeye Ravine Trail. After climbing out of Buckeye Ravine, go right onto the Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail/Briones-to-Mt. Diablo Trail. Follow this trail through the cattle gate out of Diablo Foothills Regional Park and into the Shell Ridge Open Space. Take the first right onto the Borges Ranch Trail. Continue through Borges Ranch on the paved main road. Go past the trail staging/parking area on your left and then veer off the paved road onto the unmarked trailhead to your right to get back on the trails. At the bottom of the hill, stay right and do NOT head north (downhill) to the Borges Ranch Trail. Stay left at the next fork (which is near the electrical tower at the top of the hill), though both directions are marked Shell Ridge Trail. Avoid another left going north towards Castle Rock Rd. and stay right on Shell Ridge Trail again; get off the Shell Ridge Trail and take Castle Rock Trail at this last fork where you will emerge from behind the park office at the parking lot.

**Driving Directions:** Exit I-680 at Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek and drive east. After about three miles turn right on Walnut Avenue. Go about two miles and turn right on Oak Grove Road, then bear right onto Castle Rock Road and follow it past Orchard Staging area to the Castle Rock Trail Staging Area at 1700 Castle Rock Road. (If you have not gone past the park office, you have not gone far enough).

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**Trail Highlights:**

- Fairy Lantern Trail
- Buckeye Ravine Trail
- Castle Rock Trail
- Shell Ridge Trail
- Briones-to-Mt-Diablo Trail
- Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail
- Briones-to-Mt-Diablo Trail

**Location:**

- **Castle Rock Staging Area:** 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek
- **Borges Ranch Staging Area:** 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek
- **Shell Ridge Open Space:** 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek
- **Mount Diablo State Park:** 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek

**Park Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to dusk (varies seasonally)

**Fees:** None

**Website:** [www ebparks org parks diablo foothills](http://www ebparks org parks diablo foothills)