

Geology

Las Trampas is known for its geologic and paleontologic resources as well as its underground aquifers and springs. Two major Bay Area faults – the Las Trampas and Bollinger faults – account for the uplift and exposure of well-defined geological formations.

Rocky Ridge and Las Trampas Ridge represent the floors of ancient seas that once covered most of the present area of the Coast Ranges.

Some of the youngest rocks in the park are Mulholland Formation sediments thought to be under six million years old. The oldest rocks in the area are marine sandstone, conglomerate and shale thought to be about 135 million years old. These occur outside the south boundary of the park and west of Rocky Ridge.

Paleontology

Fossil deposits at Las Trampas represent a fauna that is thought to be about ten million years old. One of the more interesting finds were two complete lower jaws of an ancient elephant known as Gomphotherium, found just northwest of the park. The most common remains found in the vicinity of the park are teeth from an extinct three-toed horse. Remains of ancient camels, small

squirrels, toads, and the honey badger have also been found, along with a variety of fossilized marine clams.

Fossilized shell

Animals

The park's extensive and isolated wilderness provides habitat for much wildlife, including deer, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, opossums, bobcats, skunks, and squirrels. Chaparral habitat suitable for the Alameda whipsnake, a species listed as threatened by the State of California, encompasses a large part of the parkland. Be wary of rattlesnakes in the warmer months. If you see a rattlesnake, do not approach or harass it.



Red-tailed hawk

The park is a good place for birdwatching. There are many species of hawks, and golden eagles are occasionally sighted.

The Park District leases some areas for cattle grazing. Cattle keep the grass low, which reduces the fire hazard during the dry season.

Vegetation

The dominant woodland vegetation on the western and southern exposures of Las Trampas and Rocky ridges is black sage, chamise, and buck brush. There are some creek dogwood along Bollinger Creek. Please beware of poison oak, a shrubby or bushy plant with oak-like glossy green or reddish leaves that occurs in threes and can cause a long-lasting, itchy rash if the oils come in contact with skin, clothing, shoes, or pets.

Tree species include coast live oak, bay laurel, buckeye, big leaf maple, canyon live oak, black oak, and scrub oak. The latter, with its mistletoe, prefers the ridgetop habitat at the end of Chamise Trail.



Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve

18012 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA

East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605
1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)
ebparks.org



Regional Parks Membership

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REGIONALPARKSFUNDATION.ORG

Cover: Enesa Batakovic

Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve

SAN RAMON



East Bay Regional Park District



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Photo: Lee Greengrass

Photo: H. Grimes

Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve

Year Opened: 1966 **Acres:** 6,050

Highlights: biking, horseback riding, group camping, birdwatching, wildflowers in season, The Ranch at Little Hills (swimming, picnicking), Las Trampas Stables (horse riding and boarding)

Fun Fact: Eugene O'Neill wrote several plays while living in the Tao House, his home adjacent to the park. O'Neill inspired the trail name "Corduroy Hills," saying the long, dry grass on the hills was like corduroy.

One of the East Bay Regional Park District's largest parklands, Las Trampas lies on the western edge of the San Ramon Valley. Its dramatic landscape, commanding views, and relatively undisturbed natural environment make this parkland very special. The 40-mile trail network provides access to Las Trampas Ridge and Rocky Ridge – the preserve's two main ridges – providing an unparalleled recreational experience for hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders.

The park is bisected by Bollinger Creek. To the west is Rocky Ridge, accessible from the main parking lot via a paved road that brings hikers near the 2,024-foot summit. At the 1,760-foot elevation you can hike westward along a trail managed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District to the Valle Vista Staging Area on Canyon Road in Moraga, or south to the Chabot staging area in Castro Valley. A permit is required to transit EBMUD lands: see ebmud.com.

Las Trampas Ridge is accessible via the Chamise and Bollinger Creek Loop trails. From the ridge are vistas of the surrounding valleys, Mt. Diablo, and other points of interest.

Growing a Parkland

Las Trampas had its beginnings in the 1964 passage of a state bond that provided funding to counties and local jurisdictions for parkland development. The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors designated "Bollinger Canyon" as a future park, and a 2,000-acre park was envisioned by the Park District to include hiking, riding, and primitive camping. The Park District began acquisition of private properties for the wilderness area in 1966.



Facilities

The Ranch at Little Hills is a 100-acre picnic park located adjacent to Las Trampas on Bollinger Canyon Road. The facility is available for group picnics by reservation only. Call (925) 837-8158, or see bookyourpicnic.com.

Las Trampas Stables offers western horseback riding lessons for adults and children older than age 8. Call 925-837-2439.

Pre-Parkland History

The Tatcan, one of six Bay Miwok-speaking tribes, inhabited the hills and valleys along the San Ramon Creek drainage. They managed the land using specialized techniques that enhanced the numbers and health of the plants and animals on which they relied. Bay Miwoks continue to live in the Bay Area and are active in the protection of local ancestral cultural sites.

The first Mexican land grant in the area was the 8,000-acre Rancho San Ramon, given to Mariano Castro and Bartolome Pacheco in 1833. It comprised the San Ramon Creek watershed through present-day Danville and Alamo, including the eastern side of today's parkland. In 1843, the brothers Jose and Inocencio Romero applied for a 20,000-acre grant that included the northern extent of Las Trampas.

In 1855 Joshua Bollinger settled in today's Bollinger Canyon area. Richard and Kurt Mueller moved to Bollinger Canyon in the 1930s. They planted many exotic trees, some of which still grow on the site. In 1955, the Muellers oversaw construction of Little Hills Ranch comprising a pool, snack stand, and patio which gradually expanded and is today's popular The Ranch at Little Hills.

In 1937, Nobel Prize winning playwright Eugene O'Neill and his wife Carlotta Monterey worked with an architect to build Tao House, at the eastern boundary of Las Trampas, where they lived until 1944. While there, O'Neill wrote some of his most acclaimed works, including "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh." Tao House was preserved by the Park District and is operated as a National Historic Site by the National Park Service.

In 1957, Bollinger Canyon Road was paved by the U.S. Army to construct a NIKE missile battery. The Army also built a road up to Rocky Ridge – today's Rocky Ridge View Trail – to provide access to a radar facility. The NIKE facility has been closed since 1959.

Ours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely and help protect and preserve the parklands by following all park rules and regulations.

Safety

- Stay on trails. Shortcuts are dangerous and damage natural resources.
- Bring plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Keep parks clean. Pack out what you pack in.
- Inform someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Save our 24/7 Dispatch Center number on your cell phone: **Emergency (510) 881-1122; Nonemergency (510) 881-1833.**

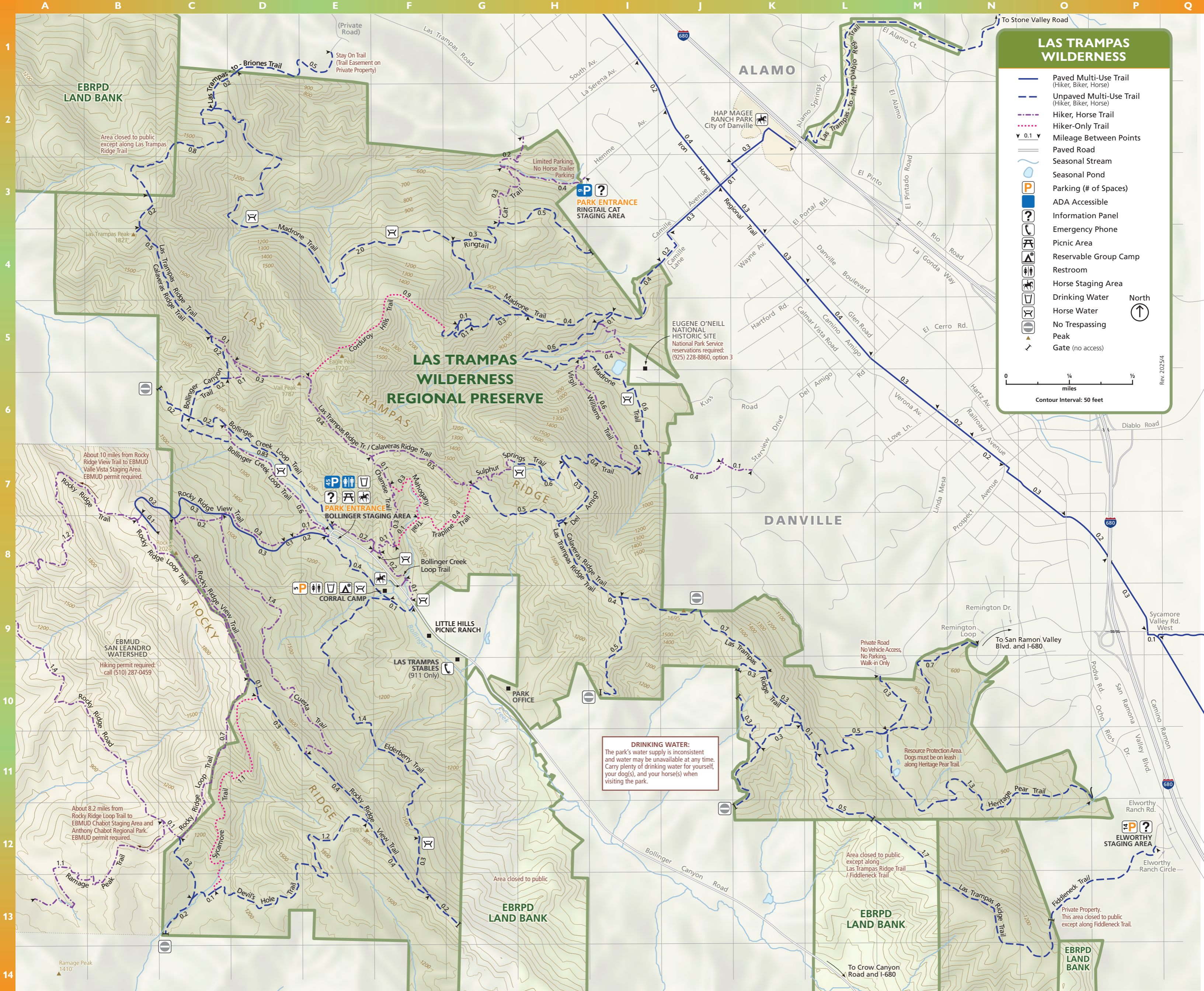
Rules

- Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, in picnic areas, developed areas, where grazing animals are present, and as posted. Dogs must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet: bag it, bin it.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. They stay to the right side of trail, ring or call out when passing.
- Bicyclists yield to pedestrians. Both yield to equestrians. State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear a helmet. All bicyclists and equestrians are encouraged to wear helmets at all times.

The following are prohibited:

- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas
- Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
- Releasing animals into parklands
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Damaging plants, geological, or archaeological features
- Smoking/vaping
- Skateboarding
- Drones

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (*Ordinance 38*). See ebparks.org/rules.



LAS TRAMPAS WILDERNESS

- Paved Multi-Use Trail (Hiker, Biker, Horse)
- - - Unpaved Multi-Use Trail (Hiker, Biker, Horse)
- - - Hiker, Horse Trail
- · - · - Hiker-Only Trail
- - - Mileage Between Points
- Paved Road
- ~ Seasonal Stream
- Seasonal Pond
- P Parking (# of Spaces)
- ADA Accessible
- ? Information Panel
- ☎ Emergency Phone
- ☺ Picnic Area
- ⛺ Reservable Group Camp
- ♿ Restroom
- 🐎 Horse Staging Area
- 🚰 Drinking Water
- 🐎 Horse Water
- 🚫 No Trespassing
- ▲ Peak
- ⚡ Gate (no access)

North
↑

0 ¼ ½
miles

Contour Interval: 50 feet

Rev. 2025/4

DRINKING WATER:
The park's water supply is inconsistent and water may be unavailable at any time. Carry plenty of drinking water for yourself, your dog(s), and your horse(s) when visiting the park.

Resource Protection Area.
Dogs must be on leash along Heritage Pear Trail.

Area closed to public, except along Las Trampas Ridge Trail / Fiddleneck Trail.

Private Property. This area closed to public except along Fiddleneck Trail.

EBRPD LAND BANK
Area closed to public except along Las Trampas Ridge Trail.

About 10 miles from Rocky Ridge View Trail to EBMUD Valle Vista Staging Area. EBMUD permit required.

EBMUD SAN LEANDRO WATERSHED
Hiking permit required: call (510) 287-0459

About 8.2 miles from Rocky Ridge Loop Trail to EBMUD Chabot Staging Area and Anthony Chabot Regional Park. EBMUD permit required.

Ramage Peak 1410'

(Private Road)
Stay On Trail (Trail Easement on Private Property)

Limited Parking, No Horse Trailer Parking

EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
National Park Service reservations required: (925) 228-8860, option 3

Private Road No Vehicle Access, No Parking, Walk-in Only

Area closed to public

To Crow Canyon Road and I-680

To Stone Valley Road

To San Ramon Valley Blvd. and I-680

To Crow Canyon Road and I-680

To Elworthy Ranch Rd.

To Elworthy Ranch Circle

To Elworthy Ranch Circle

To Elworthy Ranch Circle

To Elworthy Ranch Circle

To Elworthy Ranch Circle

To Elworthy Ranch Circle