

Claremont Canyon

Year opened: 1985 Acres: 208

Highlights: Hiking, horseback riding, connections with UC Berkeley trails, good views west to San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Did you know? Claremont Canyon was known for a time as Telegraph Canyon because in 1858 it became the route for the first transcontinental telegraph.

Fees: there are no fees at Claremont Canyon.

HISTORY Today's Claremont Canyon is located within the homeland of the Huchiun, an Ohlone-speaking tribe whose members managed the landscape in a way that increased the numbers and health of its plants and animals, and whose lands included the bayshore outlet of Temescal Creek. Through Claremont Canyon, the Huchiun could travel east to the homeland of the Saclan, a Bay Miwok-speaking tribe.

Although today's Claremont Canyon was a part of the Rancho San Antonio Spanish land grant of 1820, the first recorded modern development in the canyon was by American settlers as an important communication and transportation route, along the well-worn trails of the Huchiun. In 1858 a transcontinental telegraph line was strung through Claremont Canyon, and the canyon became the main "highway" for horse and wagon traffic between Oakland and Contra Costa County. In the early 1860s, Pony Express riders carried mail along this route. Travel through the canyon declined after 1903 with the opening of the Kennedy Tunnel, which preceded today's Caldecott Tunnel.

In the early 20th century, Claremont Canyon was used for cattle grazing, dairying, minor quarrying, the development of springs, and for eucalyptus plantations. Despite the changes of history, for today's Ohlones and Bay Miwoks and others, the region's hills and valleys continue to link the past with the present.

Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve was conceived in the 1970s through community activism to preserve the Claremont Canyon watershed. In 1970 the Park District leased, and later acquired, 80 acres of surplus state property in the hills immediately east of the California

School for the Deaf and Blind (now the University of California's Clark Kerr Campus). In the following decades the Park District acquired land eastward from many individual landowners, the legacy of land subdivision "paper lots" sold door-to-door or by mail in the 1910s and '20s. In 1982 the Park District purchased a 64-acre parcel covering most of Gwin Canyon, which completed the preserve.

THE CANYON TODAY This preserve is known primarily for its picturesque hiking trails. The Stonewall-Panoramic Trail is the primary access through the preserve. The 0.75-mile climb from Stonewall Road to the ridgetop is steep, but hikers are rewarded with a panoramic view of Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco Bay, and the Golden Gate Bridge. The trail continues east along the ridge, straddling the boundary with University of California property and connecting with the University's Ecological Study Area trail system.

Gwin Canyon Trail is a scenic, single-track trail located south of Claremont Avenue. It descends from the north end of Norfolk Road and ends 0.7 miles from the trailhead, just above Claremont Creek. In Gwin Canyon an array of native vegetation provides excellent habitat for wildlife.

The preserve is part of an ecological corridor on an urban fringe. In addition to the Park District landholdings, other undeveloped portions in the upper canyon are managed by the University of California and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The City of Oakland owns Garber Park, a 13-acre oak/bay woodland south of Claremont Avenue.

The Claremont Canyon watershed is a mosaic of vegetation types – grasslands, coastal scrub, oak/bay woodland, and eucalyptus plantations – that supports a variety of animal and plant species. Commonly seen residents include black-tailed deer, coyote, gray fox, red-tailed hawk, and western terrestrial garter snake.

A 1.5-mile section of Claremont Creek, also known as Harwood Creek, flows through the center of the canyon. It is one of the three main tributaries of Temescal Creek, which eventually drains into San Francisco Bay in Emeryville.

Wildfires have been a concern for residents near Claremont Canyon. In the last century, four major wildfires have spread through the canyon, including the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. Efforts currently underway to provide protection from wildfire include creating roadside fuel breaks and reducing non-native vegetation.



GPS Coordinates: 37.862663, -122.244261

To reach the Stonewall-Panoramic trailhead

From Highway 13: Turn east onto Claremont Ave. and continue about .25 miles. Turn left onto Stonewall Road. The main entrance to the preserve is on Stonewall Road, which is one block north of the Claremont Hotel. Street parking is limited. Alternative park access is from the top of Panoramic Way, but no street parking is allowed.

From Highway 24, exit Fish Ranch Road immediately east of the Caldecott Tunnel. Go up Fish Ranch Road about one mile to the four-way stop. Continue through the stop; Fish Ranch becomes Claremont Ave. Continue for about 3 miles. Make a right onto Stonewall Road and continue for approximately .25 miles to the trailhead.

AC Transit route #79, serving El Cerrito Plaza, and Rockridge BART stations, stops at Ashby Ave. and Claremont Ave. about .3 miles from the trailhead.

To reach the Gwin Canyon trailhead from Highway 24,

exit Fish Ranch Road immediately east of the Caldecott Tunnel. Go up Fish Ranch Road about one mile to the four-way stop. Turn left onto Grizzly Peak toward Sibley Preserve. At .8 miles, turn right onto Marlborough Terrace, then right onto Norfolk Road, veering right to its end. Street parking is very limited.



East Bay Regional Park District

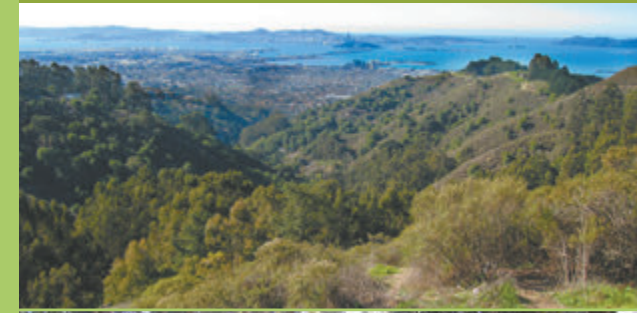
2950 Peralta Oaks Court,
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS) (TRS 711)
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Claremont Canyon

Regional Preserve

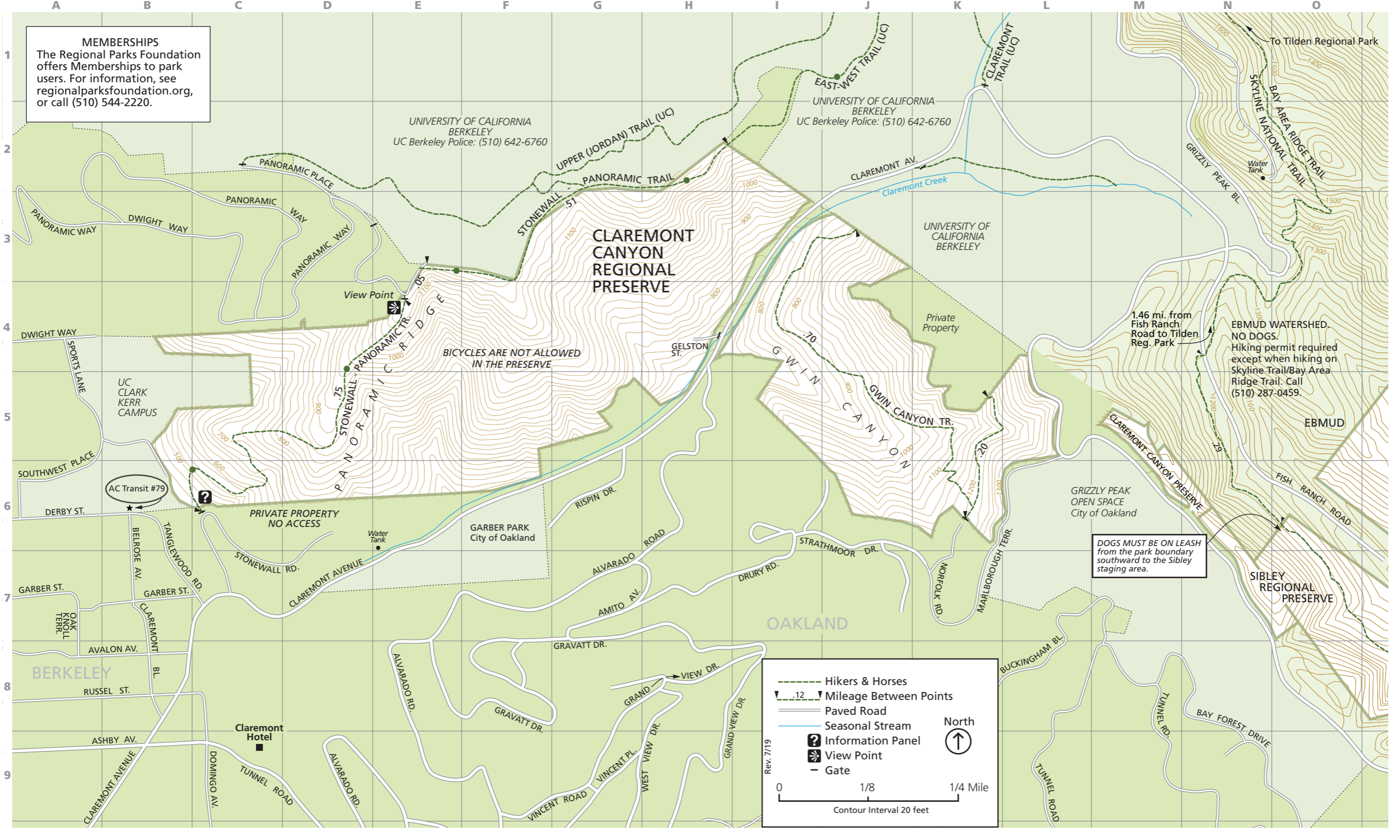
Berkeley, Oakland

East Bay
Regional Park District



POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY 9-1-1
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS..... 1-888-327-2757
PARK OFFICE..... 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4516

MEMBERSHIPS
 The Regional Parks Foundation offers Memberships to park users. For information, see regionalparksfoundation.org, or call (510) 544-2220.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
 UC Berkeley Police: (510) 642-6760

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CLAREMONT CANYON REGIONAL PRESERVE

BICYCLES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE PRESERVE

EBMUD WATERSHED. NO DOGS. Hiking permit required except when hiking on Skyline Trail/Bay Area Ridge Trail. Call (510) 287-0459.

DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH from the park boundary southward to the Sibley staging area.

Rev. 7/19

- Hikers & Horses
- .12--- Mileage Between Points
- Paved Road
- Seasonal Stream
- ⓧ Information Panel
- 🗺 View Point
- Gate

North ↑

0 1/8 1/4 Mile

Contour Interval 20 feet

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O