The Parks and Trails

Development of this wilderness and open space parkland is limited to preserve the natural atmosphere of the park. A multi-purpose trail system provides access to canyon views, ridgeline vistas, and remote, deep-canyon streams, offering opportunities to explore wide-open spaces and hidden recesses. The parkland spills down off Pleasanton Ridge into upper Kilkeeper Canyon, up onto Sunol Ridge, and into Stonybrook Canyon. To the northwest, the park encompasses most of the upper Sunol Creek watershed, linking from Sunol Ridge to the southwest and Mount Diablo to the northeast. The northern sections of the Ridge Trail afford magnificent panoramic views east to the north, east, and south. To the northwest, Ridge Trail connects with Sunol Creek Trail, which descends from the ridge down into the heavily wooded and riparian depths of upper Kilkeeper Canyon.

Tyler Ranch Staging Area: 37.594855, -121.895568
Foothill Staging Area: 37.614818, -121.881837

Thermite Trail, running along the west side of the park, is named after the Thermal Fruit Company which cultivated orchards of apricot, cherry, prunes, and almonds from 1904 to the early 1930s. Tyler Ranch Staging Area: 37.594855, -121.895568

The woodland communities in the park are made up of individual or mixed stands of coast live oak, California bay laurel, big-leaf maple, and canyon live oak. Other trees, like California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and sycamore, may also be seen. The woodland undergrowth contains numerous grasses and wildflowers, along with coyote brush, poison oak, California sycamore, ocean spray, and bush monkeyflower. Riparian woodland occurs in a narrow band along Sunol Creek and in some steep canyons and ravines. Of particular note are the large, magnificent, moisture- dependent oaks that grow where ground or surface water is accessible along the stream courses. The vernal ponds and springs provide valuable habitat for plant and animal species that require water or a wetland environment for all or part of their life stages. The woodland communities in the park are made up of individual or mixed stands of coast live oak, California bay laurel, big-leaf maple, and canyon live oak. Other trees, like California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and sycamore, may also be seen. The woodland undergrowth contains numerous grasses and wildflowers, along with coyote brush, poison oak, California sycamore, ocean spray, and bush monkeyflower. Riparian woodland occurs in a narrow band along Sunol Creek and in some steep canyons and ravines. Of particular note are the large, magnificent, moisture-dependent oaks that grow where ground or surface water is accessible along the stream courses. The vernal ponds and springs provide valuable habitat for plant and animal species that require water or a wetland environment for all or part of their life stages. The woodland communities in the park are made up of individual or mixed stands of coast live oak, California bay laurel, big-leaf maple, and canyon live oak. Other trees, like California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and sycamore, may also be seen. The woodland undergrowth contains numerous grasses and wildflowers, along with coyote brush, poison oak, California sycamore, ocean spray, and bush monkeyflower. Riparian woodland occurs in a narrow band along Sunol Creek and in some steep canyons and ravines. Of particular note are the large, magnificent, moisture-dependent oaks that grow where ground or surface water is accessible along the stream courses. The vernal ponds and springs provide valuable habitat for plant and animal species that require water or a wetland environment for all or part of their life stages.