Welcome to Pleasanton Ridge

Year opened: 1990
Acres: 9.090
Highlights: Hiking, biking, horseback riding in undeveloped open space; ridge-top vistas.
Did you know? Five olive orchards containing several different varieties of olives were planted along Pleasant Ridge in the 1890s and are still producing fruit.

THE PARK AND TRAILS: Development of this wilderness area and open space parkland is limited to preserve the pastoral atmosphere of the park. A multi-purpose trail system provides access to canyon views, ridgetop 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 Kikare Canyon, up onto Sunol Ridge, and into Stonybrook Canyon. To the northwest, the park encompasses most of the upper Sinbad Creek watershed, lying between Sunol Ridge to the south and South Main Ridge to the northeast.

The northern sections of the Ridge Trail afford magnificent panoramic views to the north, east, and south. Thermalito Trail runs along the west side of the park, overlooking Kikare Canyon. The trail is named after the Thermal Fruit Company, which operated from 1904 until the early 1930s and cultivated orchards of apricot, cherry, prunes, and almonds.

Oak Tree Trail gently ascends from the Foothill Staging Area to the ridgeline, then connects with the Ridge and Thermalito trails. Woodland Trail provides an alternate route for trail users. Oliver Grove Trail passes through the historic olive tree orchards, planted between 1890 and the 1920s. To the northeast, Ridge Trail connects with the Sinbad Creek Trail, which descends from the ridge down into the heavily wooded and riparian depths of upper Kikare Canyon.

VEGETATION: Grassland is the dominant plant community in this parkland. Found mostly on the Pleasanton Ridge and Sunol ridges and on ridges south and west-facing slopes, this habitat supports an abundant variety of wildflowers that bloom throughout the late winter and spring months. A handful of hearty, late-flowering species appear among the golden-brown grasses that characterize the early and early fall landscape. The cycle of growth is repeated with the onset of the autumn rains, resulting in a new carpet of green vegetation.

The woodland communities in the park are made up of individual or mixed stands of coast live oak, Cali- fornia bay laurel, black oak, valley oak, and Oregon oak. Other trees, like California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and tamarack, may also be seen. The woodland understory contains numerous grasses and wildflowers, along with coyote brush, poison oak, California sagebrush, ocean spray, and bush monkeyflower.

Riparian woodland occurs in a narrow band along Sinbad Creek and in some steep canyons and ravines. Of particular note are the large, magnificent, mottle- and barked sycamores that grow where ground or surface water is accessible along the stream course. The various ponds and springs in the park provide valuable habitat for plant and animal species that require water or a wetland environment for all or part of their life stages.

WILDLIFE: Each plant community supports diverse native species, some of which are migratory and use the area seasonally. The grasslands are home to meadowlarks, horned larks, and Western bluebirds, red-tailed hawks, and golden eagles. Ground squirrels, alligator lizards, and western fence lizards may also be seen, along with gopher snakes, king snakes, and raccoons. These should be observed from a safe distance.

North America is home to red-shouldered hawks, garter snakes, and amphibians such as the California newt, western pond turtle, and the threatened California red-legged frog. Many of the ponds contain large populations of bullfrog, a non-native species that threatens the California native species.

Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions. Trails can be slippery, rocky, and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.

WELCOME! Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

SAFETY and ETIQUETTE:

Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watersheds.
Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a common cause of injuries on the trail.
Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
Trails can be slippery, rocky, and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.

WALKING and BIKING: No motorized vehicles or pets are permitted. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

EBRPD HEADQUARTERS............ 1-888-327-2757
EBRPD POLICE: 911

FEES: there are no fees at Pleasanton Ridge.

RULES:

Pets must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and tennis courts, on some trails, and where grazing animals are present. Pets must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet; bag it, bin it.
State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roads.
Horses may be seen, along with gopher snakes, king snakes, and raccoons. These should be observed from a safe distance.

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