Welcome to Pleasanton Ridge

VEGETATION
Grassland is the dominant plant community in this parkland. Found mostly on the Pleasanton and Sunol ridges and on drier south- and west-facing slopes, this habitat supports an abundant variety of wildflowers that blossom throughout the late winter and spring months. A handful of hearty, late-flowering species appear among the golden-brown grasses that characterize the summer 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, California bay laurel, blue oak, black oak, valley oak, and Oregon oak. Other trees, like California buckeye, big-leaf maple, and soyum, may also be seen. The woodland undergrowth contains numerous grasses and wildflowers, along with coyote brush, poison oak, California sagesbrush, ocean spray, and bush monkeyflower. Riparian woodlands occur in a narrow band along Sinbad Creek and in some steep canyons and ravines. Of particular note are the large, magnificent, mottled-barked oaks 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 groper snakes, king snakes, and rattlesnakes. These should be observed from a distance and not disturbed in any way. The wren, California quail, and California thrasher reside in the interspersed brushlands, where the threatened Ailanthus webworm moth may be seen on rocky outcrops. The woodland plant community hosts Cooper’s hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and various species of owls, along with brush-dwelling birds such as the California quail, rufous-sided towhee, and song sparrows.

Many cavity-nesting birds such as the acorn woodpecker, western flicker, and white-breasted nuthatch find homes in the woodland areas. The riparian woodland is home to red-shoul edered hawks, garter snakes, and newts, as well as aquatic insects in the creeks. The park’s springs and ponds support many of the above species, and may also support the western pond turtle, western toad, chorus (Pacific tree) frog, and the threatened California red-legged frog. Many of the ponds contain large populations of bullfrogs, a non-native species that threatens the California native species. Mammals range throughout the park and include opossums, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, coyote-dog, deer, grey foxes, bobcats, mountain lions, and numerous rodent and bat species.

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.
• Hiking and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
• Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading 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.
• Wildlife may be present on the trails at any time. Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
• Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
• Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

RULES
• Pets must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, on some trails, and where grazing animals are present. Pets must be kept 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 roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are also strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
• Smoking is prohibited.
• Drones are prohibited.
• Pets may be exposed to okay dog parks. 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 roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are also strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
• Smoking is prohibited.
• Drones are prohibited.

For more information on locating and complying with park rules (Ordinance 308). See www ebparks org/ rules.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY
• 9-1-1 police, fire, and medical emergency
• Niles Blvd. at Dublin Cyn. Rd. ______ 1-888-227-2757 EXT. 4546
• EBPPD HEADQUARTERS ______ 1-888-227-2757

GPS Coordinates:
Foot Hill Staging Area: 37.64181, -121.91387
Castleider Ridgehead: 37.66001, -121.91168

To Reach Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park: From the I-580/680/242 interchange, drive to Dublin and go west. Turn left (south) onto Foot Hill Road, towards the town of Sunol. The Foot Hill Area is about two miles from Castleridge East Corridor, on the right.

RULES
• Pets must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, 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 roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are also strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
• Smoking is prohibited.
• Drones are prohibited.

For more information on locating and complying with park rules (Ordinance 308). See www ebparks org/rules.

The parkland spills down off Pleasanton Ridge into upper Kitkare Canyon, up onto Sunol Ridge, and into Stonybrook Canyon. To the northwest, the park encompasses most of the upper Sinbad Creek watershed, the drainage between Sunol Ridge to the southwest and Main Ridge to the northeast.

The northern sections of the Ridgeline Trail afford magnificent panoramic views to the north, east, and south. Thermilato Trail runs along the west side of the park, overlooking Kilkare Canyon. The trail is named after the Thermal Fruit Company, which operated from 1904 until the early 1930s and cultivated apricot, cherry, prunes, and almonds. Oak Tree Trail gently ascends from the Foot Hill Staging Area to the ridgeline, then connects with the Ridgeline and Thermilato trails. Woodland Trail provides an alternate route for trail users. Olive Grove Trail paved, through the historic olive tree orchards, planted between 1890 and the 1920s. To the northeast, Ridgeline Trail connects with the Sinbad Creek Trail, which descends from the ridge down into the heavily wooded and riparian depths of upper Kitkare Canyon.

THE PARK AND TRAILS
Development of this wilderness and open space parkland is limited to the orchards of apricot, cherry, prunes, and almonds. Five olive orchards containing 14,090 individual trees were cultivated along Pleasanton Ridge in the 1890s and are still producing fruit.