

Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness

Year opened: 1962 Acres: 6,858

Highlights: Old Green Barn Visitor Center, wilderness hiking, picnicking, backpack camping, access to Ohlone Wilderness Trail.

Did you know? Indian Joe Creek Trail was named for Joe Binoco, who worked as a ranch hand for the Geary family and for Willis Brinker.

Fees, Parking: \$5/car; \$4/trailer; \$25/bus. Dogs: \$2/dog. Ohlone Permit: \$2/person. Camping: \$5/person/day.

HISTORY Chochenyo Ohlone-speaking Taunans lived with this land for countless generations, employing horticultural techniques that increased habitat diversity and plant and animal health and numbers. For the Taunan people, everything had a life and spirit, including waters, breezes, and rocks. For today's Ohlones, this landscape has enduring cultural and historical significance.

The park has been ranched continuously since the 1860s, with Patrick and Mary Ann Geary among the first homesteaders. In 1895 the Geary's son, Maurice, built the home and barn that would become today's Interpretive offices (rebuilt 1954) and Green Barn Visitor Center. When Willis Brinker bought local homesteads in 1939 for his JB Ranch, Geary descendants were among his ranch hands, and Geary relatives still call this area "The Ranch."

GEOLOGY Clues to the area's geologic history include sandstone outcrops with fossil bivalves deposited in what was once ancient seabed, now uplifted and tilted to form prominent ridges. Much older metamorphic boulders of greenstone, blueschist, and metachert indicate a turbulent past in a subduction zone. Cave Rocks is a massive, metamorphic outcrop. Exposures of serpentinite, provide a valuable refuge for native plants.

VEGETATION Alameda Creek harbors shady riparian woodland. Soaring hillsides host oak savannah and grassland communities. Canyons, seasonal streams, and vernal pools add to the area's plant diversity. Spring brings colorful hillsides of California poppies and lupine, while serpentine outcrops glow gold, pink, and lavender with stands of native wildflowers. The herbarium in the Visitor Center is helpful for wildflower identification.

ANIMALS Hikers may see bobcats, raccoons, and deer. Campers may observe bats catching insects at night and hear the sounds of coyotes, owls, and foxes. Mountain lions are uncommon, but occasionally sighted, as are reptiles, including western pond turtles and rattlesnakes. Late summer/fall marks the emergence of male tarantulas during the mating season. Newts breed in ponds during winter. Birding is superb along Alameda Creek, with 178 species identified in the park.

HIKING A description of some park trails is found on the other side of this brochure.

PICNICKING The Alameda Grove picnic area is available for reservation. No open fires or barbecues are allowed during fire danger days. For latest updates, see ebparks.org/alerts.

SUNOL BACKPACK AREA, AND HIGH VALLEY GROUP CAMP Camping is year-round by advance reservation only (5 business days); phone 1-888-327-2757, option 2. An Ohlone Wilderness Trail Permit is required at Sunol Backpack Camp. Camping fee is \$5/day per person (subject to change). Group site available. Dogs not permitted overnight. No campfires. See trail descriptions section for Ohlone Permit information.

High Valley Camp is a hike-in camp located a steep, one-mile walk from the Visitor Center.

OHLONE WILDERNESS TRAIL This trail links Mission Peak Regional Preserve, Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness, and Del Valle Regional Park. Together with Sunol, the area exceeds 16,500 acres. Hikers must carry their Ohlone Wilderness Trail Permit, which includes a map of the Ohlone Wilderness.

ALAMEDA CREEK OVERLOOK The Overlook allows for a view of a scenic gorge on Alameda Creek about two miles upstream from the Visitor Center. It is open to the public through a lease agreement with the San Francisco Water Department, which owns the property. Please abide by the boundary signs and do not trespass onto Water Department lands that are not part of the lease arrangement.

Swimming is NOT allowed in Alameda Creek.

PARK HOURS 8 a.m. to dusk year-round. Gates are locked at night. The park is subject to closure or restrictions during fire season (June through October).

OURS TO EXPLORE, ENJOY & PROTECT !

Please enjoy 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. There is no water at drinking fountains in the valley. Be prepared to treat water at backpack sites.
- 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) 881-1121; Non-emergency (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. Bicyclists 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.
- All park resources are protected. Take only photo graphs.
- The following are prohibited:
 - Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas
 - Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
 - Feeding or approaching wildlife
 - Releasing animals into parklands
 - Causing damage to plants, geological, or archaeological features
 - Graffiti
 - Smoking/vaping
 - Skateboarding
 - Flying Drones

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



1895 Geary Road, Sunol, CA 94586

To Reach Sunol Regional Wilderness:

From Fremont, drive north on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road (near the town of Sunol.) Turn right at the exit onto Calaveras Road and proceed about four miles to a left turn onto Geary Road, which leads directly into the park. (If you find yourself driving uphill on a narrow winding road you've missed the Geary Road turnoff.) To reach the Old Green Barn take the first left past the park entrance.

From the Oakland-Berkeley area, drive east on I-580 to the junction with I-680. Take I-680 south and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of the Sunol exit. At the bottom of the exit turn left onto Calaveras Road and proceed as noted above.

From the Walnut Creek-Danville area, drive south on I-680 and exit at Calaveras Road/Highway 84 just south of the Sunol exit. Proceed as noted above.



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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Sunol

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Regional Park District





DIRECTORY OF TRAILS

ONE-WAY MILEAGE	TERRAIN	NOTABLE FEATURES AND VIEWS
FLAG HILL TRAIL 1.26 miles	Steep slope; switchbacks.	View of the park, Alameda Creek watershed, and Calaveras Reservoir. Oak woodland and grassland communities; fossiliferous sandstone outcrops.
INDIAN JOE CREEK TRAIL 1.41 miles	Medium slope.	Wooded canyon; Indian Joe Cave Rocks.
CANYON VIEW TRAIL 1.39 miles	Gentle to medium slope.	Leads through Jacob's Valley to Little Yosemite. Weathered serpentine and sandstone outcrops; grassland, oak, woodland.
EAGLES' VIEW TRAIL 1.5 miles	Level to steep slope.	Chapparral, oak woodland, grassland communities. Leads through "Valley of the Giants." Excellent views of the park, Calaveras Reservoir, and south bay area.
MAGUIRE PEAKS LOOP TRAIL 3.9 miles from Welch Creek Road (.72 mile marker)	Medium slope.	Excellent views of San Antonio Reservoir and Mt. Diablo. Bay Area plants found along this trail are rare in rest of park.
MCCORKLE TRAIL 2.84 miles from park headquarters.	Medium slope.	Streamside, oak woodland, grassland communities. Good views of Calaveras Reservoir.

OHLONE PERMIT/MAP and sign-in at trailheads is required for use of the Ohlone Wilderness Trail where it crosses San Francisco Water Department lands as it connects Mission Peak, Sunol, Ohlone, and Del Valle Regional Parks. Ohlone Trail Permit/map is available for \$2 at the Sunol and Del Valle entrance kiosks, at the Coyote Hills Visitor Center in Fremont, and at the Park District administrative offices at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court in Oakland. The permit is also available by mail for \$4 (per permit): send your name, address, phone number, and a check for \$4 made out to EBRPD, East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605-0381. The permit covers foot and equestrian use of the trail only. Separate arrangements should be made for overnight backpacking by phoning 1-888-327-2757, option 2.

NATURE PROGRAMS Naturalist-led activities include walks, hikes, camping, and backpack programs, and various other adventures. Visit the Old Green Barn Visitor Center for information about these programs and the self-guiding Indian Joe Trail.

