



Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

*Sycamore Grove/Woodland/Ridgeline/
Thermalito Trail*



Length: 11 miles round trip

Location: Pleasanton



Intensity: Challenging

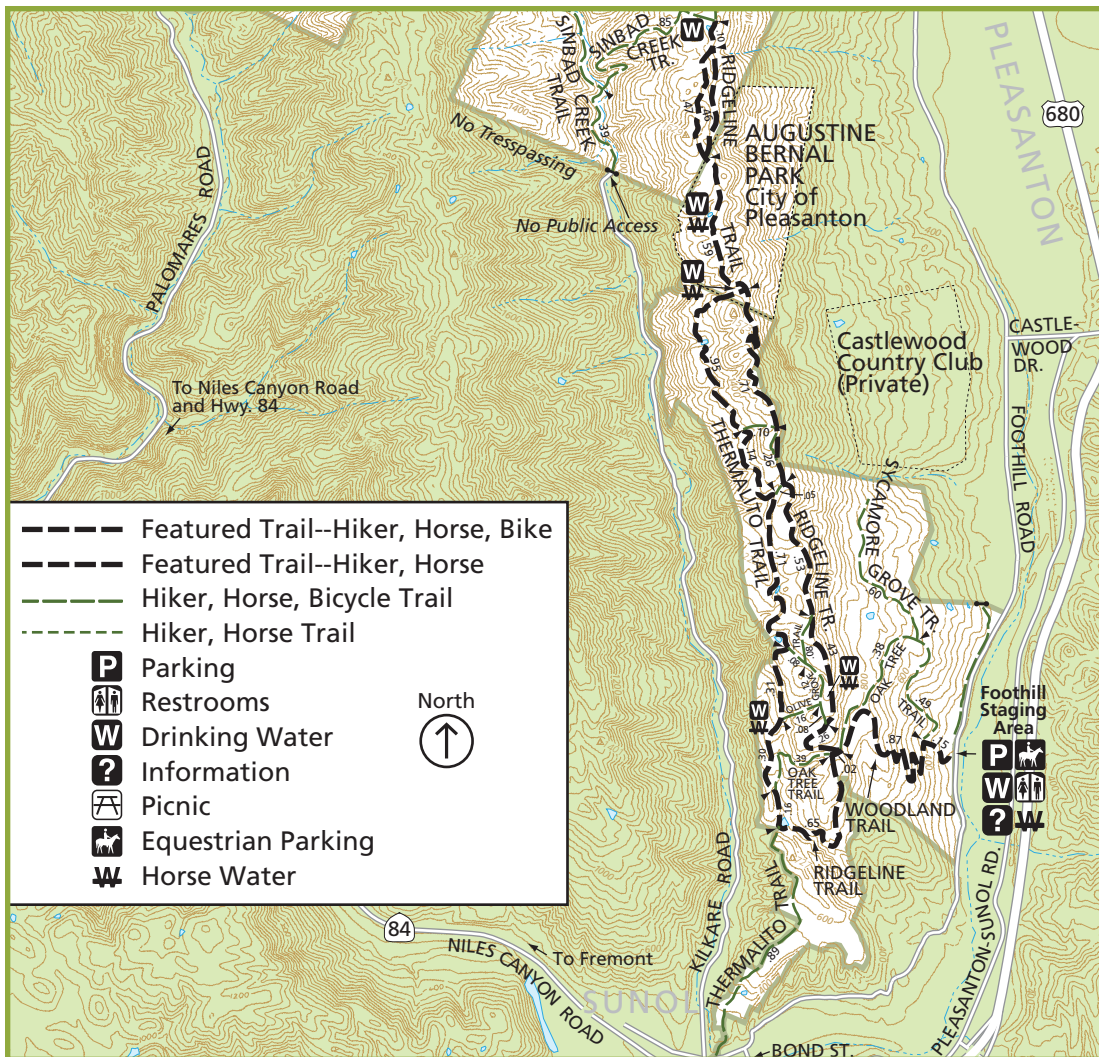
Park Features: This beautiful 5,271-acre parkland is on the oak-covered ridge overlooking Pleasanton and the Livermore Valley from the west. It is planned as the core of a ridgeland Regional Park system, which accommodates hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists, provides canyon views and ridgetop vistas, and access to remote, deep-canyon streams.

This route features several different trails, crosses many distinct ecosystems, and has over 1000 feet total elevation change. Starting early and taking it slow is recommended (plan on about six hours). As you ascend and decline, you will pass through riparian, oak woodland, and grassland ecosystems; as well as historic olive orchards. You will likely see many bird and insect species. The earlier the better for wildlife viewing; quiet is the key. There are stunning vistas of the Tri-Valley area and surrounding mountains including the Diablo and Hamilton ranges. From the Ridgeline Trail you have a unique view of San Antonio Dam, Sunol Regional Park, and Calavares Canyon; highly recommend to bring a camera. There is a picnic area with great views to the left of trail marker #5 before you cross the cattle gate. Bring snacks and plenty of water. Dogs, horses, and bicycles are permitted in designated areas.

Trail Overview: For this Challenge, begin at the Foothill Staging Area on Foothill Road. Bathrooms and water are at this staging area only (plan accordingly). Grab a map and start



the route by proceeding through the green gate near the bathrooms to Sycamore Trail. In less than ¼ mile, you will see trail marker #2 near a “No Bicycles” sign; turn left on Woodland Trail and continue up for about one mile until you reach an open meadow. Hike past the “Restricted Area” sign, keeping to the right. After crossing the meadow, you will come to a trail intersection with no trail markers; stay to the left on the lower trail. Continue until you reach trail marker #5, cross through the green cattle gate. At this point, turn left on Ridgeline Trail, head towards the “Restricted Area” sign (private property—you will see vehicles) then veer left along the fenceline (optional short-cut: take Oak Tree Trail to Olive Grove Trail to Thermalito Trail at trail marker #5). Continue on Ridgeline Trail for about one mile until you see trail marker #6. Turn right on Thermalito Trail and travel about five miles (do not make right turns). Stay left as the trail merges into the Ridgeline Trail. Note at trail marker #21 you have a choice to either go left or right; left has more elevation change. Trail marker #22 is about ½ mile along, and is the farthest point of the route. For the return trip, either retrace your steps or take the Ridgeline Trail for a change of scenery. Retrace the way you came and turn left on Ridgeline Trail at trail marker #20. Stay to the left until you reach Woodland Trail at trail marker #5. Follow Woodland Trail to Sycamore Trail back to the staging area.



Bicyclists, equestrians, and wheelchair users should take Oak Tree Trail from Sycamore Grove Trail, to Ridgeline Trail. Once on Ridgeline Trail, the directions are the same as above. Wheelchair access is limited and should be approached with caution.

Driving Directions: From I-680 in Pleasanton, exit at Castlewood Drive and go west. Turn left (south) onto Foothill Road, towards the town of Sunol. The Foothill Staging Area is about two miles from Castlewood Drive, on the right.

Park Amenities: Restrooms, drinking water, horse drinking water, and wheelchair accessible facilities.

Park Hours: 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fees: None.

Web Site: www.ebparks.org/parks/pleasanton