The Moraga Park Foundation (MPF) has a mission to enhance recreational, cultural, and education opportunities, to create a sense of community, and to improve the park facilities in Moraga. MPF has supported the parks and recreational needs of Moraga since 1977. MPF is funded by donations from the community. The board of directors is a volunteer group, so 100% of all donations are used to improve parks and park programs.

The Moraga Park Foundation conducts the Summer Concert series each year in Moraga Commons Park, funds improvements to park facilities and supports recreational programs. For information on how you can donate to the Foundation or volunteer your time, please refer to the MPF website:

http://www.moragaparks.org/

This booklet is the second version of the Moraga Area Trails guide. We are working with the Moraga Parks Dept, EBMUD and EBRP to improve the maps and content. Send your comments and feedback to MPF at moragakr@pacbell.net.
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Favorite Hikes and Hiking Tips

Favorite Hikes – What type of hike interests you? The best hikes have something unique or special about them, something that will motivate you to explore. Here are some hiking motivators and the trails that have them:

- Best views – Mulholland Ridge has wonderful views of the Moraga Valley on the west and Mount Diablo toward the east.
- Most shade – Redwood Trail is a great walk through lush ferns and tall redwoods.
- Best paved path for strollers and wheelchairs – Lafayette Moraga Trail is well paved and mostly wheelchair accessible. However, there are a couple of steep sections: one at beginning of the trail near the Valle Vista Staging Area and the second is at the intersection of St. Mary’s Road and Rheem Blvd.
- Short and sweet – Hacienda garden paths, or Riche Trail are nice walks and less than a mile long.
- Steepest, most grueling hill – If you’re looking for a challenge, try the Rocky Ridge Trail or the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail. These trails have very challenging sections; we recommend you be in good physical condition, carry water, snacks and a first aid kit.
- Great jogging path on dirt road – Kings Canyon Trail is a combination of wide paths and dirt fire roads with nice views of the San Leandro Reservoir.

Safety – Hiking is great exercise, but there are some potential hazards in the great outdoors. As a general rule, hiking one mile on relatively flat terrain at a moderate pace takes approximately ½ hour. Beginners should plan one hour for every two miles of hiking. For hikes labeled “Challenging,” or days when the temperature is over 90°, allow extra time and take more water! Hikers should wear sturdy shoes with ankle support.

Dogs: Carry litter bags and extra water when hiking with dogs. Dogs should wear identification in case of separation. Carry a 6-foot leash at all times. Know which parks allow dogs off leash and where they are prohibited. The only two areas that allow off-leash dogs are the top of Mulholland Ridge, and there are limited hours at Rancho Laguna Park.
Cyclists: Heat and steep trails make bicyclists more susceptible to fatigue and dehydration. Take plenty of water and a high-energy snack. A six to ten-mile route on unpaved fire roads in the East Bay hills is a challenging route for an intermediate rider to complete within two hours. Always wear a helmet; bring a patch kit, bike pump, and bike bell.

Other Tips:

- Sun and heat – Wear a hat and use sunscreen on all but the foggiest days. Take sufficient water for you and your pets.
- Poison oak – It is almost everywhere, so know how to recognize its leaves and stay clear. “Leaves of three, let them be.” It grows as a shrub or as a vine. The glossy leaves grow in groups of three and change from light green in the spring to pink or red in summer. The “poison” is the oil found throughout the plant, even bare stems.
- Cattle – While not aggressive by nature, if aggravated, cattle can respond in a potentially dangerous manner. If you encounter cattle on trails, try not to startle them. Keep your distance and walk around groups. Don’t get between a calf and its mother; they are protective of their young. Always keep your dog under control and on a leash.
- Snakes – Although most snakes found in California are harmless, the rattlesnake can wield a venomous bite if provoked. Its coloration allows it to blend in with the soil, providing excellent camouflage.
- Ticks – Avoid ticks by wearing long pants, long sleeves and closed-toe shoes in tick country. Stay on trails; avoid brush and tall grass. Use insect repellent on shoes, socks and pants. Check yourself and others frequently.
- Wildlife – Coyote, bobcats, deer, wild pigs and mountain lions are occasionally spotted in the parks. Their normal reaction is to run away. Some have become used to our presence and will continue their activities while being watched. Never feed, try to approach, or pet wild animals or cattle. Keep pets and small children near you.
When choosing a trail, consider your condition, the length, the level of intensity, and the weather conditions. You can shorten or lengthen most routes to meet your ability. Read the trail descriptions, as they contain specific information about individual trails. Before heading out, always tell a friend or family member your route and expected time of return, take plenty of water, and know the location of an emergency phone before starting. When possible, go with a friend. Most importantly, have fun! Use the following guidelines to determine how far to go and what level of intensity suits you.

**EASY:** Trails are relatively flat with good trail conditions (paved or packed gravel). Trail lengths vary from 1 to 3 miles, typically taking 1 to 2 hours or less to complete. These trails are sometimes suitable for strollers.

**MODERATE:** Trails have significant elevation gain (500-1,000 feet), are 3-6 miles in length, and trail conditions vary from good to rugged. They generally take 2-4 hours to complete. You should be in good physical condition, and carry plenty of water, a high energy snack, and a first aid kit.

**CHALLENGING:** Trails have significant elevation gain (1,000+ feet), are 5+ miles in length, and trail conditions vary from good to rugged. They generally take 3-6 hours to complete. We strongly recommend you be in good physical condition, carry plenty of water, a high energy snack, and a first aid kit.
Map of Moraga Area Parks & Trails
Hacienda Trails & Garden Paths
Hacienda de las Flores
Length: 0.7 miles
Intensity: Easy

Hacienda garden paths & Cindy Waxman Trail – Hacienda de las Flores

**Park Overview:** The Hacienda de las Flores is a historic community center surrounded by beautiful gardens and natural grounds. You can explore the landscaped gardens, natural gardens and a hiking trail which connects to Mulholland Ridge. Note that the Hacienda de las Flores is frequently rented on weekends for weddings and other events. Parking space may be limited during those times.

**Trail Directions:** Starting from the main parking area, there is a path just north of la Sala building. This shady path descends down steps then meanders along paths and bridges behind the main buildings, down to the pavilion. Explore these paths and the grounds, returning to the parking area. On the other (uphill) side of the parking area is the start of the well-marked Cindy Waxman Trail. That natural trail takes you up the hill through eucalyptus, oak and pine trees for about a quarter mile. It connects to Donald Drive at a gate. You can walk through the gate, turn left, and go up Donald Drive to Mulholland Ridge for a longer hike.
Driving Directions: From the Moraga Commons, head north on Moraga Road for 1 mile. Turn left on Donald Drive; then after 0.2 miles turn left again into the Hacienda de las Flores property.

Fees: none

Website: [http://www.moragahacienda.com/](http://www.moragahacienda.com/)
Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve
Mulholland Ridge is a 250 acre open space area along Donald Drive on the boundary of Orinda and Moraga. The ridge is relatively high, offering breathtaking views on a clear day of the Moraga valley and the Diablo Range. It is a lovely, quiet trail that runs along the ridge of the Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve.

Trail Features: When the Hacienda is open, water and restrooms are available in the main building. There is a water fountain near the Mulholland water tower. Dogs may be off-leash at the top (inside the gates and only on the paved area) as long as the owner has control. Bicycles are allowed on paved areas only.

Trail Directions: The beginning section of the trail is very steep. Start from the Hacienda parking lot. Follow trail signs leading up the hill behind the main building. Exit gate at top of Hacienda trail, turn left on Donald Drive. Continue up Donald Drive and past the gate that is the entrance to the top section. Follow the (mostly) paved roadway up the hill. Walk .5 miles to the Mulholland water tower. Return via the same route. There are a few natural trails that can also be explored on the north side of the paved ridge.
Driving Directions: Drive north from the Moraga Commons for 1 mile. Turn left on Donald Drive, after 0.2 miles, turn left into the Hacienda de las Flores property.

Fees – none.
Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail
Campolindo – access point
Length: 4.7 miles
Intensity: Challenging

Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail – The Lafayette Reservoir is surrounded by a 2.8 mile winding paved path along the shoreline, and a 4.7 mile rim trail. There are fire-road connectors between the two circular trails. The rim trail is a dirt fire road on the ridge tops. It leads you through brush lands and oak forests overlooking the reservoir.

**Trail Features:** A short trail starts at the end of Paseo Grande; it goes up a steep hill to the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail and continues down to the shoreline path. The Rim trail is 4.7 miles of undulating hills with views of the reservoir and surrounding area. There are several trails that connect the Rim Trail to the paved Reservoir Trail, including Oak, Campolindo and Rheem Trails. All of these connector trails and the Rim trail have very steep and difficult sections. Restrooms and water are available on the shoreline path. Lafayette Reservoir Information and map: [http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/lafayette-reservoir](http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/lafayette-reservoir)

**Trail Directions:** Take the path at the end of Paseo Grande up the hill to the ridge. Turn either right or left and follow the dirt fire road around the reservoir rim. The Lafayette Reservoir trails are also accessible from the reservoir entrance on Mount Diablo Blvd in Lafayette.
Driving Directions: The Lafayette Reservoir trails are accessible from Moraga via a trail located at the end of Paseo Grande in Campolindo. Starting at the Moraga Commons, go 2.1 miles north on Moraga Road. Turn left on Campolindo Drive, take the first left on Paseo Grande. Continue on Paseo Grande for 0.6 miles. The trail entrance is at the end of Paseo Grande.

Fees – No fees for trail usage, but there are parking fees if you drive to the Lafayette Reservoir parking lot.
Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trail
Moraga Commons to Valle Vista Staging Area

This is a historical walk along a creek and through the town of Moraga. Established in 1972, this trail was designated largely along utility rights-of-way in cooperation with the cities of Lafayette and Moraga, the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, the EBMUD, and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. This trail corridor was once used by mule trains to carry redwood from Oakland to Sacramento. Later the lumber was carried by steam trains. With the abandonment of the railroads, the corridor became a utility easement and ultimately has become a paved multi-use recreational trail.

Trail Features: The Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trail parallels St. Mary’s Road and Canyon Road for 7.65 miles through Lafayette and Moraga. It is intended for hiking and bicycling use. There are many access points with parking areas, as well as many benches along the path. Water and restroom facilities are located at Moraga Commons. Valle Vista Trail Staging (EBMUD) has an outhouse in the parking lot and picnic tables within the watershed boundary.
Trail Directions: This route can begin at either Moraga Commons or Valle Vista Trail Staging. Both locations have parking and access to the trail. While the trail is signed for use by the handicapped, please note that the section near Valle Vista Staging Area has grades ranging from 4% to 9%. Start at the Commons Park, on the corner of St. Mary’s and Moraga Roads. Use the crosswalk to cross Moraga Road to the paved Lafayette-Moraga Trail going through the old pear orchard. From the Commons, the trail meanders past a shopping center and houses. Remain alert for wooden posts fashioning EBRPD leaf signs and arrows. After passing the shopping center, the trail continues on School Street then turns right at Country Club Drive. A half block later, turn left at the sign onto the trail alongside a creek. At the end of the trail is the Valle Vista Staging Area. Turn around at that point and return to the park. If you would like a longer hiking experience, take the trail from the Commons in the opposite direction (toward Lafayette). The trail parallels St. Mary’s Road, winds through Lafayette, ending at the intersection of Olympic Blvd and Pleasant Hill Road (5 miles).

Driving Directions: The Moraga Commons Park is in the center of the Town of Moraga. Valle Vista Staging Area is 1.5 miles south of the Moraga Commons on Canyon Road.

Fees – none.
Old Moraga Ranch Trail

Trail Features: This trail has the distinction of being one of the District's oldest regional trails, established in 1972. The hiking and equestrian trail winds through the scenic hills of Moraga and offers spectacular views of St. Mary's College, the Moraga Valley, and distant landscape features. The steep, hilly terrain provides great opportunities to view soaring raptors and vultures taking advantage of thermal updrafts. Restrooms and water are available at Rancho Laguna Park.

Trail Directions: The Old Moraga Ranch Trail actually starts at the midpoint of the Rocky Ridge Trail between the Staging Area and Camino Pablo (near Rancho Laguna Park). These directions instead, have you start at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga, turn right when leaving parking lot onto Camino Pablo. Go 0.4 miles, to Sanders Ranch Road, cross street in front of the guard shack turn right on Sanders Ranch Road. Pedestrians are allowed in the gated community. Walk past five houses and you will see an open area on the left. After 500’, there is a trail marker with the East Bay Regional Park District sign “Old Moraga Ranch Trail”. This is the entrance to the trail head. It does not look like a trail from a distance. You will cross three bridges and go up hill to a cattle gate. Follow the trail markers through other cattle gates and past St. Mary’s College. The trail ends at Bollinger Canyon Road and Las Trampas Creek.
Driving Directions: Starting at the Moraga Commons, go south on Moraga Road continue on Canyon Road for a total of .8 miles. Turn left on Camino Pablo; proceed for 1.6 miles. Rancho Laguna Park is on the left.

Fees – none.
Rancho Laguna Park Trail Connector to Rocky Ridge Trail

**Park Overview:** Rancho Laguna Park access to East Bay open space is a short trail accessible from the back of Rancho Laguna Park. This connector trail links to the Rocky Ridge Trail. The park has a large grass field, picnic areas, playground and restrooms. Dogs may be off leash (as long as they are under owner’s control) in the early morning and evening hours inside Rancho Laguna Park only. Dogs on trails must be leashed.

**Trail Directions:** From the Rancho Laguna parking area, walk along the paved path to the back right corner of the park. Pass through a gate to start the hike. After walking down and up a ravine, turn right on the trail.
Driving Directions: From the Moraga Commons, head south on Moraga Road for 0.8 miles. Turn left on Camino Pablo and continue for 1.6 miles. Rancho Laguna Park is on the left.

Fees: EBMUD trail use permit required. Permits are available from the Moraga Parks Dept. or at https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/
Kings Canyon Loop Trail - A 6.1 mile loop along Kings Canyon and Rocky Ridge Trails. The trail winds through shaded oak covered dirt roads. It travels along the north side of Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Dogs are only allowed on the Kings Canyon portion of this hike.

Trail Features: The trail starts in a pine forest along Canyon Road, goes past rich ranchland, through oak forests and then skirts Upper San Leandro Reservoir. There is a primitive toilet at the Staging Area.

Trail Directions: Head north on the Rocky Ridge Trail for .4 miles to the start of the Kings Canyon Trail; emerging from pine forest and turning to your right onto a bridge and a dirt road. The 3 mile Kings Canyon Trail skirts the San Leandro Reservoir to end near a private road, where it connects to the Rocky Ridge Trail. Do not go through the gate at the road, turn left onto the narrow Rocky Ridge Trail. It is 2.6 miles from this intersection back to Valle Vista Staging Area by the Rocky Ridge Route. After about a half mile, turn left (at a sign post) onto a fire road that will return you to Valle Vista.
**Driving Directions:** The Valle Vista Staging Area is 1.5 miles south of the Moraga Commons. Go south on Moraga Road from the Commons; continue on Canyon Road. The staging area parking is on the left.

**Fees:** EBMUD trail use permit required. Permits are available from the Moraga Parks Dept. or at [https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/](https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/)
**Redwood Trail**
Valle Vista Staging Area
Length: 3.4 miles
Intensity: Moderate

**Redwood Trail** – This trail runs through a beautiful redwood forest with ferns in the deeply shaded areas. It crosses a lovely stream in the woods. This is the perfect hike on a hot summer day.

**Trail Features:** A primitive toilet is located at the staging area.

**Trail Directions:** Enter the trailhead through the gate near the center of the Valle Vista Staging Area parking Lot at the EBMUD sign-in board. Go west on Redwood Trail and continue on the trail straight across Pinehurst Road while paying attention to vehicles which have no stop sign. Redwood Trail is a beautiful single track crossing over the creek and through the redwoods while ascending on a series of enjoyable switchbacks to the top where you enter Redwood Regional Park. Turn around and head back down Redwood Trail 1.7 miles back to Valle Vista Staging Area.
Driving Directions: The Valle Vista Staging Area is 1.5 miles south of the Moraga Commons. Go south on Moraga Road from the Commons; continue on Canyon Road. The staging area parking is on the left.

Fees: EBMUD trail use permit required. Permits are available from the Moraga Parks Dept. or at https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/
Riche Trail - A 0.7 mile loop that is fairly flat. The trail is a dirt road that circles around the low lying land north of the staging area. The far side of the loop passes by a branch of the Upper San Leandro Reservoir.

**Trail Features:** This is an easy and short trail that has a limited view of the San Leandro Reservoir.

**Trail Directions:** Go through the gate at the staging area. Turn left and follow the signs for Riche trail.

**Driving Directions:** The Valle Vista Staging Area is 1.5 miles south of the Moraga Commons. Go south on Moraga Road from the Commons; continue on Canyon Road. The staging area is on the left.
**Fees:** EBMUD trail use permit required. Permits are available from the Moraga Parks Dept. or at [https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/](https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/)
Rimer Creek Trail
Valle Vista Staging Area
Length: 1.3 miles
Intensity: Easy

Rimer Creek Trail – This trail travels through flat forested areas along the creek, behind Joaquin Moraga School and up the hill to link with Rocky Ridge Trail.

Trail Features: By itself, this is a short trail (.6 mi), but you access and leave Rimer Creek Trail via Rocky Ridge Trail. The two trails provide a loop near the Staging Area through pine and oak forests. There is a primitive toilet at the Staging Area.

Trail Directions: Go through the gate at the Valle Vista parking lot; immediately turn left. Follow the signs for Rocky Ridge Trail. It will take you through woods to a road with a bridge. Turn right to cross the bridge and immediately turn left after the bridge. Continue through a gate. Rimer Creek trail starts just beyond the bridge that crosses Moraga Creek. It runs parallel to Rimer Creek for about a quarter-mile then up through a horse pasture. The trail re-connects with Rocky Ridge Trail. To make a short loop back to Valle Vista, turn right at the Rocky Ridge intersection, then right again at the Kings Canyon intersection. Follow the signs along a gravel road which will take you to the bridge where you originally connected to the Rimer Creek trail. Cross the bridge, turn left on Rocky Ridge Trail and continue back to the parking lot.
Driving Directions: The Valle Vista Staging Area is 1.5 miles south of the Moraga Commons. Go south on Moraga Road from the Commons; continue on Canyon Road. The staging area parking is on the left.

Fees - EBMUD trail use permit required. Permits are available from the Moraga Parks Dept. or at https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/
Rocky Ridge Trail
Valle Vista Staging Area
Length: 6.1 miles
Intensity: Challenging

Rocky Ridge Trail

Trail Features: This is a fairly strenuous hike through scenic countryside. The trail starts out with an easy stroll through a pine forest, continues down a country road, then a challenging trek on steep hills. There is a primitive toilet at the Staging Area.

Trail Directions: From the Valle Vista Staging Area go through the gate and turn left. Follow signs 0.7 miles toward the Kings Canyon Trail. You will cross a bridge on a dirt road and pass through a gate. Shortly after, turn left onto the continuation of Rocky Ridge Trail, a dirt fire road winding up a grassy ridge top overlook the Moraga Valley. At 2 miles you will make a sharp right turn; the trail changes to a narrow path for about 0.5 miles. As the trail nears a roadway, you will connect to the other end of the Kings Canyon Trail. At this point you can return via Rocky Ridge to the staging area for a 5.2 mile hike, or return via Kings Canyon Trail for a slightly longer (but less strenuous) hike. To continue on Rocky Ridge trail, stay alongside the creek. Pass through a gate, cross a small side draw, then cross the creek itself and climb through an oak forest into a high meadow. Beyond the crest of the meadow the trail descends, passes through another gate, and drops gently down to Buckhorn Creek. It crosses the creek and steadily climbs the broad, grassy slopes up to and slight beyond the peaks on the other side, where it meets a dirt road that continues left .76 miles to Rocky Ridge Loop.
Driving Directions: The Valle Vista Staging Area is 1.5 miles south of the Moraga Commons. Go south on Moraga Road from the Commons; continue on Canyon Road. The staging area parking is on the left.

Fees - EBMUD trail use permit required. Permits are available from the Moraga Parks Dept. or at https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/trail-use-permits/
Hiking Notes:
Moraga Park Foundation - Donation Form

Mail to: Moraga Park Foundation
        P.O. Box 302
        Moraga, CA 94556

Name ___________________________

Address __________________________
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This information is kept confidential and used for MPRF notifications only.

Yes, we would like to support Moraga Parks & Recreation Foundation.

Enclosed is my check for the following amount:

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___ $500 or more earns you a Lifetime Membership

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The Moraga Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.