

February 26, 2019 Hard Hike: Pine Canyon Loop, Diablo Foothills

A delightful approximately 6 mile, 1200 foot AEG hike in the Diablo Foothills Regional Park and Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area in Walnut Creek. This is a great opportunity to see multiple vistas of the Diablo Hills turning green and the China Wall, Castle Rock and a variety of vegetation. This is a loop hike on fire roads and single track trails with the first half a nice, pleasant easy climb followed by a couple of more challenging but shorter ascents and descents on the return. Poles are recommended.

We start from the Trail Staging Area at the end of Castle Rock Road at **10am**. NOTE: This is the second parking lot just after the Park Office (which is on the right). Should this lot be full there is an earlier parking lot sign-posted "EQUESTRIAN AND OVERFLOW PARKING" approximately a 1/4 mile before the Park Office. We will walk along the Stage Road Trail past the Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area where there are toilets. These are the only toilets on the walk. After approximately a mile and a quarter and crossing the stream 4 times we will ascend the Little Yosemite Trail. The stream was easily crossed during our pre-hike and should not present any issue. Part way up the Little Yosemite Trail we will turn west onto the Briones to Mount Diablo Regional Trail and continue on the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail. These are wide trails over rolling landscape but do slowly climb and are somewhat rutted due to the cattle. After about 1.6 miles we will turn down the reasonably steep single track Buckeye Ravine Trail before turning up again on first the Shell Ridge Trail and then the Shell Ridge Loop Trail. NOTE: Martin has shared a single track contour trail (not marked on the map) back onto the Shell Ridge Trail which we will take to cut out some elevation gain and also save a few hundred yards walking. As we approach the end of the walk there is a short steep downward section on the Shell Ridge Trail, so bring your poles! After which we finish our descent and return to the parking area.

Optional lunch: [Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria](#)
[2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.](#)

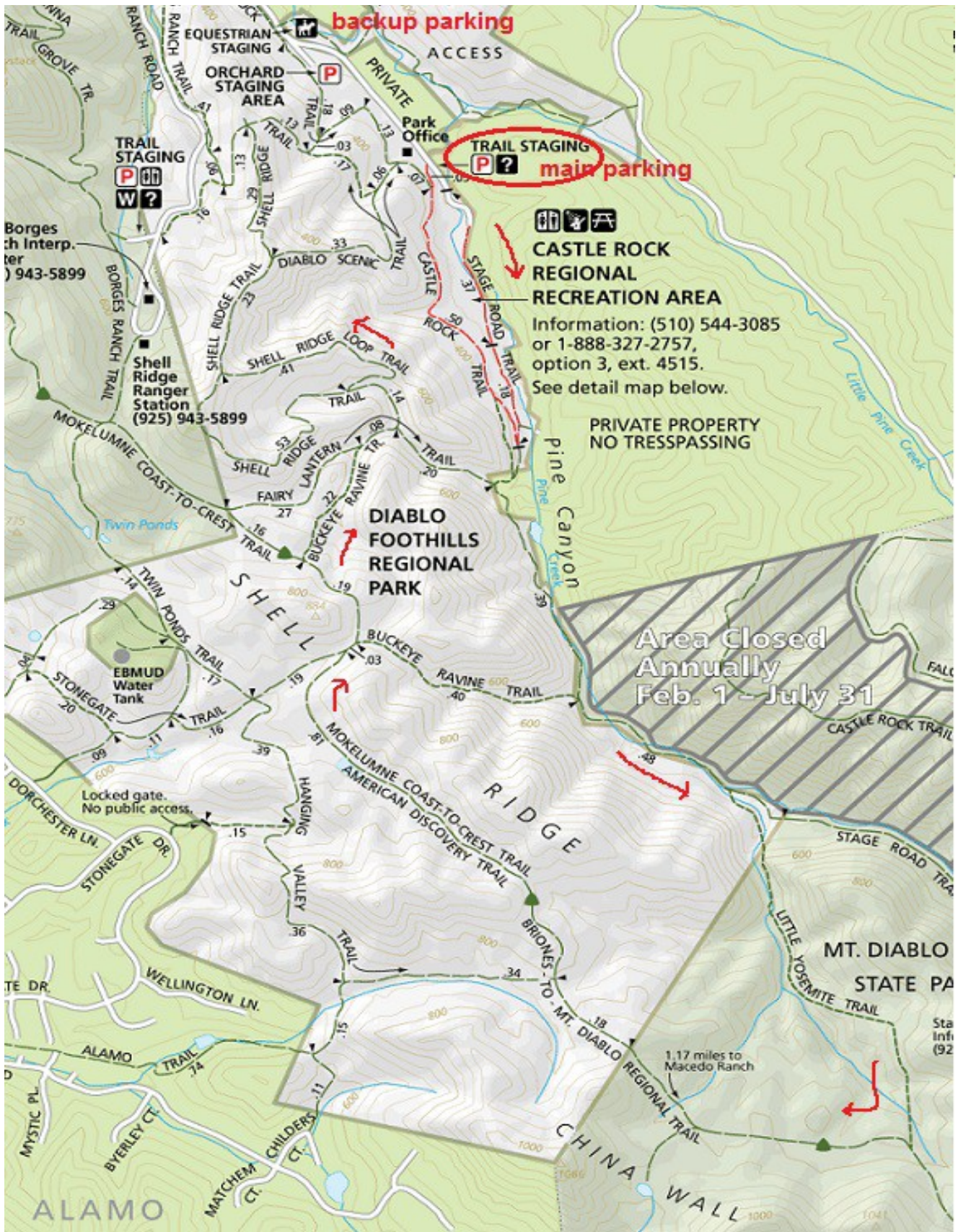
Directions: From downtown Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Road East to Walnut Avenue, right onto Walnut Avenue for ~1.6 miles, at the roundabout take first exit (right) onto oak Grove Road, name changes to Castle Rock Road. GPS to 1301 Castle Rock Road.

Optional Car Pool: Meet at the "movie theater parking garage" in Walnut Creek, enter either on California Ave or Locust street (between Olympic and Mount Diablo). Meet in the center of the 3rd floor. Departure will be **9:30**, which should allow adequate time to get to the staging area. (Take Locust Street right onto Civic Drive right onto Ygnacio Valley Road)

Heavy rain cancels. May alter route based upon weather conditions.

Hike leader: Mike Spink 317-459-9878 mikespink@sbcglobal.net
February Hike Coordinator: Martin Simmons 925-586-2704 martin@infinitylane.com;
Hikers Activity Chairman David Davis 925-838-1753 dav.davis@comcast.net

Map and Photos:



backup parking

TRAIL STAGING
P ? main parking

CASTLE ROCK
REGIONAL
RECREATION AREA

Information: (510) 544-3085
or 1-888-327-2757,
option 3, ext. 4515.
See detail map below.

PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESSPASSING

Area Closed
Annually
Feb. 1 - July 31

Borges
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) 943-5899

Shell
Ridge
Ranger
Station
(925) 943-5899

DIABLO
FOOTHILLS
REGIONAL
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