

# Round Valley Regional Preserve

**Year opened:** 1998      **Acres:** 1,979  
**Highlights:** Hiking, biking, horseback riding, camping.  
**Did you know?** This natural area was set aside as a regional preserve due to the desire of Thomas Murphy's grandson, Jim, that Round Valley be protected from development. The Murphy Meadow Trail is named in the Murphy family's honor.

**HISTORY** Round Valley Regional Preserve, once home to California Native Americans, was probably a boundary between several tribal groups, an area where members of East Bay and San Joaquin Valley groups met to trade and socialize. Evidence of Native American use has been uncovered at several sites in the preserve.

The land was purchased in 1873 by Thomas Murphy, an Irish immigrant who established a ranching and farming operation. Murphy's grandson, Jim Murphy, sold the core 700 acres of Round Valley to the East Bay Regional Park District in 1988. A few pieces of farm equipment in the preserve date to the late nineteenth century or early twentieth. Remember that all archaeological and historic objects in the preserve are protected by law; **please leave them undisturbed for others to see.**

The climate at the preserve is arid and temperatures commonly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer months. **Be prepared for the summer heat:** use sunscreen, wear a hat and loose-fitting clothing, wear good hiking shoes, and bring plenty of water.

**NATURAL RESOURCES** This preserve contains non-native grassland, oak woodland/savannah, shrubland, and riparian woodland plant communities. The grassland is interspersed with stands of blue oak woodland/savannah. The valley itself is primarily annual grassland with valley oak lining the intermittent drainages. Non-native grasses, introduced to California by early settlers, comprise the annual grassland flora. Native and non-native wildflowers are seen in springtime.

**POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY** ..... 9-1-1  
**EBRPD HEADQUARTERS** ..... 1-888-327-2757  
**CAMPING RESERVATIONS** ..... 1-888-327-2757, option 2  
**PARK OFFICE** ..... 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4556  
**WEB SITE** ..... [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)  
**TRS RELAY FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** ..... 7-1-1

The steep, northeastern-facing slopes in the southwestern portion of the preserve support mixed oak woodland and chamise/black sage/manzanita chaparral. Riparian and wetland vegetation occur along Round Valley Creek. The southwest corner of the preserve supports mixed oak woodland containing blue, valley, coast live, interior live, and black oak; California buckeye; and California bay laurel. Riparian vegetation occurs primarily along Round Valley Creek. The creek flows until late spring or early summer, after which the water pools at intervals along the streamcourse.

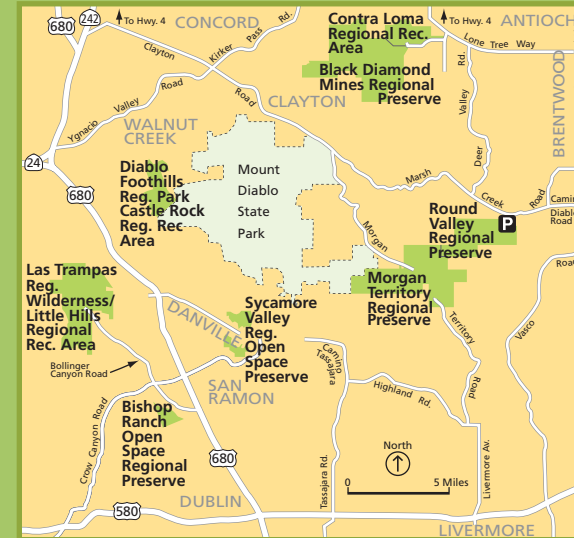
**WILDLIFE** The preserve is habitat for a wide variety of wildlife typical of that found in the East Bay Area and also some species more common to the Central Valley. Several species in this area have evolved to survive with only seasonal supplies of water and green vegetation.

Mammals in Round Valley include the California ground squirrel, San Joaquin pocket mouse, Audubon's or desert cottontail, and the endangered San Joaquin kit fox. Round Valley is one of the northern extremes of the kit fox range in California, which is listed on the federal and state endangered species lists. The Park District is playing a major role in protecting the fox by protecting its habitat in Round Valley.

The preserve is also home to nesting golden eagles, a state species of special concern protected by state and federal law. The golden eagles feed on ground squirrels. Burrowing owls, another species of special concern, nest in ground squirrel burrows and feed on mice and insects.

Ponds and streams in Round Valley support the federally threatened California red-legged frog, western toads, western pond turtles and Pacific tree frogs. These species breed with the onset of winter rains, and burrow into the mud or use rodent holes for hibernation during the dry summer months.

**GEOLOGY** The bedrock geology of the preserve is Cretaceous Panoche shale and sandstone, with deposits of recent alluvium on the surface in valleys and creek drainages. The preserve has small amounts of high-quality soils, located mainly in the level areas along Marsh Creek and in the valley proper. Most of the soil, however, is of a lower quality, suitable only for range, wildlife, and watershed uses. The Marsh Creek (Mount Diablo) Fault is located about two miles southwest of the preserve.



### To Reach Round Valley:

**From Walnut Creek:** From I-680, exit at Ygnacio Valley Road. Proceed on Ygnacio Valley Road to Clayton Road in Concord and turn right (east). Clayton Road becomes Marsh Creek Road in Clayton. Proceed east on Marsh Creek Road, past Deer Valley Road, until you reach the preserve staging area on your right.

**From Brentwood:** Take Walnut Blvd. south to Marsh Creek Road and turn right. When Marsh Creek Road intersects with Camino Diablo Road, bear right and stay on Marsh Creek Road. You will reach the preserve staging area on the left.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200; fax (510) 635-3478; TRS Relay for the Hearing Impaired: 711; or [info@ebparks.org](mailto:info@ebparks.org).



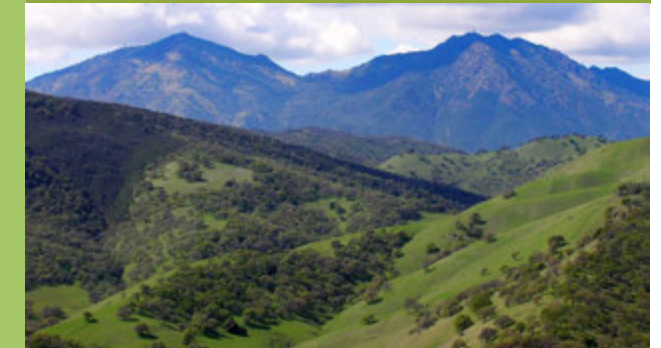
### East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court,  
 P.O. Box 5381  
 Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757)  
[www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)      Rev. 7/16

# Round Valley Regional Preserve

Eastern Contra Costa County

East Bay Regional Park District



### LEGEND

- Paved Roads
- Hikers, Horses & Bicycles
- Diablo Regional Trail
- Hikers, Horses & Bicycles
- Hikers & Horses Only
- Stream or Creek
- Mileage Between Points
- Parking
- Horse Staging
- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- Horse Water
- Picnic
- Phone (9-1-1 only)
- Information
- Reservable Camp
- Gate; Private Property Ahead
- Bridge

Rev. 7/16

0 1/4 1/2 Mi.

North ↑

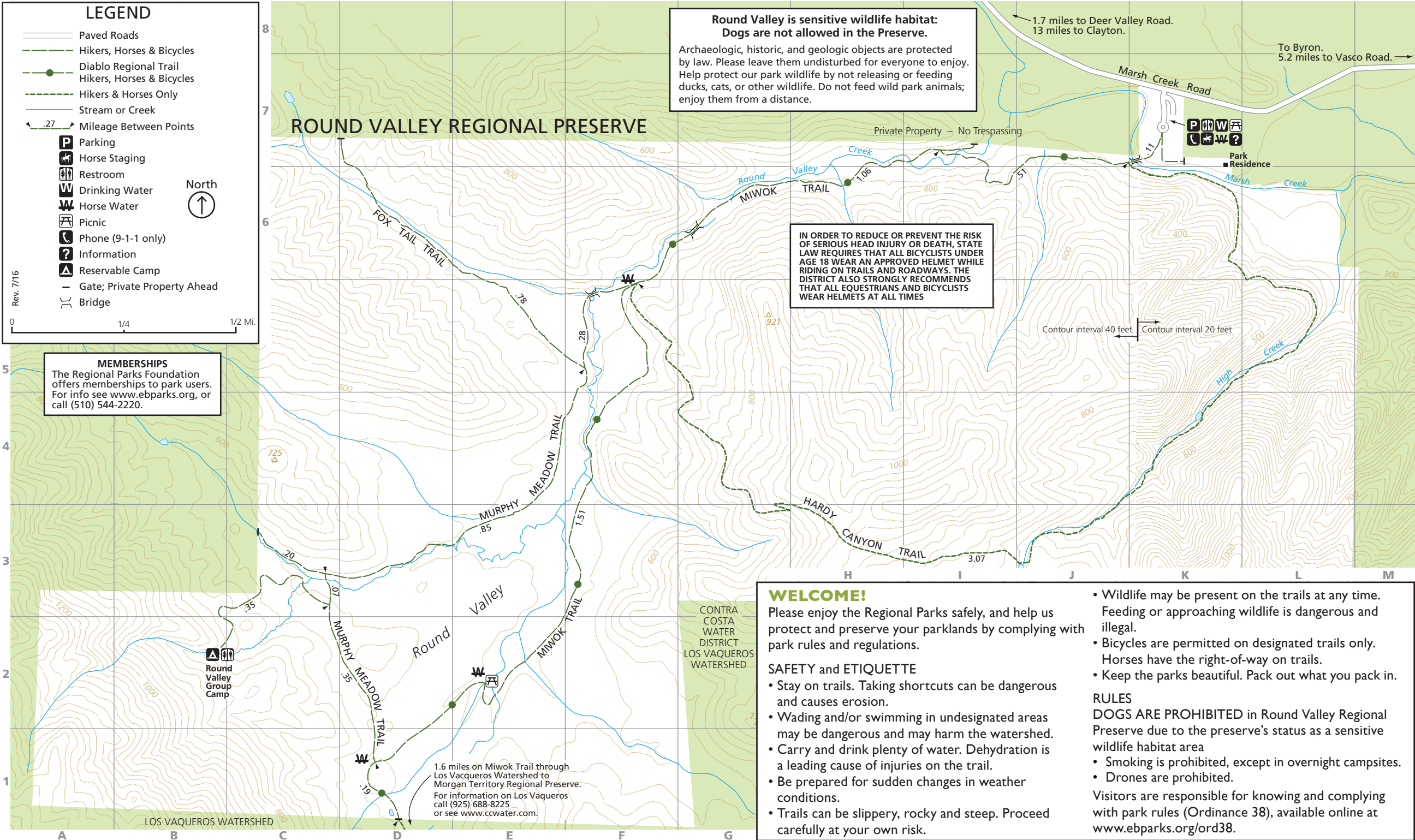
**Round Valley is sensitive wildlife habitat:  
Dogs are not allowed in the Preserve.**

Archaeologic, historic, and geologic objects are protected by law. Please leave them undisturbed for everyone to enjoy. Help protect our park wildlife by not releasing or feeding ducks, cats, or other wildlife. Do not feed wild park animals; enjoy them from a distance.

**IN ORDER TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE RISK OF SERIOUS HEAD INJURY OR DEATH, STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL BICYCLISTS UNDER AGE 18 WEAR AN APPROVED HELMET WHILE RIDING ON TRAILS AND ROADWAYS. THE DISTRICT ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL EQUESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS WEAR HELMETS AT ALL TIMES**

**MEMBERSHIPS**  
The Regional Parks Foundation offers memberships to park users. For info see [www.ebparcs.org](http://www.ebparcs.org), or call (510) 544-2220.

1.6 miles on Miwok Trail through Los Vacqueros Watershed to Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. For information on Los Vacqueros call (925) 688-8225 or see [www.ccwater.com](http://www.ccwater.com).



**WELCOME!**  
Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve your parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

**SAFETY and ETIQUETTE**

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading 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**  
**DOGS ARE PROHIBITED** in Round Valley Regional Preserve due to the preserve's status as a sensitive wildlife habitat area

- Smoking is prohibited, except in overnight campsites.
- Drones are prohibited.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38), available online at [www.ebparcs.org/ord38](http://www.ebparcs.org/ord38).