

Hard Hike July 27, 2021: Springhill Sunrise Loop – Southeast corner of Briones Park in Lafayette.

The hike will start at 9:30 a.m. (half hour early) to beat the heat. This strenuous hike is 4.3 miles long and quite hilly with 1100+ feet of accumulated elevation gain. Poles are useful as there are some steep downhill stretches. The hike features views of Mt. Diablo and overlooks of Lafayette and Walnut Creek. The lower elevations pass through oak forests while the upper reaches of the hike are open grazing land.

The hike is a counter clock-wise loop. We start heading west briefly on Buckeye Ranch trail to cross a creek bed and then make a sharp right to join the Sunrise Trail. We stay on the Sunrise trail for a little over two miles and accomplish a substantial portion of the total elevation gain by the time we reach the Briones Crest trail, where we turn left and hike for about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles until we come upon the Lafayette Ridge trail. We stay on the Lafayette Ridge trail for about .65 miles. When we come to the Springhill trail we turn left and hike and head downhill for .7 miles and return to the trailhead.

Note: As of June 1, all participants at SIR activities must have a signed waiver and vaccine certification in the Branch 8 database. This is a state SIR requirement due to the state SIR insurance no longer covering communicable diseases. Should guests attend, there will be forms we should ask them to sign. A BLANK WAIVER & VACCINATION CERTIFICATION FORM WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE START OF THE HIKE FOR ANYONE NEEDING IT.

Bring: Water. There is no potable water at the trailhead or on the route. There is an outhouse at the trail head. Trekking poles are recommended, as there are some fairly steep, although short, downhill descents on the route.

Directions: The hike begins near the western end of Springhill Road in Lafayette. From Highway 24, exit at Pleasant Hill Road and go north. Take a left on Springhill Road, which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Acalanes High School. Continue on to the end of the road for about two miles. The trail head is just before the road ends and you will see a fire road gate and cars parked on the right side. However, if you get the Twin Canyon Girl Scout camp, you have gone too far.

There are 13 official spots and a few “side of the road” spots.

Optional Rideshare: Recommend avoiding carpooling unless all parties are vaccinated, are from the same family or are members of no more than three families if they have been vaccinated. Wearing masks is encouraged.

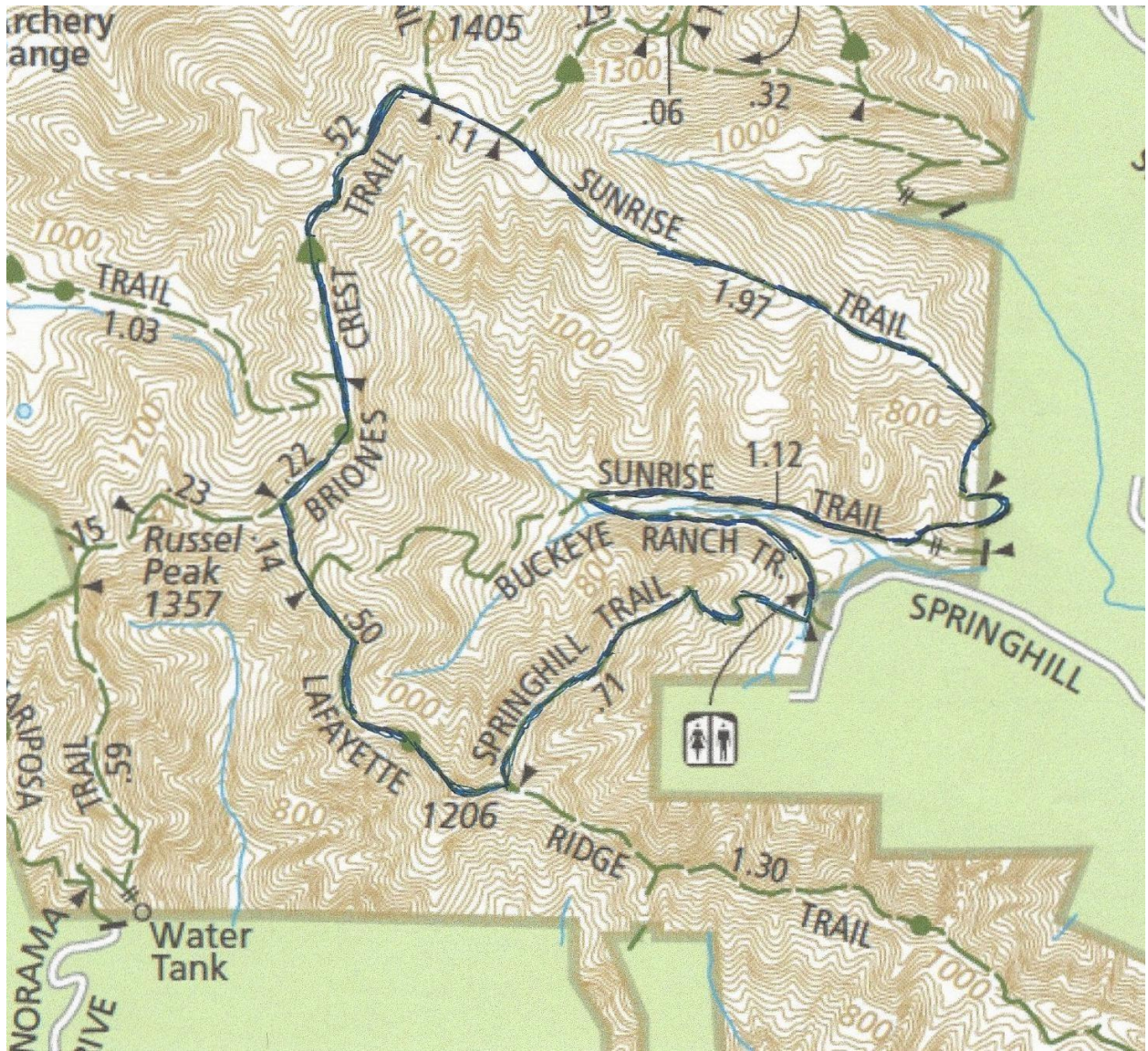
Optional Lunch: Batch & Brine, 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Please bring cash for payment.

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Hike Chairman: Martin Simmons (925) 586-2704 Martin@infinitylane.com

Trail Map:



Photos:

Buckeye Ranch Trail

Lafayette Ridge Trail

