

Lafayette/Moraga Trail Moraga Commons Loop EASY Hike Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Hike Description: This is an EASY 3.1 mile hike on the Lafayette / Moraga regional trail, starting from the Moraga Commons at **10:00 am.** and hiking south toward the Valle Vista Staging area but cutting off the trail after 1.1 miles (a washout of the trail occurred two years ago requiring an alternate route) onto Moraga Country Club streets. A northeast hike out of the Country Club and onto Camino Ricardo brings one to a short climb up Willow Brook Lane and onto a new spur of the Lafayette/Moraga Trail named The Laguna Creek/Corliss Watershed Area which loops back to the Moraga Commons. See photos of the new Watershed Area designation board, plus views of the iconic pear orchards that are renowned in Moraga. The entire hike will take about 1 1/2 hours and is all on level paved trail or streets. The accumulated elevation gain (AEG) is about 100 ft. There are no hazards on this trail except for an occasional bicycle. Water and toilets can be found at the Moraga Commons.

Optional lunch: Close by at Pennini's in the Moraga Shopping Center (the beginning trail goes right next to it).

Bring: Good walking shoes or hiking boots – the entire trail is paved. Trekking poles are not necessary. Bring water.

Directions: From HW 24 going west from Walnut Creek, take Central Lafayette exit, 3 quick right turns onto Deer Hill Road, First St, and Mount Diablo Blvd, then left onto Moraga Road. Take Moraga Road about 5.0 miles to the Moraga Commons at the intersection with Moraga Way. Ample parking at the Commons parking lot (plus two overflow areas just east on Moraga Way). Driving time from I680/HW 24 is about 20 minutes.

Car-pooling: For those who want to carpool, meet at the downtown Walnut Creek movie theater parking garage. Enter either on California Ave or Locust Street. Meet in the center of the 3rd floor for a 9:30 departure.

Hike Leader: Carl Ludwig 415-350-7372 cludwig171@gmail.com

Hike Coordinator: Martin Simmons 925- 586-2704 martin@infinitylane.com

Hike Chairman: Dave Davis H: 838-1753 dav.davis@comcast.net

WILDLIFE OF LAGUNA CREEK AND CORLISS TRIBUTARY

Life Below The Surface

Rainbow Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Rainbow trout spawn in streams with gravel bottoms. Using her tail, the female will dig a depression in the gravel, called a redd, which is where she will deposit her eggs for a male to fertilize. The eggs are covered with gravel and after hatching the young will emerge swimming in search for food.

During the spring, you may be fortunate to observe resident rainbow trout spawning in Laguna Creek. The population that occurs in this area (i.e. in the upper San Antonio Creek watershed, including Laguna Creek) is considered unique and historically important. When the Chabot Reservoir and Upper San Antonio Reservoir were constructed in the late 1920's and early 1930's, respectively, the population's ability to migrate to the ocean was blocked and the population became isolated from those populations occurring below the reservoirs. It is believed that the population occurring in the area represents a genetically pure population which has never hybridized with non-native hatchery fish and it may be the only such rainbow trout population of its kind.

The lighter colored gravel is a redd



Virginia Opuntia
Opuntia virginiana
(non-native)



Striped Skunk
Melephitis melephitis



Help keep wildlife wild and healthy!

Feeding wild animals disrupts their lives, and is dangerous to people. When animals become used to being fed, they become habituated and dependent on food handouts. They may show aggressive behavior towards people, or lose the ability to feed themselves naturally.

Life In The Trees

Riparian corridors provide critical habitat for migratory and resident birds. Water and dense plant cover provide predator protection, shade, breeding and nesting areas, and food sources. In California, over 130 species of birds depend upon riparian habitats.

Red-shouldered Hawk
Buteo lineatus



In Flight



California Scrub-Tit
Aphelocoma californica



Anna's Hummingbird
Calypsa anna



Oak Titmouse
Spinus oregonus



Gray Fox
Urocyon cinereoargenteus



Black-tailed Deer
Odocoileus hemionus columbianus



Northern Raccoon
Procyon lotor



