May 27, 2025 Hard Hike – Shell Ridge Loop via Hanna Grove Trail, 10:00 a.m.

Hike Description: This is a moderate hike of approximately 5 miles, and it includes 9 feet of elevation gain. Starting at the Hannah Grove Trail (which is a private road at that point), we continue past Borges Ranch to the Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail, heading west, which we then take to the Ginder Gap Trail. We return on the Sulphur Creek and Costanoan trails, back to Hannah Grove. Shell Ridge in the springtime is a riot of fresh green colors and wild flowers.

There are no restrooms or water at the trail head.

Directions to Hike: From 680, take the Ygnacio Valley Rd. exit and head east. Turn right on Walnut Avenue (NOT Walnut Blvd., which you'll pass by earlier). When you come to the traffic circle, take the first exit onto Castle Rock Road. Go past Northgate High School and then turn right on Comistas Drive. Continue west on Comistas past Hannah Lane (aka Hanna Grove Trail on some maps) and find a place to park on the street. Note: Parking on school days is restricted to areas west of Comistas Ct. (on the left) and 2910 Comistas Dr. (on the right). After parking on Comistas, we will meet at the head of Hannah Grove Trail (aka Hanna Lane on some maps) where it meets Comistas Dr. and we will walk together uphill to the Hannah Grove Trailhead. (See black arrow on map below.)

Bring: Hats, water, sturdy hiking boots, trekking poles.

Optional Lunch: Burger Lounge, 2920 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek, in the Orchards Shopping Center, at the corner of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove roads. (Head back on Castle Rock Rd., which becomes Oak Grove Rd. at the traffic roundabout. Take Oak Grove to Ygnacio, turn left on Ygnacio, and then turn right into the shopping center. Continue heading right until you come to Burger Lounge.)

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

AllTrails Map: https://www.alltrails.com/explore/recording/afternoon-hike-7f3fcfe-778?p=-1&sh=ls05uy&utm_medium=map_share&utm_source=alltrails_virality