

Easy Hike, September 14, 2021: North Gate Trail, Walnut Creek.

The hike will start at 10:00 a.m. We begin at the intersection of North Gate Road and Shadowbrook Ct, where cars can park. We then can walk via a short .6 mile walk to the Mount Diablo State Park North Gate entrance to avoid paying the \$6 fee for cars. We walk past the Shadowbrook Winery, the only WC winery. Their motto is "Close to Home, Far from the Ordinary". It is a lovely walk next to North Gate Rd, since it is a very nice area. We then keep walking next to North Gate Rd within the park until we reach the North Gate Trail off to the right.

We pass Arroyo Del Cerro Ranch, it is a ranch with 2,000 acres, and in 2017, a large throng of biologists, (75) conducted a 24 hour study and found over 400 species of insects, mammals etc on the property. The ranch is currently owned by John Ginocchio and the family has had this ranch since the late 1800s.

We walk the loop, with nice oak tree areas, interesting horse stables with beautiful horses. We can see Suisun Bay in the distance. The loop has a few sections where a pole can be used on the soft dirt, but otherwise not many hills, perhaps 300 feet up and down. The whole loop including back to the cars is about 3.2 miles.

Optional Lunch: Roccas Restaurant which is nearby off Ygnacio and Oak Grove Road.

Directions To Shadowbrook Ct from downtown Walnut Creek: Head East on Ygnacio Valley Road to Oak Grove Road and turn right. Proceed to and around the roundabout, then make a left on North Gate Road. Shadowbrook Ct will be on your left in 0.7 of a mile.

Hike Leader: Leo Dominguez (925) 949-6454 leordominguez@gmail.com

September Coordinator: Martin Simmons, (925) 586-2704, Martin@infinitylane.com

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

