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## Discovering dog-friendly trails during pandemic

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Photo Jenn Freedman

### View of Moraga hills on Mulholland Ridge

**Mulholland Ridge:** This wide, mostly paved ridgeline trail from Moraga to Orinda offers unobstructed views of the Moraga hills as well as Mt. Diablo.

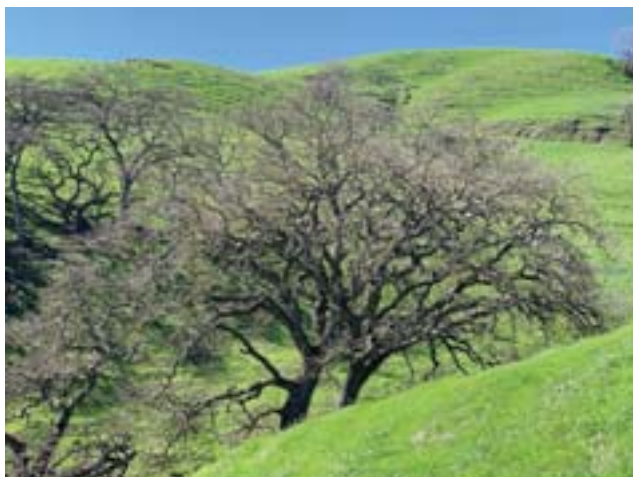


Photo Jenn Freedman

### Recent view from the Lafayette Ridge trail

**Lafayette Ridge Trail:** Part of Briones Regional Park, this scenic trail begins above Acalanes High School and follows the ridgeline for about 3 miles up and down, intersecting with dozens of other trails along the way. Enjoy sweeping views at every angle with vibrant rolling green hills this time of year (without much shade).



Photo Colleen Brown

**Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail:** A moderate to difficult trail with expansive views.



### View of the many hills on Lafayette Ridge from the Springhill to Buckeye Ranch Loop

**Springhill to Buckeye Ranch Loop:** Also part of Briones Regional Park, the steep incline of this trail (if you start on the left side at trailhead) pays off with breathtaking views at the top where the loop meets Lafayette Ridge.



### View from King Canyon Loop

**King Canyon Loop:** A hike around this tranquil Moraga trail boasts picturesque views of the San Leandro Reservoir, aquatic birds, and other wildlife.



### View from Blue Oak Trail

**Blue Oak Trail:** Also part of Briones Regional Park, this Lafayette loop features vast rolling hills. Watch out for grazing cows and mountain bikers!

All of these trails can be accessed on the All Trails app as well, which provides directions, trail details, a GPS tracking map, and more helpful tools. Happy hiking!

## High schools moving toward hybrid opening in mid-March

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Nickerson confirmed that the schools are ready to reopen. The protocol to ensure safety includes implementing physical distance, cleaning protocols, wearing a face mask, completing a daily COVID-19 self-screening prior to arriving at school, and regular asymptomatic testing. Rules are also in place to deal with suspected and confirmed infections.

Teachers who are coming to the school to teach asynchronously from their classroom are already self-screening daily with the same software application that the students will have to use to get access to school when hybrid learning starts.

The district mandates that teachers get a PCR test once a week and encourages students do get tested every other week. The AUHSD is offering community testing on Mondays, rotating high schools: March 8 at Miramonte, March 15 at Acalanes and Campolindo, March 22 at Las Lomas and Miramonte. As of Feb. 17, 1,940 tests had been performed, identifying six positive cases, a 0.3% positivity rate that is a great testament to the community's health, according to Nickerson.

When the high schools reopen for hybrid instruction, families that prefer to continue in full distance learning for the rest of the school year will be allowed to do so, supported by online instruction. At the first February board meeting, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Aida Glimme re-

ported that the overall performance of students had remained constant this school year compared to previous years, although she noted an increase in students who are struggling receiving multiple failing grades. Glimme said that the district is targeting its intervention strategies around those students in addition to continuing what has been done in the classroom to support all students.

Parents and students alike are also eager to see access to all sports, practice and games, reopened. Some sports that are outdoors with no contact are allowed in the Purple Tier, such as swimming and diving, cross country, golf, tennis, and track and field. The Diablo Athletic League announced that football, soccer, baseball, softball, water polo, and lacrosse were able to open on Feb. 26. Regarding students practicing in two sports, the CDPH recommends playing only one. Athletic directors and principals were able to advocate for the students and moved the DAL to approve schedules reducing the overlap of seasons for those students wishing to play multiple sports.

Each district is making their own rules; AUHSD discourages students to be in more than one cohort while the district is in the Purple Tier. In Red Tier, students are allowed to play in more than one cohort, but the district discourages participation in clubs as well. The superintendent noted that his administration had no way to his administration a rule.

### Mulholland Ridge:

Distance: 2+ mile out and back, depending on where you turn around  
Dog rules: allowed off leash on the paved part of the Moraga side (south of the water tower)  
Level: fairly easy with one decent hill on the Moraga side  
Access: trail can be accessed on both sides via Donald Drive  
More info: managed by the town of Moraga;  
<https://www.moraga.ca.us/439/Mulholland-Ridge-Open-Space-Preserve>

### Lafayette Ridge Trail:

Distance: up to 6.6 miles out and back, depending on where you turn around  
Dog rules: allowed off leash as long as 200+ feet from entrance  
Level: generally moderate, with a few more difficult hills on the far end of the ridge  
Access: Lafayette Ridge Staging Area on Pleasant Hill Road  
More info: managed by East Bay Regional Park District;  
<https://www.ebparcs.org/parks/briones/>

### Springhill to Buckeye Ranch Loop:

Distance: 2.2 loop  
Dog rules: allowed off leash as long as 200+ feet from entrance  
Level: moderate to difficult with a steep incline and some loose dirt on parts  
Access: Springhill Staging Area  
More info: managed by East Bay Regional Park District;  
<https://www.ebparcs.org/parks/briones/>

### Reservoir Rim Trail:

Distance: approx. 5 mile loop  
Dog rules: on leash only  
Level: moderate to difficult with one especially steep hill in Moraga  
Access: main entrance at Lafayette Reservoir parking lot; various other neighborhood entrances  
More info: managed by East Bay Municipal Utility District;  
<https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/east-bay/lafayette-reservoir/>

### King Canyon Loop:

Distance: 6.4 mile loop from staging area  
Dog rules: on leash only  
Level: moderate (with one killer hill about mile 5)  
Access: Valle Vista Staging Area on Canyon Road via Rocky Ridge Trail  
More info: managed by East Bay Municipal Utility District;  
<https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/east-bay/east-bay-trails/>

### Blue Oak Trail:

Distance: 3.3 mile loop  
Dog rules: allowed off leash as long as 200+ feet from entrance  
Level: moderate with a few steep hills  
Access: Reliez Valley Staging Area  
More info: managed by East Bay Regional Park District;  
<https://www.ebparcs.org/parks/briones/>