

The Staging Area is at the upper end of Golden Eagle Way past the control gate of the Golden Eagle Farms residential development. Visitors must present a permit card at the control gate, available during regular business hours from the Pleasanton Community Services office. Pedestrian access (no permit required) is located from the north side of the park by the Longview Drive cul-de-sac; however, parking is limited to the lower south side of Longview Drive. Pedestrian access is also possible from both the northern and southern gates of East Bay Regional Park District's Ridgeline Trail.

PARK RULES

- The park is open during daylight hours.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times in any picnic area, gathering site, parking lot or paved roadway of the park.
- Dogs may be off leash in undeveloped areas of the park, provided the dog is under the control of the person responsible for the dog.
- No fires, fireworks, firearms or other weapons are permitted in the park.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the park.
- Do not remove or damage any tree, plant, or other natural materials found in the park.
- Do not remove or harm any bird or animal, either wild or domesticated, in the park.
- No overnight camping is allowed in the park, unless specially permitted by the Community Services Director.

You are responsible for obeying all park rules. For a complete copy of the City of Pleasanton Municipal Code, Chapter 13.08, Parks and Recreation Facilities, contact the Community Services Department at (925) 931-5340 or go to **www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us**.

Augustin Bernal Community Park





WELCOME—Augustin Bernal Community Park is a 237acre open space community park in the City of Pleasanton offering outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for visitors of all ages and abilities. Located on the top and east face of Pleasanton Ridge, the park provides hiking, biking and equestrian trails with spectacular views, plus opportunities to explore a vestigial landscape that is disappearing in California. Sharing large sections of its west, south and north boundaries with East Bay Regional Park District's Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, the park protects a valuable portion of the ridge and also secures a link in a "necklace of green," nearly encircling San Francisco Bay.

HISTORY—Once part of Golden Eagle Ranch, Augustin Bernal Community Park was granted to the City of Pleasanton in 1971 by Walter S. Johnson, a noted philanthropist and industrialist who was known for his generous support of the Palace of Fine Arts restoration in San Francisco. When he donated the land to the City, he did so with the understanding that it be maintained and operated for public park and recreational purposes in perpetuity. The park is named for the Spanish settler, Augustin Bernal, who held the original land grant for the property.

VEGETATION AND HABITAT—To experience Augustin Bernal Community Park is to learn about the varied landscapes that can occur side-by-side on a typical site in California. On the steeper north-facing portions of the park, there are mixed oak woodlands with Coyote Brush and Poison Oak. On the south-facing hillsides, there are large areas of dense chaparral vegetation consisting of Coffeeberry, Monkey Flower, Toyon and Chamise. Along the ridgeline, the woodland thins out to a savannah featuring annual grasses and scattered oak groves. Because much of the park escaped the damages of grazing animals, many native species still remain such as the large patches of California Fescue, a native bunch grass. As for seasonal color, visitors will enjoy the many native wildflowers such as Baby Blue Eyes, Chinese Houses, and Shooting Star.

VIEWS—Views provided from the park are not to be understated. From the high points along the ridgetop are distant views to Sunol, Mission Peak and Ohlone Wilderness areas. Looking to the west, visitors can see sweeping vistas of Kilkare Canyon and the east side of Sunol Ridge. From the Valley View Trail views are framed through branches of Oak and Buckeye to the Livermore-Amador Valley with Mount Diablo serving as a backdrop. **WARNINGS!**—The trails of Augustin Bernal Community Park offer outstanding opportunities to study California ecology in its natural setting, but when hiking in the park be aware of certain plants and wildlife.



Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversiloba*) is very common in the park. In open areas, it grows as a dense, leafy shrub. Where it is shaded, it becomes a tall climbing vine, often entwining around trees to considerable heights. Its leaves are divided into three leaflets, the edges of which are scalloped, lobed or toothed. The foliage may turn bright orange or scarlet in the fall. The branches are bare in winter and may

be hard to identify but will still cause poison oak rash. Learn to identify and avoid it, as the oil from the leaves and stems can irritate the skin.



Rattlesnakes belong in Augustin Bernal Community Park and are an important part of the ecology. The rattlesnake species found is the Western (*Crotalus oreganus*), subspecies, Northern Pacific (*Crotalus*

oreganus oreganus). Rattlesnakes are found from below sea level to above 11,000 feet; they give birth to live young which are capable of biting and injecting venom at birth. The chance of encountering a rattlesnake is slight; however, caution is always necessary. Rattlesnakes are active during the warm months; they are timid and will not strike unless feeling threatened. Stay on trails and scan the ground in front of you when walking to avoid surprise. Remember, during hot days, rattlesnakes may well be active in the evening and at night.



The Western Black-legged Tick is the only tick of the 49 species occurring in California that is known to transmit Lyme disease. Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete (a spiral-shaped bacterium) that may persist in the human body for several years if not properly treated with antibiotics. In California, a low percentage of the ticks

tested are infected with the Lyme disease spirochete. Adult ticks are most commonly found from December through June. This tick can be found on grasses and brush – they do not fly, jump or drop from trees.



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Park Maintenance 931-5565 **EMERGENCY 911**

Pleasanton residents must show identification at the control gate. Non-residents and visitors with horse trailers must present a (no fee) permit card at the control gate. Permits are available during regular business hours from the Pleasanton Community Services office, Longview 200 Old Bernal Avenue; or at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road, Wednesday through Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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TRAIL	MILES
Longview Trail	.59
Golden Eagle Trail	.49
Valley View Trail	1.61
Chaparral Trail	.29
Toyon Trail	.31
Ridgeline Trail	.66
Equestrian Trail	.35
Blue Oak Knoll Trai	1 .47
Golden Eagle Staging	

Area to Blue Oak Knoll via Valley View Trail 2.23 This route has an $\pm 750^{\circ}$ elevation gain