

# DISCOVER

## ACALANES RIDGE

### A Grassroots Effort

The story of saving the 23-acre Acalanes Ridge property speaks to the power of neighbors coming together, and to the reasons why land trusts such as John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) play such an important role in conservation. In the mid-2000s the owner of the property faced significant obstacles for a planned development and was seeking an exit. The land was connected to Walnut Creek open space, but located within the city boundary of Lafayette. Lafayette was interested, but lacked funds. Walnut Creek was interested, but could not apply its funds outside city boundaries. The East Bay Regional Park District viewed the land as an important trail connector, but did not see itself as an appropriate steward of an isolated parcel.

This situation is precisely when a land trust can uniquely help. JMLT worked with the landowner to establish a fair price, and we helped local residents, municipal governments, and the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation to raise funds. Everything came together in 2010, and the delightful outcome is that now hikers, dog-walkers, and nature-lovers of all ages can enjoy this gorgeous place in its natural state.

### Views!

To enjoy spectacular views of Mount Diablo and to scan virtually the entire county from south to north, few places are more accessible than the summit of Acalanes Ridge. Patterns of development are revealed by the freeways and commuter rail lines beneath you. Mount Diablo at sunrise is breathtaking, and indeed, at any time of day Acalanes Ridge is one of the best places from which to view Contra Costa's most prominent natural feature. Elevations of the mountain range from 300 to 3,849 feet, and the keen observer can see it all.

### Flora & Fauna

The slopes of Acalanes Ridge are home to a beautiful variety of wildflowers. Many are easily spotted close to trails, such as elegant clarkia, purple owl's clover, and blue lupine. In season, you come upon beautiful hillsides prominently dotted by stands of baby blue eyes and pink Chinese house flowers, named for their pagoda-like petals.



Dogs are welcome on the trails, but they won't be the only animals in the area! Here is suitable habitat for deer, fox, coyote, raptors and a variety of reptiles. Be sure to keep dogs from approaching wildlife.

### Neighborhood Parks

JMLT protects land in remote areas and land adjacent to populated residential areas. Acalanes Ridge provides extensive trails and stunning views just minutes by footstep from neighbors' front doors. Spending time outdoors in a beautiful place is essential to human well-being and happiness. Ensuring that people can have that experience daily and close to home is an essential part of the JMLT mission. Enjoy your visit!

### A Note on Rules

The property owned by JMLT is in the center of the trail map. The surrounding Acalanes Ridge open space is owned and maintained by the City of Walnut Creek, and this area is subject to the city's rules and regulations. These are updated on their website:

[www.walnut-creek.org/departments/open-space/rules-and-regulations](http://www.walnut-creek.org/departments/open-space/rules-and-regulations)

To the west and north of Acalanes Ridge is Briones Regional Park. This open space is subject to the rules of the East Bay Regional Park District; see [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org).

### Acalanes Ridge

The popular hiking area known as Acalanes Ridge is a collection of natural open spaces along the border of Walnut Creek and Lafayette. These are connected by an extensive network of trails. A centerpiece, and one of the highest points, is the 23-acre property acquired by John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) in 2010. Atop its 781-foot summit, visitors are treated to a panoramic view of central Contra Costa that spans the Oakland Hills, Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, Livermore foothills, Mount Diablo, Suisun Bay, and Briones Regional Park. Visitors are rewarded with miles of delightful trails to explore and breathtaking scenery.

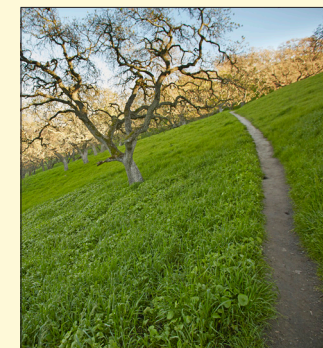
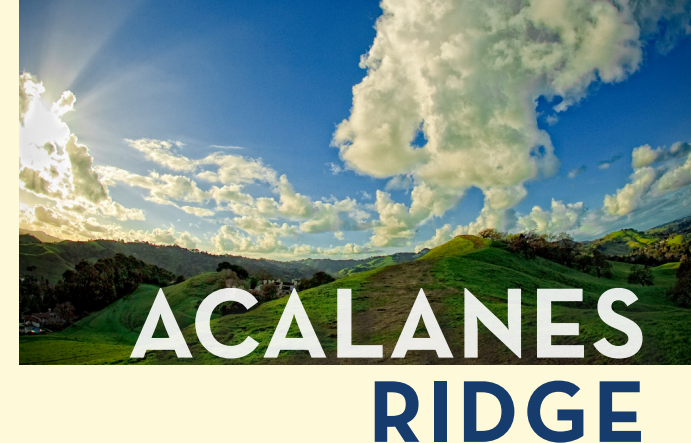


### Getting to Acalanes Ridge

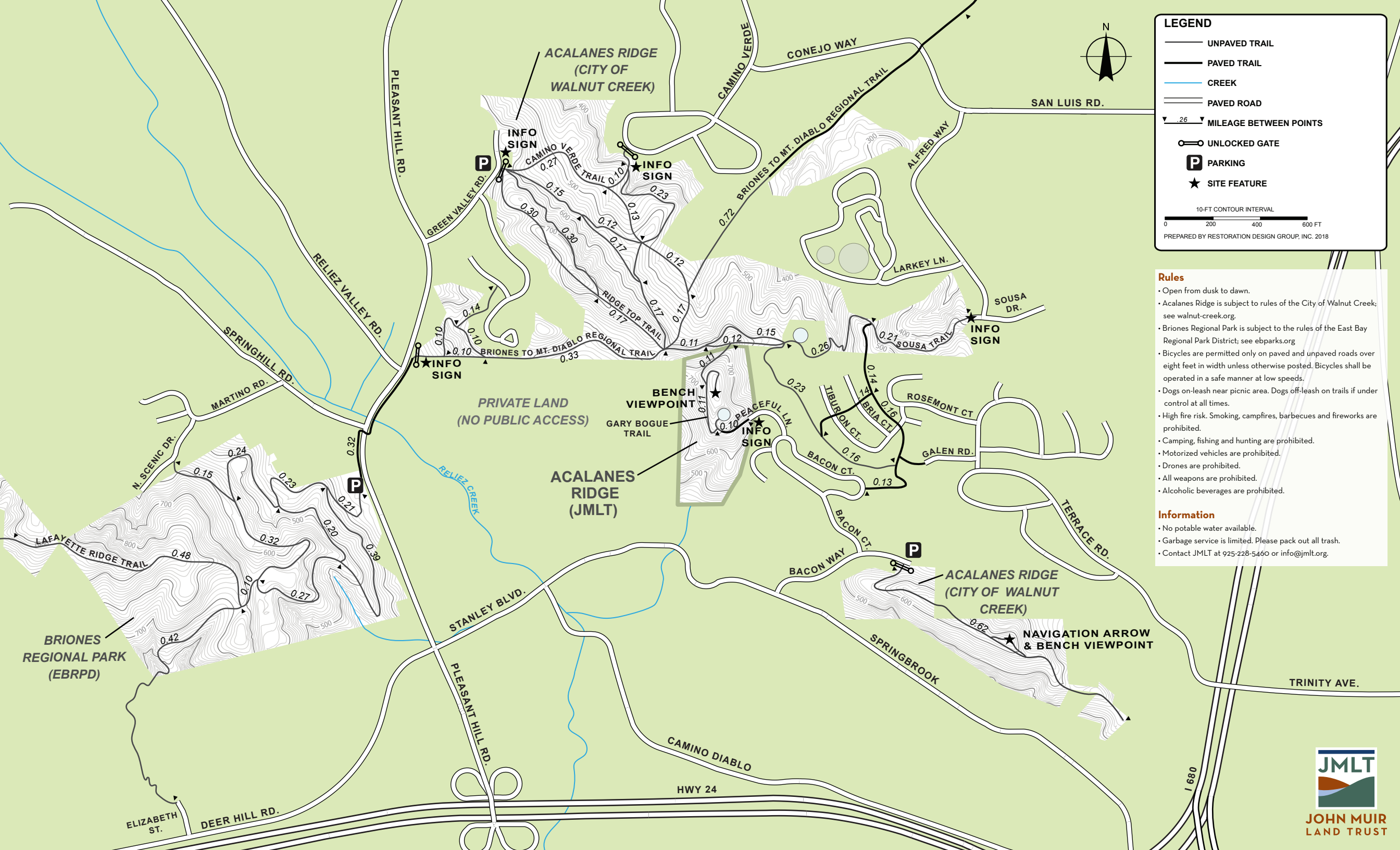
Take Pleasant Hill Road north from Highway 24 from the exit just before Highway 24 merges into I-680 in Walnut Creek. Make a right on Stanley Boulevard. This becomes Springbrook Road. Make a left on Bacon Way and another left on Bacon Court. Make a left on Peaceful Lane and park near the gate for Acalanes Ridge at the end of Peaceful Lane. Or, enter "Peaceful Lane, Lafayette, CA" into a mobile navigational app and you'll find it.



P.O. Box 31, Martinez, CA 94553 | (925) 228-5460 | [jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org)







**LEGEND**

UNPAVED TRAIL

PAVED TRAIL

CREEK

PAVED ROAD

▼ .26 ▼

MILEAGE BETWEEN POINTS

UNLOCKED GATE

P

PARKING

★

SITE FEATURE

10-FT CONTOUR INTERVAL

0

200

400

600 FT

PREPARED BY RESTORATION DESIGN GROUP, INC. 2018

**Rules**

- Open from dusk to dawn.
- Acalanes Ridge is subject to rules of the City of Walnut Creek; see [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org).
- Briones Regional Park is subject to the rules of the East Bay Regional Park District; see [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)
- Bicycles are permitted only on paved and unpaved roads over eight feet in width unless otherwise posted. Bicycles shall be operated in a safe manner at low speeds.
- Dogs on-leash near picnic area. Dogs off-leash on trails if under control at all times.
- High fire risk. Smoking, campfires, barbecues and fireworks are prohibited.
- Camping, fishing and hunting are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.
- All weapons are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

**Information**

- No potable water available.
- Garbage service is limited. Please pack out all trash.
- Contact JMLT at 925-228-5460 or [info@jmlt.org](mailto:info@jmlt.org).