Carr Ranch

John Muir Land Trust (JMLT), in a unique partnership with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), raised $7 million for the acquisition and permanent protection of Carr Ranch in 2016. An outpouring of generous contributions from families, businesses, and agencies across the East Bay made this possible. Today, this pristine 604-acre natural open space provides habitat for native wildlife and endangered species, supplies clean water for thousands, and offers delightful refuge and recreation. Visitors enjoy miles of trails and spectacular views of the entire Bay Area.

Getting to Carr Ranch

From downtown Moraga, drive south on Canyon Road and turn left on Camino Pablo. Take Camino Pablo about 1.7 miles to Rancho Laguna Park, located at 2101 Camino Pablo, Moraga, CA 94556. The EBMUD trailhead is at the fence behind and to the left of the play area. Follow the Rocky Ridge Trail and signs. EBMUD rules apply.

Please make a donation: jmlt.org

Carr Family

Owned by generations of the Carr family, the property was carefully stewarded as a cattle ranch for more than 100 years. By offering the land to John Muir Land Trust, the family expressed their deep commitment to the community and a desire to preserve the legacy of our region’s rich ranching heritage. The pristine state of the land is a testament to the care and love they have provided.

Upper San Leandro Watershed

Carr Ranch is an essential source of clean drinking water. Its creeks and streams drain into EBMUD’s Upper San Leandro Reservoir, and from there into the homes of tens of thousands of East Bay families. This large watershed is special among others in Northern California because 100% of its waterways remain open and primarily in their natural state.

Wildlife Habitat

Carr Ranch is home to an exceptional range of eco-systems including live oak woodlands, riparian woodlands, coastal scrub and annual grasslands. Riparian forests create beautiful winding lines of trees across the landscape that provide shelter for our most vulnerable wildlife neighbors. The property is critical habitat for the threatened Alameda whip-snake, western pond turtle, and larger animals such as mountain lion, American badger, coyote and deer.

Golden Eagle

Among North America’s largest raptors, golden eagles create huge nests of sticks, sod, bones, and feather. They return year after year to the same nest, making the resident population of golden eagles remarkably consistent. These majestic birds prefer to perch on lower hills and cliffs, instead of high rock faces, allowing them to closely survey their surroundings. Such physical features make Carr Ranch an ideal home and hunting ground. Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, these sublime creatures soar freely over the rolling hills.

The California Red-Legged Frog

Believed to have inspired Mark Twain’s The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, the once-abundant California red-legged frog faces many threats from land development and habitat invasion by non-native species. The East Bay is one of the few places where this threatened species thrives, and Carr Ranch is a haven. Buckhorn Creek and numerous ponds provide breeding and foraging habitat where frogs feast on mosquitoes, flies, and moths.

Wilderness

Carr Ranch is your gateway to the 15,500-acre wilderness area formed by the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness and surrounding EBMUD watershed lands. This is a natural wonderland of over 50 miles of trails, 40 miles of creeks and streams, diverse ecosystems, and extensive wildlife. All within minutes of some of the most densely populated areas of the Bay Area. Start here and keep exploring!
Rules

- EBMUD rules apply. EBMUD trail use permit required. See ebmud.com for details.
- Open from dusk to dawn.
- Bicycles are prohibited.
- Dogs on-leash only.
- High fire risk. Smoking, campfires, barbecues and fireworks are not permitted.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Cattle-grazing area. Do not attempt to touch. Keep distance and avoid getting between cows and their calves.
- Close any gate.

Information

- Restrooms at Rancho Laguna Park. Visit moraga.ca.us for information on hours and rules.
- No potable water available.
- Please pack out all trash.
- Contact JMLT at 925-228-5460 or info@jmlt.org.