

DISCOVER

Fernandez Ranch

Bernardo and Carlotta Fernandez

The industrious Portuguese seafarer Bernardo Fernandez became master of his own ship at an early age. During the Gold Rush, Fernandez migrated to California where he started a freighting business between Contra Costa and San Francisco. His success allowed him to purchase land in Pinole and marry Carlotta Cuadra, a native of Chile. After growing their holdings to over 20,000 acres, the Fernandez family carefully stewarded this land for generations before offering 702 acres to John Muir Land Trust in 2005.

Franklin Ridge Trail

Stretching 10 miles from Mount Wanda to Hercules, Franklin Ridge is named after another Gold Rush pioneer, Edward Franklin, who came to California from England. Reaching heights of over 1,000 feet, Franklin Ridge is steeped in California history and natural sights. The Franklin Ridge Trail is multi-use, nearly a mile long, and leads visitors into the heart of this delightful wildlife refuge.

Black Phoebe Trail

Black phoebes feed along Rodeo Creek. If you are lucky, you will see one of these black songbirds with white bellies take flight to catch a passing insect on the wing. The ADA-accessible Black Phoebe Trail leads to benches and picnic areas along the South Meadow. Look for western fence lizards, California meadow voles, coyotes, and other species that prefer open grasslands.

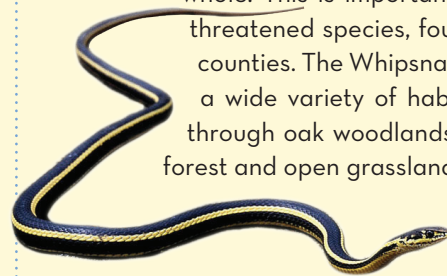


Windmill Trail

The antique windmill is a reminder of the area's agricultural heritage. The Windmill Trail follows the route of an early ranch road, passing by the old foundations of a mid-century dairy farm. The dairy ceased operating in 1960, but cattle still graze the hills. The trail crosses Fern Creek and climbs to the ridge where hikers with a permit can continue on the Bay Area Ridge Trail into EBMUD's beautiful Pinole Valley Watershed.

Whipsnake Trail

Alameda whipsnakes have two lateral yellow stripes set against a black or dark brown back. Whipsnakes are fast, efficient hunters that capture and swallow lizards and small mammals whole. This is important habitat for the threatened species, found only in a few counties. The Whipsnake Trail traverses a wide variety of habitats, taking you through oak woodlands, pockets of bay forest and open grasslands.



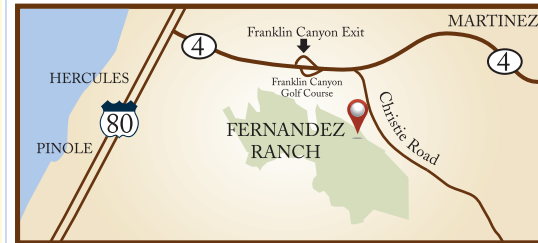
Woodrat Trail

San Francisco dusky-footed woodrats build large nests, often several feet tall, made of twigs and branches. Woodrats store nuts, leaves, food, and man-made objects, earning the common name "pack rats." The Woodrat Trail travels through a dense bay forest as it climbs to the ridge that separates the Pinole Creek and Rodeo Creek watersheds. Keep an eye out for California newts, and look for nests on the ground and low in the trees.



Fernandez Ranch

John Muir Land Trust made the first acquisition for Fernandez Ranch in 2005, followed by the property formerly known as Franklin Canyon a few years later. This beautiful 1,185-acre open space provides essential habitat for native wildlife and a delightful refuge for public recreation. Visitors enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the Bay from elevated ridgetops, miles of multi-use trails, picnic areas, and calming walks through pristine East Bay ecosystems.



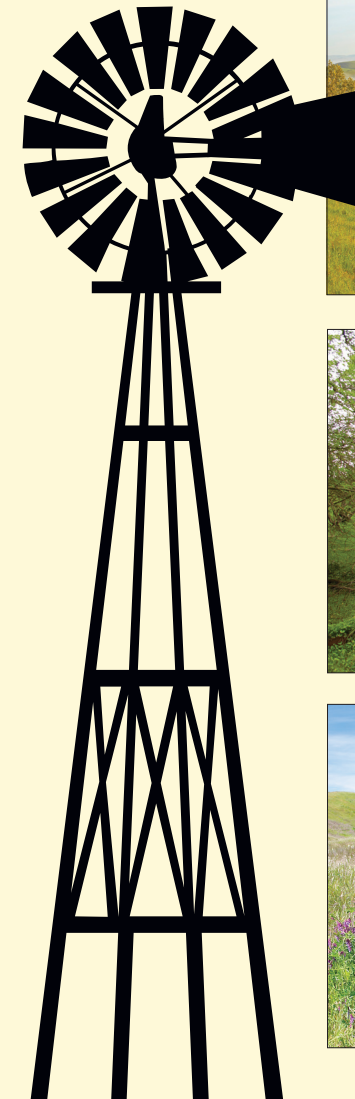
1081 Christie Road, Martinez, CA

From I-80: Head east on Highway 4. Take the first exit after the Franklin Canyon Golf Course onto Christie Road. Use caution; Christie Road is a minor exit off of Highway 4. Fernandez Ranch is .7 miles down Christie Road on your right.

Download smart phone tours
Please make a donation
jmlt.org



FERNANDEZ RANCH





JOHN MUIR
LAND TRUST

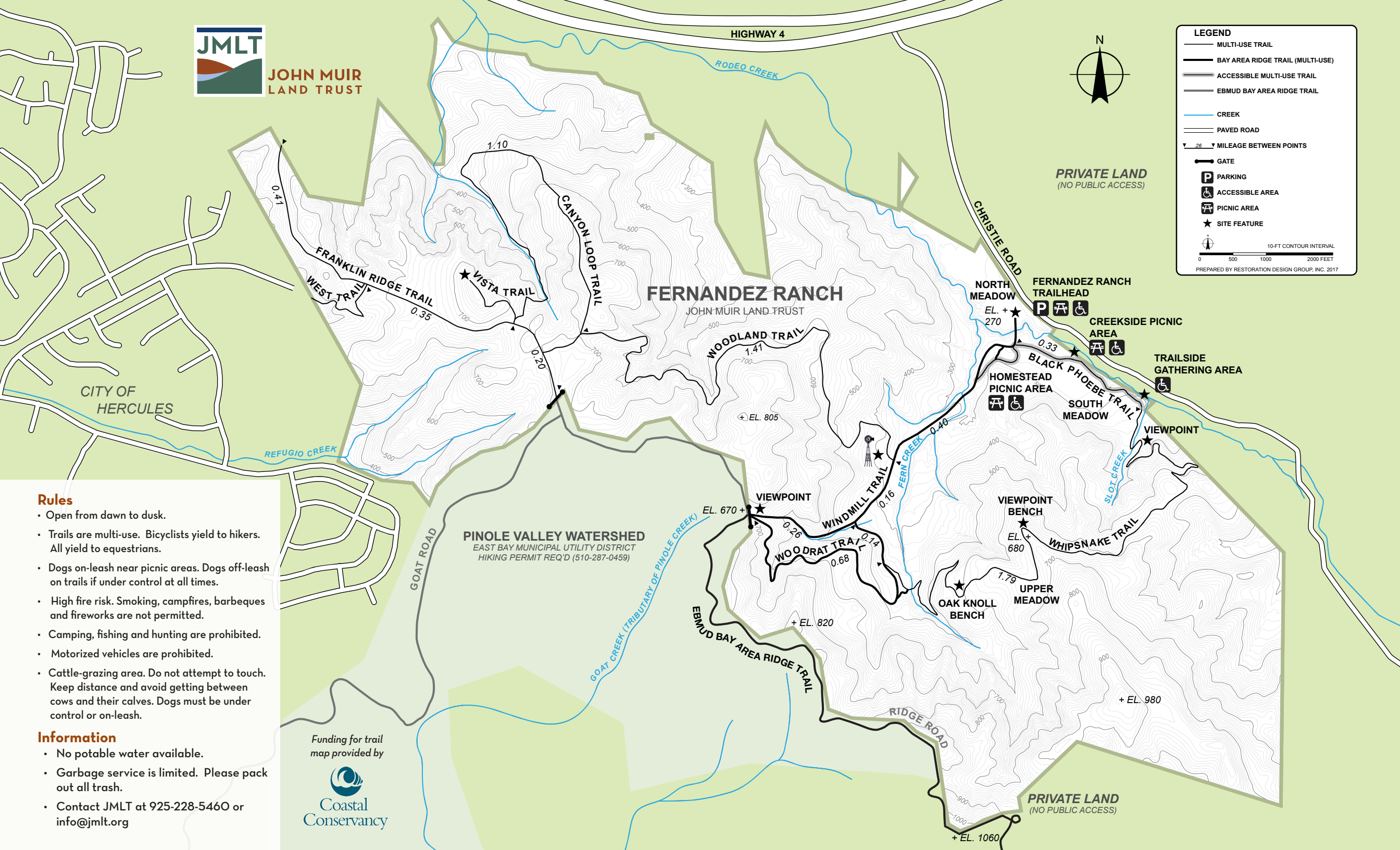
Rules

- Open from dawn to dusk.
- Trails are multi-use. Bicyclists yield to hikers. All yield to equestrians.
- Dogs on-leash near picnic areas. Dogs off-leash on trails if under control at all times.
- High fire risk. Smoking, campfires, barbecues and fireworks are not permitted.
- Camping, fishing and hunting are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Cattle-grazing area. Do not attempt to touch. Keep distance and avoid getting between cows and their calves. Dogs must be under control or on-leash.

Information

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

Funding for trail
map provided by



PRIVATE LAND
(NO PUBLIC ACCESS)

FERNANDEZ RANCH
TRAILHEAD
P A ♿

CREEKSIDE PICNIC
AREA
A ♿

TRAILSIDE
GATHERING AREA
♿

NORTH
MEADOW
EL. + 270

HOMESTEAD
PICNIC AREA
A ♿

SOUTH
MEADOW

VIEWPOINT

VIEWPOINT
BENCH
EL. + 680

OAK KNOLL
BENCH

UPPER
MEADOW

+ EL. 980

+ EL. 1060

PINOLE VALLEY WATERSHED
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
HIKING PERMIT REQ'D (510-287-0459)

HIGHWAY 4

RODEO CREEK

CANYON LOOP TRAIL

FRANKLIN RIDGE TRAIL
WEST TRAIL

VISTA TRAIL

FERNANDEZ RANCH

JOHN MUIR LAND TRUST

WOODLAND TRAIL

EL. 805

VIEWPOINT

WINDMILL TRAIL

WOODRAT TRAIL

EBMUD BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL

RIDGE ROAD

CHRISTIE ROAD

PRIVATE LAND
(NO PUBLIC ACCESS)

CITY OF
HERCULES

REFUGIO CREEK

GOAT ROAD

GOAT CREEK (TRIBUTARY OF PINOLE CREEK)

WOODLAND TRAIL

WINDMILL TRAIL

BLACK PHOEBE TRAIL

SOUTH MEADOW

WHIPSNAKE TRAIL

UPPER MEADOW

+ EL. 980

+ EL. 1060

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