



# DISCOVER MORAGA HILLS

### Wilderness Wonderland

Harvey Ranch and Carr Ranch are gateways to the 15,500-acre wilderness area formed by the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness and the Upper San Leandro Watershed lands owned by the East Bay Municipal District (EBMUD). 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. Enter here and get ready to explore!

### Carr Ranch

Formerly owned by generations of the Carr family, this 604-acre property was carefully stewarded as a cattle ranch for more than 100 years. Protected in perpetuity in 2016 by JMLT and EBMUD, it preserves the legacy of our region’s rich ranching heritage. The pristine state of the land is a testament to the care and love the family provided over many decades.

### Wildlife Habitat

Moraga Hills is home to an exceptional range of ecosystems 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 area is critical habitat for the threatened Alameda whipsnake, western pond turtle, and larger animals such as mountain lion, American badger, coyote and deer.



### Harvey Ranch

Opting for conservation in the face of increasing demand for residential development, long-time Moraga resident Charlene Harvey worked with JMLT to preserve the beloved ranch where she and late husband Jim Harvey found refuge for sixty years. Renowned conservation advocates in the Bay Area, Charlene led the fundraising campaign to protect Crissy Field and Jim served as director of the California Parks Foundation.

### Clean Water

The creeks and streams of Moraga Hills drain into EBMUD’s Upper San Leandro Reservoir, and from there into the homes of tens of thousands of East Bay families. Walking the trail beside Buckhorn Creek is a special treat. This large watershed is unusual among others in Northern California because 100% of its waterways remain open and primarily in their natural state.

### 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 mosquitos, flies, and moths.



### Visiting Carr Ranch

From downtown Moraga, drive south on **Canyon Road** and turn **left** onto **Camino Pablo**. Continue for about **1.7 miles** to **Rancho Laguna Park** (2101 Camino Pablo, Moraga, CA 94556). The **EBMUD trailhead** is at the fence behind and to the left of the playground area. Follow the **Rocky Ridge Trail** and posted signs. All **EBMUD** rules apply.

### Visiting Harvey

#### Route 1 — Via St Mary’s College

From **St Mary’s Road**, turn southeast onto **St. Mary’s Parkway** (look for the entrance sign to Saint Mary’s College of California). Drive about **0.2 miles** into campus and stop at the **Public Safety Kiosk** to check in. Park in the lot directly adjacent to the kiosk. Pay any required parking fees and follow posted rules. From the parking lot, walk about **0.3 miles** across campus toward **Mission Road**. Take the paved path uphill toward the **Geissberger Observatory** (small white dome building). Continue past the observatory to the **Harvey Ranch trailhead**.

#### Route 2 — Via Bollinger Canyon Road

Continue on **St Mary’s Road** past the St Mary’s College entrance toward Lafayette. After about **0.9 miles**, turn **right** onto **Bollinger Canyon Road**. Drive **0.7 miles** to the **trailhead parking area** (small gravel lot on the right). Begin on the **Canyon Trail**, which enters Harvey Ranch within the first 100 yards. After about **0.4 miles**, reach the intersection with the **Woodland Loop Trail**.

### Moraga Hills

John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) protected Carr Ranch in 2016 and Harvey Ranch in 2023. These properties frame the Moraga Hills—an open space that provides habitat for native wildlife and endangered species, supplies clean water for thousands, and offers delightful recreation for nature lovers across the East Bay. Generous contributions from families, foundations, businesses, municipal governments, and agencies made these acquisitions possible. In a unique partnership with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), JMLT raised \$7 million for the purchase of Carr Ranch. Virtually all funding for Harvey Ranch came from private individuals and institutions. An anonymous \$1 million gift and major contributions from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Town of Moraga contributed greatly to the total \$4 million raised.



### Getting There

There are multiple entry points to the Moraga Hills open space. Main access points are via Rancho Laguna Park, Bolinger Canyon Road and St Mary’s College. See detailed info in “Visiting” to left and at [jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org).





