

8th Annual El Cerrito Hillside Fest 2022

Saturday May 14

Sunday May 15

Various Times

**Locations throughout the
Hillside Natural Area.**

FREE



**Presented by El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and
El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee.**



**Explore El Cerrito's Hillside Natural Area.
Hike, play, learn about nature, history, geology
and more. Activities for young and old.
Questions? davidsweinstein@yahoo.com**

Donations: The festival is free but maintaining and improving the Hillside is not. Please make a tax deductible donation with a check to "ECCF," with "Hillside Improvement" in the memo line. ECCF is the El Cerrito Community Foundation. Send to Pam Austin, 834 Kearney St., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Saturday, May 14

10 a.m. to noon. Insect Hike. Eddie Dunbar, founder and president of the Insect Sciences Museum of California, will lead a family-friendly yet erudite hike revealing secrets of the Hillside's tiniest animals. **Location Four, King Court Gateway.**

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Family-Friendly Geology Stroll. Geologist Gary Prost of the Northern California Geological Society will introduce young people to the wonders of rocks and the earth beneath their feet. The first climb is steep. People of any age are welcome. **Location Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.**

Starting at Noon, in conjunction with the above mentioned stroll, to 3:30 p.m. Geology Walk. This hike is a continuation of the geology stroll, co-sponsored by the **Northern California Geological Society.** Mark Petrofsky, former teacher, and Bill Motzer, a semi-retired geologist/geochemist will talk in depth about geology, faults, more. **Location Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.**

Anytime between 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Nature Scavenger Hunt. Learn about plants, birds, animals, rocks, and creeks. Parents help their children in this fun drop-in event. Find things on your illustrated list (no actual collecting please), take photos, return to talk about your finds and win prizes. **Location Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.**

2:00-3:30 p.m. Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk. Learn about ethnobotany — how native plants have been used over the centuries for food, medicine, and crafts with Alan Siegel, a docent at East Bay Regional Park District's Tilden Botanic Garden. Family-friendly uphill walk. Download the free iNaturalist app to help identify and document what you learn. **Location Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.**

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Beginner-general level Plant Walk. Janet Gawthrop of the **California Native Plant Society** leads this moderate walk, focusing on native plant restoration. Janet's walks also appeal to seasoned naturalists. **Location Two, Madera Circle Trailhead.**

5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Early evening history walk. Learn about the motorcycle hill climbs that in the 1920s attracted thousands of spectators to town, about the origins of the Hillside Natural Area, and about El Cerrito's raucous past as a gambling mecca as we gaze out on our town from on high. Dave Weinstein leads on behalf of the El Cerrito Historical Society. **Location one, Motorcycle Hill.**

7:00 pm. to 8:30. An evening tree hike. Enjoy the Hillside in the run-up to sunset with Stephen Prée, the city's arborist who also

staffs the Urban Forest Committee. Learn about the native and exotic trees in the Hillside, and about how the city cares for this diverse urban forest, the challenges, the potential futures, and how you can play a role in preserving and enhancing our city's arboreal canopy. **Location Three, Regency Gateway.**

Sunday, May 15

8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk led by Cathy Bleier, a Golden Gate Audubon Society member. Look for and identify birds in our Hillside Natural Area, and learn how, when and why they use this valuable resource. We'll walk up to a 1.5 mile loop along the Ridge, Navellier and Live Oak Trails. Bring binoculars and walking sticks, if needed, for a couple of short steep pitches. **Location Four, King Court.**

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Leave No Trace Hike. Girl Scout Troop 33283 will lead a one mile out and back hike and teach hikers about the Leave No Trace Principals. Hike features a very brief climb. Younger hikers and their parents and caregivers are especially encouraged to join! **Location Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.**

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Haiku hike. Let's celebrate winners of our haiku contest while enjoying an easy though uphill stroll. Winners will be awarded prizes and will read their haiku, which were inspired by the our Hillside park. We will stretch our legs for 1 mile, stopping to enjoy haiku readings. After that you can continue for another 2 miles for a more challenging hike. **Location Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.**

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Easy Nature Walk. Join Susan Schwartz, head of Friends of Five Creeks, as we try out free apps that help identify wild plants and animals. For families and seasoned naturalists. Download and set up an account on iNaturalist, Merlin, or BirdNet (for bird song). Friends of Five Creeks has done extensive restoration and plant-mapping in the Hillside Natural Area. **Location Four, King Court.**

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Early California Indian Life in the El Cerrito area. Berkeley's well known historian and author and publisher of RSB books **Richard Schwartz** will discuss life in El Cerrito before the arrival of Spanish colonists, and about rancho life. Meet at the "crossroads." This is an open-air talk, not a walk. **From Location Three, Regency Court, walk for about 1,000 feet to the intersection with the Ridge Trail and meet Richard there.**

6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy the view, snacks, and good company. Join an informal gathering with Trekkers, hike leaders and volunteers, and anyone who has enjoyed the festival. This open-to-all event takes place where the view is great, a few hundred yards from **Location Four, King Court Gateway.** Follow the signs.

7 p.m. As the day winds to a close, join Nicole Becker from Ojas Yoga Center for **Meditation in Nature**, high in the hills by a rock outcrop with stupendous views. Relaxing. **Follow signs from Location Four, King Court Gateway.**

Porta-potties are available at the Regency Court Gateway and at King Court. There is a restroom open until 5 p.m. at the Recycling Center near the Schmidt Lane Trailhead.



LEGEND

-  RESTROOMS
-  TRAILS

Locations: One, Motorcycle Hill, where Navellier and Blake streets meet. **Two, Madera Circle Entry**, between 1540 and 1560 Madera Circle. **Three, Regency Gateway**, at northern end of Regency Court. **Four, King Court Gateway**, at end of King Court. **Five, Schmidt Lane Trailhead**, near the end of Schmidt Lane, west of the Recycling Center. *And please enjoy our haiku signs, which are displayed throughout the Hillside and were written by our Haiku Contest winners.*