

10th Annual El Cerrito

Hillside Fest 2024

Saturday May 4

Sunday May 5

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.
Questions? davidsweinstein@yahoo.com

The Hillside Natural Area is a 100-plus acre park that will be preserved forever as open space. **Be aware:** Even short hikes have steep sections. Wear sturdy shoes with grip heels. Bring water, wear a hat. Watch for poison oak and check yourself for ticks.

Saturday, May 4

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk led by Cathy Bleier, a Golden Gate Bird Alliance member. Look for and identify birds and learn how, when and why they make use of the Hillside Natural Area. Bring binoculars and walking sticks, if needed, for a couple of short steep pitches. **No dogs please, other than service dogs!** Location Five, King Court Gateway.

10:30 a.m. to noon. El Cerrito History Hike. Step back in time as we explore the history of El Cerrito and environs on this traverse of the upper Hillside Natural Area. Retired East Bay Regional Parks supervising naturalist Dave Zuckermann will be your guide on this moderate 2-mile hike with a few very steep sections. Location Five, King Court Gateway.

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Family-friendly Rockhound Gathering. Learn about the geology of the East Bay Hills by seeing and handling rocks and visiting nearby rock outcrops. Gary Prost, Bill Motzer and Mark Petrofsky of the **Northern California Geological Society** will share their knowledge and enthusiasm on a short walk. Location Six, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.

Anytime between 1 and 3 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 Six, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.

2 to 5 p.m. Crafting From Nature. Come make recycled paper, integrating dried plants found in the Hillside Natural Area. This drop-in activity is aimed at children, but anyone can enjoy the event. Come by anytime between 2 and 5. Meet in the meadow just below the King Court Gateway. Watch for signs. There will be refreshments and treats sold by kids from the neighborhood. Location Five, King Court Gateway.

3:30 to 5 p.m. Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk. Learn about ethnobotany — how native plants have been used for food, medicine, and crafts with Alan Siegel, a docent at Tilden Botanic Garden. Family-friendly uphill walk. Location Six, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.

5:30 to 7 p.m. Drink in the Views Hike. Sure the Hillside's filled with fabulous fungi, mysterious animal tracks, and plants. But what do most of us gaze at when in the Hillside? The views! Let's see what we can learn about El Cerrito while enjoying the sights. Dave Weinstein leads. Location One, Motorcycle Hill Trailhead.

7 pm. to 8 p.m. An evening tree hike. Enjoy the Hillside in the run-up to sunset with Stephen Prée, the city's arborist who staffs the Urban Forest Committee. Learn about native and exotic trees, how

the city cares for this diverse urban forest, and how you can help our arboreal canopy. Location Four, Regency Gateway.

Sunday, May 5

8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk led by Golden Gate Bird Alliance Board member, Tara McIntire. Explore the Hillside Natural Area with its magnificent views, stunning oak woodlands, and BIRDS! **No dogs please, other than service dogs!** Location Six, Schmidt Lane Trailhead.

10:30 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 Five, King Court Gateway.

11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Family Friendly Art in the Trees: Session one. Let's look closely at the trees around us. Using paint sticks and watercolors, Lucy Ames, El Cerrito artist and Art Camp educator, will guide young artists to create art focusing on shapes of tree trunks and branches in a glade. Location Three, Navellier Entry.

Noon to 12:45 p.m. Family Friendly Art in the Trees: Session two. Lucy Ames' art in the trees event was so popular last year we are providing two opportunities this year for parents to bring their budding artistic talents. Location Three, Navellier Entry.

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Haiku hike. Celebrate the winners of our festival haiku contest with a walk in the Hillside area. Winners will be awarded prizes and then read their haiku along the first half mile of walking. There are options for a 1 mile round trip hike or a 2-1/2 mile round trip hike. Hike leaders are Melissa Hobbs, Barbara Lass and Wade Huntley. Location Four, Regency Gateway.

2:30 to 4 p.m. Magical apps make it easy to ID flora and fauna. Join Brian Richmond and Bob Zucker as we try out free apps to identify plants and animals. Ideal for families and seasoned naturalists. Before joining the walk, it is best to set up accounts on iNaturalist, Seek, or Merlin on your smart phone. Find instructions on Google. Location Five, King Court Gateway.

4:30 to 6 p.m. Lichen hike. Join UC Berkeley's lichen curator Dr. Klara Scharnagl to learn about local lichens, where they grow and what role they play in the environment. Learn about key features for identification, including growth form. Lichen hikes move slowly with frequent stops. Bring a hand lens or magnifying glass. Location Two, Douglas Drive Trailhead.

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Everyone is Welcome Gathering. Join an informal gathering for snacks and beverages. This open-to-all event takes place where the view is great, a few hundred yards from from Location Five, King Court Gateway. Follow the signs.

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





CITY OF EL CERRITO
AREA MAP

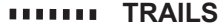
Hillside Natural Area



LEGEND



RESTROOMS



TRAILS

Locations: One, Motorcycle Hill, where Navellier and Blake streets meet. Two, Douglas Drive, by 1524 Douglas Drive. Three, Navellier Entry, near 1432 Navellier Street. Four, Regency Entry, at northern end of Regency. Five, King Court Gateway, at end of King Court. Six, Schmidt Lane Trailhead, on Schmidt Lane near the Recycling Center. Please enjoy our haiku signs, displayed throughout the Hillside, written by Haiku Contest winners.