



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Iron Horse Regional Trail

California



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Running north–south though San Francisco’s East Bay region, the popular Iron Horse Regional Trail—whose very name conjures its



Running north–south though San Francisco’s East Bay region, the popular Iron Horse Regional Trail—whose very name conjures its important railroad history—follows the old Southern Pacific rail corridor, created in 1891. After the tracks fell into disuse in the late 1970s, the corridor was purchased by Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Spanning 32 miles, it’s one of the longest rail-trails in California.

The route roughly parallels I-680 and is heavily used for both recreation and commuting, connecting kids to schools, commuters to business centers, and residents to parks and other amenities. It connects nine cities and several Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) stations, making it easily accessible without a car. Horseback riding opportunities vary by city; equestrians can contact the

East Bay Regional Park District for more information.

At the northern end, the trail begins just south of CA 4, near the northeast corner of Buchanan Field Airport in Concord. Heading south, the trail hugs Walnut Creek for about 3.5 miles, providing good opportunities to see ducks, geese, egrets, and other birds. It diverges from the creek as it crosses Monument Boulevard in Pleasant Hill to connect with the Pleasant Hill BART station.

Continuing south from the station, the area becomes more urban, passing near downtown Walnut Creek and then gliding over two bridges for bicyclists and pedestrians that span Treat Boulevard and Ygnacio Valley Road. Between the two bridges, you’ll cross the [Contra Costa Canal Regional Trail](#). You can access the Walnut Creek BART station by taking Ygnacio Valley Road about a half mile west.

The trail takes you past downtown Alamo and winds through a residential greenbelt until it reaches Danville’s charming downtown area. You’ll find parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, and lots of dining and shopping options. Rail history buffs will want to check out the restored Southern Pacific Depot, circa 1891, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

South of Danville the trail passes Bishop Ranch business park, a major employment hub, and continues through San Ramon. Stay alert for golf cart crossings as you cut through the golf course and continue south to the Dublin BART station. Look for ground stencils to guide you through the station, the parking lot, and back onto the trail.

At Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton, the trail crosses the [Arroyo Mocho Trail](#). To stay on the Iron Horse, follow the signs (most are pavement decals) heading southeast another 2 miles to Stanley Boulevard, where the trail then veers east toward Livermore. Enjoy beautiful views of the adjacent Shadow Cliffs



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States: California

Counties: Alameda, Contra Costa

Length: 32miles

Trail end points: Marsh Dr, 0.1 mile west of Solano Way (Concord) to Stanley Blvd & Isabel Ave (Livermore)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback Riding, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

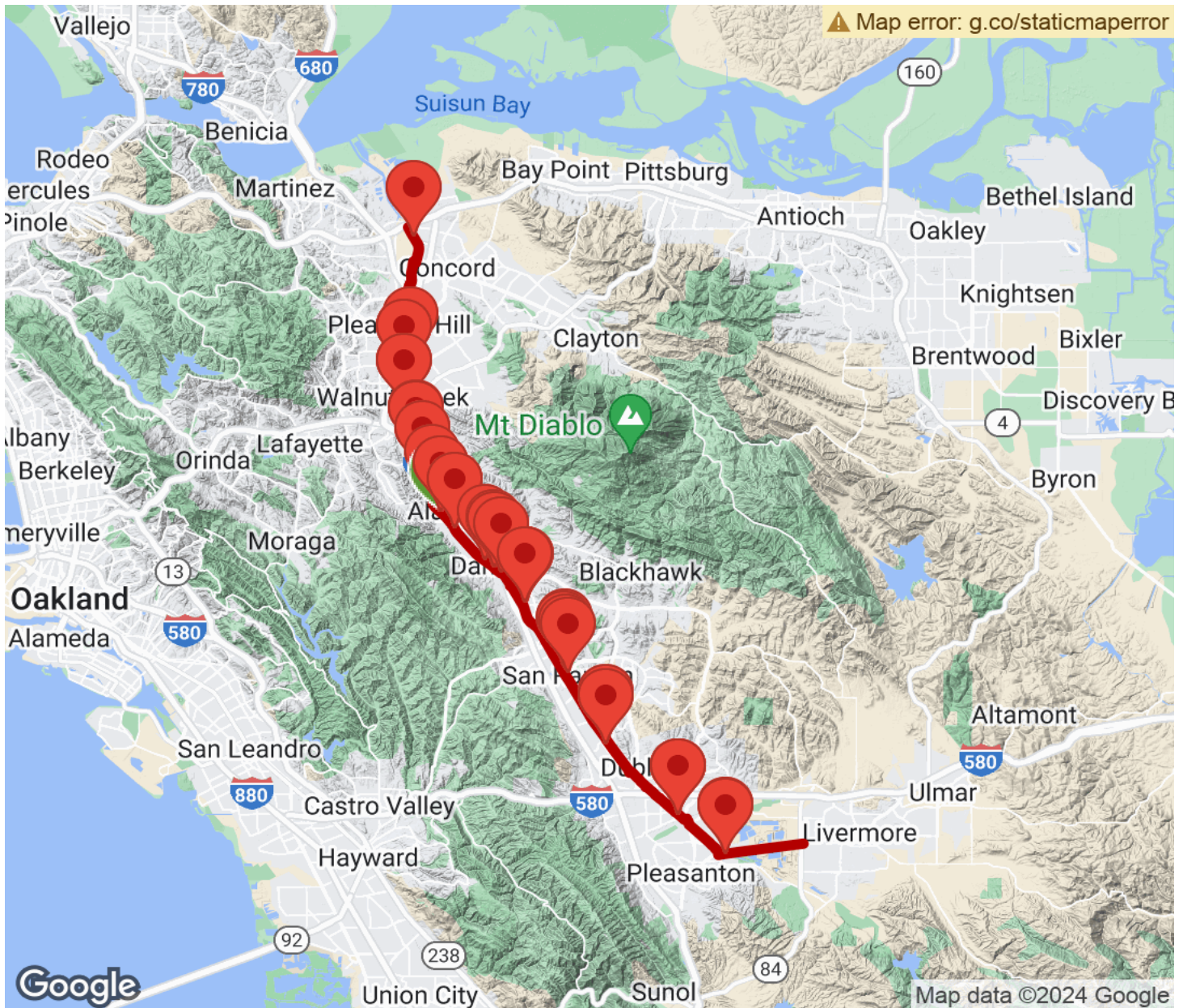
Parking is available at numerous points along the trail, including at several parks and BART stations along the route. The parking lots at the BART stations in Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill may have parking fees.

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Iron Horse Regional Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com