



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Crystal
Springs
Regional Trail**
California



Crystal Springs Regional Trail

California

The Crystal Springs Regional Trail offers tranquil views of two long, narrow reservoirs and a lake that sit atop the San Andreas Rift



The Crystal Springs Regional Trail offers tranquil views of two long, narrow reservoirs and a lake that sit atop the San Andreas Rift Zone, a geologic fault that shook violently in the destructive 1906 San Francisco earthquake and others.

The trail runs down a ridge on the San Francisco Peninsula between San Bruno and Woodside and consists of three sections: (from north to south) the 2.6-mile San Andreas section and the 7.2-mile Sawyer Camp section, which make up a connected segment intersecting near where I-280 exits onto Hillcrest Boulevard in Millbrae, and the 6.7-mile Crystal Springs segment.

The two contiguous northern segments are mostly wide, paved, and reasonably graded, except for the

southernmost 0.6-mile section of the San Andreas segment. Due to the steeper grade and narrow gravel surface, this stretch is accessible only to walkers and equestrians. To avoid it, bicyclists, skaters, and wheelchair users are directed to take Skyline Boulevard via Larkspur Drive and Hillcrest Boulevard. The Crystal Springs segment is dirt and open only to walkers and horse riders. It is maintained by San Mateo County, which does not allow pets.

The northernmost trailhead with parking is located a half mile south of the trail endpoint at San Bruno Avenue. The San Andreas section features views of San Andreas Reservoir at the foot of Sweeney Ridge.

The Sawyer Camp section begins at Hillcrest Boulevard. It's considered the busiest trail section in San Mateo County and has a posted speed limit of 15 miles per hour. Spanish explorers followed this route in the 16th century, and it later became a wagon road that led to a lodge operated in the mid-1800s by landowner Leander Sawyer. The trail heads downhill and away from the interstate at the southern end of the San Andreas Reservoir and crosses a dam. You'll pass through a forest that offers shade and places for picnicking. This area is also home to deer and other wildlife, as well as the Jepson laurel, said to be 600 years old and the largest such tree in the state.

The Crystal Springs Reservoir emerges about 2.3 miles past the dam, offering pleasant views in clearings for the next 4.5 miles to the end of the Sawyer Camp section at CA 35/Skyline Boulevard and CA 92/Half Moon Bay Road. A dam here separates the upper and lower reservoirs.

The Crystal Springs segment begins 0.5 mile south on CA 92 at Cañada Road. This dirt track on the western side of the right-of-way is suitable only for hiking, jogging, and equestrian use. Bicyclists can use the shoulder of Cañada Road in this area.



Crystal Springs Regional Trail

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States: California

Counties: San Mateo

Length: 16.5miles

Trail end points: San Andreas Trailhead (755 San Andreas Trail, San Bruno) to CA 92/Half Moon Bay Rd (San Mateo) to CA 92/Half Moon Bay Rd & Cañada Rd (San Mateo) to Huddart County Park

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Dirt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Wheelchair

Parking & Trail Access

Parking for the San Andreas/Sawyer Camp segment can be found along Skyline Boulevard (State Route 35) near John Muir Elementary School and at the trailhead located at the intersection of Crystal Springs Road and Skyline Boulevard (SR 35).

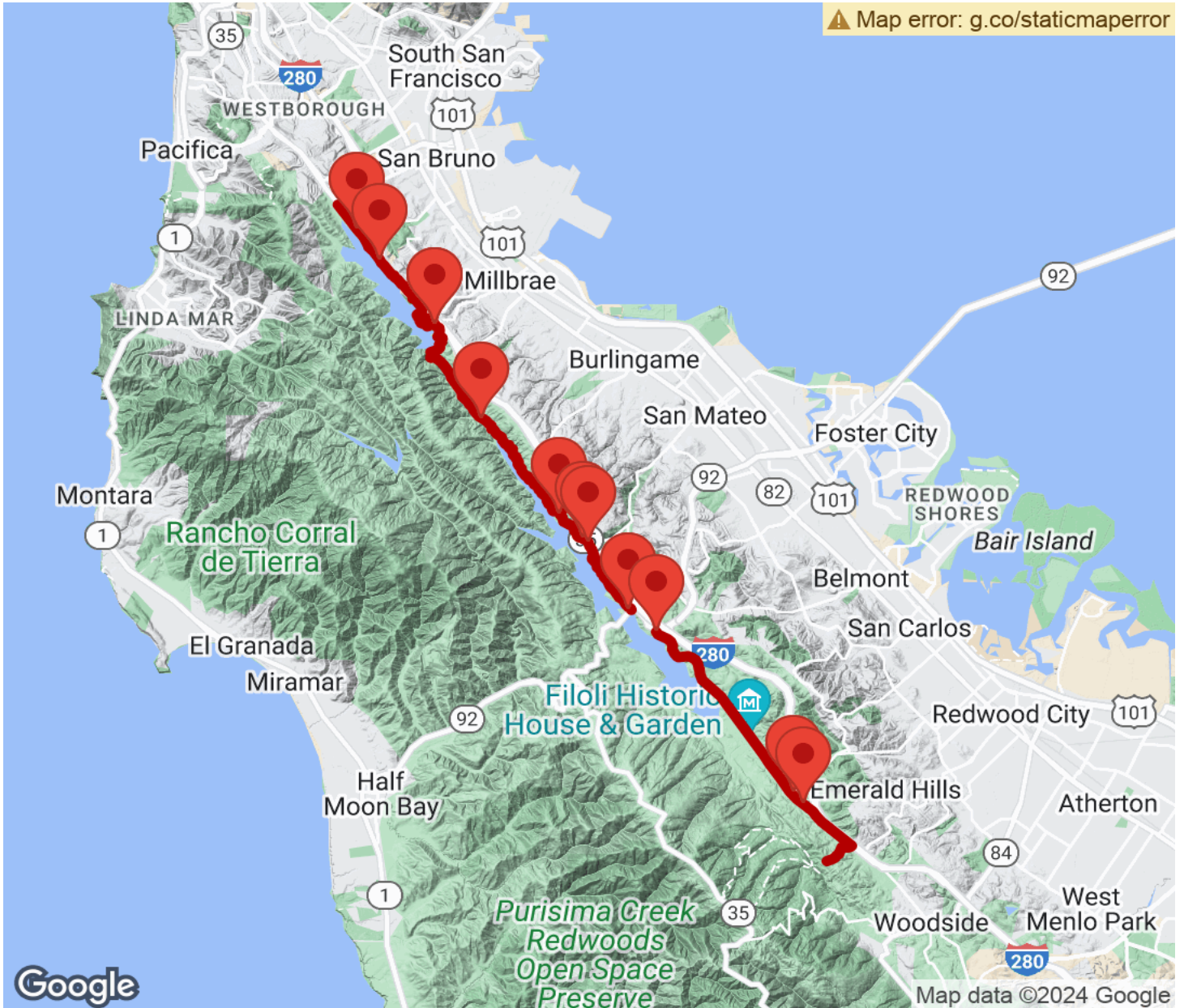
Parking for the Crystal Springs segment is available at the trail's northern endpoint at the intersection of Half Moon Bay Road (SR 92) and Skyline Boulevard (SR 35).

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



Crystal Springs Regional Trail

California



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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