

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF  
WALNUT CREEK OPEN SPACE

In 1974, a \$6.75 million bond was approved by the citizens of this community to purchase and preserve the undeveloped ridgelines that surround the city and contribute so much to its quality and character. With over 2,700 acres of oak woodlands, grassland savannah and chaparral, this is one of the largest city owned open spaces in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Located within **Shell Ridge** is the historic **Borges Ranch**, placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1981. Established in 1899, this still working cattle ranch features weathered barns and ranch buildings, corrals and the restored Borges family home. A picnic area and children's fishing pond are situated just below the ranch.

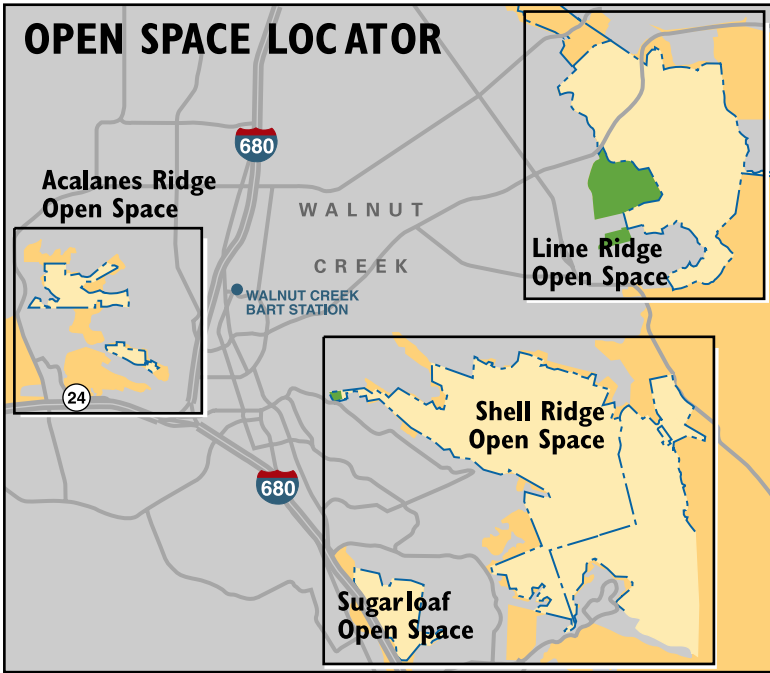
A popular Shell Ridge trailhead begins at **Howe Homestead**. This was the former home for James Howe, a foreign news correspondent and entrepreneur, and his wife Mia. The City's community garden is found here as well.

**Lime Ridge** encompasses both City of Walnut Creek and City of Concord properties. It contains some of the last remaining chaparral vegetation in the area. This preserve area is rich in diversity of both plants and animals and is protected more than other areas. Please heed the signage throughout.

**Sugarloaf** presents an opportunity to stroll through one of the last walnut orchards in the City. **Acalanes Ridge** straddles the ridge between Lafayette and Walnut Creek providing vistas east toward Mt. Diablo and the other Open Space units.

Cattle graze throughout most of the Open Space areas, not only to preserve the area's cultural history but to reduce invasive weeds as well. They are generally very docile, and, although curious, will normally move away from people. Don't bother them and they won't bother you!

Hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking are all available in our Open Spaces. Please check the entry points and trail markers for regulations applying to specific areas or activities. Please remember, the efforts of *yesterday* created the opportunities of *today*. Do your part to preserve them for *tomorrow*.



Borges Ranch

