

Morgan Territory is north of Livermore in eastern Contra Costa County. Morgan Territory's sandstone hills are adorned in spring with more than 90 species of wildflowers, including the Diablo sunflower which grows only in the foothills of Mount Diablo. Deer, coyote, and mountain lion are found there, and a variety of raptors frequently soar overhead. Expansive ridge top views reveal Mount Diablo to the west, Mount St. Helena to the north and the snow-covered Sierra to the East.



Highland Ridge (AKA Founders Ridge)

The 160-acre property was donated by Shapell Industries of Northern California. This dedication serves as additional mitigation for impacts to streams resulting from development of the Gale Ranch housing project in San Ramon. It's located on the west side of Morgan Territory Road, south of Morgan Territory Regional

Preserve, approximately 8+ miles south of Marsh Creek Road. Shapell owns adjacent properties to the east and west of this subject



Diablo Sunflower

property. Private property is to the south. The property forms a bowl with elevations ranging from 1,400' up to 1,920', which is a part of the northeastern portion of the Tassajara Creek watershed.

### Ecological Value

This spectacular property contains a diverse mixture of the oak woodland, chaparral, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, ponds, grassland and rock outcrops along flanks of Highland Ridge also known

as Founders Ridge. The property drains to the south and west through privately owned open space into Tassajara Creek, which eventually connects with Alameda Creek in Alameda County. Larger mammals including mountain lion, bobcat, gray fox and deer use this property and the connections it provides to other open space areas.

### Project Actions

The property has one created stock pond and a fire road. The property is currently under a Park District grazing lease which will continue. This property will likely remain in Land Bank status for several years until an alternative public access is developed. District gates and boundary signs will be installed to clearly mark the property boundaries for park users, public agencies, and neighboring land owners.

### Quick Facts

Action: Land acquisition  
Size: 160 acres  
Funding: \$200,000  
Provider: Shapell Industries of Northern California  
Target Habitats: oak woodland, chaparral, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, ponds, grassland and rock outcrops  
Target species: Mountain lion, bobcat, gray fox and deer



Stock ponds like this one provide habitat for fish and amphibian as well as a water source for grazing cattle.