

Cull Canyon Regional Recreation Area – Chabot-to-Garin Regional Trail

Dense forests and far-reaching views abound on this trail sure to remove you from the hustle and bustle of urban life.



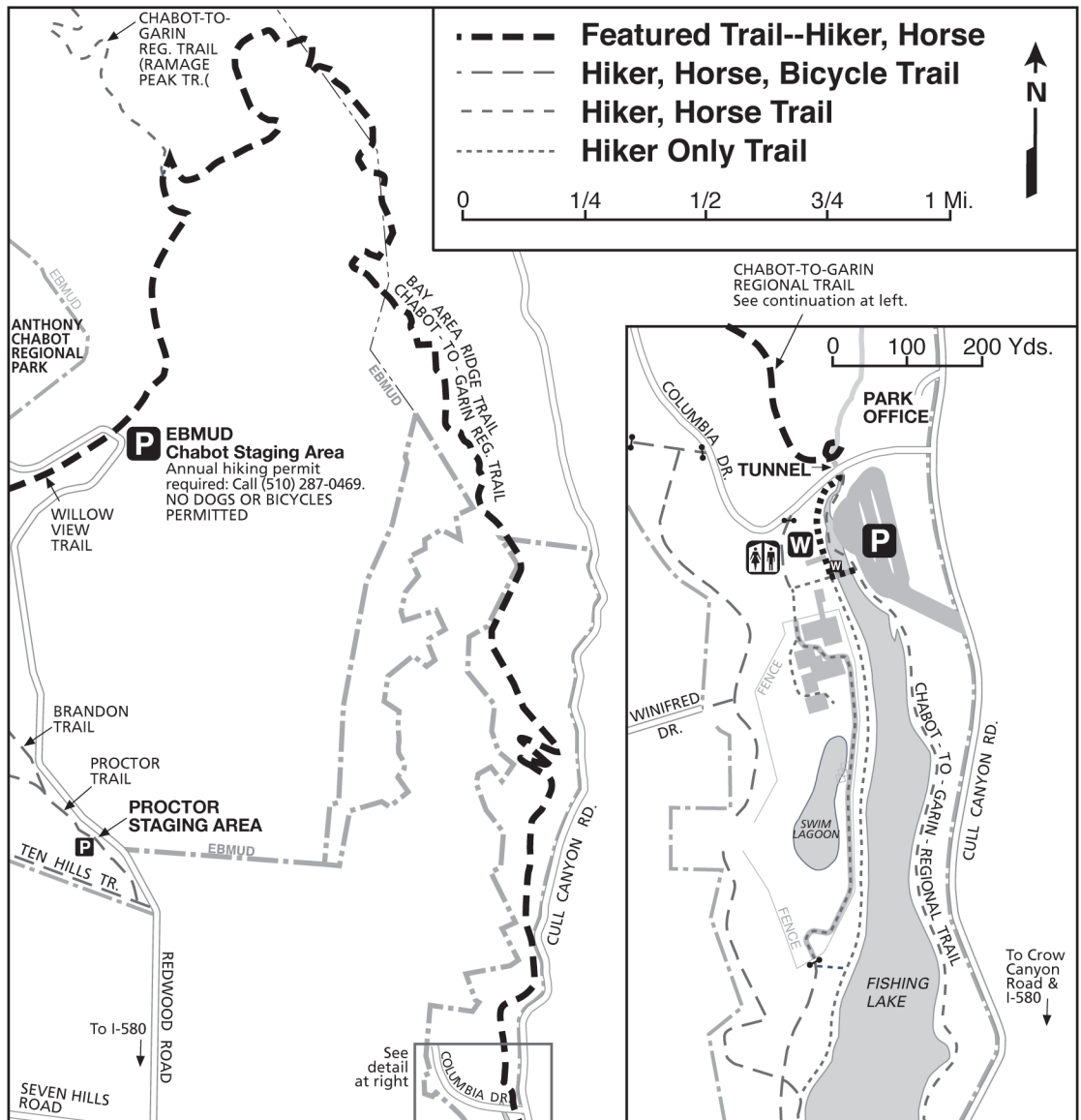
Length: 14 miles

Location: Castro Valley

Intensity: Challenging

Trail Features: Due to the length and remoteness of this trail, you are unlikely to encounter many other trail users. The trail is steep at parts, as it follows Cull Creek in the San Lorenzo Creek watershed before crossing over the ridge into the San Leandro Creek watershed. It crosses several trails not on the map, but is very well signed. This route can be done as a one way trip with a car shuttle on either end, which would be a 7-mile hike. Restrooms are available at Cull Canyon and the EBMUD Chabot Staging Area. Water is available at Cull Canyon. **An EBMUD trail use permit is required.**

Trail Directions: The trail starts at the footbridge on the west side of the parking lot. Begin along the Chabot-to-Garin Regional Trail by heading north from the bridge along the west side of the lawn. As you enter the trees at the north end of the lawn, you will see a sign for the trail, noting that it is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Make a left just before the tunnel and enter it, passing under Columbia Drive. Immediately after exiting the tunnel, make a right at the sign and climb up to Columbia Drive, making another right and paralleling the road on the right of the stone wall. After crossing over a bridge, the trail makes a sharp right and begins to climb. Continue straight as you cross the Cull Canyon Loop Trail, traveling among a forest of bays and oaks. Soon after, the trail descends, crossing Cull Creek. After climbing the east bank, pass along the edge of a meadow before returning to the trees, where the trail again crosses the creek. From here, the trail begins its climb away from Cull Creek to the ridge above. After nearly a dozen switchbacks, the trail enters open grassland. The trail crosses a ravine, before ascending to a Chabot-to-Garin Regional Trail sign and an open area behind a group of residences. Passing by the sign, you are leaving Cull Canyon and entering private property. Stay to the right and enter the gate. The trail follows an open ridge and passes through another gate. At the fork in the trail, head left towards a third gate, with a large sign notifying you that you are now entering EBMUD land. Make a right onto the fire road, and follow it up and down the hills. When you come to a three way split in the trail, follow the sign, taking the far left fork, leaving the fire road for single track trail. After passing around the bend, the trail rejoins the fire road. Follow the trail downhill until you reach the junction with the Ramage Peak Trail. Stay left and follow the trail to the left of the fence. The trail then enters a grove of redwoods and begins to climb. The EBMUD Chabot Staging Area is just beyond the final gate. On the way back, make sure to sign in at the trail registry at the Ramage Peak Trail gate.



Driving Directions: From I-580 eastbound in Castro Valley, take the Center Street exit, go north (left) on Center to Heyer, right on Heyer to Cull Canyon Road, and left on Cull Canyon Road to the park entrance on the left. From I-580 westbound, take the Castro Valley exit and continue west (left) on Castro Valley Boulevard to Crow Canyon Road. Turn right on Crow Canyon, then left on Cull Canyon Road and continue to the park entrance on the left. **Park hours:** 5am to 10 pm. **No fees.** **An EBMUD trail use permit for an annual fee of \$10, is required: call 1-866-40-EBMUD or visit www.ebmud.com/services/recreation/.**