Alhambra Creek
The upper tributaries of Alhambra and Rodeo Creeks crisscross these lands. Alhambra Creek nourishes indigenous wildlife such as the belted kingfisher, river otters, and the green heron. Alhambra is also home to the famous Martinez beavers, who have been sighted in downtown Martinez, sparking the annual Beaver Festival in August.

Flora & Fauna
The landscape hosts at least five species of oak trees and various hybrid oaks. Native wildflowers include poppies, lupines, yarrow, monkeyflower and Mt. Diablo sunflowers. The upper reaches of the creeks harbor large and small mammals, and many reptiles and amphibians, including the threatened California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake. Songbirds and raptors thrive, including Golden eagle and the Cooper’s hawk, with its uncom- monly long tail and warm reddish bars of color on its belly. Bring binoculars!

Stonehurst
John Muir Land Trust was founded by a group of neighbors around a kitchen table to protect this 150-acre open space from development. Yoca Creek Trail follows its namesake into the hills, offering delightful recreation for nearby families and important refuge for wildlife.

Sky Druta Gustin
Overlooking Suisun Bay, these 480 acres of contiguous open space southwest of Martinez are a natural gem adjacent to densely populated areas. John Muir Land Trust acquired Sky Ranch in 1998 and then Gustin Ranch in 2002, saving bath from impending development. Historic 191-acre Dutra Ranch, the critical link between the two, was acquired from the Dutra Family in 2004. The properties form a critical corridor for native wildlife roaming their natural habitats. The 3-mile Tira Batt Trail is named for a tenacious defender of lands and wildlife who was a founder of JMLT. As you walk along her namesake trail, delight in the surrounding live oak and bay laurel woodlands, rolling grasslands, and coastal scrub.

Parking
These three properties are reached via Feeder Trail #1 and the Dutra Road trailhead. From the intersection of Alhambra Road, take Franklin Canyon Road west for one mile and turn south on Dutra Road. The trailhead, marked “Contra Costa County Feeder Trail #1” is on the left about one-tenth mile up the road. Park on the left side before the trailhead and stables where there is room for about three cars. Walk up Feeder Trail #1 for one mile to the gate that marks the entrance of Sky Ranch.

Franklin Ridge
The hills to the west and southwest of downtown Martinez are known locally as Franklin Ridge, named for Gold Rush pioneer Edward Franklin who came to California from England in 1849. Franklin purchased a two-story adobe ranch house from Vicenta J. Martinez in 1853 that can be seen at the John Muir National Historic Site. A climb into these hills is a delightful way to experience this landscape much as it was 150 years ago.

John Muir National Historic Site
4202 Alhambra Ave. Martinez, CA 94553

Owned and operated by the National Park Service, the John Muir National Historic Site (JMNHS) preserves the Victorian mansion where famed naturalist and writer John Muir lived, and the nearby tracts of native oak woodlands and grasslands historically owned by the Muir family. John Muir Land Trust enlarged the site by acquiring Mount Wanda in 1992 and West Hills Farm in 2015. Mount Wanda and adjacent Mount Helen are named for Muir’s daughters. These peaks offer the most accessible summits among the Franklin Ridge properties, with grand views of the Carquinez Strait, Mount Diablo, and the lovely surrounding hills.

Parking
The main JMNHS parking lot is located at the intersection of Highway 4 and Alhambra Avenue.

Franklin Ridge
These six glorious properties were acquired by John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) over three decades: Stonehurst (1991), Mount Wanda (1992), Sky Ranch (1998), Gustin Ranch (2002), Dutra Ranch (2004), and West Hills Farm (2015). They offer stunning panoramas from elevated ridgtops, miles of multi-use trails, vital wildlife habitat, and the opportunity to reflect on the area’s rich history as you walk in the footsteps of John Muir himself. Visitors marvel at sweeping views of the Bay and Mount Tamalpais to the north and west, gorgeous rolling hillsides in vibrant seasonal colors to the south, and Mount Diablo and the distant snow-capped Sierra Nevada to the east. The protected open space is a beloved treasure for all, with the prospect of future expansion.

P.O. Box 31, Martinez, CA 94553 | (925) 228-5460 | jmlt.org

Download smart phone tours
Please make a donation
jmlt.org

Getting There
The Franklin Ridge properties are located south of Martinez, CA, most easily accessed from Highway 4 via the Alhambra Avenue exit. There are four main trailheads and parking areas indicated on the trail map and described to the left.
Rules
- Open from dusk to dawn.
- Areas of John Muir National Historic Site have restricted hours and separate rules. Visit nps.gov/jomu.
- Trails are multi-use. Bicyclists yield to hikers. All yield to equestrians.
- Dogs on-leash near picnic area. Dogs off-leash on trails if under control at all times.
- High fire risk. Smoking, campfires, barbecues and fireworks are not permitted.
- Camping, fishing and hunting are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Cattle-grazing area. Do not attempt to touch. Keep distance and avoid getting between cows and their calves. Dogs must be under control or on-leash.
- Close any gate found closed.

Information
- No bathrooms.
- No potable water available.
- Garbage service is limited. Please pack out all trash.
- Contact JMLT at 925-228-5460 or info@jmlt.org.