

How to Enter a Trail on BayNature.org's New Trailfinder

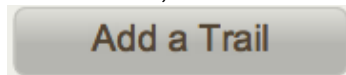
First, thanks for being a Trailblazer! That's a great name in two sense: First, we're showing people great trails all over the Bay Area. And second, we're doing it on a brand-new platform built by Bay Nature, [Transit and Trails](#), [ParkInfo](#), and [iNaturalist](#). Whoa, that's a lot of cooks! Yes, but we're convinced that by working together, we can make something great! And with your help, we can.

For your average trail entry, all you need to worry about is BayNature.org and TransitandTrails.org. Those are the services that collectively allow you to map, catalogue, and share your hikes. Any hikes you enter on our site will also appear on TransitandTrails.org, credited to you of course!

If you are already a Trailblazer, then you have your login credentials for both sites. If not, head over to [Become a Trailblazer](#) and let us know that you want to help out.

Before you start, if you're about to go on a hike and then come back and load it up, download our handy [Trailblazer-TrailSheet](#), which you can print out and use to get all the info you'll need for the various checkboxes on our forms. Head out, have fun, take a few notes, and a few pics, and then come on back. We'll wait here...

OK, now that you've got your notes and photos, you can start entering a trail from anywhere you see the Add Trail button, like this:

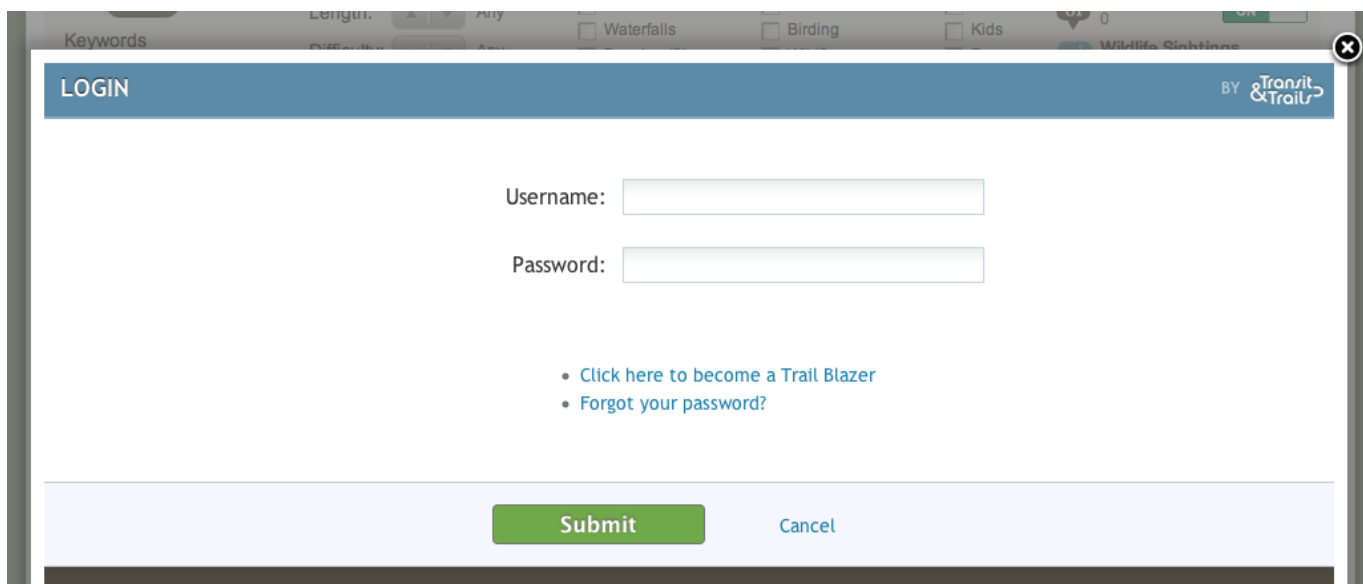


Right now, that's one of three places: (1) The [main trailfinder page](#). (2) The [Parks search page](#). (3) Pages for specific parks and existing trails.

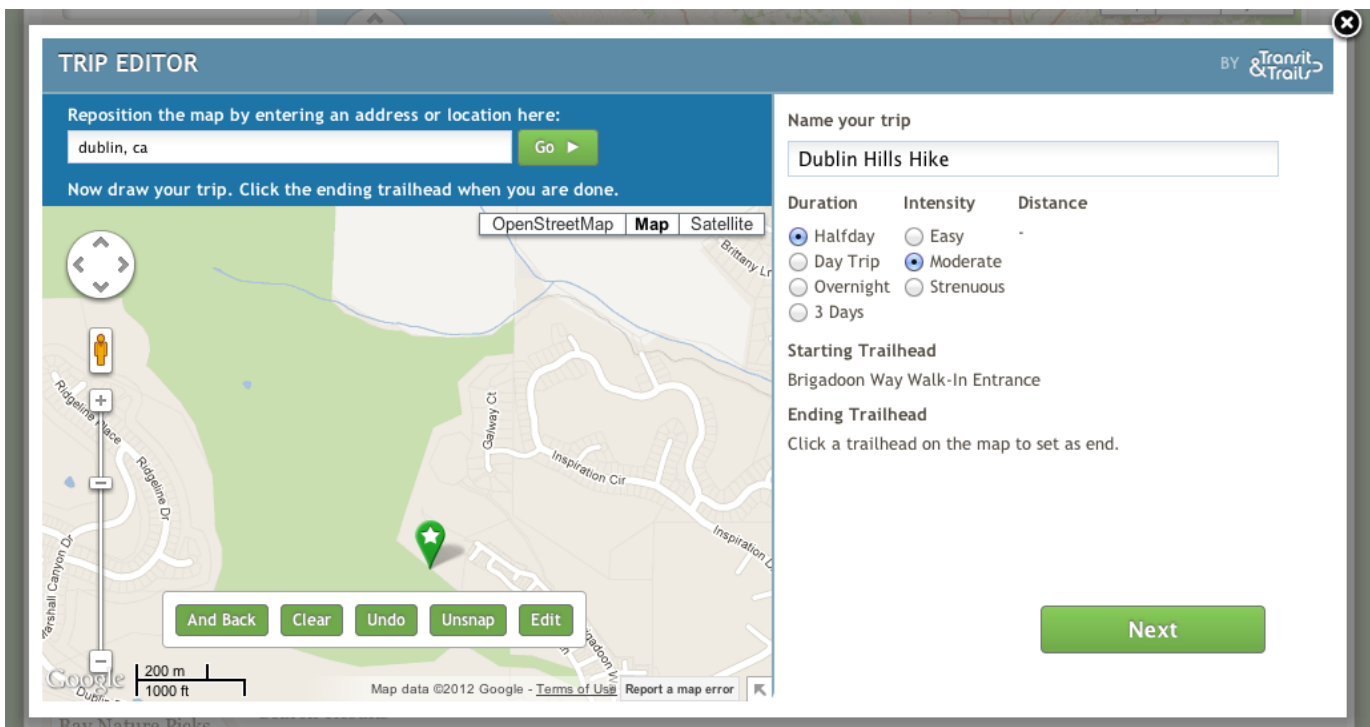
The last option is nice because the map on the Add Trail widget will load up centered on the park or trail you were just looking at, saving a bit of time searching on the map where you actually draw in the trail. So you can use the second link to find your park, then go to it. Or just start from either Trailfinder main page and then use the map search shown below to get where you need to go.

Logging in Make sure you're logged in on our site, and also that you have activated your special Transit and Trails Trailblazer account (if you have no idea what we're talking about, [shoot us an email](#) and we'll explain!).

The first time you click "Add a Trail", you'll get a screen like this:

A screenshot of a login form. At the top, there's a blue header with the word "LOGIN" on the left and a logo on the right that says "BY Transit & Trails". Below the header, there are two input fields: "Username:" followed by a text box, and "Password:" followed by a text box. Below the password field, there are two links: "Click here to become a Trail Blazer" and "Forgot your password?". At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: a green "Submit" button and a blue "Cancel" button. The form is set against a light gray background with some navigation links visible at the top.

Enter your username and password. And then the trip builder loads up:

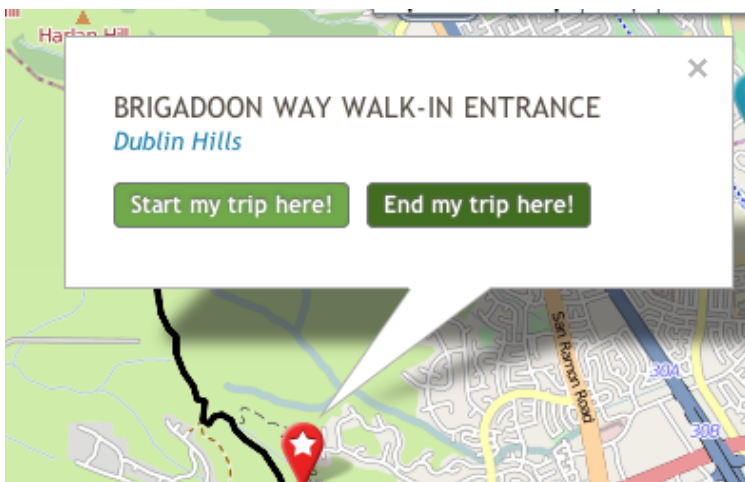


Make sure to give your hike a name, then pick the appropriate values for Duration and Intensity. Distance will calculate automatically from the line you are about to draw on the map.

You can use the field on the map to zoom close to where you need to go. depending on where you are on our site when you click the "Add a Trail" button, the map will either start in the park you were just looking at, or it will default to downtown SF. Use the map search field just like a Google map -- it will understand city and town names (paired with state), most major park names, and sometimes other locations as well.

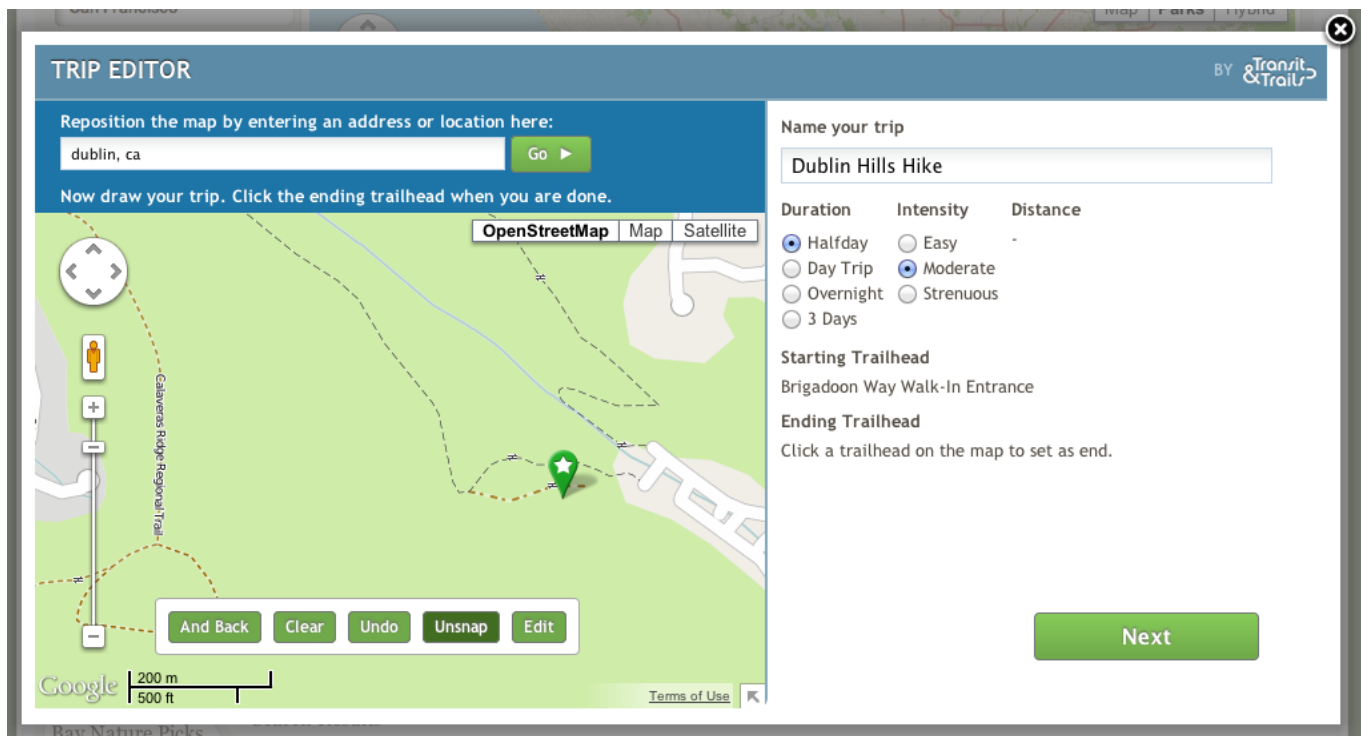
Once you're within striking distance of your hike, you should see little blue hiker icons. Those are trailheads. We have over 2,000 in our database, so the trialhead you need should be there. Every hike must start and end at a trailhead in our system. (Not seeing your trailhead? You can add it, but you have to head over to Transitandtrails.org, click "Add a Trailhead," fill in the form, and then come back to BayNature.org and close and reopen the "Add a Trail" window to refresh. But that should be rare.)

Now, pick your starting trailhead. Click on the blue trailhead and choose the "Start my tripe here!" button"

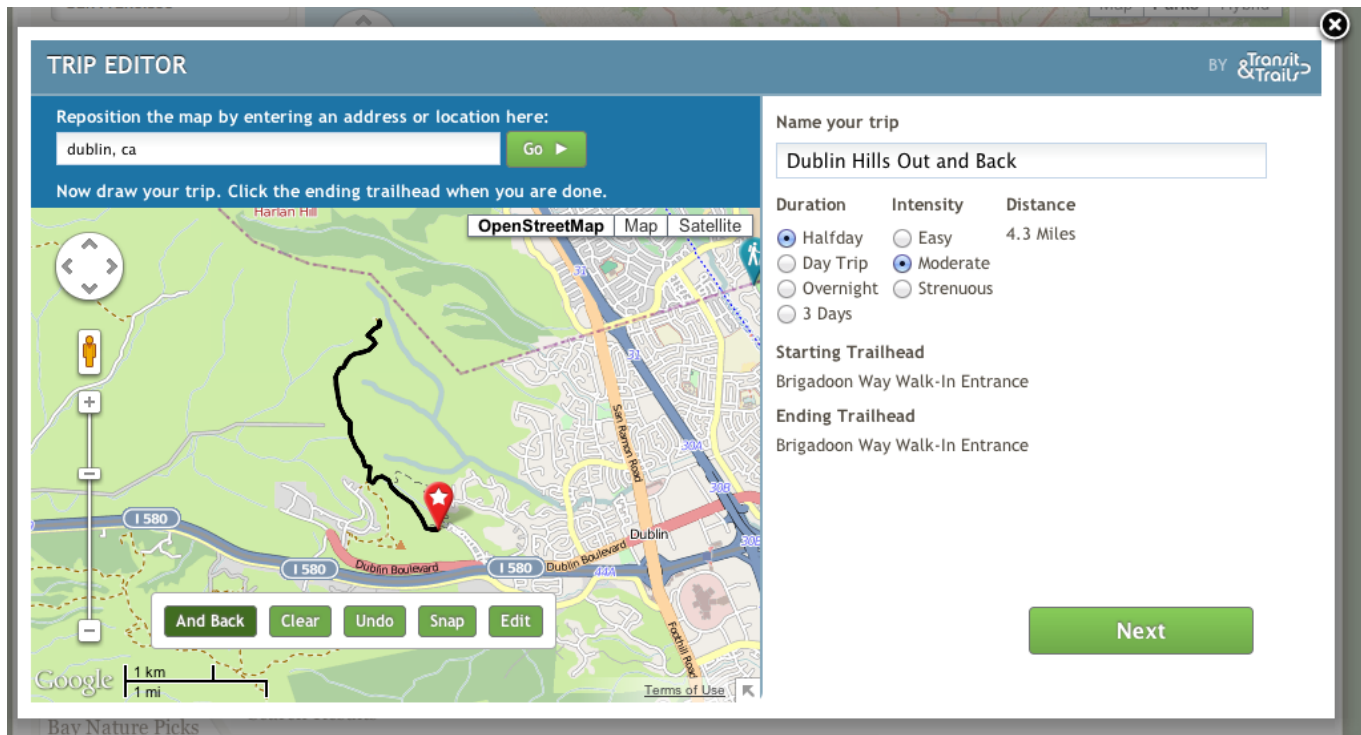


Then start tracing your route! We have three base maps to choose from: Google (Map), Open Street Map, and Satellite. If your trails show on Google, excellent. We have a Snap feature that will make your trip follow the trails exactly. All you have to do is click on the intersections (if something goes off, just click Undo and try again). But if you don't see your trails on the Google map, try Open Street Map. This is a communally created map that often has great trail and park information. If you see your trails here, you'll have to trace them by

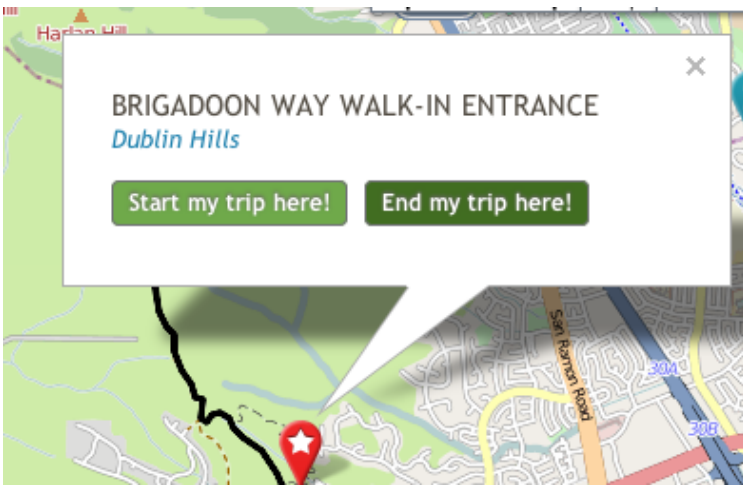
hand. Click on "Unsnap" to turn off that feature, then click your route on the map. Here's that what looks like:



If your hike is an out-and-back, we have the "And Back" button. That will trace your route exactly back and tally up the miles correctly. Here's what an out-and-back trip looks like:



That will also select your ending trailhead for you. For loops or one-way hikes, you need to select an ending trailhead, like this:



OK, the map's done, now it's on to text and pictures!

Entering Text and Photos

The main screen for entering text and photos looks like this:

San Francisco Map Parks Hybrid

TRIP DETAILS : DUBLIN HILLS OUT AND BACK BY

Description

Hike by Dan Rademacher, originally published in the October 2010 issue of Bay Nature magazine

It's not every day that a new regional park opens. In late July 2010, the East Bay Regional Park District threw open the gates to Dublin Hills Regional Park, about 650 acres of steep, grassy hills with panoramic views from Mount Diablo to Brushy Peak, south to Sunol Regional Park, west to the Bay, and northwest to the San Francisco skyline.

The park, just north of Interstate 580 and the suburban tangle of Dublin, is a classic East Bay landscape: open hills covered in exotic grasses, punctuated by wooded ravines and, unfortunately, a still-unfinished subdivision of outsized, overbuilt homes. Fortunately, the trails draw you toward better views. First you'll hit Donlan Point, with views of both Diablo and San Francisco. Then you'll come around to a fork; one way leads you down into a wooded canyon (and more houses) and the other up, up, up. This high road quickly gets you into the grasslands. The wooded ravines and open hills draw both red-tailed hawks (in the open) and Cooper's hawks (near the woods).

The main trail here is one segment of the still-incomplete Calaveras Ridge Regional Trail, which eventually will span 44 miles connecting regional parks from Sunol all the way to the Carquinez Strait

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Trip Attributes

- Climbing
- X-County Skiing
- Trail Running
- Swimming
- Scenic Overlook
- Kayaking
- Horseback Riding
- Fishing
- Dogs Allowed On-leash
- Dogs Allowed Off-leash
- Birding

Access Mode

- Transit Accessible
- Car (Drive up)
- Walk-in Access Only
- Bike Friendly

Back Next

Bay Nature Picks

Type your description right into this field. If you want to write it elsewhere and paste it in, that's fine, but be careful about using Microsoft word or other programs with lots of formatting. Our trip editor tries to maintain all that and it can look goofy. Better to use TextEdit (on a Mac) or NotePad (on a PC). You can add some simple formatting and URL links here if you like.

And then we have lots of checkboxes to choose from. (This is where our handy [Trailblazer-TrailSheet](#) comes in handy!) Do your best with these. Better to leave information off the form than to provide wrong information.

When you're done, click Next. Almost done!

Photos and PDF Map

We'd love to have at least one photo with every hike. Use only photos that are either yours or for which you have permission from the photographer. Use this box to load up as many photos as you want, one at a time:

Photos (Powered by Flickr)

Add Photo

no file selected

Then, if you happen to have downloaded an official park map PDF or you know the link for one, you can enter it here, so other folks can download and print. Choose "File" if you have a copy on your computer to upload. Choose URL if you have a link,. Make sure the URL includes "http://" and no extra characters at the beginning or end:

Maps

Add Map

File
 URL

no file selected

Now you're really almost done! Click on the Done button.

Special Bay Nature Data

The above forms will get your hike showing in full on TransitandTrails.org. But we have some special additional fields to make sure your hike shows up in all the right spots on BayNature.org. Here's that form:

San Francisco

Map Parks Hybrid

Additional Trail Details

This Trail is Especially Good For

- Beaches/Shore
- Bikes
- Birding
- Disabled Access
- Dogs
- Kids
- Views
- Waterfalls
- Wildflowers

Habitats you Encountered

Bay Nature Picks

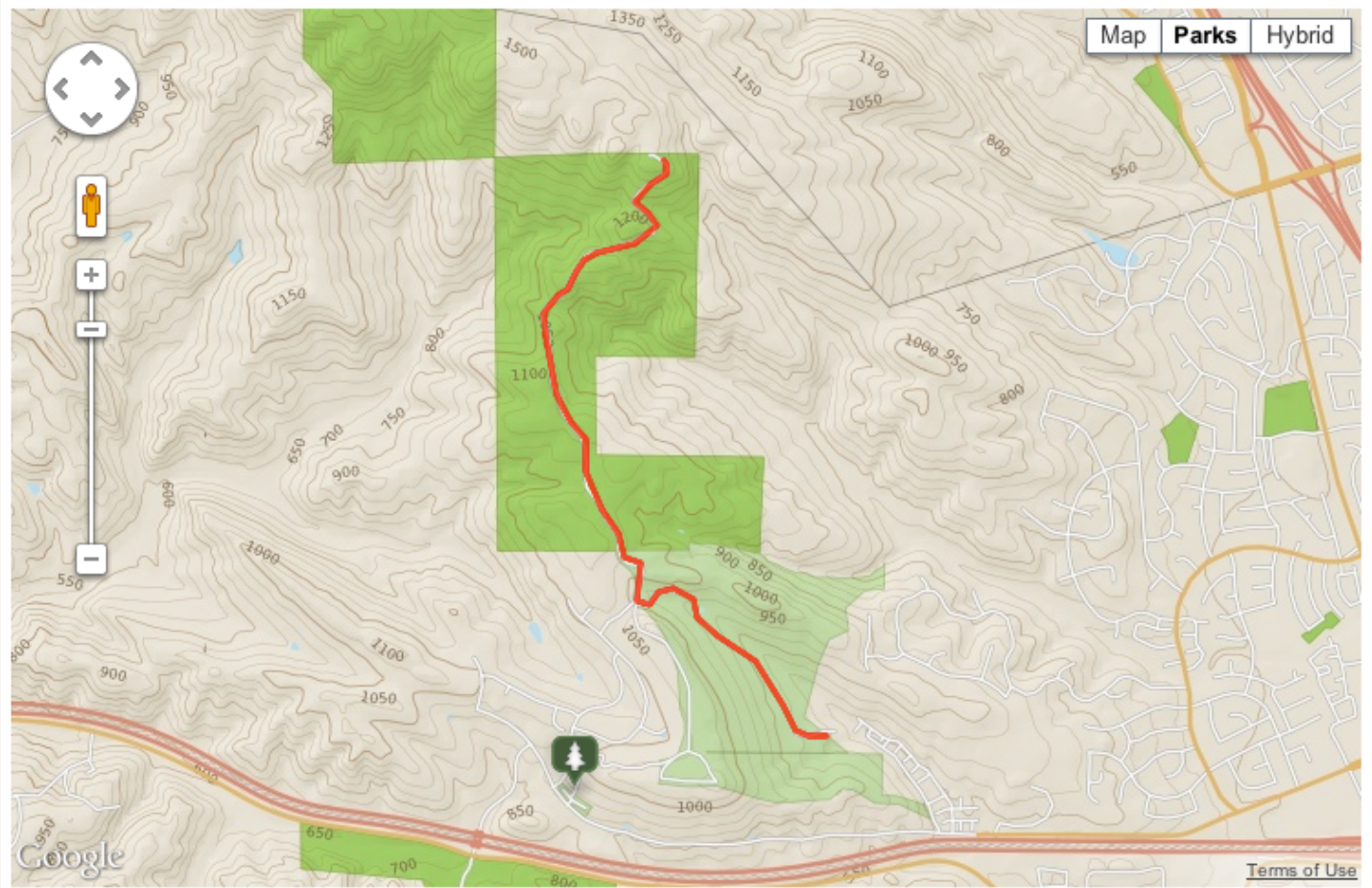
Scroll down and click off all the appropriate items. Then hit Submit.

A Thing of Beauty!

A finished hike:

Dublin Hills Out and Back

[Add a Review](#) [Add to Favorites](#)



Another great resource for helping folks discover the wonders of Bay Area nature!