

Are only Palo Alto residents allowed in the park?

Per the city municipal code (exact text below), Foothills Park is open to residents of the City of Palo Alto and their accompanied guests and employees of the City of Palo Alto and their accompanied guests.

PAMC Section 22.04.150 (a) Only residents of the city and regular or part-time city employees, members of their households related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and their accompanied guests are entitled to enter on foot or by bicycle or vehicle and remain in Foothills Park. No person who is not a resident of the city may enter on foot or by bicycle or vehicle unaccompanied by a person entitled to enter and remain in Foothills Park for the purpose of using the Bay-To-Foothills trails, except as provided in subsection (b). An "accompanied guest," as used in this section, is one who enters Foothills Park in the presence of a person entitled to enter and remain in Foothills Park. Each person entitled to enter and remain in Foothills Park may be accompanied by no more than 15 guests, or two vehicles containing no more than 15 guests, at any one time. Upon the request of an authorized city employee or a member of the Palo Alto police department, a person seeking to enter Foothills Park at the main gate or a person within the boundaries of Foothills Park shall provide identification or information to satisfy the requirements of this subsection. The good faith judgment of the authorized city employee or police department member requesting identification or information shall be conclusive as to whether such identification or information provided satisfies the requirements of this subsection. No person shall enter or remain in Foothills Park in violation of this subsection. Violations of this subsection shall be a misdemeanor.

With the Bay to Ridge Trail open through Foothills Park there is an exception for hikers who may enter Foothills Park at designated points and hike through it. Foothills Park is not a destination for hikers, they do need to hike through.

(b) Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the director, no person who is a resident of the city shall enter or exit from Foothills Park except through the main gate on Page Mill Road or at designated entry and exit locations on the park boundaries shared with the Enid Pearson Arastradero Preserve and the Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. No person who is a resident of the city shall enter or exit from the Bay-To-Foothills trails in the park except on foot. For the purpose of using the Bay-To-Foothills trails in the park, no person who is not a resident of the city shall enter or exit the park except on foot and at the designated entry and exit locations on the park boundaries shared with the Enid Pearson Arastradero Preserve and the Los Trancos Open Space Preserve. No entry by any person who is not a resident at these designated entry and exit locations on the shared park boundaries shall be permitted by horse or bicycle. Violations of this subsection shall be a misdemeanor.