



Niles Canyon “Stroll and Roll” on May 1st

Runners, hikers and bicyclists are gearing up for the fourth Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll on Sunday, May 1st. The scenic stretch of Niles Canyon Road between Fremont and Sunol will be closed to automobiles allowing outdoor enthusiasts exclusive access to the Canyon.

The event is being held for the fourth time in six years after being postponed in 2021 due to impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic. The event raises awareness about a proposed new trail through the Canyon that would expand public access to its forested flanks, historic landmarks and sweeping vistas of rumbling Alameda Creek.

To make way for the Stroll and Roll, automobiles will be barred from a stretch of Niles Canyon Road between Mission Boulevard in Fremont and Main Street in Sunol from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. During the first hour – from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. – the road will be open to bicyclists only to give cyclists a chance to traverse the winding thoroughfare unimpeded by others.

Participants in the unique event will have the chance to discuss proposals for a Niles Canyon trail with staff from Alameda County and the East Bay Regional Park District. A draft environmental impact report for the proposed 10-foot-wide paved pathway running mostly along the north side of Niles Canyon Road to enhance access to the Canyon for pedestrians, bicyclists and possibly equestrians is nearing completion.

Alameda County District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle is joined by his District 1 colleague, Supervisor David Haubert, as leaders advocating for the Niles Canyon recreation trail to connect trail systems on either side of the Canyon. In October 2015, the supervisors’ offices co-sponsored the first “Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll,” an event that proved so successful it was repeated in 2017 and 2019. Organizers of this year’s Stroll and Roll say they are preparing for as many as 10,000 people to participate.

Proposals for a public trail through Niles Canyon are driven by the canyon’s breathtaking scenery, which is accessible only via Niles Canyon Road, a winding two-lane portion of State Highway 84. Bicyclists have repeatedly called for a trail due to safety concerns related to sharing the narrow roadway – which includes no shoulder space in some sections - with automobiles. Recreation enthusiasts point out that pedestrian access to the Canyon is prohibited on the state highway and that a trail would provide a vital link between trail networks in the Tri-Valley and Alameda County’s bay-front corridor.

There will be **free parking** for participants on both sides of Niles Canyon. On the Sunol side, parking will be provided in the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission lot at 11600 Pleasanton Sunol Road. On the Fremont side, parking will be provided at the Fremont BART Station, 2000 Bart Way and at the Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, 2100 Isherwood Way. Participants are encouraged to use public transportation to get to the event. **Free shuttle service** will be available at Quarry Lakes and the Fremont BART station to transport participants to and from the event.

Go to www.84strollroll.com to learn more about the Niles Canyon Multi-Use Trail proposal and the May 1 roadway closure.

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