Rural/Urban Fremont (Irvington) History Walk
Booklet & Hike compiled by Patricia Schaffarczyk and Caroline Harris
WALK INTO THE PAST
RURAL HISTORY IN IRVINGTON – URBAN WALK –

MAP 1: THE ROUTE

MAP LEGEND
Yellow Gate
Duck Island

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6 k. walk

Wm. Y. Homer House
Site of Washington College
(Heritage Trees)

Gallegos Winery Ruins

General location of the Hayward Fault

Google My Maps
Downtown Irvington and surrounding farmland with the Mission Hills and Mission Peak in the background. This photo also includes Mission San Jose (in the background) Washington Blvd., Palm Ave. and Sabercat Canyon. (SB5 p.42)

The Irvington downtown supplied everything to its residents including subsidence and entertainment. The five-corners had a grocery store, a hardware store, a bank, a butcher shop, doctor and dentist offices, service station, restaurants, a skating rink, a theater, social halls, a fire department, a post office, mortuary, movie theater, pool hall and a church, all within one block of the center of the town. This rural community was surrounded by apricot orchards and fields of produce or pastures for farm animals. (WTMLH 2015.34.113)

The walk begins in the Irvington town center at the cross roads of the historic “five corners”. These roads historically led from Oakland to San Jose and from Mission San Jose to the SF Bay. Irvington was the cultural center of Washington Township at the turn of the 20th century. The numbers in the booklet correspond to points on the map and the detailed description of a walking tour about 7 miles in length that explores the town center and surrounding natural places of the greater Irvington area.

The information for this booklet is taken from several sources listed in the Bibliography (p. 15). The photographs are from the collections of the Washington Township Museum of Local History (WTMLH) unless otherwise noted. High-resolution digital images of the photographs are available for purchase at the museum.

Contact the museum at 190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539, collections@museumoflocalhistory.org
1. Begin the tour at Irvington Park at Five-Corners

1a. Irvington Park - Irvington Plaza Park - Irvington Monument Plaza - Andy Anderson Memorial Plaza, 40991 Fremont Blvd., Constructed c. 1900

Irvington Plaza Park was dedicated to the City of Fremont on August 12, 1958 by the Mission Peak Lodge #114 Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Pictured about 1980. Though it was a park in Irvington at the turn of the 20th century. The landmark Incense Cedar is part of the historical center. (FLT p.47)

The Irvington Park edged by cast iron railings with an El Camino Real bell, placed on the corner in 1909. (IRV p.46)

A scene of the “corners” Fourth of July Celebration in 1905. The celebration included a parade, a dancing pavilion on the Palmdale grounds, festivities, baseball game, and a grand ball at Clarks Hall. The park in the center of the picture. (IRV p.49) (WTMLH-DC)
1b. Irvington Monument

The Irvington monument was erected by R.A. and Lee Griffin in the center of the historic five-corners intersection in 1917 as a traffic control and to slow the “high speed” automobile at that time. Irvington Monument looking south c. 1920s (left) (WTMLH 1000.13.24) Irvington monument looking north c. 1940. (right) (WTMLH)

The monument was removed as a traffic hazard in 1963. (WTMLH 2007.39.205.10a.15-24). In 1979 it was refurbished and placed in its present location. (WTMLH)

1c. Clark Hall  4000 Bay St.  built 1876. (Bean Scene & Broadway West)

Alson and George Clark commissioned Clark Hall, on the left in 1876; it is the oldest brick building in Fremont, and is on the site of the Walters home, the first tax assessor in the township. The Clarks continued a very old Irish tradition of building a hall for rent over some shops as a way of maximizing investment from a single parcel. They leased to Nathanial Babb for a general store. The first public telephone for Irvington was installed in the store in 1898.

The Clarks sold sometime after 1902; William W. Hirsch with his brother-in-law Henry Weilheimer ran a hardware and plumbing business in the building from about 1900. The metal clad lean-to next door is disguised by a pressed metal false front and was added around 1909. Otto Hirsch purchased the buildings around 1917, and sold to Edward Rose around 1944; he carried on a combined appliance, furniture, and fuel and feed business until 1980. Local developer Joe Betchart purchased it in 1980 and restored the building such that the upstairs could be used again.
1d. Peixoto Building  4004-4008 Bay St.  Built 1931
The Peixoto Building. Alfred Peixoto grew up in the Hiram Davis house with his brother Isidore and worked for local butchers while still in high school. He commissioned Randall Griffin to build at 4004 Bay St. a two-story building with Art Deco details in 1931. The left bay was the Irvington Meat Market and the right bay, the garage and stair entry to the upstairs family flat. Al retired around 1970 and his son Delbert carried on. Seismic upgrades were done when the building was sold in 1991; and there are now two interesting shop windows instead of the original one to look into. (IRV p82)

2. Union St.
2.a  El Camino Real Bell at the corner of Union St. and Fremont Blvd.
Irvington Park was edged with cast iron railings and graced by both its massive flagpole and the El Camino Real bell of 1901. The signpost points east (right) towards the San Jose Mission up the hill and south towards San Jose, thirteen miles away. A Washington Fan Palm (Washingtonia robusta) was planted in the park on the left; the row of graceful street trees on the right appear to be ash. (IRVp.46)

The bell now resides across the street on the corner near the Well Fargo bank. Note the inscription on the bell, “El Camino Real 1769 & 1906 ” (TC)

2b. Reid Brothers Hospital Supply / Occidental Stove Factory,  3490-3501 Union Street built 1922
Reid Bros, Inc. erected this Spanish Colonial Revival commercial/industrial building in 1922 to manufacture hospital supplies. The building was sold to Steiger and Kerr Stove and Foundry Company in 1938. New equipment was installed and they began making occidental stoves and heaters in June 1939. During World War II, the United States Navy used the facility as a supply depot. Manufacture of Occidental stoves resumed in the spring of 1947; about 50 factory workers produced an average of 35 stoves per day. Production ended in 1949 and the plant became a distribution center for stoves made in Los Angeles. (PH)
The four 4 palm trees were planted 1922. At the rear of the building there are trusses against the outside wall. These are built to counter the Hayward fault movement. The Hayward fault crosses through the property at this point.
3. Railroad Ave.

Railroad Avenue is a walkway that was the former Union Pacific Railroad Corridor.
This pathway is the third segment of the overall plan to have a regional trail that uses the former union pacific railroad corridor. It connects Paseo Padre Parkway to Washington Boulevard. The BART and the railroad tracks are situated to the east of the trail.

5. Stivers Lagoon Nature Area

You are entering the Stivers Lagoon Nature Area, the only surviving portion of what was once a freshwater wetland that was around two lakes. The first, Clear Lake, was near present day Fremont Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station, where the ancient Ohlones had a large village. Here at Stivers Lagoon and Lake Elizabeth once called Tule Lake, the Ohlones gathered tules to build their baskets and mats.
In 1972 a kiosk and boardwalk were built and donated by the Fremont City Beautiful Committee, the Candle Lighters and the Tri-City Ecology Center. It was a popular school fieldtrip destination. It fell into disrepair. The kiosk and walkway were rebuilt and April 2000 it was renamed the Stivers Lagoon Nature Area. This area encompasses about 40 acres, all that is left of the natural lake and marsh. It is home to both native and imported plants and wildlife, a mere reflection of its wetlands past. (Holmes, Philip. Tri-City Voice, “Stiver’s Lagoon” Nov. 11, 2009).
See https://msnucleus.org/watersheds/stivers/self_guided.htm for map and self guided tour of the Nature Area

7. Laguna Creek Watershed

The Irvington area is part of the Laguna Creek Watershed (see map)

The walk passes several areas of former creeks that joined to drain into the San Francisco Bay. Most parts of todays “creeks” are flood control channels and culverts.

Irvington had many floods during heavy rain year such as that pictured at five corners on Union St. in 1907.

List of waterways we pass on our hike.

1. The walk begins where Laguna Creek passes under the Five Corners. Today it becomes a series of underground culverts and channels that eventually flow into SF Bay.
2. Lake Elizabeth is the former Clear Lake marshland.
3. Mission Creek drains into Lake Elizabeth.
4. Washington Creek flows beside Washington Blvd, behind the Ohlone Cemetery and goes underground at the intersection of Washington Blvd and Driscoll to join Laguna Creek.
5. SaberCat Creek also flows into Laguna Creek.
7. Watershed Map

Stivers Lagoon/Tule Lake (Lake Elizabeth) area was created by a depression along the Hayward Fault Zone. Water from Mission Creek flowed into this area and created a permanent lake, which flooded during the rainy season. In the 1960’s the Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District build a larger permanent body of water, Lake Elizabeth, to control storm waters to prevent flooding in the lowlands.

Looking across the street from Stivers Lagoon (and Aqua Adventure Water Park) you can notice that the land rises. This knoll is a compression ridge caused by motion along the Hayward Fault.

Central Park provides recreation, nature, and community for visitors. Facilities located here include picnic and walking areas, Fremont Golf Course, Stivers Lagoon Nature Area, athletic fields, Senior Center (1980), dog park, Animal Shelter, Fremont Main Library, Fremont Police Headquarters, Fremont Skate Park, Teen Center, and AquaAdventure Water Park. The scenery from this location include the Niles Canyon, Morrison Canyon, Mission Pass and Mission Peak.

12. BART line between Fremont and Warm Springs stations.
BART extension (open March 25, 1917) tunnels under a portion of Lake Elizabeth on the journey between the Fremont and Warm Springs stations. (Photo TC)
15. William Y. Horner House

3001 Driscoll Road  (1850) 1876

William joined his older brother John in 1850 in Washington Township to help with the farm. Everything grew very well here but the problem was keeping the wild animals away from the crops in late summer, when everything becomes dry. They built fences and diverted streams to irrigate their land and grew crops. They built and demonstrated a grain harvester that with 3 men and 12 horses they could harvest 15 acres of grain per day. They lost everything in the crash of 1857 and ended up buying their property several times to finally own it. They sold everything and moved to Hawaii in 1879 and became sugar cane farmers. (OC p. 16).

16. Irvington Portal Hetch Hetchy structures to east (left) up on the hill and west (right) down the hill.

The Irvington Portal is a component of the San Francisco Water Department’s Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct, a 170-mile-long water-supply system stretching from the drowned Hetch Hetchy Valley, adjoining Yosemite National Park, to Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County, near San Francisco. Work on the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct began in 1914, under the direction of San Francisco City Engineer Michael O’Shaughnessy. It was completed in 1934, shortly after his death. The portal coincides with the completion of the 28-mile-long Coast Range Tunnel, the portal provided an interface between the tunnel and the pipelines of the Bay Division. In other words, it was here that the water was divided and distributed for its final run to Crystal Springs Reservoir. (DPR: Irvington Portal of the Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct, 2002) (Photo TC)

17. / 18. Mission Creekwalk  Historic Site / Picnic area

Between Driscoll Road and Palm Ave. the riparian habitat with native and imported trees, is bordered by Hopkins Junior High, Mission San Jose High School and sport playing fields. (Photo TC)

19. Palm Ave

Mexican Fan Palms have a towering presence along Palm Avenue. Each palm has varying heights from 50 feet to 70 feet high. There is a row of 25 palms from Mission Blvd. along Palm Ave (LT p21)

Palm Ave. was once part of the Palmdale Estate and a rich farmland. In 1952 Four Winds Nursery owned by Citrus farmer and former Mayor and councilman of Fremont, Don Dillon. There are still remnants of an apricot orchard, and farmhouse on this somewhat rural road. Further down, Palm Ave. crosses the 680 Interstate Freeway completed 1971. Pictured during construction is the Washington Blvd. 680 Freeway interchange. (Photos TC) Aerial: 1000.71.69

The field on the corner of Paseo Padre near Washington Blvd. is the Alameda County Water District reservoir named for Mathew Whitfield.
21. Ohlone Indian Cemetery

1377-1489 Washington Boulevard

Officially begun in 1811.

This graveyard was used for centuries before the Spaniards came into contact with the California Indians. A granite monument at the burial ground states that 4000 burials took place there during the Mission Period. In 1964, as construction of Interstate 680 was planned, Ohlone people protected this sacred ground. Not only did the Ohlone succeed in rerouting I-680, but also altered the proposed path of Paseo Padre Parkway. The burial ground was officially returned to the Ohlone from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland in June 1971. During the past forty years, Phil Galvan, of the Ohlone Indian Tribe, and his son Andrew have reburied the remains of Ohlone Indians returned from museums, archeological and construction sites. (OC p.36) (photo WTMLH 010800)

22. Sabrecat Creek Canyon

The Sabercat Creek, a thriving riparian habitat, is home to a grand Coast Live Oak. This landmark tree specimen is perched on the slopes and can easily be accessed along the creek’s trail. The tree maintains excellent branch structure and a wide canopy typical of oak trees. (LT p24)(Photos TC)

23. A potential red legged frog habitat, this a previous vineyard site now a trail bordered by oaks, buckeye, bay, walnut, willow and poison oak

24. Wine Legacy

Commercial wine production in these rolling hills above Sabercat Canyon probably began around 1850. By 1893 there were more than 32 wineries in the area. At least five were located along the area that is bordered by Sabercat Canyon as indicated on this map. Wineries included:


Right: Reihr Winery Barrels (JH 1966)
25. Optional detour. Bell Quarry, Possible Wine Cellar from DeVaux Winery, Interstate 680

25a. Historically, the Sabercat Creek Canyon became an area of interest when several prehistoric mammoth and sabercat fossils were unearthed in the 1940s. Collections of the fossils discovered here are at Washington Township Museum of Local History and The Math Science Nucleus Museum both in Fremont.

The “boy paleontologists“ are pictured at the diggings and examining their discoveries. The operational Bell Quarry in 1940. (WTMLH 2004.22.8, 2004.22.7, 2004.22.2)


28. Washington Blvd

28a. Mexican Fan Palms
A row of towering landmark Mexican Fan Palms are located on the street meridian along Washington Blvd. These palms were originally part of the Palmdale Estate and were later transplanted at this street meridian. These palms are listed as one of the City’s Landscape Primary Historical Resources. (FLT p.18)

28b. United Nations Plaza dedicated in 1958
This tiny park commemorated the United Nations year with palm trees and other trees. On dedication October 24, 1958 it is believed that Peace roses were planted here too.
(Photo TC)
29. Historic Corner- Washington Blvd/Driscoll and Osgood Roads
29a. Gallegos/Palmdale Winery Ruins. Osgood Road Established 1881

Today Canary Island Date Palms and brick ruins are remnants of the Gallegos Winery.

Juan Gallegos purchased the entire Beard Ranch in 1881, planted a record 600 acres of vineyards and designed irrigation systems installed by Chinese specialists. Land sales helped finance the winery construction.

It was the largest winery in California in both volume and square footage then. Gallegos applied the engineering ideas from his efficient coffee plantations in Costa Rica and Guatemala. The gravity-flow design meant that wagon loads of grapes entered at the back of the third floor, driving in from vineyards just up the road. (IRV p.40)

Over the next few years he sold vineyard properties along the south side of Washington Boulevard to immigrants from Europe; some became suppliers to the Gallegos winery or were vintners themselves. Healthy vineyards (on phylloxera-resistant rootstock) survived on some of these lands until 1953; others converted to orchards during the agricultural depression of the 1890's. (IRV p.37)

The winery was purchased by Gallegos' brother-in-law, Carlos Montalegre in 1892; renamed Palmdale Winery and joined the California Wine Makers Corporation. The winery had a cooperage totaling 1,250,00 gallons of the 2,058,800 gallons of wine produced in Irvington overall at the time.

By 1900, the winery was leased to the California Wine Association and the Wine Company building was almost hidden by twenty years of growth of the Canary Island Palms. . (IRV p.41) (FLT p.45)

The April 18, 1906 earthquake of San Francisco was felt as far as Nevada. The effect was magnified where buildings straddled fault zones, such as the Palmdale Winery on the Hayward fault. The wine cellar was not in use as the winery was in transition; it had been acquired the previous year by Henry Lachman, one of the board members of the California Winery Association. The C.W.A. cellars in San Francisco suffered major losses to their inventory. This photograph was taken by J. Haley Durham shortly after the earthquake; the south facing wall both the three story winery and the much smaller distillery failed; the rest had to be demolished when the future of a winery of this scale was elsewhere. (IRV p.56) (Durham Collection)

Gallegos winery Western Pacific Depot site in center. This front view of the winery shows the wagon roads that curved down from the front of the building to the Western (or Southern) Pacific Railroad. The barrels stacked on the front loading area and rail cars wait on the rail spur to be loaded with the finished product. Almost all commercial wine was sold, packed and shipped in barrels at the winery and the bottling was done in San Francisco. (IRV p.40)
Washington College was built in 1871 as a co-ed, private high school on the knoll above town on land donated by Elias Beard. From 1883-1894 the college was sponsored by the Christian Church, a reform church, that was a supporter of co-ed, advanced education. In 1894 the baseball team included Frank Chance, who became player-manger of the Chicago Cubs in 1905. He was the first Californian elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. (IRV p.23-27)

In 1895 Curtner Seminary for Young Ladies opened. Responsibility for the college was turned over to Henry Curtner. A high school curriculum was initially offered, then the schools strength was the normal course, where the women were trained to become teachers in the rapidly growing public-school system, particularly in high schools that were being built throughout the state. (IRV p.28-29)

After a disastrous fire, the seminary closed. The college was rebuilt as an elite military academy in 1900, named Anderson Academy. (IRV p.33)

In 1914 the college campus became the private home of the Anderson family, which they called Bonnie Brae. In the 1930s the property was planted with wine grapes by Bond then in 1942 Giles acquired the property and used the sports fields for a race-horse sulky track. Timbercreek Terrace. Today at Timbercreek Terrace all that remains are the exotic trees.
29c. William Horner House  3101 Driscoll Road  Built ca 1850  See #15 for description.
Look back up Driscoll Road toward the blue house on the left. This is the William Horner House.

29d. Irvington Packing Company  Osgood Road  Established 1946

In 1946, James "Ralph" Baxter and Jim Campbell started the Irvington Packing Co. with its distinctive triangle label. Cooper Fernando Lopez produced redwood vats 12-15' across what could hold 10-20 tons of sweet pickles. Four years later, they moved into a concrete block building constructed by Randall Griffin on Durham Road, on Western Pacific property. (WTMLH 2000.5.2.12)

The Irvington Packing Company had a dozen employees, and depending on what was ripe, could pickle cucumber, cauliflower and peppers. The partners sold to California Conserve Co. in 1960 (Baxter sold his interest in 1957.) and the business changed to packing relish. In 1975, the vats were taken apart for the wood. Even years later when the humidity is just right, wherever that wood had been re-used; the smell of sweet pickles still wafts through the air (IRV p.98) (WTMLH 2007.39.205.10a.15-19)

30. BART and Railroad Tracks. Washington Blvd. South
The BART tracks continue towards the newly opened Warm Springs Station. The empty lot on the left just past the overpass is the former site of the Irvington Hotel and on the corner was he Blacksmith shop. This was also the southern route to gold country in 1849. (IRV p.123)

31. Washington Blvd., Downtown, North
31a. Leal Theater 3915 Washington Blvd. built 1922
Frank A. Leal built this vaguely Mission Revival theatre to serve the southern districts of Washington Township. The theatre added sound in 1930 and after opening and closing many times under different owners finally closed for good as a theatre in 1950. It was extensively altered in the 1970s. (WTMLH 1996.3.88) (OC p.27)
31b. P.C. Hansen & Co. 3853 Washington Blvd. built 1922
This vernacular commercial building was erected to serve as a lumber warehouse for P.C. Hansen & Co, later known as the P.C. Hansen Lumber Company. Peter C., founder and owner came to California in 1885 at age 26. His first lumberyard and planing mill were in Centerville. In 1910, he acquired the Robert Dollar Company's lumberyard in Niles; soon establishing a branch in Irvington and then in Alvarado, Decoto and Newark. The company remained Washington Township's leading distributor of lumber until the 1950s, eventually going out of business in 1964. The building housed an automotive business, a shopping arcade and military surplus. (OC p.28) (WTMLH 2007.33.65)

31c. Jackson House of Tailor shop 3825 Washington Blvd. constructed c. 1890
This Queen Anne style property was purchased by William Jackson in 1890. He resided here with his family and operated a tailor shop at the front of the house. The property was also owned by Henry Weilheimer, Mary C. Enos, George and Beatrice Enos, Mabel Gomes and Dorothy Ferreira. (DPR 523L 1/95)

Scene of Washington Blvd. about 1980
(WTMLH 2007.39.205.10a.15-55)
Bibliography
Acknowledgements

Information from various sources are noted in parenthesis at the end of each caption including the page reference. The publication is annotated in this bibliography. Example. (IRV p46)


(DRP) Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Records (resource name is the address) and number with date (DPR 523L 1/95)

Durham Collection. Washington Township Museum of Local History)


(Photo TC) Photos by: Tom Coroneos


Sowers, Janet. Creek & Watershed Map of Fremont & Vicinity, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA. 1999

(SP5) Fisher MD, Dr. Robert D.. Irvington and Warm Springs: Scene from the Peak a Pictorial History of Washington Township. (Scrapbook #5). Washington Township Museum of Local History. (2001.5.5)

(WTMLH) Washington Township Museum of Local History Collection and object ID number.
Rural/Urban Fremont History Walk  
Saturday, April 15, 2017  
11.5 K Walk Directions: Rated 2B

Start Point: Irvington Plaza Park,  
4000 Bay St., Fremont, CA. 94538

Contact: Patricia Schaffarczyk,  
pathikes@yahoo.com, (510) 677-8461 or  
sfbaybandits@aol.com

1. Begin at the corner of Fremont Blvd and Bay St. in the Irvington Plaza Park.
2. Cross Fremont Blvd going east towards Wells Fargo Bank. You are now on the left side of Union St. Continue on Union St. to High St. until you come to newly built housing tract with a walkway just before the two-story homes. (Railroad Ave.)
3. Turn left at walk/bike way just beside the new housing. (1 km end of walkway)
4. Cross Paseo Padre on walking bridge and turn left on the other side of the bridge then immediately right onto a trail then left after about 20 meters onto a pathway going slightly down into a nature area, Stiver’s Lagoon. (If you cross the creek bridge you have gone too far.)

Alternate Route: (If nature path is too steep or muddy): Cross Paseo Padre on walking bridge, turn left and continue along Paseo Padre Pkwy. until the entry into the Park. Turn right. On the right is the Nature Center signpost and a plaque. (See #7) to continue.
5. This is Central Park on Muscrat trail, signpost #5 is on your left. Trees of note: Red Willow, Fremont Cottonwood, Black Walnut, palm trees.
6. Follow Muskrat trail through this wooded area with creek on right. Pass, or explore, Mole Court and Opossum Creek and Nature Trail past posts #4, #3, and #2.
7. Walk to the Nature center walkway for viewing wildlife with nature trail post #1 and a plaque.
8. Cross wooden walk bridge. The Water Park is straight ahead.

9. Continue north (slightly right) on trail that goes around parking lot beside PV panels atop parking (on your left). At the end of the parking lot, join the paved trail to your right. (2 km)

Restrooms are to the left: Take the left walkway and continue past the Nature Learning Center to the restrooms (hexagonal covered pavilion). Return to the end of the parking lot.
10. Join paved walkway to the right. Cross small walking bridge. Lake Elizabeth is on your left. Continue along pathway to yellow crossing gates that cross the railroad tracks.
11. Walking path across the railroad tracks is closed. Turn right on the pathway in front of the crossing and walk toward Paseo Padre Pkwy. with railroad tracks on left.
12. Continue on pathway walking parallel to the railroad and BART tracks to Paseo Padre Pkwy. (4 km)

Alternate short route #1 (5.1km): Retrace route. Turn slight left then right to cross walking bridge, turn right at end of Railroad Pathway onto Union St., to starting point. (short route #2 see #15)
13. At the end of the walkway turn right to descend to Paseo Padre Parkway
14. Turn left on Paseo Padre Parkway and walk toward Driscoll Road, east, in the direction of Mission Peak.

15. The corner of Paseo Padre Parkway and Driscoll Road is the half way marker.

Alternate short walk #2: Turn right on Driscoll Road and continue on to the intersection of Driscoll Road and Washington Blvd. Stop at this corner to note significant historic sites. (See descriptions at #29)

Continue directions at # 29 below.

16. For those on 10 km hike cross Driscoll Rd. and turn left. (5.6 km)

17. Walk along Driscoll Road to the pathway on the right. Turn right. Walk between the creek (on the right) and Hopkins Jr High School sports fields (on your left).
18. Continue along the trail to a picnic site with informational panels. Continue along pathway until you dead end into Palm Ave. (6.6 km)
Rural/Urban Fremont History Walk  
Saturday, April 15, 2017
11.5 K Walk Directions: Rated 2B

19. Turn right on Palm Ave. Continue 1.2 km. with Mexican fan palms. Pass Olive St. and cross the 680 Freeway to Washington Blvd. (7.8 km)
20. Turn right on Washington Blvd. to Paseo Padre Parkway.
22. Continue to Quema Dr. then enter Sabrecat Creek, a riparian restoration project area funded by the state and the City of Fremont. (8.3 km)
23. Descend a winding path and turn right to the west. Follow the path with trees and creek to left.
24. At the gate take the trail right up the hill. (Go to #26 for continued direction.) (9.3 km)
25. Optional detour (1.3km) Go through gate to the left across a wooden bridge. At the giant oak tree and a stone storage building fork right. Continue to the end of the park where there are three trails, take the left trail slightly up hill to a bluff above the 680 Freeway. Looking across the freeway there is a view from left to right of Newby Island land fill, Fremont south, Marriott Hotel, Dumbarton Bridge, Coyote Hills, and the peninsular hills in background. Retrace your steps back on Sabrecat Creek trail passing snowberries, oaks and buckeye. Go through the gate to the spot of the detour. Turn left up the hill.
26. At the top of the hill turn left onto Castillejo Way. (also named Tavis Layfield Place) Continue as the road turns left.
27. Turn right on Castillejo Road. Exit the residential area. Turn left on Washington Blvd. Walking on the left side, continue down the hill. (9.8 km)
Bathrooms are at Ohlone Village Shopping Center. Instead of left, turn right on Washington Blvd. Walk to the shopping center. There are a 7-11 and a few restaurants here. Re-trace the route back on Washington Blvd. to the west down the hill.
28. Cross the 680 Freeway and descend towards Irvington.
29. At the intersection of at Washington Blvd. and Osgood Road stop to notice significant historical sites. (10.9 km)
30. Cross Osgood/Driscoll Road and continue on Washington Blvd. down the hill over the overpass that crosses the Southern Pacific train tracks and the BART tracks toward town center.
31. Walk through the old town center of the Irvington district to the starting point. (11.5 km)