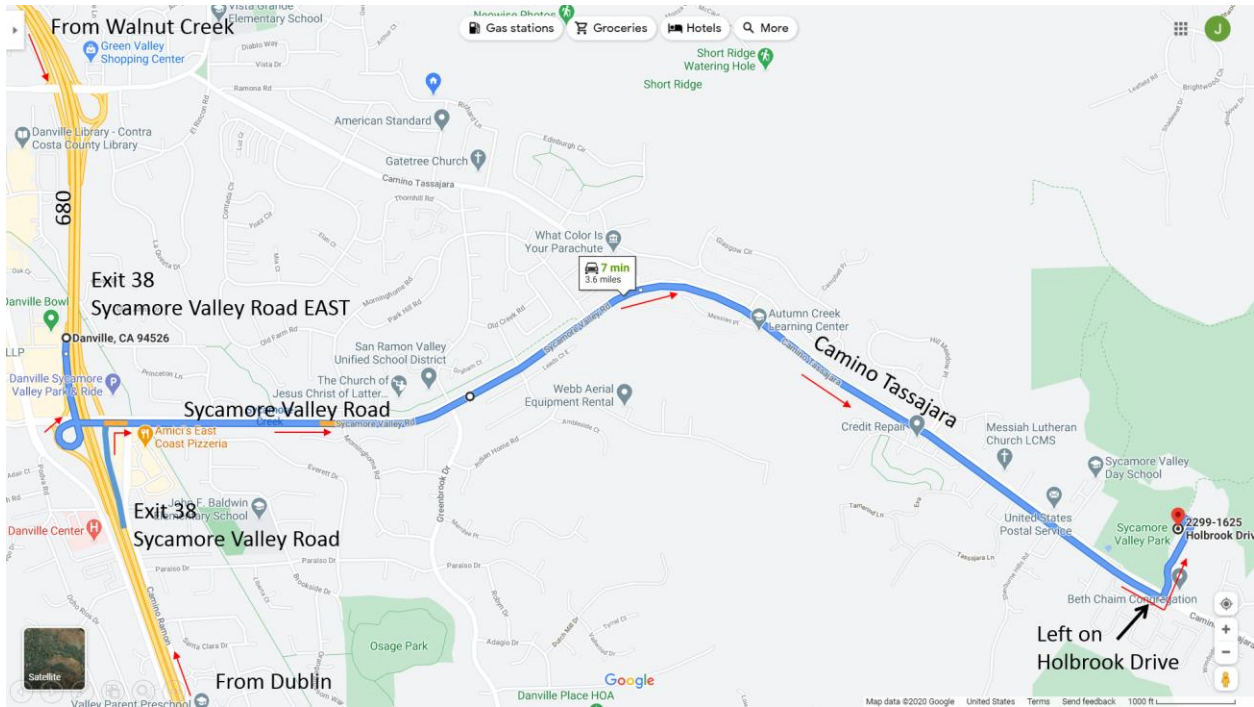


Sycamore Valley Hikes – two hikes, one easy to follow, the second with a couple of extras thrown in.

**Getting there:**



Take 680 towards Danville. From 680, take exit 38, Sycamore Valley Road EAST. Sycamore Valley Road turns into Camino Tassajara. 3 miles from the freeway, turn left onto Holbrook Drive. Drive to the end and park to the left.



There are restrooms between the parking lot and the ballfields.

There is a picnic area in the park below the ballfields, but it may be closed for covid.

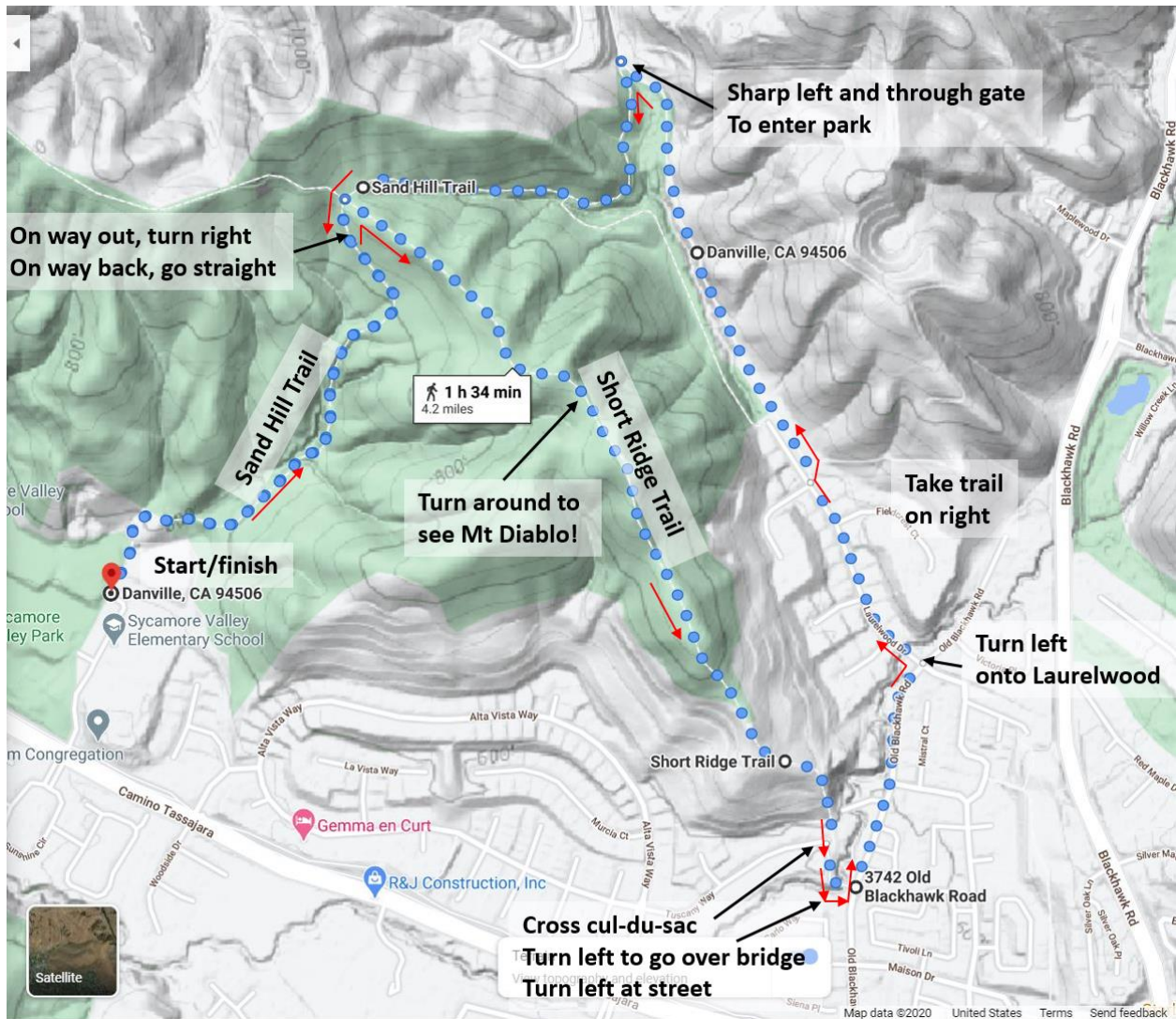
The trailhead is past the parking lot, towards the hill. The hikes start and end here.

**The Simple Hike – Easy to Follow!**

This is an easy to follow hike through open oak woodlands, grasses, and a neighborhood. 4.2 miles, 659’ of climbing.

You can load the route in google maps with this link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/wzCLzacs8kSURENR6>



The trailhead is past the parking lot, towards the hill. Head up the hill on Sand Hill Trail for 0.7 mi

At the top of the hill, turn right onto Short Ridge Trail.

As you are walking on the Short Ridge Trail, turn around, for good views of Mt Diablo.

After 1.0 mi, after a steep downhill, at the bottom of the hill, continue on the trail across the cul-de-sac at the end of Tuscany Way and pick up the trail on the other side.

After a few feet, turn left and go over the bridge to Old Blackhawk Rd

Turn left onto Old Blackhawk Rd. Best to walk on the near side, against traffic.

In 0.3 mi, turn left onto Laurelwood Dr

In 0.3 mi, take the trail off to the right. Trail entrance is where the houses stop, opposite Goldstone Ct.

In 0.6 mi, take a sharp left, go through the park gate onto Sand Hill Trail

Continue on Sand Hill Trail up the hill (easier this direction), go straight at the top and down the hill to return to the start in 1.2 mi. Hope you enjoyed the walk!

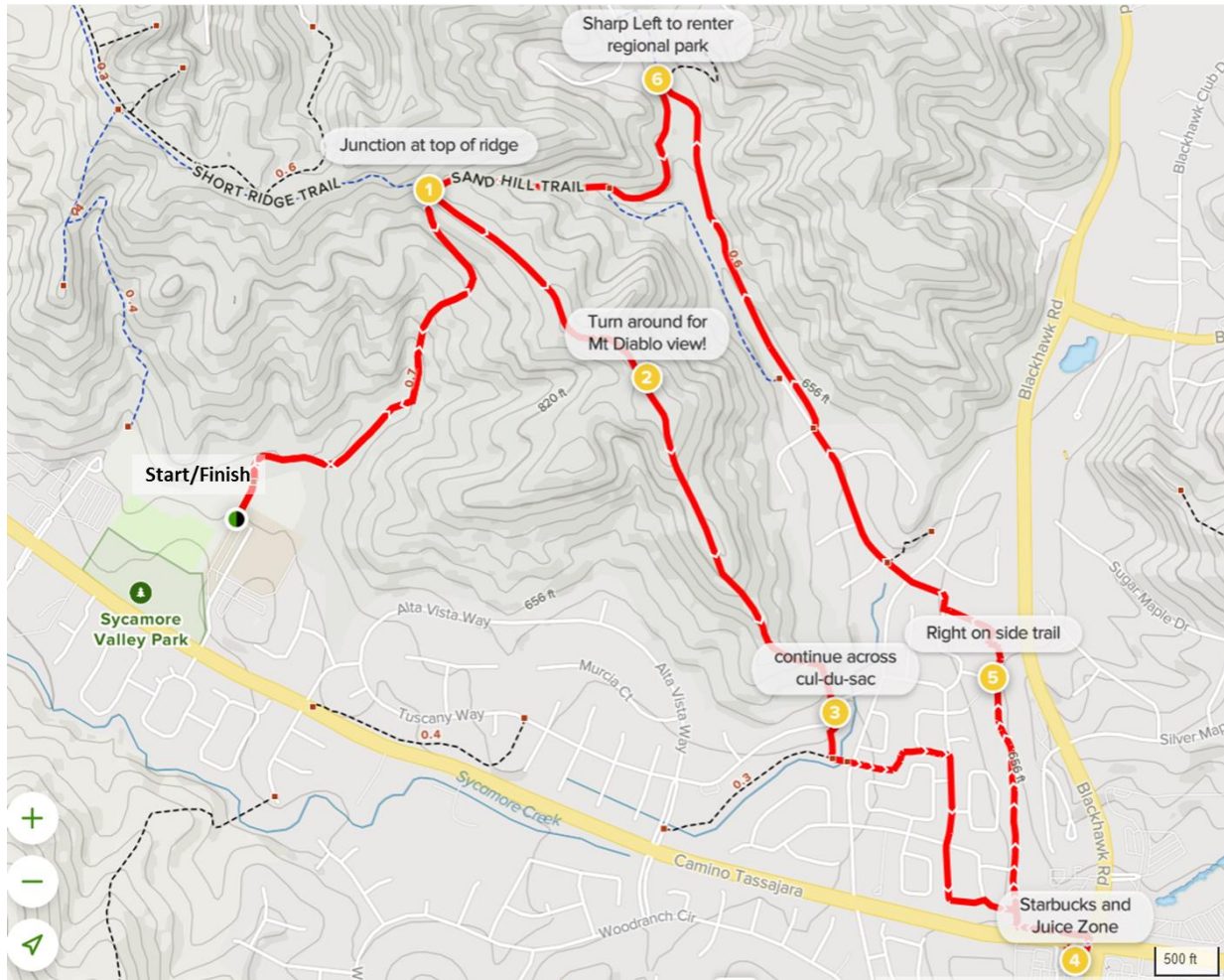


**The Fancy Hike – an extra mile and some extra turns, but a stop for coffee or smoothies in the middle!**

You can use this link to follow this hike on AllTrails (sorry google didn't like a couple short sections):

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/sycamore-valley-hike-be23c41?u=i>

5.4 miles, 700' elevation gain through open oaks, grass pastures (pretty blasted in October), and neighborhoods.



First part of the hike is the same as the 'simple' hike.

The trailhead is past the parking lot, towards the hill. Head up the hill on Sand Hill Trail for 0.7 mi

At the top of the hill, turn right onto Short Ridge Trail. (point 1 on map)

As you are walking on the Short Ridge Trail, turn around, for good views of Mt Diablo. (map point 2)

After 1.0 mi, after a steep downhill, at the bottom of the hill, continue on the trail across the cul-de-sac at the end of Tuscany Way and pick up the trail on the other side. (map point 3)

After a few feet, turn left and go over the bridge to Old Blackhawk Rd.

Cross Old Blackhawk Road (watch for traffic) and pick up the trail across the street.

After winding your way between houses for 0.2 mi, the trail comes out on Belleterre Drive. Turn right on Belleterre Drive.

Belleterre Dr. turns into Mountain Valley Place, but keep going. After 0.25 mi, Mountain Valley Place ends at Woodvalley Pl. Make a slight right on Woodvalley Pl.

Continue off the end of Woodvalley Pl. and turn right on the trail.

After a short distance, the trail ends at Camino Tassajara. Turn left at Camino Tassajara and walk a short distance to the traffic light at Blackhawk Road.

At the traffic light, turn right and cross Camino Tassajara (watch for turns and don't dawdle!).

After crossing Camino Tassajara, turn right along Camino Tassajara, then left into the shopping center. There is a Starbucks and a Juice Zone in the building closest to the stoplight. Tables outside, bathroom inside for your midpoint break. (Map point 4)

After the break, retrace your steps to and across Camino Tassajara, then left along Camino Tassajara and right onto the trail.

Continue along this trail for 0.4 mi and turn right onto a groomed side trail (map point 5)

On the side trail there is a little pocket park with a nice view of Mt. Diablo. The side trail ends at Pinewood Ct.

Pinewood Ct. ends at Ambiance Way (really?). Turn right on Ambiance Way.

Continue across Old Blackhawk Rd, and you are on Laurelwood Dr. Continue 0.3 mi, and take the trail off to the right. Trail entrance is where the houses stop, opposite Goldstone Ct.

In 0.6 mi, take a sharp left, go through the park gate onto Sand Hill Trail (map point 6)

Continue on Sand Hill Trail up the hill (easier this direction), go straight at the top and down the hill to return to the start in 1.2 mi.

Congratulations! Hope you enjoyed the walk!