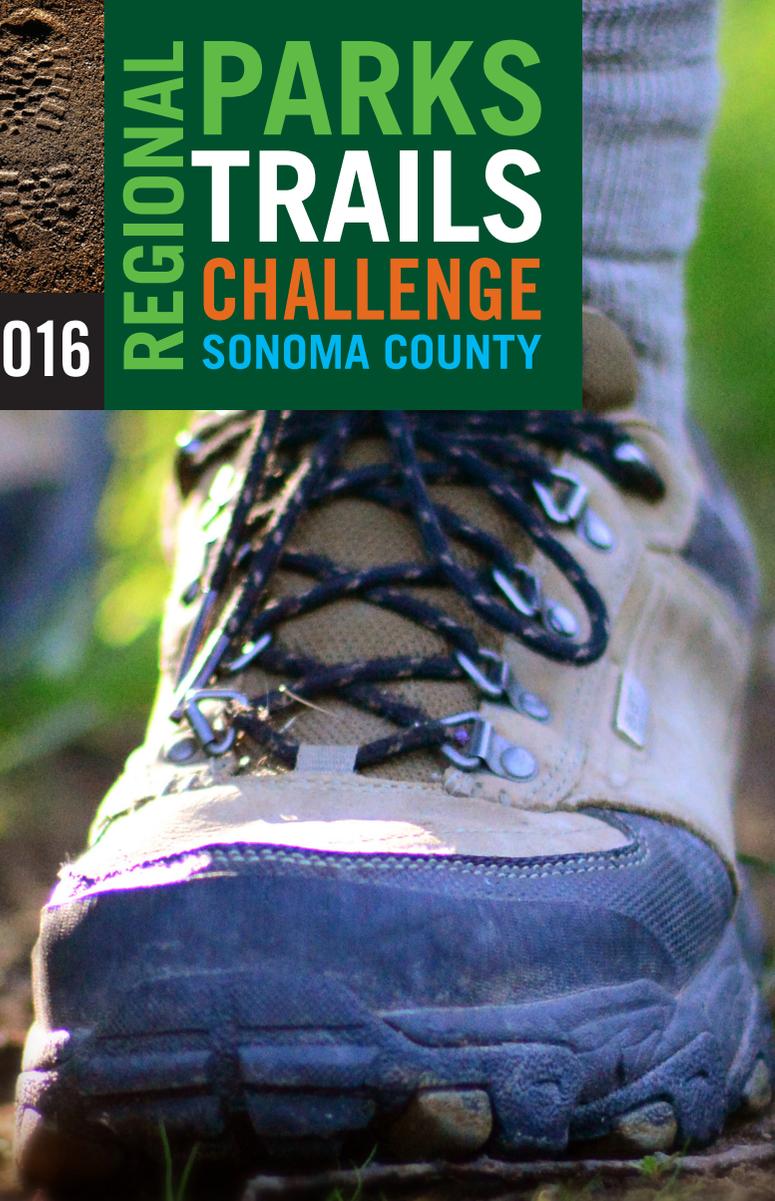




2016

REGIONAL **PARKS**  
**TRAILS**  
**CHALLENGE**  
SONOMA COUNTY



Discover your parks -

**Take the CHALLENGE.**

# CHALLENGE

**WELCOME TO THE SONOMA COUNTY TRAILS CHALLENGE,** an invitation to explore the Regional Parks and do something good for your body and mind!

Sonoma County has more than **50** Regional Parks with more than 150 miles of trails for walking, running, biking, and horseback riding. Take the Trails Challenge and discover the beauty of Sonoma County and the healthy fun of trail sports by hiking 5 or more of the routes featured in this guidebook from June through September.

The Trails Challenge is free and designed for all fitness levels. You can take the Trails Challenge on your own, with your dog, with family and friends, with co-workers, or as part of a guided outing.

If you've taken the Trails Challenge before, we invite you to hike again this year and try expanded itineraries at Hood Mountain, Shiloh Ranch, Helen Putnam and other parks.

## HOW TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Download the Trails Challenge guidebook at [sonomacountyparks.org](http://sonomacountyparks.org). (Limited print editions are available at Regional Parks' office, 2300 County Center Drive, Suite 120A, in Santa Rosa, and staffed entries to Spring Lake and Ragle Ranch parks.)

- Select 5 or more hikes to complete by Sept. 30.
- When you finish all 5, fill out the brief trails log at [sonomacountyparks.org](http://sonomacountyparks.org).
- Get your Trails Challenge gift—a commemorative pin—in the mail. Kids also get a “Trails Challenge Explorer” certificate and a free nature-themed book selected by the Sonoma County Library.
- If you post a Trails Challenge photo on Regional Parks' Facebook page or Instagram with **#SonomaCountyParks #TrailsChallenge**, you're eligible for monthly giveaways of REI and CamelBak gear and park memberships.

Discover your parks

REGIONAL PARKS  
SONOMA  
COUNTY

sonoma  
COAST

valleys  
+VIEWS

russian RIVER

# Let's Get Started

## HIKING FOR HEALTH

Experts agree that walking is one of the simplest, most effective actions we can take to improve our health. Walking at least 30 minutes a day can help us lose or maintain weight, lessen our risks for diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis and certain cancers, and improve our moods and sleep.

## DISCOVER YOUR PARKS

The Trails Challenge is a great way to explore the diversity of Sonoma County's parks, where trails lead to mountains, beaches, forests, rivers, meadows and lakes. These hikes let you experience these special landscapes. Odds are you'll discover a new favorite destination.

## HIKING TIPS

- Wear sturdy, comfortable athletic shoes. Dress in layers. Sonoma County's microclimates mean a walk that starts with cloudy, cool weather may end with clear skies and warm temperatures.
- Carry a map of the parks. If you don't have a print or downloaded map, snap a picture of the trailhead map with your smartphone.
- Bring a full water bottle. Drink before, during and after your hike.
- Avoid mid-day hikes when temperatures are high.
- Wear sunscreen, even on overcast days, and bring a hat and sunglasses.
- Start out slowly and give your muscles time to warm up. Know your limits. Don't overexert.

## TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Walk on the right side of the trail. Bikers yield to hikers. Bikers and hikers yield to horseback riders.
- Respect others' enjoyment of the quiet of the parks.
- Use garbage cans along the trail or pack out trash to the parking lot. Always pick up after your dog.
- Please don't pick flowers and plants or disturb streams and lakes.

## HIKING WITH DOGS

Dogs love hiking just as much as people do and are allowed on all Regional Parks trails except at Shiloh Ranch and North Sonoma Mountain. Please keep your dog on leash and carry water, a portable bowl, and waste bags.

## HIKING WITH KIDS

Hikes are a wonderful family activity, and the Trails Challenge is perfect for summer adventures. Kids love exploring the outdoors and can feel a real sense of accomplishment after a hike.

- Like any outing with children, hikes take advance planning. Know the length of your route and whether it's suitable for your child's abilities. Start with short hikes and work up to longer outings.
- Kids take lots of breaks to examine things. Use these moments to make simple observations and talk about what you're seeing.

## WILDLIFE

The wildlife you're most likely to see in the parks are deer, squirrels, lizards, turkeys, hawks, eagles, and many other bird species and grazing livestock. Infrequently, you might see non-venomous garter and gopher snakes. Even more rarely, you might see a rattlesnake, bobcat, coyote, or mountain lion. Don't intentionally approach animals. If you encounter a snake, move away, and it likely will move away too.

## TICKS

Ticks can be found all year in Sonoma County. Wear an effective repellent and always check yourself and your pets for ticks after being on trails.



## POISON OAK

Poison oak is abundant in some parks. Fortunately, it's easy to identify by its smooth, shiny leaves growing in threes. ("Leaves of three, leave them be.") If you come into contact with poison oak, wash your hands with soap and water as soon as possible.

## TRAIL RATINGS

**EASY TRAILS** Easy trails are under 3 miles and relatively flat with room to walk side by side with a companion.

Crane Creek, Rohnert Park — 2.3 miles round trip  
Spring Lake, Santa Rosa — 2.3 miles round trip  
Ragle Ranch, Sebastopol — 1.65 miles round trip  
Riverfront, Windsor — 2.18 or 2.68 miles round trip  
Stillwater Cove, north of Jenner — 1.2 miles round trip  
The Sea Ranch — .24 to 1.3 miles round trip

**MODERATE TRAILS** Moderate-intensity trails are 3 to 5 miles long or have varied terrain and elevation gains. Many moderate-level hikes can be created by combining shorter trail loops within a park.

Helen Putnam, Petaluma — 2.8 or 3.3 miles round trip  
Pinnacle Gulch, Bodega Bay — 1.29 miles round trip  
Bluff Top, The Sea Ranch — 6 miles round trip  
Sonoma Valley, Glen Ellen — 1.6 or 2.6 miles round trip  
Santa Rosa Creek, Santa Rosa — 4 miles round trip

**STRENUOUS TRAILS** Strenuous trails are 5 miles or longer or feature steep climbs or rugged terrain. These trails are recommended for experienced hikers in good physical condition.

Hood Mountain, Santa Rosa/Kenwood — 5 to 9 miles round trip  
Foothill, Windsor — 3 miles round trip  
North Sonoma Mountain, Santa Rosa — 7.74 miles round trip  
Shiloh Ranch, Windsor — 4.2 miles round trip  
Taylor Mountain, Santa Rosa — 5 to 8.2 miles round trip

**Trail Themes** Want to make the Trails Challenge even more interesting? The following itineraries are suggestions for creating a themed Trails Challenge.

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIKES

Spring Lake, Santa Rosa — 2.3 miles round trip  
Riverfront, Windsor — 2.18 or 2.68 miles round trip  
Ragle Ranch, Sebastopol — 1.65 miles round trip  
Pinnacle Gulch, Bodega Bay — 1.29 miles round trip  
Sonoma Valley, Glen Ellen — 1.6 or 2.6 miles round trip

### MOUNTAIN HIKES (elevation gains)

North Sonoma Mountain, Santa Rosa — 2,097 feet  
Hood Mountain, Santa Rosa/Kenwood — 2,000-2,700 feet  
Shiloh Ranch, Windsor — 1,157 feet  
Foothill, Windsor — 770 feet  
Taylor Mountain, Santa Rosa — 1,100 feet

### HABITAT HIKES

Riverfront, Windsor — redwood forest  
Ragle Ranch, Sebastopol — riparian wetlands  
Bluff Top Trail, The Sea Ranch — coastal prairie  
Crane Creek, Rohnert Park — oak savanna  
Hood Mountain, Santa Rosa — mixed-conifer forest; pygmy forest

### ALL-PARK CHALLENGE

The Trails Challenge features 15 parks total, and you have 4 months to hike them all. Are you up for it? When you're done, you will have logged more than 53 miles!



Walk/Hike/Run –  
Trail open to pedestrians.



Bike –  
Trail open to cyclists.



Wheels – Paved trails; Wheelchair  
accessible and suitable for strollers.



Dogs –  
Dogs on leash welcome.



Equestrians –  
Trail open to horseback riders.

## BECOME A MEMBER!



Become a Regional Parks Member and pay once to park all year at any of your Sonoma County parks!

+ Free night of camping

+ Special discounts



### PARKS MEMBERSHIPS

An annual membership is the easiest, most affordable way to regularly enjoy the Regional Parks. For \$69 a year- less than \$6 a month- a membership includes 12 months of parking at all Regional Parks, one night of camping, and family admission to the Tolay Fall Festival for two adults and two children. Membership discounts are available for seniors and people with permanent disabilities.

### GUIDED HIKES

Throughout the summer Regional Parks is offering a variety of guided hikes for the Trails Challenge. Details can be found on the activities calendar at [sonomacountyparks.org](http://sonomacountyparks.org). We'll also announce them on Facebook, so be sure to follow us.



### Reading CHALLENGE

Make the Trails Challenge an adventure for both body and mind by enjoying a reading list suggested by Sonoma County Library staff. See the list on the Trails Challenge page at [sonomacountyparks.org](http://sonomacountyparks.org). In addition, children who finish their Trails Challenge hikes can get a free book compliments of the Library and Regional Parks Foundations.

#### Sample Children's Stories:

**Andrew Clements:** *Because Your Mommy Loves You*

**Nancy Shaw:** *Sheep Take a Hike*

**Tracy Kane:** *Fairy Houses*

#### Sample Children's Nonfiction:

**Nancy Wallace:** *Rocks! Rocks! Rocks!*

**Liza Walsh:** *Treasure Hunter's Handbook*

**Hallie Warshaw:** *Get Out! Outdoor Activities Kids Can Enjoy Everywhere (Except Indoors)*

#### Guidebooks for Adults:

**Robert Stone:** *Day Hikes Around Sonoma County: 125 Great Hikes*

**Sarah Cornelius:** *Walking Softly: A Collection of Mostly Gentle Walks in Sonoma County, California*

**Stephen Hinch:** *Hiking and Adventure Guide to the Sonoma Coast and Russian River*

# Bluff Top Trail and Sea Ranch Coastal Access Trails

Highway 1, The Sea Ranch

## SUGGESTED TRAIL:

Bluff Top Trail or any combination of the Coastal Access Trails

Trail length: .24 to 6 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Easy to moderate

Elevation gain: 0 to 150 feet, depending on trail



pick your trails



## PARK NOTES

- The Sea Ranch is a private oceanfront community south of Gualala. Six public trails lead to dramatic coastal views and isolated beaches.
- Five trails – Walk On, Black Point, Pebble Beach, Stengel Beach, and Shell Beach – cross meadows and forests to beaches reached by stairs or paths.
- One trail – Bluff Top Trail- follows the headlands from Walk On Beach Trail to Gualala Point Regional Park and is a great way to see the coastline's unique geology.
- Parking lots located along 7 miles of Highway 1. Each has restrooms, no drinking water.

## TRAIL NOTES (one-way distances)

**Bluff Top Trail** – 3 miles – Start from Walk On Beach trailhead. Weave along the cliffs, around coves, through cypress groves and past beds of honeycombed sandstone.

**Walk On Beach Trail** – .25 miles – Follow a cypress grove to a sandy beach. Connects to Bluff Top Trail.

**Shell Beach Trail** – .65 miles – Walk through pines and meadow to a sandy beach with tide pools and sea stacks.

**Stengel Beach Trail** – .12 miles – Pocket beach reached by a long, wooden staircase. Seasonal waterfall.

**Pebble Beach Trail** – .27 miles – Small, black-sand cove with tide pools and driftwood. Reached by stairs.

**Black Point Trail** – .25 miles – Cross a meadow to a curving, quarter-mile beach reached by cliff-side stairs.



# Bluff Top Trail

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- To reach the Bluff Top Trail from Walk On Beach Trail, park in the Walk On Beach lot at 40101 Highway 1 and follow the trail west for about .25 miles to the junction of Bluff Top Trail.
- Follow the Bluff Top Trail north to Gualala Point Regional Park. When you arrive at the park, take a break at Whale Watch Point or at the beautiful, wide beach and then return to Walk On Beach the way you came.
- This walk is 6 miles round trip and will take 2 to 4 hours depending on your pace. The length can be shortened by turning back any time before Gualala Point.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Jenner, drive north on Highway 1. The southernmost Sea Ranch Trail – Black Point Trail – is 29 miles from Jenner.
- Additional trails are located along next 7 miles of Highway 1, ending at Gualala Point Regional Park.
- Parking is free.

“I love the Regional Parks! I make a point of going at least once or twice every week, seeking peace and beautiful scenery in between my busy, stressful days. I am happier and healthier for my hikes at the parks!”

—CATHERINE, ROHNERT PARK



# Crane Creek Regional Park

## Rohnert Park

5000 Pressley Road

### SUGGESTED TRAIL LOOP:

Fiddleneck Trail to North Loop Trail to Creek Trail

Loop length: 2.3 miles

Degree of difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: 150 feet



bring a picnic



### PARK NOTES

- Crane Creek Regional Park east of Rohnert Park features rolling grasslands and majestic oaks. Willow, alder, buckeye and bay trees also line the namesake creek in the park's center. Ridges offer views of the countryside and Rohnert Park.
- Crane Creek's meadows are covered with wild poppies each spring.
- The park has an 18-hole disc golf course popular with students from nearby Sonoma State University.
- Benches and picnic tables are throughout. Restroom. No drinking fountain.

### TRAIL NOTES

- Trails are mostly flat with a few moderate climbs to surrounding ridges with views of vineyards and farmlands.
- Creek, Buckeye and portions of Fiddleneck trails closely parallel the banks of Crane Creek. A seasonal trail loop extends to the park's southern boundary.
- Creek and Lupine trails have gravel surfaces and are moderately wheelchair accessible.

# Crane Creek

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

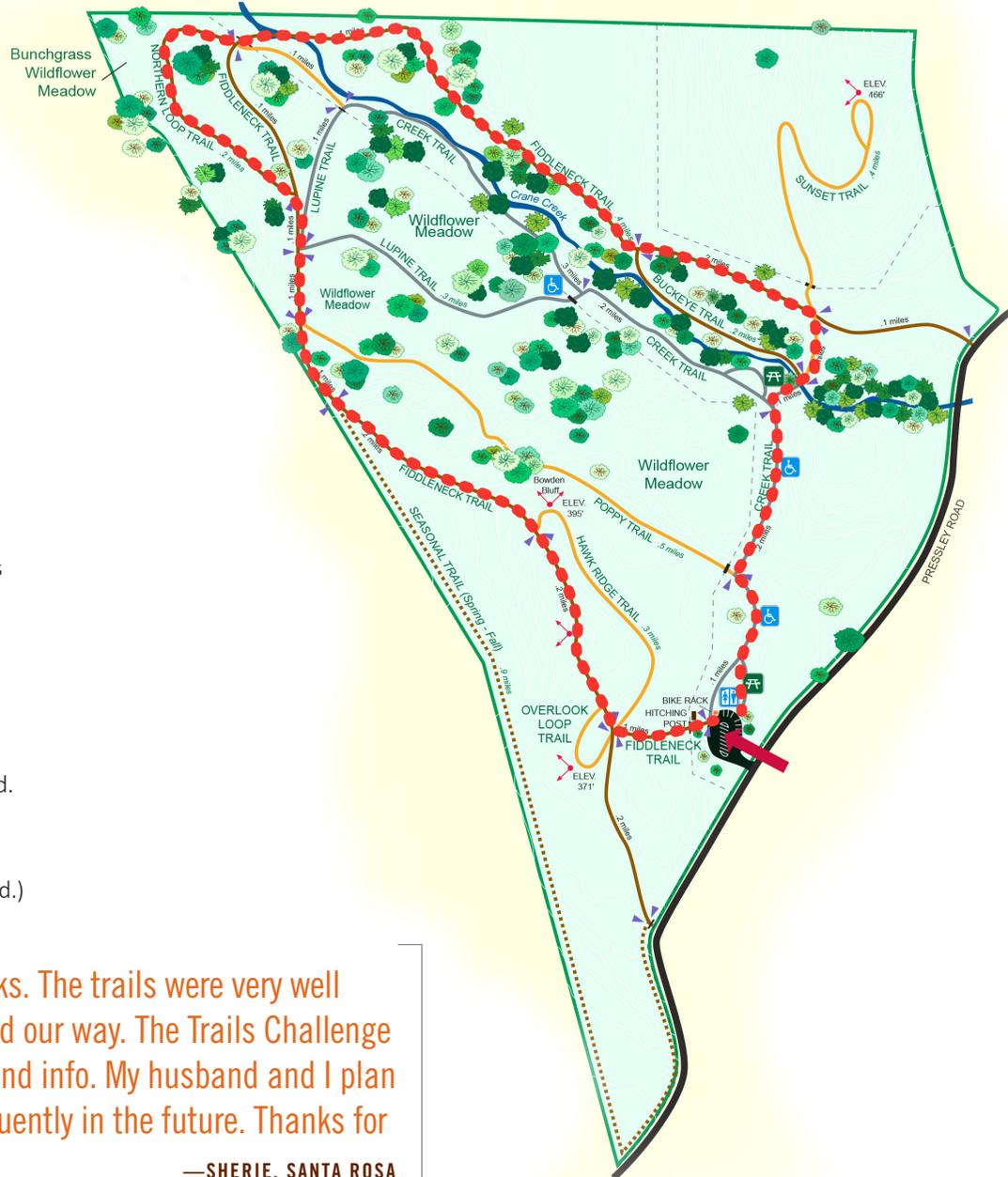
- Take the Fiddleneck Trail from the parking lot. (Pass the map kiosk to the west and go up an open, grassy slope.) You'll see the entire park to the north and Rohnert Park to the west.
- Follow the northern bend in the trail for .7 miles. You'll pass sprawling oaks in the meadow and have a seasonal stream on your left.
- Continue on Fiddleneck Trail as it crosses Crane Creek at the north end of the park. Follow the trail 1 mile as it parallels the creek.
- At Sunset Trail, turn right and cross the creek again to Creek Trail.
- Follow Creek Trail to the left to return to the parking lot. You can extend your hike by taking connecting trails across the park's interior.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Highway 101 in Rohnert Park, exit on the Rohnert Park Expressway.
- Drive 2.7 miles east to a T-junction with Petaluma Hill Road.
- Turn right and drive 1.2 miles south to Roberts Road.
- Turn left on Roberts Road and drive 1.9 miles to the park entrance on the left. (Roberts Road becomes Pressley Road.)

“We walked our dog on all the walks. The trails were very well marked which made it easy to find our way. The Trails Challenge booklet is a keeper. Great maps and info. My husband and I plan on walking these trails more frequently in the future. Thanks for the challenge!!”

—SHERIE, SANTA ROSA



# Foothill Regional Park

Windsor

1351 Arata Lane

## SUGGESTED TRAIL LOOP:

Westside to Oakwood to Alta Vista to Three Lakes

Loop length: 3 miles

Degree of difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 770 feet



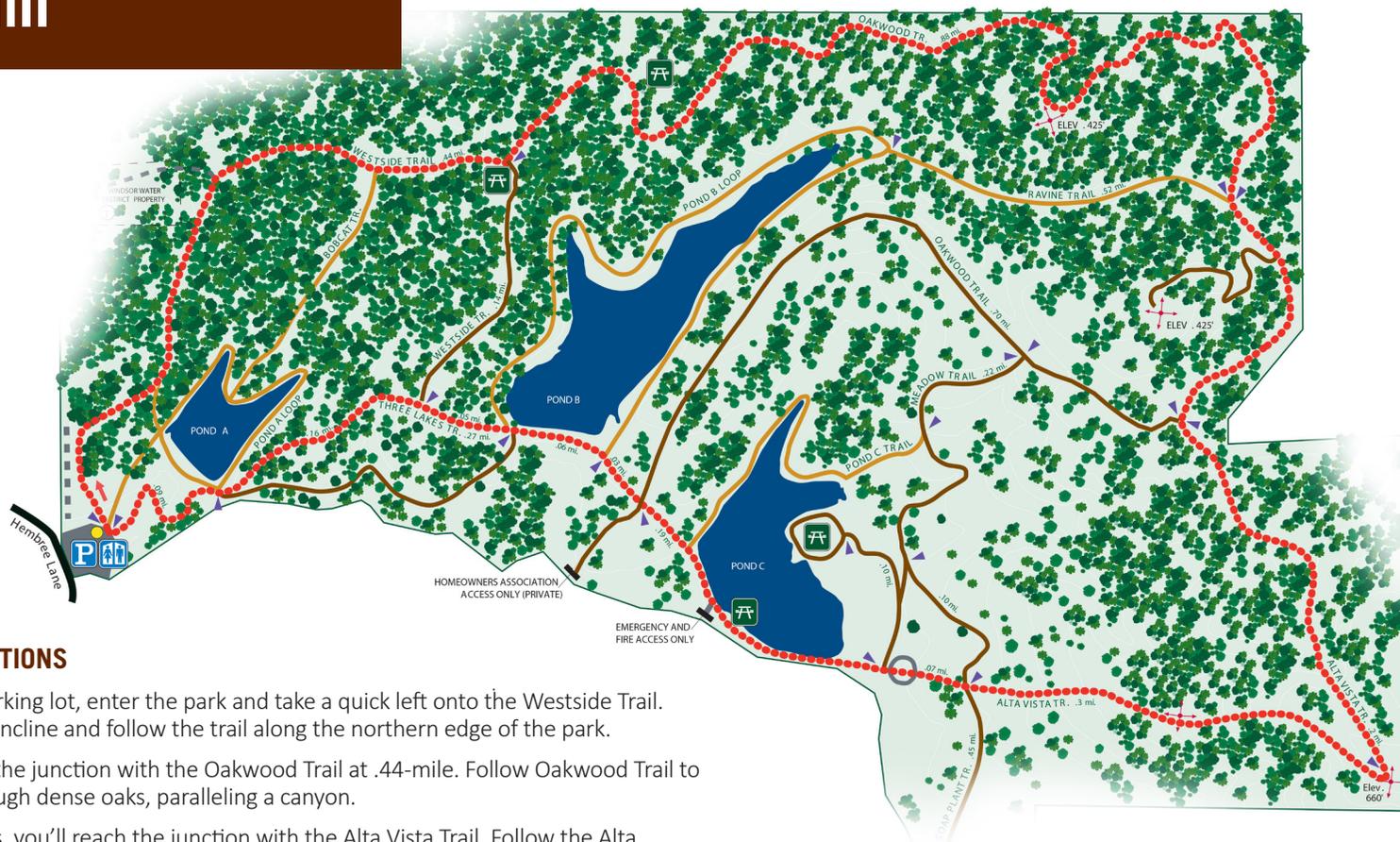
## PARK NOTES

- Foothill Regional Park in northeast Windsor is a former cattle ranch in the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains. The landscape features dense oaks, sweeping views of Windsor, fishing ponds, and spring wildflowers.
- Easy walking distance from several Windsor neighborhoods. Popular with dog walkers, families, trail runners, mountain bikers and equestrians.
- Restroom and drinking fountain in the parking lot.

## TRAIL NOTES

- Nearly 7 miles of trails. Terrain ranges from a strenuous climb up Alta Vista Trail from Pond C to a gentle stroll along Three Lakes Trail. The Westwood and Oakwood trails offer beautiful views.
- This suggested loop follows the park perimeter via several connecting trails. The route winds through oaks scattered with bay, madrone and buckeye trees. You'll pass fishing ponds on the last leg. The loop can be extended on connecting, interior trails.

# Foothill



## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the parking lot, enter the park and take a quick left onto the Westside Trail. Head up an incline and follow the trail along the northern edge of the park.
- You'll reach the junction with the Oakwood Trail at .44-mile. Follow Oakwood Trail to the left through dense oaks, paralleling a canyon.
- At 1.49 miles, you'll reach the junction with the Alta Vista Trail. Follow the Alta Vista Trail to the left. (There is a split-rail fence near this junction.) This section is a sustained climb on uneven ground.
- After you've reached the highest point of Alta Vista Trail (660 feet), take a short break to admire the southeastern views and then continue on Alta Vista Trail down into the park. The immediate descent is rather steep with lots of rocks, so take your time and watch your footing.
- At Pond C, you'll continue straight on Three Lakes Trail to the parking lot.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Highway 101, exit at Arata Lane in north Windsor.
- Drive east on Arata Lane for 1.3 miles to the park entrance on your left.
- Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

# Helen Putnam Regional Park

## Petaluma

411 Chileno Valley Road

### SUGGESTED TRAIL LOOP:

Ridge Trail to South Loop Trail to Fillaree Trail to  
Panorama Trail to Savannah Trail to Ridge Trail

Loop length: 2.8 or 3.3 miles

Degree of difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 800 feet



# panoramic views



### PARK NOTES

- The bucolic beauty of southern Sonoma County is on display at this compact wilderness park 2 miles southwest of downtown Petaluma.
- The park features grassy hillsides, oak groves, a fishing pond, picnic sites, a playground, and panoramic views of Petaluma to the east and Chileno Valley to the west.
- Restrooms and drinking fountain in the parking lot.

### TRAIL NOTES

- Helen Putnam contains nearly 6 miles of trails, making it a great destination for beginning hikers who want a bit of a challenge.
- Ridge Trail has two parallel routes between the parking lot and the fish pond. One is paved and the other is dirt.
- Fillaree Trail has excellent eastern views of Petaluma and woods that offer shade on warm days. Panorama Trail has lovely views of the south county countryside.



# Helen Putnam



## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the parking lot, head west on the unpaved Ridge Trail. At .3 miles you'll reach the fish pond.
- Continue north on Ridge Trail to the intersection of Panorama and South Loop trails. Here, you have the option of turning right on South Loop Trail for a .5-mile loop back to this intersection.
- Back on the Ridge Trail, follow it downhill and veer left on Fillaree Trail for expansive, ridgeline views of Petaluma. Weave through the woods to Panorama Trail.
- Turn left onto Panorama Trail into the park interior.
- At .3 miles, turn right onto Savannah Trail, take a moment to admire the view, and follow Savannah Trail .8 miles to the Ridge Trail.
- Turn right on the Ridge Trail and follow it .1 miles to the parking lot.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Highway 101 in Petaluma, take the East Washington Street exit toward Central Petaluma.
- Head west on East Washington Street for 1.2 miles.
- Turn left on Howard Street and then take the third right onto Western Avenue.
- Continue west on Western Avenue for 1.7 miles.
- Turn left onto Chileno Valley Road and the park is .8 miles ahead on the left.
- Parking is \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

# Hood Mountain Regional Park

Santa Rosa | 3000 Los Alamos Road

Santa Rosa | 1450 Pythian Road

Kenwood | Via Sugarloaf Ridge State Park,  
2605 Adobe Canyon Road



## View from Gunsight Rock.



### PARK NOTES

- This 1,700-acre wilderness park in the Mayacamas Mountains is on the edge of the Sonoma Valley, 5 miles east of Santa Rosa. At 2,730 feet, Hood Mountain is the highest peak between the Sonoma and Napa valleys. Its “Gunsight Rock” promontory offers stunning views of Sonoma Valley and Bay Area landmarks.
- The park has 19 miles of trails, the Sonoma Valley’s only public backpacking sites and a unique pygmy forest. The park has two entrances about 8 miles apart- on Los Alamos and Pythian roads- and also can be reached through adjacent Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on Adobe Canyon Road.
- Restrooms in the parking lots but no drinking water.

### TRAIL NOTES

- Trails climb through forests, over meadows and cross several creeks. Terrain is challenging, but the effort is rewarded with grand views of Sonoma and Napa valleys. Give yourself ample time and hike with a partner.
- Hood Mountain Trail is a fire road leading to the summit. The Summit Trail is a narrow, single-track alternative to Hood Mountain Trail. Both trails pass through a pygmy forest of Sargent cypress and knob cone pine, some only chest high due to the serpentine soil.
- Lower Johnson Ridge Trail climbs 600 feet while overlooking Hood Creek Canyon. Upper Johnson Ridge Trail also climbs the creek’s headwaters under a canopy of mixed evergreens.

## 4 OPTIONS FOR HIKING HOOD MOUNTAIN See next pages

### LOS ALAMOS ROAD DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From central Santa Rosa, drive east on Highway 12 toward Kenwood, turn left on Los Alamos Road and drive 5.5 miles to the park entrance. (Note: sections of this road are narrow and winding. Trailers and RVs are not recommended.) Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

### PYTHIAN ROAD DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Pythian Road entrance: From central Santa Rosa, drive east on Highway 12 toward Kenwood. Turn left on Pythian Road and drive 1 mile to the marked park entrance on your right. Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

### ADOBE CANYON ROAD DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Adobe Canyon Road entrance: From central Santa Rosa, drive east on Highway 12 toward Kenwood. Turn left on Adobe Canyon Road and drive to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park’s lower parking area, which is a trailhead pull-out on the left side of the road. Parking \$8 or free with annual Sugarloaf parking pass.

For the month of June, Regional Parks members and Sugarloaf pass holders can park for free at either park.

# Hood Mountain

## OPTION 1 - LOS ALAMOS ROAD TO GUNSIGHT ROCK

Up - Hood Mountain Trail to Summit Trail to Gunsight Rock Trail

Down - Gunsight Rock Trail to Hood Mountain Trail

Length: 9 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Strenuous Elevation gain: 2,000 feet

## OPTION 2 - LOS ALAMOS ROAD TO GRANDMOTHER TREE/ SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK

Suggested trails: Hood Mountain Trail to Quercus Trail  
(McCormick Addition) to Headwaters Trail to Grandmother Tree Trail

Length: 5 miles round trip

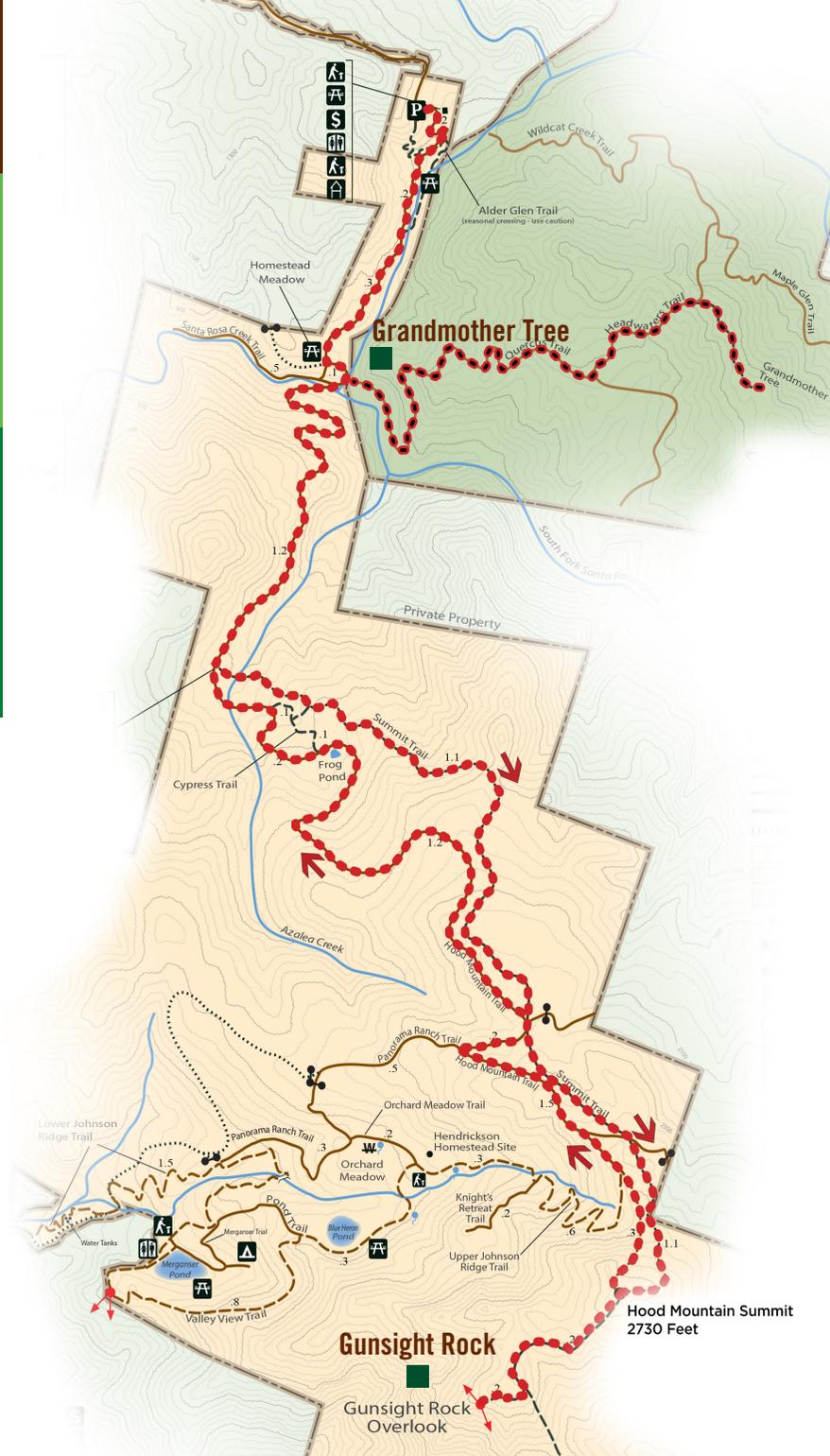
Degree of difficulty: Moderately strenuous Elevation gain: 700 feet

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS TO GUNSIGHT ROCK

- From Los Alamos Road parking lot, follow the Hood Mountain Trail across Homestead Meadow to Santa Rosa Creek. Hop across the creek and continue up Hood Mountain Trail to the Azalea Creek backpacking sites. (Restroom available here, but no water.)
- Head left on the Summit Trail and continue up the mountain, passing through pygmy forest as you approach the summit.
- Due to summit's dense foliage, the best views are at Gunsight Rock so follow the trail .6 miles to Gunsight Rock and take a well-earned rest as you enjoy the spectacular vista.
- Return via Gunsight Rock Trail to the summit, veer left and follow Hood Mountain Trail to the Azalea Creek campsites and back to the Los Alamos parking lot.

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS TO GRANDMOTHER TREE

- Follow Hood Mountain Trail toward Santa Rosa Creek. Turn left at the McCormick Ranch/Sugarloaf Ridge sign. This is the "Quercus Trail." Follow it about 1.5 miles and go to your left on Headwaters Trail. At Grandmother Tree Trail, turn right to see Sonoma County's largest coast live oak. Return same way.



# Hood Mountain

## OPTION 3 - PYTHIAN ROAD TO GUNSIGHT ROCK

Up - Lower Johnson Ridge Trail to Valley View Trail to Pond Trail to Upper Johnson to Hood Mountain to Gunsight Rock

Down - Gunsight Rock Trail to Hood Mountain Trail to Panorama Ranch Trail to Lower Johnson Ridge Trail

Length: 7 miles round trip

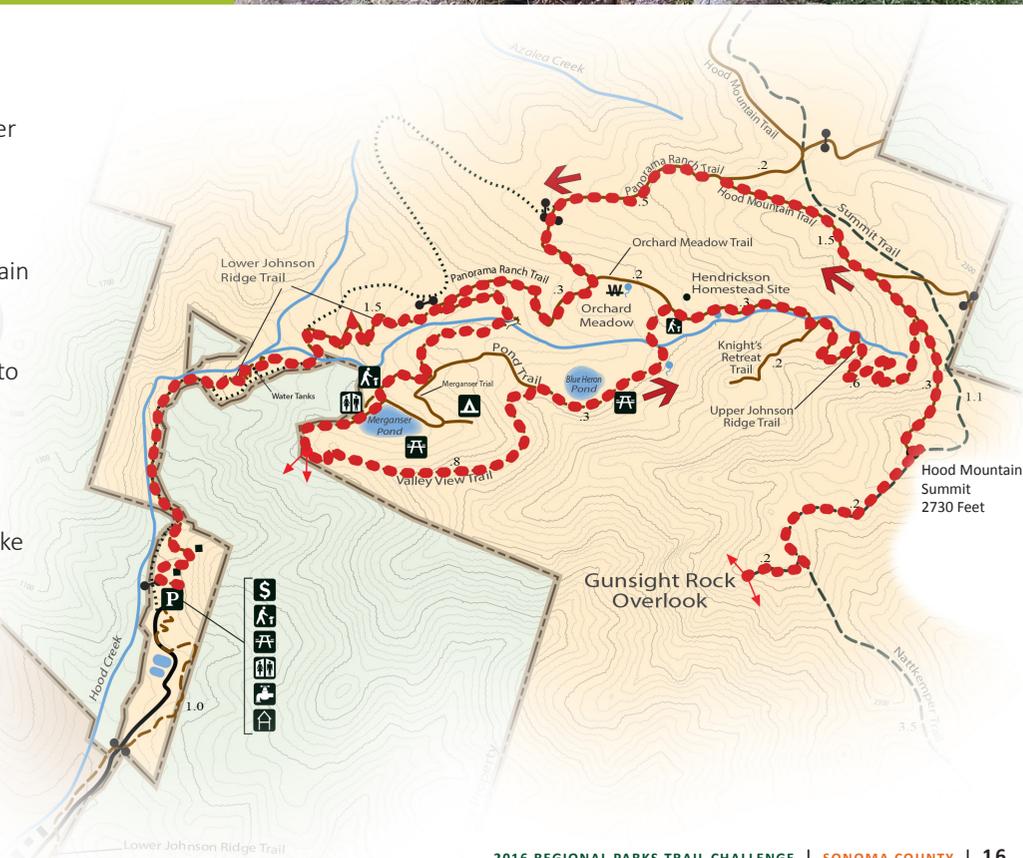
Degree of difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation gain: 2,000 feet



## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From Pythian Road's upper parking lot, head up the Lower Johnson Ridge Trail.
- At Pond Trail, stay right and follow the trail to Merganser Pond and the Valley View Trail.
- Continue onto Valley View Trail. You then will connect again with the Pond Trail. Turn right and follow Pond Trail past Blue Heron Pond to Upper Johnson Trail.
- Turn right onto Upper Johnson, climbing its switchbacks to the Hood Mountain Trail.
- Turn right onto Hood Mountain Trail and follow it to the summit of 2,730 feet.
- Due to the summit's dense foliage, the best views are at Gunsight Rock. Follow Gunsight Rock Trail .6 miles and take a well-earned rest with spectacular views.
- Return via Gunsight Rock Trail to Hood Mountain Trail.
- Take Hood Mountain Trail to Panorama Ranch Trail.
- Veer left on Panorama Ranch and follow it to Lower Johnson Ridge and follow Lower Johnson to the Pythian Road parking lot.



# Hood Mountain

## OPTION 4 - ADOBE CANYON ROAD TO GUNSIGHT ROCK

Suggested trails: Goodspeed Trail to Nattkemper Trail to Gunsight Rock

Length: 7 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation gain: 1,900 to 2,100 feet

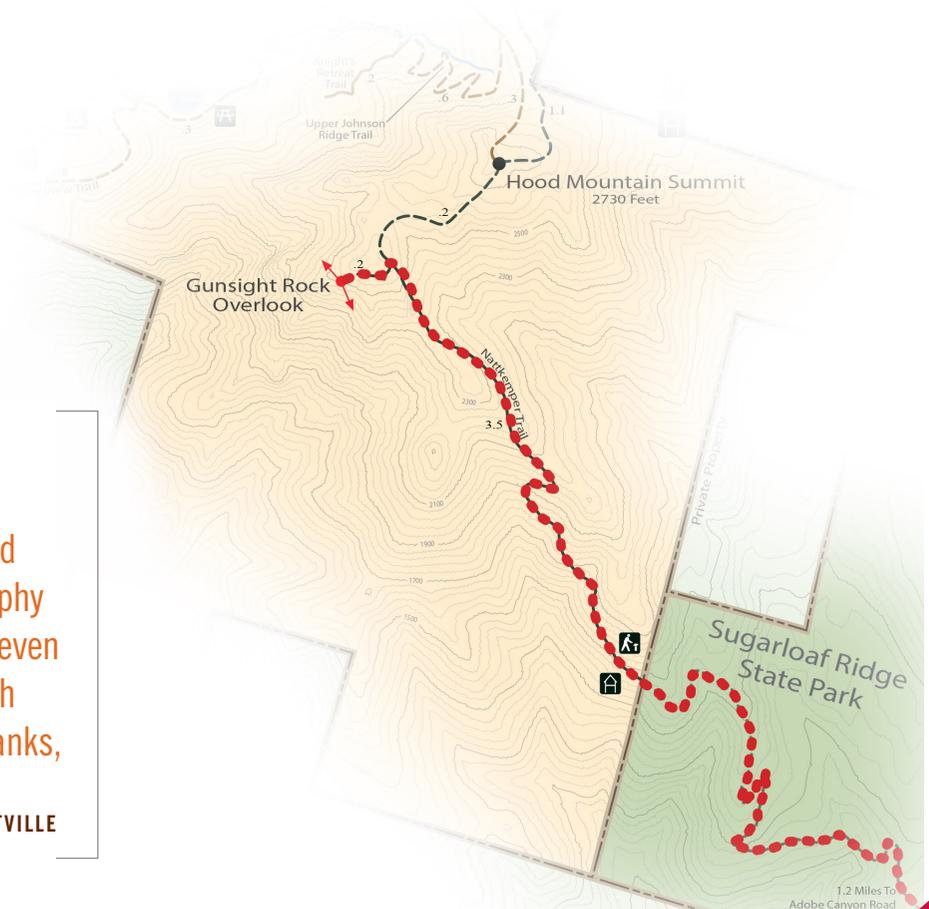


## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- Enter Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on Adobe Canyon Road.
- Drive 2.3 miles to the dirt parking area on the left and head out on the Goodspeed Trail. After 2.1 miles, the trail crosses into Hood Mountain Regional Park and becomes Nattkemper Trail.
- Follow Nattkemper for another 1.2 miles and turn left for .2 miles to reach Gunsight Rock.
- Return the way you came.

“It had rained early in the day, and the fall foliage was glistening. The moss on the trees and the vibrant ferns gave the impression of an enchanted forest. Then the climb to the top, and the topography changes to red rocks and manzanitas, there was even a pygmy forest. A great day to spend outdoors with my hiking partners: my husband and our dog. Thanks, Trails Challenge!”

—DAWNE, FORESTVILLE



# North Sonoma Mountain

## Regional Park and Open Space Preserve

Santa Rosa 5297 Sonoma Mountain Road

**SUGGESTED TRAIL:** North Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail

Length: 3.7 miles one way

Degree of difficulty: Moderate/Strenuous

Elevation gain: Min. 1,043 feet, Max. 2,097 feet



### PARK NOTES

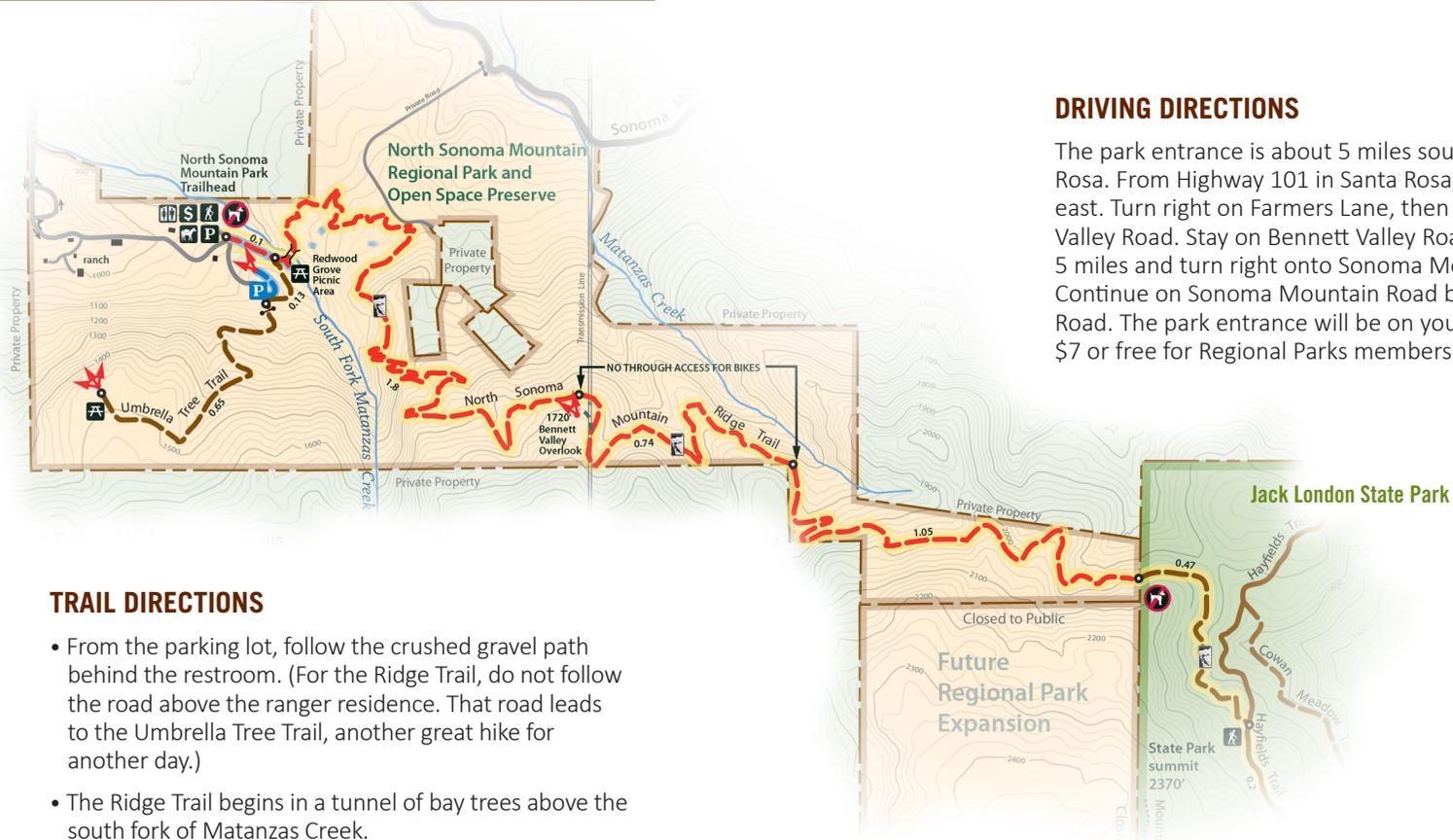
- North Sonoma Mountain is the newest regional park, open since 2015. It features a 3.7-mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail connecting to Jack London State Historic Park. With its peak rising to 2,300 feet, Sonoma Mountain is a defining landmark in Sonoma County.
- Comprised of former ranchland, the park provides the first public access to the north side of Sonoma Mountain and offers sweeping views of the central county and Sonoma Valley.
- The parking area has a restroom but no drinking water. Dogs are not allowed on trails. Bikes are allowed on the first 2 miles of the Ridge Trail.

### TRAIL NOTES

- The Ridge Trail climbs to nearly 2,000 feet and connects to the western boundary of Jack London State Historic Park.
- The trail begins near a grove of coast redwoods and a foot bridge over the south fork of Matanzas Creek. It crosses open fields with lower-elevation views of Bennett Peak and Bennett Valley and ascends the mountain under canopies of oaks and bay trees. Native bunchgrasses grow on the hillsides.
- At about 2 miles, the trail emerges from the woods to 1,500-foot views of the Santa Rosa Plain, Bennett Valley, Sonoma Valley, Mount St. Helena, Hood Mountain, and Sugarloaf Ridge.
- From this overlook, the trail climbs another 1.7 miles to Jack London Park. Here, you can continue on the state park's extensive trail network or head back along the Ridge Trail, enjoying a second look at the landscape and views. (If you continue into Jack London, it is another 4 miles one way to that park's main entrance.)



# North Sonoma Mountain



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The park entrance is about 5 miles southeast of Santa Rosa. From Highway 101 in Santa Rosa, take Highway 12 east. Turn right on Farmers Lane, then left on Bennett Valley Road. Stay on Bennett Valley Road for just under 5 miles and turn right onto Sonoma Mountain Road. Continue on Sonoma Mountain Road beyond Pressley Road. The park entrance will be on your right. Parking is \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the parking lot, follow the crushed gravel path behind the restroom. (For the Ridge Trail, do not follow the road above the ranger residence. That road leads to the Umbrella Tree Trail, another great hike for another day.)
- The Ridge Trail begins in a tunnel of bay trees above the south fork of Matanzas Creek.
- You'll soon see two picnic tables and a footbridge over the creek. Cross the bridge and follow the trail up the mountain to its connection with Jack London State Park.

## This trail feeds into Jack London State Park

Up for hiking from North Sonoma Mountain through Jack London State Park? For the month of June, Regional Parks members and Jack London pass holders can park for free at either park.

“Beautiful, easy and challenging trails, so many of them, right in our own backyard!! This make me love living in Sonoma County so much more.”

—TERRY, SANTA ROSA

# Pinnacle Gulch

Coastal Access Trail Bodega Bay

20600 Mockingbird Road

## SUGGESTED TRAIL TO BEACH AND BACK:

Loop length: 1.29 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 350 feet (on the return)



gain perspective



## PARK NOTES

- This half-mile trail leads to Pinnacle Beach, a picturesque cove on Bodega Bay south of Doran Regional Park.
- Pinnacle Beach is only a quarter-mile long but is the place to go when seeking a secluded beach experience. You likely will find only a few other people on the beach.
- The beach is dotted with interesting rocks and tide pools and a distinctive rock formation is just offshore. The beach offers great birding and occasional whale sightings.

## TRAIL NOTES

- An unpaved trail descends a steep gulch fed by a seasonal stream. There are some steps and bridge crossings. The trail is lined with cypress, wax myrtle, willows, coastal scrub and berries. Spring and summer wildflowers are abundant. It's not uncommon to see garter snakes darting into the brush in summer.
- This walk can be extended to a 3-mile loop at low tide by walking south from Pinnacle Beach to Shorttail Gulch Beach and hiking up Shorttail Gulch Trail. We advise this only at low tide. It's also possible at low tide to walk north to Doran Beach and back.
- Trailhead parking includes a restroom and drinking fountain.

# Pinnacle Gulch



## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the parking lot, cross Mockingbird Road to the posted trailhead and follow the dirt path.
- You'll briefly parallel the road before descending short switchbacks and entering the narrow canyon that is Pinnacle Gulch.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- As you approach the south end of Bodega Bay on Highway 1, turn south on South Harbor Way into the Bodega Harbour community. The turn-off is just south of the entrance to Doran Regional Park.
- Drive one block to the end of the street.
- Turn left on Heron Drive and continue .9 miles to Mockingbird Road.
- Turn left on Mockingbird Road and go .1 miles to the posted trailhead on the right. Park in the lot on the left.
- Free parking

"I am SO INSPIRED now to not only check out all of the trails listed on your Challenge, but to finally become a Regional Parks member. Now that I have a dog, getting out there has become more important. I have lived in Sonoma County since 1998, and it blows my mind how many unexplored treasures are still out there. This was a great experience. Just because I've explored five parks doesn't mean I'm done. This Challenge was a fun way to get motivated. My puppy and I have met a lot of really fun human/dog combos, too!"

—KATE, SANTA ROSA

# Ragle Ranch Regional Park

## Sebastopol

500 Ragle Road

### SUGGESTED LOOP:

Blackberry Trail

Length: 1.65 miles

Degree of difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: 50 feet



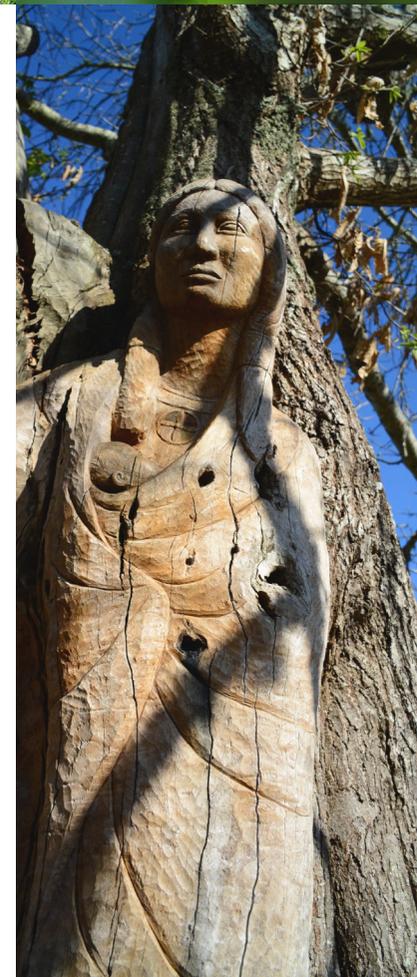
### PARK NOTES

- Ragle Ranch is a 157-acre park with backcountry trails along the prime bird watching habitat of Atascadero Creek. The park also has a playground, baseball and soccer fields, volleyball courts, group picnic sites and an off-leash dog park. Site of the Gravenstein Apple Fair each August.

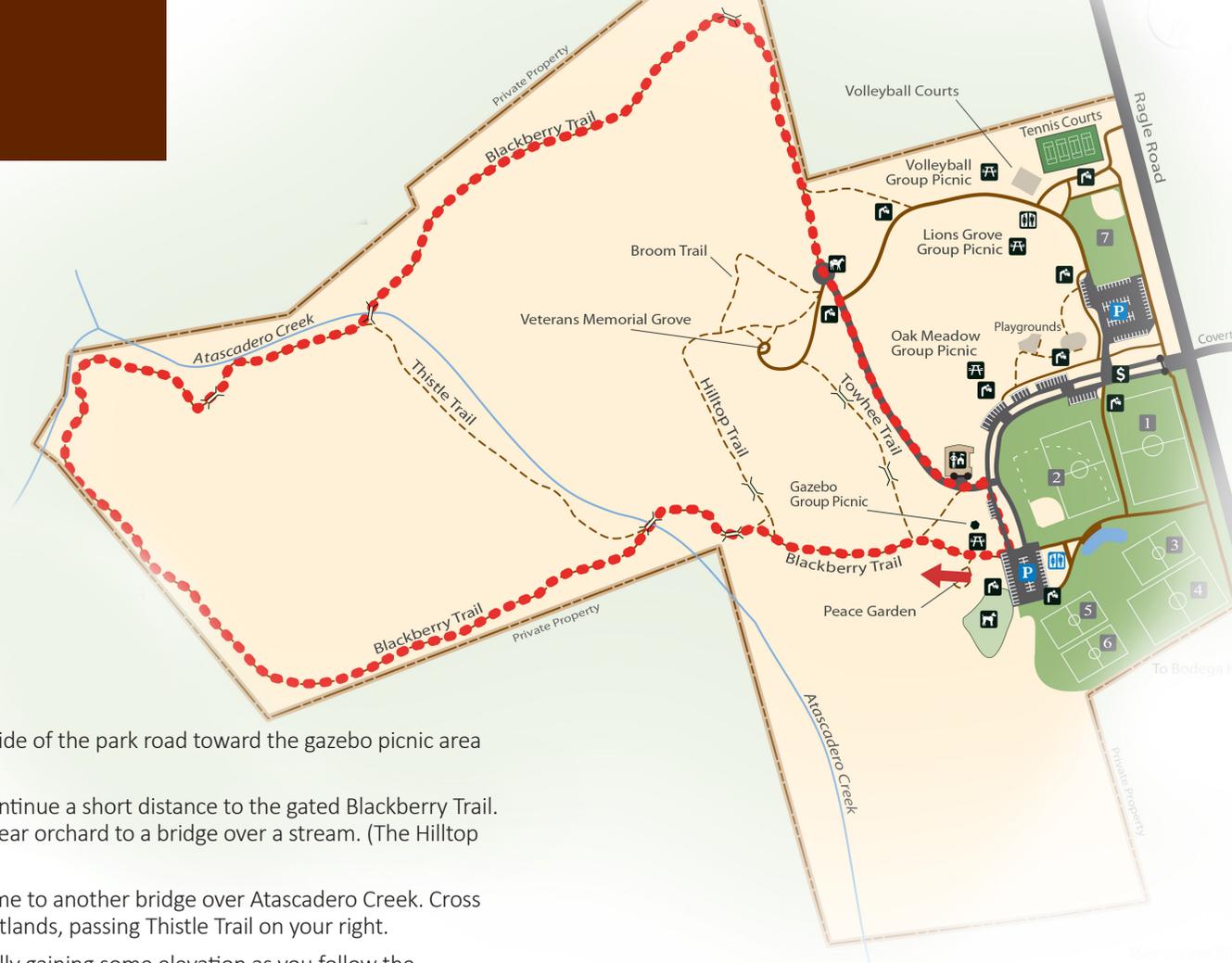
### TRAIL NOTES

- Ragle is a popular park, but many visitors don't realize it has a wild side to explore on 3.5 miles of trails. This suggested hike follows Blackberry Trail around the park's perimeter. You'll walk through wetlands and meadows and cross bridges over small streams and Atascadero Creek, which is lined with willows, ashes, and oaks.
- The hike can be extended by walking several short interior trails across the meadows. From Hilltop Trail, enjoy views across the watershed toward the west county.

| **NOTE:** Gravenstein Apple Fair is August 13th and 14th.



# Ragle Ranch



## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- Follow the paved path on the west side of the park road toward the gazebo picnic area and the Veterans Memorial Grove.
- Veer left, leaving the paved path. Continue a short distance to the gated Blackberry Trail. Head down the hill through an old pear orchard to a bridge over a stream. (The Hilltop Trail will be on your right.)
- Cross the bridge. You will quickly come to another bridge over Atascadero Creek. Cross this bridge and continue into the wetlands, passing Thistle Trail on your right.
- Continue on Blackberry Trail, gradually gaining some elevation as you follow the perimeter of the park.
- You'll come to another junction with Thistle Trail. Bear left to continue on Blackberry Trail and cross Atascadero Creek again.
- Continue through grasslands and an oak grove. Cross another bridge and turn south. The dirt trail ends at a paved fork. The Blackberry Trail continues south to the parking lot.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Santa Rosa, drive 7 miles west on Highway 12 to Ragle Road in Sebastopol. (Along the way, the highway becomes Sebastopol Road, then Bodega Avenue.)
- Turn right on Ragle Road and drive a half-mile to the park entrance on the left.
- Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

"It was a terrific way to see the County park system. Each trail offered new perspectives."

—BILL, SONOMA

# Riverfront Regional Park Windsor

7821 Eastside Road

## SUGGESTED LOOP:

Lake Benoist Trail Loop to Redwood Hill Trail

Hike length: 2.18 miles or 2.68 miles

Degree of difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: Flat



tranquil



## PARK NOTES

- This 300-acre park is next to the Russian River, just minutes from downtown Windsor and surrounded by classic Wine Country scenery. The park is a former quarry with mining areas transformed into beautiful lakes for fishing and kayaking.
- The park includes 1 mile of Russian River frontage, though the view of the river from the main trail is screened by foliage.
- A 15-acre grove of redwoods next to the parking area includes a half-mile trail, a group picnic area, a volleyball court, and restrooms and a drinking fountain.

## TRAIL NOTES

- The Lake Trail is a 2.18-mile loop passing Lake Wilson and circling Lake Benoist. It's a wide, mostly flat, unpaved trail ringed by redwoods, willows and cottonwoods.
- The river can be reached via trail spurs on the northwest side of the Lake Trail.
- The park is a rookery for great blue herons, North America's largest heron, and nests can be spotted high in the trees from January-July. You may also see egrets and green herons.

# Riverfront

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the parking lot, walk past the trailhead kiosk on the Lake Trail, which is a dirt road. (The redwood grove will be on your left and Lake Wilson on your right.)
- At .03-miles you'll come to Lake Benoist and a trail juncture. You can begin the loop around the lake by walking to your right or left.
- At the southwest side of the loop are benches where you can take a break and enjoy beautiful views across the lake. On the northwest side of the loop, look for trail spurs to the Russian River, including one leading to a small, rocky beach.
- When you've circled the lake, return to the parking lot on the dirt road (the way you came.) or add an additional .5 mile walk by turning right on Redwood Trail. (The trailhead is about half way between Lake Benoist and the parking lot.) You'll make short, steep climb into the shady redwoods and follow the forested ridge back to the parking lot.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

**From Santa Rosa,** take Highway 101 north and exit at River Road. Go west on River Road. Turn right onto Trenton-Healdsburg Road. At 1.3 miles, make a slight right onto Eastside Road. Continue 1.5-miles to the clearly marked park entrance. Drive into the park for half a mile to the parking lot.

**From Windsor,** drive west on Windsor River Road. Turn left onto Eastside Road and continue 1.8 miles to the park entrance on your right. Continue into the park for half a mile to the parking lot.

Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

“Having just moved to Sonoma County this was a great resource that made exploring the area and staying active easy and fun!”

—ANGELA, SANTA ROSA



# Santa Rosa Creek Trail

Santa Rosa

Willowside Road to Fulton Road

Distance: 4 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Moderate

Elevation gain: 40 feet



## TRAIL NOTES

- This is a paved trail along a section of Santa Rosa Creek in west Santa Rosa. It's on a raised road on the north side of the creek with views of the waterway, farms, vineyards, and mountains. The trail is popular with walkers, joggers, cyclists and dog walkers and is not open to motorized traffic.
- Santa Rosa Creek forms in the Mayacamas Mountains and flows through the city to the Laguna de Santa Rosa north of Sebastopol. The creek is home to a variety of birds and wildlife, including the western pond turtle, California's only native turtle and a species of special concern.
- The trail continues beyond Fulton Road for another 2.8 miles to downtown Santa Rosa's Prince Memorial Greenway.

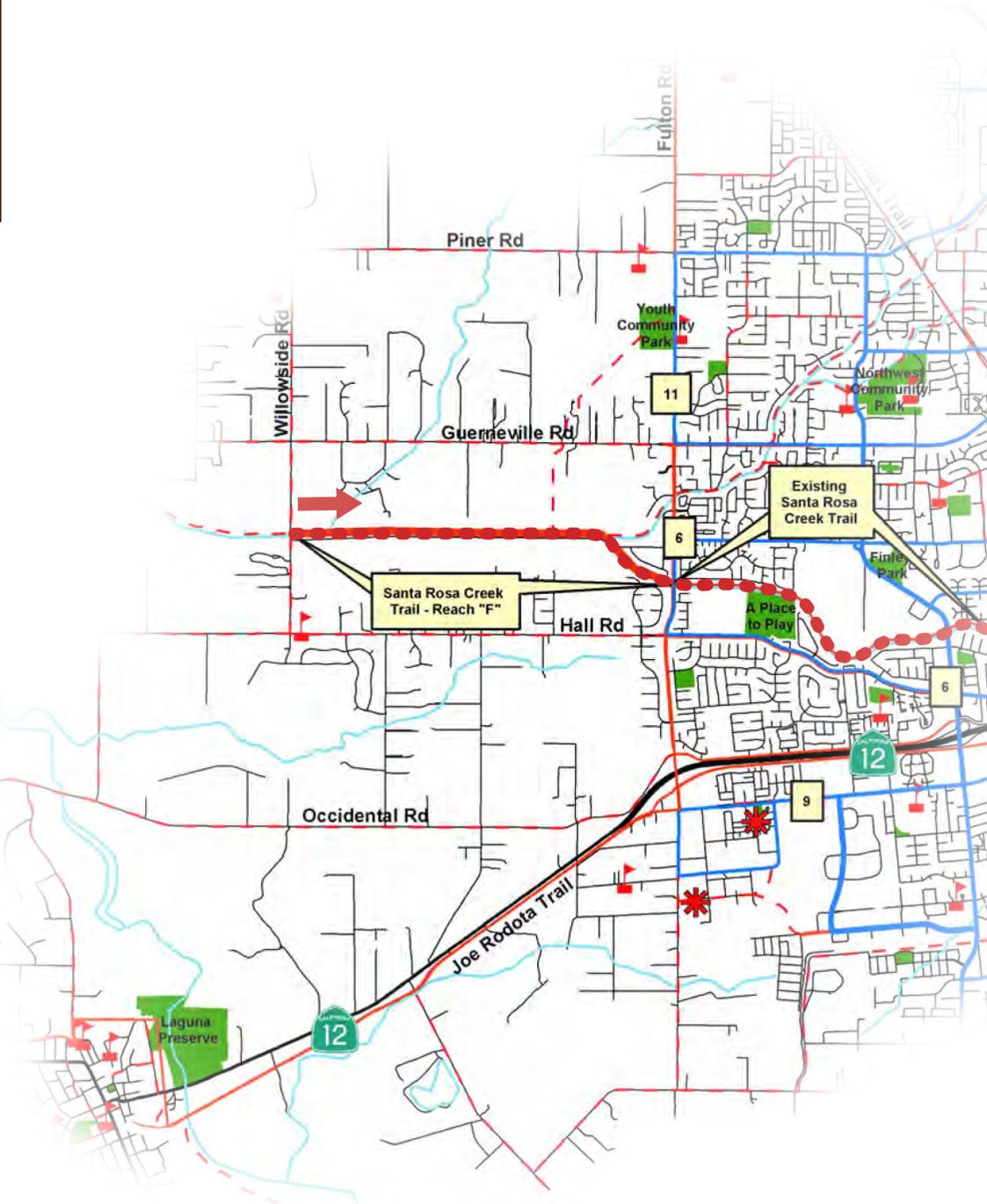
# Santa Rosa Creek Trail

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the east side of Willowside Road, pass the trailhead post on the north side of the creek channel and follow the trail upstream (toward the east.)
- The creek corridor is lined with oak, willow and walnut trees and blackberries and other shrubs. Pass several feeder creeks from the north and cross two bridges.
- Enjoy views of the creek and its thick vegetation to the south and views of pastures, horse farms, and vineyards to the north.
- The trail bends to the north as you approach Fulton Road and parallels Piner Creek, which feeds into Santa Rosa Creek.
- Turn around at Fulton Road and follow the trail back to Willowside Road.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Highway 101 in Santa Rosa, exit on Guerneville Road and drive 4.5 miles west to Willowside Road and turn left.
- Drive .5 miles south to the trailhead on the north side of the creek.
- Park on the narrow shoulder along the road.
- No parking fee.



# Shiloh Ranch Regional Park Windsor

5750 Faight Road

## SUGGESTED TRAIL LOOP:

North Ridge Trail to Creekside Trail to Pond Trail  
to South Ridge Trail to Big Leaf Trail

Loop length: 4.2 miles

Degree of difficulty: Moderate/Strenuous

Elevation gain: 1,500 feet



## play outside



### PARK NOTES

- This 860-acre park is a former cattle ranch in the Mayacamas foothills of southeast Windsor. The rugged landscape includes massive oaks, forests of mixed evergreens, canyons, rolling hills, a shaded creek, a pond, and ridges with dramatic views of the Santa Rosa Plain.
- Nearly 8 miles of trails allow hikers to create routes of varying length and intensity. Some trails are single track, and some are old ranch roads, making Shiloh popular with equestrians and mountain bikers.
- Restrooms and drinking fountains in the parking lot.

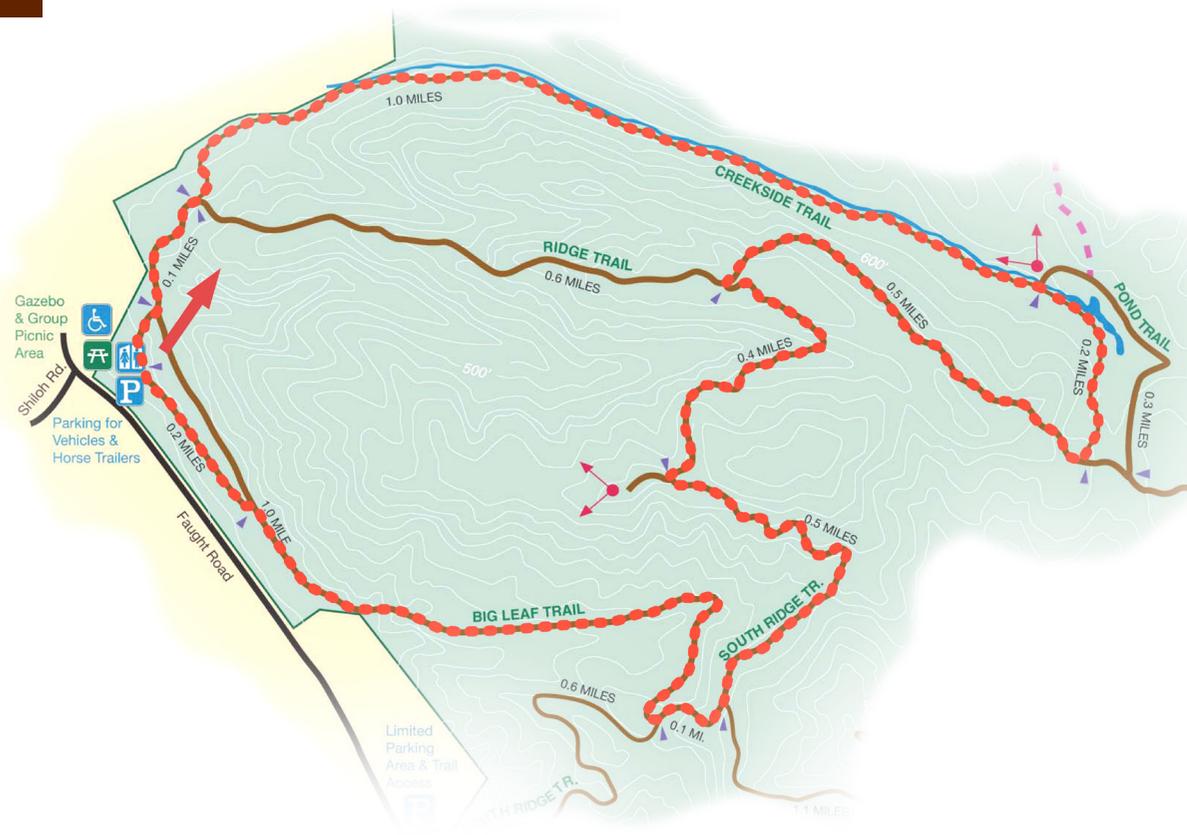
### TRAIL NOTES

- This suggested loop passes through valley oak woodlands, stands of Douglas fir and big leaf maple, open grasslands, mixed chaparral, and a creek corridor.
- Creekside Trail follows a seasonal creek in a fern-filled canyon and is a shaded walk among pines and lichen-covered oaks. South Ridge and Big Leaf trails also pass through woodlands and feature brief, steep climbs and grand views of Windsor and surrounding open space.

# Shiloh Ranch

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- From the parking lot, head north on the North Ridge Trail. You will quickly come to a trail junction. Stay on the Ridge Trail by following the trail to the left, crossing a dry stream bed and passing a temporary fence.
- At .01-mile, take Creekside Trail on your left. Follow Creekside Trail for 1 mile.
- At the intersection with Pond Trail, continue straight on Creekside Trail, which will veer to the right and connect again with Pond Trail at .2 miles.
- At Pond Trail, right and head uphill for a moderately steep climb for about a half mile.
- When you reach South Ridge Trail, turn left and follow it across the park for 1 mile. Be sure to stop at the overlook at .04 miles and enjoy the sweeping view.
- At Big Leaf Trail, turn right and follow Big Leaf for 1.2 miles to the parking lot.



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Highway 101, exit at Shiloh Road in south Windsor.
- Drive 1.4-miles east to the intersection with Faught Road.
- Turn right onto Faught Road.
- The park entrance is .1 mile ahead on the left.
- Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.

“It is great to have these parks; to have a space to get away, challenge yourself, talk with friends and family, and see beautiful sights!”  
—RYAN, ROHNERT PARK

# Sonoma Valley Regional Park

Glen Ellen

13630 Highway 12

## OPTION 1:

Valley of the Moon Trail and back  
2.6 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: 146 feet

## OPTION 2:

Cougar Trail to Black Canyon Creek Trail to  
Valley of the Moon Trail

1.6 miles round trip

Degree of difficulty: Easy/moderate

Elevation gain: 208 feet



## PARK NOTES

- This park is in the heart of Sonoma Valley, just south of Glen Ellen and 5 miles north of Sonoma.
- A paved 1.3-mile trail curves through oak woodlands and along a creek. Surrounding ridges provide quiet and sense of seclusion. Unpaved trails climb the ridges and wind through woods. Trees shade significant sections of the trails.
- The paved trail is perfect for a family walk or ride, and tables located along the way are great picnic spots.
- A 29-acre addition to the park's north side opened in spring 2015. The new property is a crucial piece of the Sonoma Valley wildlife corridor, a collection of protected lands on which animals travel the valley floor.
- Parking lot has a portable toilet and drinking fountain.

## TRAIL NOTES

- **Option 1:** The paved trail, recently renamed the Valley of the Moon Trail, is the suggested route for an easy-level hike. Walk to the end and return the same way for a 2.6-mile outing.
- **Option 2:** A loop starting on the unpaved Cougar Trail in the park's new northern addition is the suggested route for an easy/moderate hike. The trail leads to the paved Valley of the Moon Trail for a 1.6-mile outing.



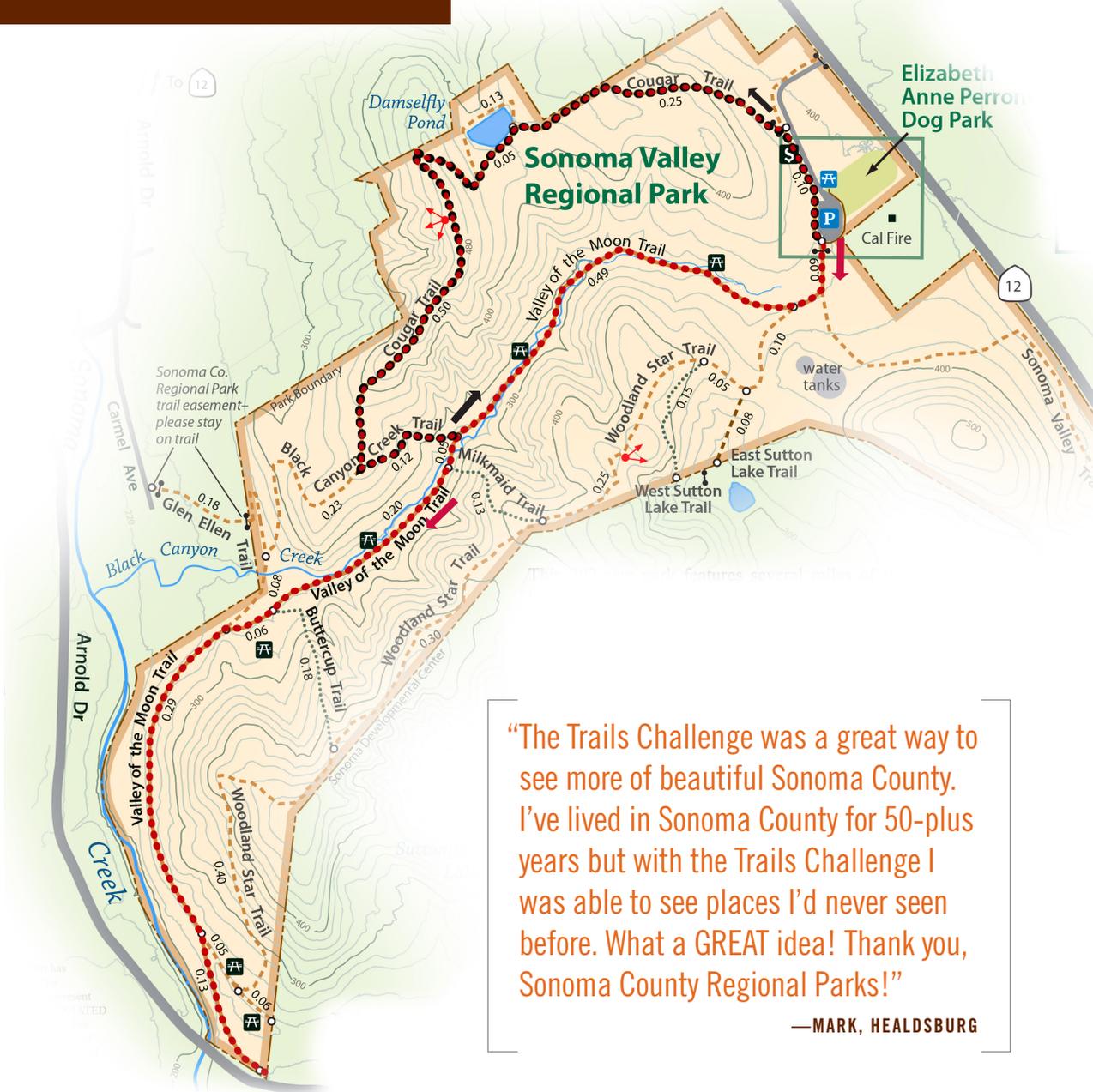
# Sonoma Valley

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- **Option 1:** From the parking lot, follow the paved Valley of the Moon Trail. Continue 1.3 miles to Arnold Drive. Turn around and return to the parking lot.
- **Option 2:** From the parking lot, walk north on the driveway to the Cougar Trail, a gravel path leading up a hillside covered with old oaks. Descend the trail through grasses and enjoy southern views of Sonoma Valley. You'll continue past a pond and gently climb another ridge to valley views and oaks draped in lichen. The trail narrows and leads through an open gate to Black Canyon Creek Trail. Turn left onto Black Canyon Creek and follow it to the paved Valley of the Moon Trail. Turn left on Valley of the Moon Trail to return to the parking lot.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Santa Rosa, head south on Highway 12 toward Glen Ellen.
- Continue south on the highway, past the Glen Ellen turn off at the intersection with Arnold Drive.
- Park entrance is .4 miles ahead, on the right side. Turn right and drive .2 miles to the trailhead parking lot.
- From Sonoma, drive north on Highway 12 for about 5 miles to the park entrance on the left.
- Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.



“The Trails Challenge was a great way to see more of beautiful Sonoma County. I’ve lived in Sonoma County for 50-plus years but with the Trails Challenge I was able to see places I’d never seen before. What a GREAT idea! Thank you, Sonoma County Regional Parks!”

—MARK, HEALDSBURG

# Spring Lake Regional Park

## Santa Rosa

393 Violetti Road

OPTION 1: Paved path around lake

OPTION 2: Paved and unpaved paths around lake

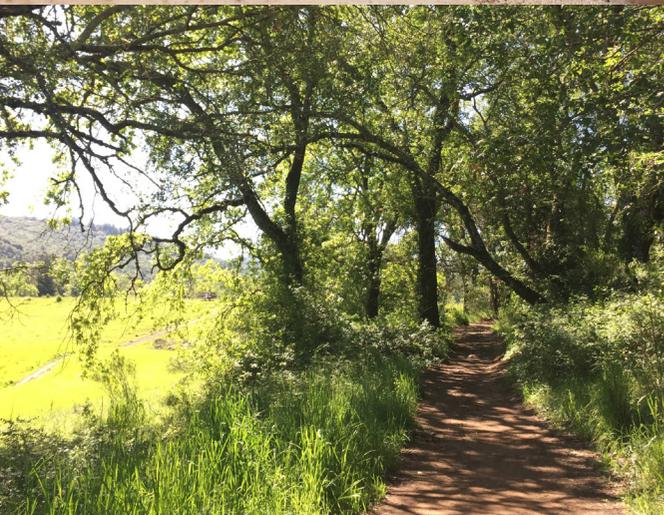
Distance: 2.3 miles

Degree of difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: 54 feet



hiking, biking, birding, stand up paddle boarding



### PARK NOTES

- Spring Lake in northeast Santa Rosa is one of Sonoma County's most-visited parks. The lake at the center of this large park is a flood control reservoir open to paddling, sailing and fishing. The park also has a campground, a spring-fed swimming lagoon, seasonal restaurant, and environmental education center open Wednesdays-Sundays.
- Spring Lake connects with Annadel State Park and Howarth Park for extended hiking options.
- Despite its proximity to the city, Spring Lake is full of wildlife, including deer, river otter, bobcats, turtles, beavers, coyotes, muskrats, mink and a great variety of birds.

### TRAIL NOTES

- The main trail is a 2.3-mile paved loop around the lake with views of forested hillsides. The trail is wide, with plenty of room for side-by-side walking and cycling, and is fully ADA accessible. The elevation is mostly flat, with a short climb to the top of the main dam.
- Several unpaved trails – Fisherman's Trail, Pack Trail and Shady Oaks Trail- intertwine with the paved trail and offer less-traveled routes around the lake. These trails are well worth exploring for a more solitary experience.
- Restrooms and drinking fountains are near the swimming lagoon.

# Spring Lake

## Connects to Annadel State Park and Howarth Park

### TRAIL DIRECTIONS - Option 1

- Start this hike near the swimming lagoon. Head right (north) on the paved trail along the edge of the lake.
- Cross over the Santa Rosa Creek diversion channel and head uphill to the top of the main dam.
- Walk northwest across the dam.
- The trail then descends and follow the north end of the lake.
- Curve south through oak groves. A dirt trail splits off to your left. This is Fisherman's Trail, and you can follow it along the shoreline to the boat ramp parking lot. Or you can stay on the main trail for a short distance to a fork with another paved trail. Stay to your left. (The right fork leads to the city of Santa Rosa's Howarth Park.) You'll pass water storage tanks on your right, then weave through the Jack Rabbit Meadow picnic area and down to the boat launch.
- Follow the paved trail along the shoreline and curve along the south end of the lake beneath South Dam.
- Continue on the paved trail and arrive back at the swimming lagoon.

### TRAIL DIRECTIONS - Option 2

- Start this hike near the swimming lagoon. Head right (north) on the paved trail along the edge of the lake.
- Cross over the Santa Rosa Creek diversion channel and head uphill to the top of the main dam.
- Walk northwest across the dam.
- The trail then descends and follow the north end of the lake.
- From here, veer to the right on a short dirt trail that will connect to the base of the West Dam.
- Hike up the West Dam and turn left.
- Continue across the dam and cross over the paved trail, passing water storage tanks on your left.
- Continue on the unpaved trail until you come to the road that goes down to the boat launch. Cross over the road and reconnect with the trail. You'll be on a rolling, unpaved trail with views of the lake.
- After about .5 miles you'll reach the South Dam. Turn left and walk across the dam. Turn left to reconnect with the paved trail back to the lagoon.



### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From Highway 101 and Highway 12 in Santa Rosa, drive 1.5 miles east on Highway 12 to Farmers Lane. Turn left onto Farmers Lane and drive .08 miles to Montgomery Drive.
- Turn right on Montgomery and drive for 2.7 miles to Channel Drive.
- Turn right and go 0.2 miles to Violetti Road.
- Turn right and drive to the posted park entrance on your right.
- Enter the park and drive straight ahead to the parking area near the lake and swimming lagoon.
- Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members

# Stillwater Cove Regional Park

16 miles north of Jenner

22455 Highway 1

**SUGGESTED TRAIL LOOP:** Canyon Trail

Loop length: 1.2 miles

Degree of difficulty: Easy

Elevation gain: 140 feet



reflect



## PARK NOTES

- Located between Fort Ross and Salt Point, this 210-acre park features a picturesque cove on the ocean, a year-round campground, a creek, and a loop trail through an impressive canyon of coast redwood, Douglas firs, ferns and riparian plants.
- Stillwater Cove is a popular park for campers and divers, yet it's one of the lesser-visited spots for Highway 1 tourists. That means you may have the beautiful Canyon Loop Trail all to yourself.
- Stillwater's forest is home to the one-room Fort Ross schoolhouse built in 1885. The schoolhouse, now unused, was moved to the park in the 1970s after having occupied three other sites nearby.

## TRAIL NOTES

- The dominant tree here is the coast redwood, the species that includes the tallest and some of the oldest trees on Earth. The land comprising the park was logged only once, in the 1850s, so this hike is a chance to see a mature coastal forest with old-growth redwoods and Douglas firs.
- The trail follows Stockhoff Creek, where young steelhead trout and salmon live until they are large enough to swim to the ocean.
- The rare "fringed corn lily," found only on the Mendocino-Sonoma coast, grows along this trail. The lily has huge, brilliant-green leaves and blooms with delicate, six-petaled white flowers in summer and fall.



# Stillwater Cove



“The Trails Challenge was just fantastic. It once more encouraged us to explore our own back yard. It also encouraged us to go to parks that we have not visited before. Once more it reinforced how amazing and diverse our parks are in Sonoma County! My wife and I have made our own challenge to hike all the Trails Challenge parks within the next calendar year!!!”

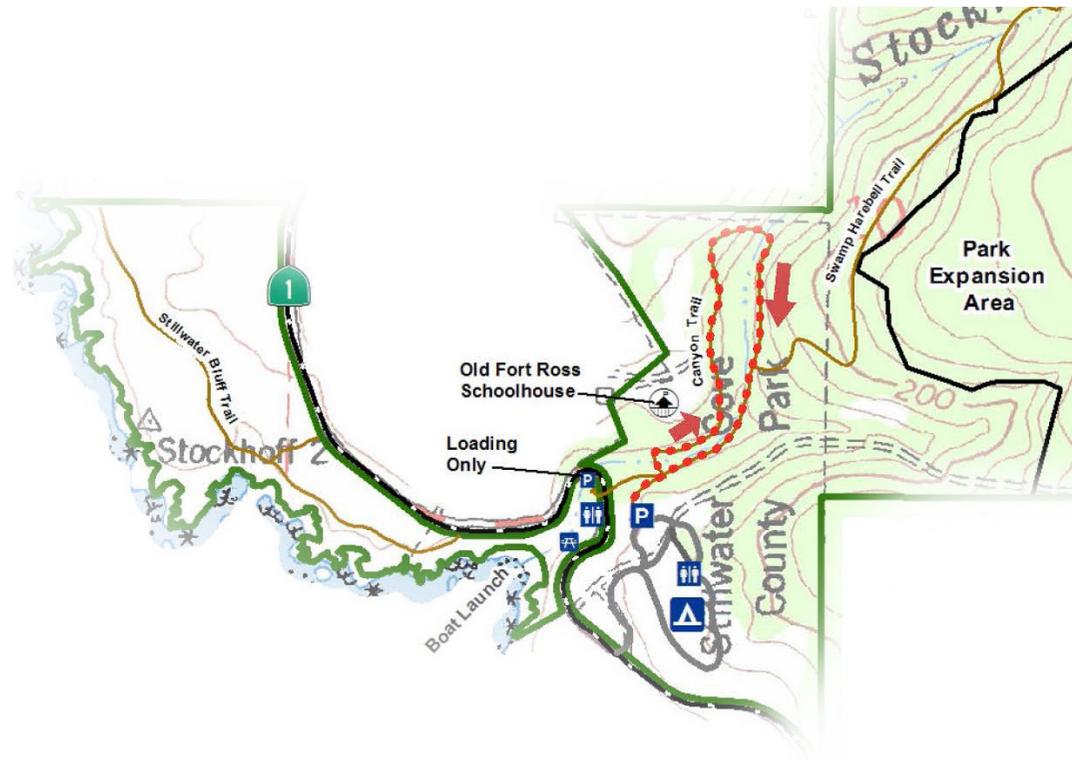
—MARK, SANTA ROSA

## TRAIL DIRECTIONS

- The trail begins at the lower-end of the parking lot and quickly descends to the creek and forest. Follow the wooden bridge across the creek and follow the trail uphill.
- You will soon reach a 200-foot spur to the old schoolhouse. Take this quick side trip for a glimpse of North Coast history.
- Back on the trail, you'll descend switchbacks and then head upstream, cross the creek, and head down the other side. Here, you can extend your adventure by following the trail to Stillwater Cove's beach and tidepools.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Santa Rosa, take Highway 101 north to River Road. Turn left (west) on River Road (Highway 116) and follow it through Guerneville to Jenner and Highway 1. Turn right (north) on Highway 1 and drive 16 miles to the park entrance, on the right (near mile marker 36.) Parking \$7 or free for Regional Parks members.



# Taylor Mountain

## Regional Park and Open Space Preserve

Santa Rosa 2080 Kawana Terrace

### OPTION 1:

Western Route to Todd Creek Trail to  
Western Route to Eastern Route to summit

Trail length: 2.5 miles one way

Degree of difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation gain: 1,100 feet

### OPTION 2:

Western Route to Todd Creek Trail to Red Tail Loop  
to Western Route to Eastern Route to summit

Loop length: 4.1 miles one way

Degree of difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation gain: 1,100 feet

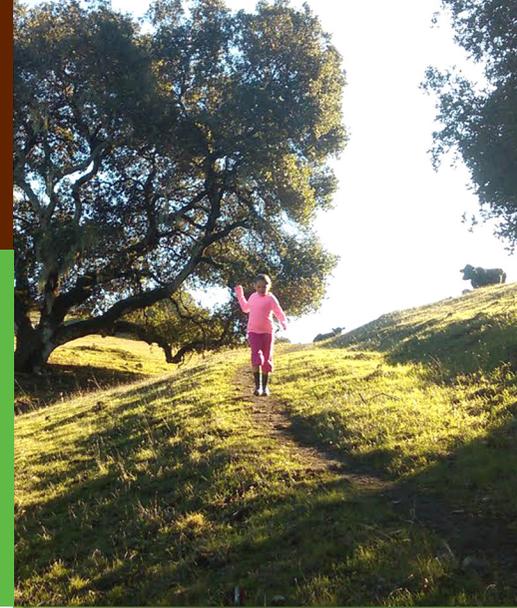


### PARK NOTES

- This 1,100-acre park in southeast Santa Rosa offers panoramic views of Santa Rosa from its western flank and the Mayacamas Mountains from its summit. The land historically was used for ranching, and cattle grazing continues in the park. A new Petaluma Hill Road entrance and trailhead opened in 2015.
- Portable restrooms are available at both the Kawana Terrace and Petaluma Hill Road entrances. No drinking water.

### TRAIL NOTES

- The park has two main routes to the mountain's mid-section (the Eastern and Western Routes) and one route to the summit (Eastern Route.) The Eastern approach involves a steep climb over open grasslands. The Western approach is a more gradual ascent through oaks.
- The new 1.2-mile Red Tail Trail along Petaluma Hill Road is a lovely looped hike on its own or as an extension of a longer hike via the Western Route.
- You likely will encounter cattle on your walk. Just give them a wide berth and pass by.







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2016 SONOMA COUNTY PARKS TRAILS CHALLENGE!



Spring Lake Village



— SONOMA COUNTY —  
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# Sharing the CHALLENGE

#SonomaCountyParks #TrailsChallenge

We love seeing your Trails Challenge adventures. Here are some photos Trails Challenge hikers shared in 2015. Post your photo on Regional Parks' Facebook page or Instagram with the tags [#SonomaCountyParks](#) [#TrailsChallenge](#), and we may feature you as part of our Trails Challenge community. You may even end up in next year's guidebook. Plus, your tagged photo makes you eligible for special giveaways of hiking gear and parks memberships!



# JOIN NOW!

B E C O M E   A   M E M B E R !



Become a Regional Parks Member and  
pay once to park all year at any of your  
Sonoma County parks!

- + Free night of camping
- + Special discounts

Thank you to photographers Edward Kent, Tom Reynolds, Charlie Gesell, Dan Quinones and our social media community for sharing your beautiful images. Thank you to author Robert Stone for trail information from "Day Hikes Around Sonoma County." Post your photos with **#SonomaCountyParks #TrailsChallenge**.

[sononacountyparks.org](http://sononacountyparks.org)