

The Official Rails-to-Trails
Conservancy Guidebook

Rail-Trails California

The Definitive Guide to
the State's Top Multiuse Trails

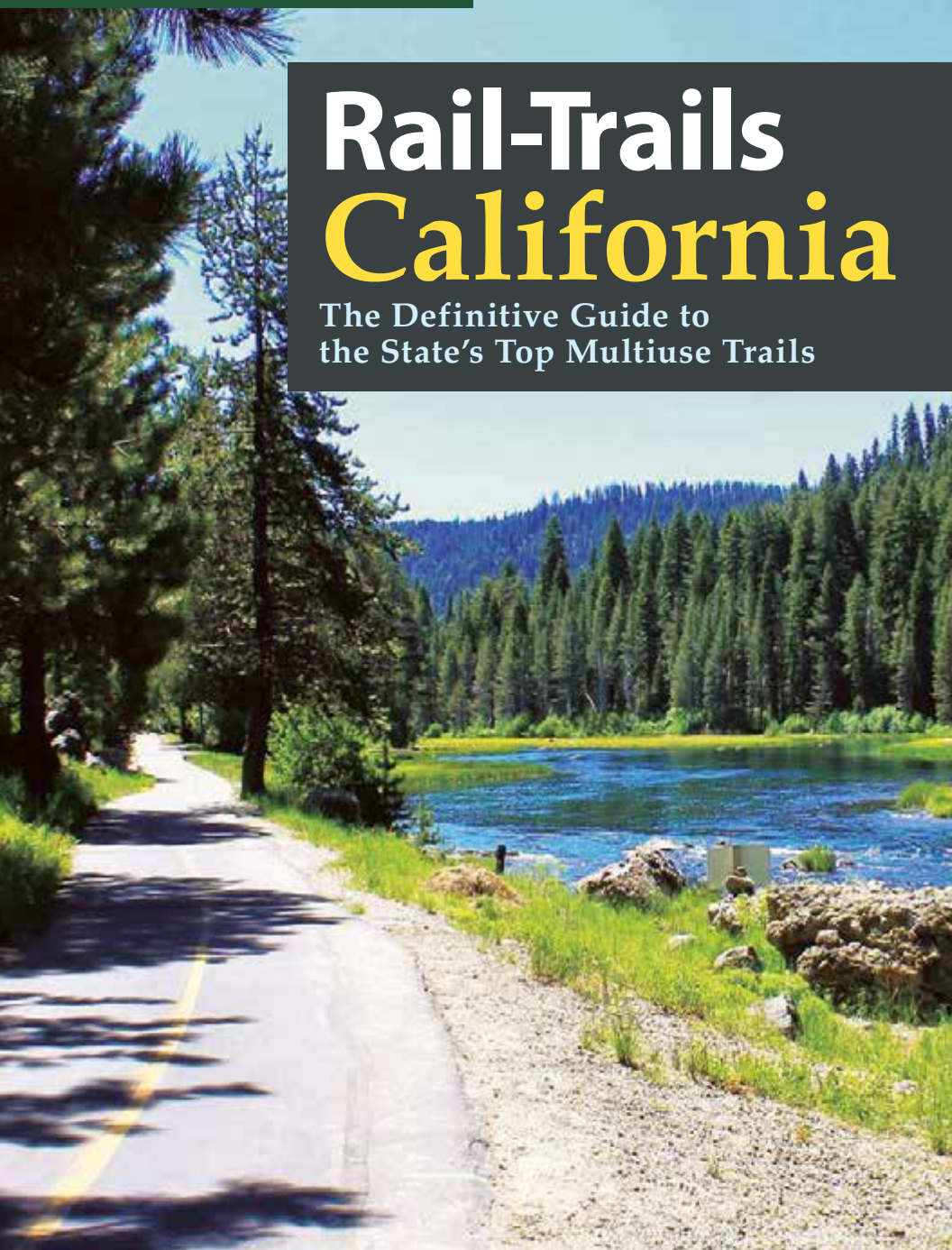
WILDERNESS PRESS



The Official Rails-to-Trails
Conservancy Guidebook

Rail-Trails California

The Definitive Guide to
the State's Top Multiuse Trails



WILDERNESS PRESS ... on the trail since 1967

Rail-Trails: California

1st Edition

Copyright © 2023 by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Cover and interior photographs copyright © 2023 by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Project editor: Kate Johnson

Maps: Lohnes+Wright; map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Cover design: Scott McGrew

Book design and layout: Annie Long

Proofreader: Emily Beaumont

Indexer: Rich Carlson

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy author.

Title: Rail-trails : California : the definitive guide to the state's top multiuse trails / Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Description: 1st edition. | Birmingham, AL : Wilderness Press, 2023. | Includes index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022055342 (print) | LCCN 2022055343 (ebook) | ISBN 9781643590875 (pbk.) | ISBN 9781643590882 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Rail-trails—California—Guidebooks. | Trails—California—Guidebooks. | Hiking—California—Guidebooks. | Walking—California—Guidebooks. | Running—California—Guidebooks. | Cycling—California—Guidebooks. | California—Guidebooks.

Classification: LCC GV199.42.C2 R35 2023 (pbk.) | LCC GV199.42.C2 (ebook) | DDC 796.5109794—dc23/eng/20221117

LC record available at lccn.loc.gov/2022055342

LC ebook record available at lccn.loc.gov/2022055343

Published by:  **WILDERNESS PRESS**

An imprint of AdventureKEEN

2204 First Ave. S, Ste. 102

Birmingham, AL 35233

800-678-7006; fax 877-374-9016

Visit wildernesspress.com for a complete listing of our books and for ordering information. Contact us at our website, at facebook.com/wildernesspress1967, or at twitter.com/wilderness1967 with questions or comments. To find out more about who we are and what we're doing, visit blog.wildernesspress.com.

Printed in the United States of America

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Front cover photo: Tahoe City Public Utility District Multi-Use Trail System (see page 229); *photographed by* TrailLink user sherstone; *Back cover photo:* Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail (see page 147); *photographed by* Elizabeth Bean Photography

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, or by any means electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations used in reviews.

SAFETY NOTICE Although Wilderness Press and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy have made every attempt to ensure that the information in this book is accurate at press time, they are not responsible for any loss, damage, injury, or inconvenience that may occur to anyone while using this book. You are responsible for your own safety and health while in the wilderness. The fact that a trail is described in this book does not mean that it will be safe for you. Be aware that trail conditions can change from day to day. Always check local conditions, know your own limitations, and consult a map.

About Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a nation connected by trails. RTC reimagines public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike, and be active outdoors.

Railways helped build America. Spanning from coast to coast, these ribbons of steel linked people, communities, and enterprises, spurring commerce and forging a single nation that bridges a continent. But in recent decades, many of these routes have fallen into disuse, severing communal ties that helped bind Americans together.

When RTC opened its doors in 1986, the rail-trail movement was in its infancy. Most projects, created for recreation and conservation, focused on single, linear routes in rural areas. RTC sought broader protection for the unused corridors, incorporating rural, suburban, and urban routes.

Year after year, RTC's efforts to protect and align public funding with trail building created an environment that allowed trail advocates in communities across the country to initiate projects. The ever-growing ranks of these professionals, volunteers, and RTC supporters have built momentum for the national rail-trails movement. As the number of supporters has multiplied, so have the rail-trails.

Americans now enjoy more than 25,000 miles of open rail-trails, and as they flock to the trails to connect with family members and friends, enjoy nature, and access places in their local neighborhoods and beyond, their economic prosperity, health, and overall well-being continue to flourish.

A signature endeavor of RTC is **TrailLink.com™**, America's portal to these rail-trails and other multiuse trails. When we launched the website in 2000, RTC was one of the first organizations to compile such detailed trail information on a national scale. Today, TrailLink.com continues to play a critical role in both encouraging and satisfying the country's growing need for opportunities to use trails for recreation or transportation. This free trail-finder database—which includes detailed descriptions, interactive maps, photo galleries, and firsthand ratings and reviews—can be used as a companion resource to this guidebook.

With a grassroots community more than 1 million strong, RTC is committed to ensuring a better future for America made possible by trails and the connections they inspire. Learn more at **railstotrails.org**.

California



Table of Contents

State Locator Map	opposite page
About Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	iii
Foreword	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
How to Use This Book	4
1 Alameda Creek Regional Trails	9
2 American River Parkway (<i>Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail</i>) .	13
3 Arroyo Mocho Trail	15
4 Arroyo Simi Bike Path	19
5 Ballona Creek Bike Path	21
6 Bayshore Bikeway	25
7 Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail	29
8 Browns Creek Bike Path and Orange Line Bike Path	33
9 Cal Park Hill Tunnel and SMART Pathway	35
10 Calleguas Creek Bike Path	39
11 Clovis Old Town Trail and Sugar Pine Trail	41
12 Contra Costa Canal Regional Trail	45
13 Cowell-Purissima Trail	49
14 Coyote Creek Trail	53
15 Cross Marin Trail	57
16 Crystal Springs Regional Trail	61
17 Donald and Bernice Watson Recreation Trail	65
18 Dry Creek Trail (<i>Peggy Mensinger Trail</i>)	67
19 Eureka Waterfront Trail	71
20 Golden Gate Park Multiuse Trail	75
21 Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail	79
22 Hammond Trail	83
23 Humboldt Bay Trail North	87
24 Humbug–Willow Creek Trail	91

25	Huntington Beach Bicycle Trail	95
26	Iron Horse Regional Trail	99
27	Joe Rodota Trail	103
28	Juanita Cooke Greenbelt and Trail	107
29	Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail	109
30	Lake Almanor Recreation Trail	113
31	Lake Natoma Trail	117
32	Lands End Trail	119
33	Los Gatos Creek Trail.	123
34	MacKerricher Haul Road Trail.	127
35	Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade	131
36	Marvin Braude Bike Trail	133
37	Merced River Trail	137
38	Mill Valley/Sausalito Multiuse Pathway.	141
39	Mission Bay Bike Path	143
40	Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail.	147
41	Mt. Lowe Railway Trail	151
42	Napa Valley Vine Trail	155
43	Noyo Headlands Coastal Trail.	159
44	Ohlone Greenway.	161
45	Ojai Valley Trail	165
46	Old Rail Trail	169
47	Old Railroad Grade	173
48	Pacific Electric Inland Empire Trail.	175
49	Richmond Greenway	179
50	Richmond–San Rafael Bridge Path	183
51	Rio Hondo River Trail	187
52	Sacramento Northern Bikeway	191
53	Sacramento River Parkway Trail.	193
54	Sacramento River Rail Trail	197
55	Sacramento River Trail	201

56	San Clemente Beach Trail	205
57	San Diego Creek Trail.	207
58	San Gabriel River Trail	211
59	Santa Ana River Trail	215
60	Santa Fe Trail	219
61	Stevens Creek Trail	221
62	Sugar Pine Railway Trail	225
63	Tahoe City Public Utility District Multi-Use Trail System	229
64	Truckee River Legacy Trail.	233
65	Valley Loop Trail	235
66	Ventura River Trail	239
67	Veterans Parkway	243
68	Virginia Corridor Trailway.	245
69	Walnut Trail	249
70	West County Regional Trail	251
71	Westside Rails to Trails (<i>Hull Creek to Clavey River</i>)	255
72	Westside Rails to Trails (<i>Tuolumne City to North Fork Tuolumne River</i>).	257
	Index	260
	Support Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.	265

Foreword

Welcome to the *Rail-Trails: California* guidebook, a comprehensive companion for discovering the state's top rail-trails and multiuse pathways. This book will help you uncover fantastic opportunities to get outdoors on California's trails—whether for exercise, transportation, or just pure fun.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's (RTC's) mission is to build a nation connected by trails. We reimagine public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike, and be active outdoors. We hope this book will inspire you to experience firsthand how trails can connect people to one another and to the places they love, while also creating connections to nature, history, and culture.

Since its founding in 1986, RTC has witnessed massive growth in the rail-trail and active transportation movement. Today, more than 25,000 miles of completed rail-trails provide invaluable benefits for people and communities across the country. We hope you find this book to be a delightful and informative resource for discovering the many unique trail destinations throughout California.

I'll be out on the trails, too, experiencing the thrill of the ride right alongside you. Be sure to say hello and share your #TrailMoments with us on social media. You can find us @railstotrails on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Participate in our Trail Moments initiative by sharing your stories of resilience, joy, health, and connection at trailmoments.org!

Enjoy the journey,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RC', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ryan Chao, President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Acknowledgments

Special acknowledgment is owed to Laura Stark and Amy Kapp, editors of this guidebook, and to Derek Strout and Bart Wright (with Lohnes+ Wright) for their work on the creation of the trail maps included in the book. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy also thanks Gene Bisbee and Amy Ahn for their writing and editing assistance.

We also appreciate the following staff and intern contributors, as well as local trail managers, who helped us ensure that the maps, photographs, and trail descriptions are as accurate as possible.

Kevin Belle

Ken Bryan

Danielle Casavant

Laura Cohen

Ryan Cree

Peter Dean

Cindy Dickerson

Andrew Dupuy

Noor Hannosh

Brandi Horton

Brian Housh

Heather Irish

Miguel Jiménez

Willie Karidis

Ben Kaufman

Mary Ellen Koontz

Joe LaCroix

Anthony Le

Suzanne Matyas

Kevin Mills

Yvonne Mwangi

Eric Oberg

Kelly Pack

Anya Saretzky

Summary of Hikes

Trail Number/Name	Page	Mileage	Walking	Cycling	Wheelchair Accessible	In-line Skating	Mountain Biking	Fishing	Horseback Riding	Cross-Country Skiing	Snowmobiling
1 Alameda Creek Regional Trails	9	24.4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
2 American River Parkway (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail)	13	32	●	●	●	●		●			
3 Arroyo Mocho Trail	15	12.9	●	●	●	●	●				
4 Arroyo Simi Bike Path	19	8.6	●	●	●	●		●	●		
5 Ballona Creek Bike Path	21	6.4	●	●	●	●					
6 Bayshore Bikeway	25	17.1	●	●	●	●					
7 Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail	29	25.4	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
8 Browns Creek Bike Path and Orange Line Bike Path	33	17.3	●	●	●	●					
9 Cal Park Hill Tunnel and SMART Pathway	35	2.5	●	●	●	●					
10 Calleguas Creek Bike Path	39	4.4	●	●	●	●					
11 Clovis Old Town Trail and Sugar Pine Trail	41	9.6	●	●	●	●					
12 Contra Costa Canal Regional Trail	45	13.8	●	●	●	●		●	●		
13 Cowell-Purísima Trail	49	4.1	●	●	●	●					
14 Coyote Creek Trail	53	25.6	●	●	●	●		●	●		
15 Cross Marin Trail	57	5.3	●	●	●	●			●		
16 Crystal Springs Regional Trail	61	16.5	●	●	●	●			●		
17 Donald and Bernice Watson Recreation Trail	65	1.6	●	●	●				●		
18 Dry Creek Trail (Peggy Mensinger Trail)	67	4.7	●	●	●	●					
19 Eureka Waterfront Trail	71	6.5	●	●	●	●		●			
20 Golden Gate Park Multiuse Trail	75	3.9	●	●	●	●					
21 Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail	79	7.5	●	●	●	●					
22 Hammond Trail	83	5.5	●	●	●			●	●		
23 Humboldt Bay Trail North	87	4.5	●	●	●	●					
24 Humbug-Willow Creek Trail	91	15	●	●	●	●					
25 Huntington Beach Bicycle Trail	95	8.3	●	●	●	●		●			

Trail Number/Name	Page	Mileage	Walking	Cycling	Wheelchair Accessible	In-line Skating	Mountain Biking	Fishing	Horseback Riding	Cross-Country Skiing	Snowmobiling
26 Iron Horse Regional Trail	99	32	•	•	•	•			•		
27 Joe Rodota Trail	103	8.5	•	•	•	•			•		
28 Juanita Cooke Greenbelt and Trail	107	2.5	•	•			•		•		
29 Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail	109	7.7	•	•	•	•			•		
30 Lake Almanor Recreation Trail	113	11	•	•			•	•		•	
31 Lake Natoma Trail	117	5.5	•	•	•	•					
32 Lands End Trail	119	1.6	•				•				
33 Los Gatos Creek Trail	123	10.7	•	•	•	•					
34 MacKerricher Haul Road Trail	127	3.8	•	•	•			•	•		
35 Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade	131	0.75	•		•						
36 Marvin Braude Bike Trail	133	22	•	•	•	•					
37 Merced River Trail	137	4.9	•				•	•			
38 Mill Valley/Sausalito Multiuse Pathway	141	3.7	•	•	•	•			•		
39 Mission Bay Bike Path	143	11.4	•	•	•	•					
40 Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail	147	18	•	•	•	•		•			
41 Mt. Lowe Railway Trail	151	5.8	•				•		•		
42 Napa Valley Vine Trail	155	18.5	•	•	•	•					
43 Noyo Headlands Coastal Trail	159	4.5	•	•	•	•					
44 Ohlone Greenway	161	5.3	•	•	•	•					
45 Ojai Valley Trail	165	9.3	•	•	•	•			•		
46 Old Rail Trail	169	2.6	•	•	•	•					
47 Old Railroad Grade	173	4.4	•				•		•		
48 Pacific Electric Inland Empire Trail	175	20	•	•	•	•			•		
49 Richmond Greenway	179	2.5	•	•	•	•					

continued on next page

Summary of Hikes *(continued)*

Trail Number/Name	Page	Mileage	Walking	Cycling	Wheelchair Accessible	In-line Skating	Mountain Biking	Fishing	Horseback Riding	Cross-Country Skiing	Snowmobiling
50 Richmond–San Rafael Bridge Path	183	6	•	•	•						
51 Rio Hondo River Trail	187	17.8	•	•	•	•			•		
52 Sacramento Northern Bikeway	191	10.1	•	•	•	•			•		
53 Sacramento River Parkway Trail	193	9.3	•	•	•	•					
54 Sacramento River Rail Trail	197	11.1	•	•	•	•		•			
55 Sacramento River Trail	201	12.3	•	•	•	•		•			
56 San Clemente Beach Trail	205	2.3	•	•	•			•			
57 San Diego Creek Trail	207	10.8	•	•	•	•					
58 San Gabriel River Trail	211	38	•	•	•	•					
59 Santa Ana River Trail	215	57.7	•	•	•	•			•		
60 Santa Fe Trail	219	5	•	•	•	•			•		
61 Stevens Creek Trail	221	5.9	•	•	•	•					
62 Sugar Pine Railway Trail	225	2.5	•				•		•	•	
63 Tahoe City Public Utility District Multi-Use Trail System	229	18.7	•	•	•	•		•			
64 Truckee River Legacy Trail	233	4.8	•	•	•	•		•			
65 Valley Loop Trail	235	7.5	•	•	•	•		•			
66 Ventura River Trail	239	5.5	•	•	•	•					
67 Veterans Parkway	243	3.5	•		•						
68 Virginia Corridor Trailway	245	2.7	•	•	•	•					
69 Walnut Trail	249	3.4	•	•	•	•					
70 West County Regional Trail	251	5.5	•	•	•	•	•		•		
71 Westside Rails to Trails (Hull Creek to Clavey River)*	255	9	•	•					•		
72 Westside Rails to Trails (Tuolumne City to North Fork Tuolumne River)	257	5.5	•				•		•		

* ATVs permitted on part of the trail

Introduction

Of the more than 2,300 rail-trails across the country, 139 thread through California. These routes relate a two-part story: The first speaks to the early years of railroading, while the second showcases efforts by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), other groups, and their supporters to resurrect these unused railroad corridors as public-use trails. This guidebook highlights 72 of the state's premier trails, including dozens of rail-trails and other multiuse pathways.

From a temperate rainforest to an arid desert, California offers a seemingly endless diversity of environments and landscapes to explore. Whether you feel at home along the beach or among the mountains, our country's most populous state probably has a trail experience tailored for you.

No list of the state's trails would be complete without the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail (page 29), an inductee into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame (railstotrails.org/halloffame). The 25-mile pathway follows the Susan River Canyon through pine forestland between Westwood and a historical train depot at Susanville, traversing 12 bridges and two tunnels. Another not-to-miss experience in Northern California is a trip across the iconic Sundial Bridge along the Sacramento River Trail (page 201) in Redding.

No state has more national parks than California. Two trails in this book provide a scenic adventure through one of its most famous, Yosemite National Park, and its surrounding areas: the Valley Loop Trail—an easy, paved path departing right from the visitor center—and the ruggedly beautiful Merced River Trail.

For ocean lovers, a trail can't get much more picturesque than the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail, which hugs the water so closely that waves occasionally wash over it. Just north of that coastal pathway, the San Francisco Bay Area has no shortage of outdoor destinations and is home to a developing 2,600-miles-plus regional trail network being spearheaded by RTC and the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (railstotrails.org/bay-area) as a TrailNation™ project to increase safe walking, biking, and trail access for millions of Bay Area residents. One of the exciting projects in this vast trail system is the Napa Valley Vine Trail, a growing 47-mile route through California's North Coast wine region.

On the southern end of the state, the Bayshore Bikeway offers an eclectic mix of urban views of downtown San Diego and natural vistas of salt marshes and tidal flats as it winds nearly 270 degrees around San Diego Bay. And in Los Angeles, the iconic beachfront Marvin Braude Bike Trail—better known as The Strand by locals—may look familiar, as it's been featured in hundreds of TV shows and movies.

These are just a few of the gems you'll find in the Golden State, but no matter which route in *Rail-Trails: California* you decide to try, you're sure to find an experience to treasure.

What Is a Rail-Trail?

Rail-trails are multiuse public paths built along former railroad corridors. Most often flat or following a gentle grade, they are suited to walking, running, cycling, mountain biking, wheelchair use, in-line skating, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. Since the 1960s, Americans have created more than 25,000 miles of rail-trails throughout the country.

These extremely popular recreation and transportation corridors traverse urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. Many preserve historical landmarks, while others serve as wildlife conservation corridors, linking isolated parks and establishing greenways in developed areas. Rail-trails also stimulate local economies by boosting tourism and promoting trailside businesses.

What Is a Rail-with-Trail?

A rail-with-trail is a public path that parallels a still-active rail line. Some run adjacent to fast-moving, scheduled trains, often linking public transportation stations, while others follow tourist routes and slow-moving excursion trains. Many share an easement, separated from the rails by fencing or other barriers. More than 400 rail-with-trails exist in 47 states across the country.

What Is the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame?



In 2007, RTC began recognizing exemplary rail-trails around the country through its Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. Inductees are selected based on merits such as scenic value, high use, trail and trailside amenities, historical significance, excellent management and maintenance of facilities, community connections, and geographic distribution. California boasts one Hall of Fame rail-trail: the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail (see page 29). For the full list of Hall-of-Fame rail-trails, visit railstotrails.org/halloffame.

What Is TrailNation™?



At RTC, we believe that communities are healthier and happier when trails are central to their design. Everything we love about trails gets better when we connect them, creating seamless trail networks that link neighborhoods, towns, cities, and entire regions together. That's why we're committed to connecting trails and building comprehensive trail systems that bring people together and get them where they want to go.

We've invested in eight TrailNation™ projects across the country—found in places that are diverse in their geography, culture, size, and scope—to prove

what is possible when trail networks are central to our lives. One of these projects can be found in California: the developing Bay Area regional trail network, which is being spearheaded by the Bay Area Trails Collaborative and RTC to increase safe walking, biking, and trail access for millions of Bay Area residents. Look for the TrailNation logo throughout this book to find trails that are part of this exciting trail system. Learn more at **trailnation.org**.

About the Bay Area Trails Collaborative



The vision of the Bay Area Trails Collaborative is to develop a 2,600-miles-plus regional trail network that will connect the San Francisco Bay Area in innovative new ways. Through the development of the trail network, the collaborative—currently made up of more than 50 organizations, agencies, and businesses—seeks to improve the overall quality of life in the region by creating more opportunities for recreation and active transportation, addressing health disparities in underserved communities, improving health and wellness, reducing pollution and greenhouse gases, and promoting environmental sustainability. Learn more at **railstotrails.org/bay-area**.



The Noyo Headlands Coastal Trail transformed a former mill site into a place for enjoying ocean views (see page 159). Brian Housh

How to Use This Book

Rail-Trails: California provides all the information you'll need to plan a rewarding trek on a rail-trail or other multiuse trail in the state. With words to inspire you and maps to chart your path, it makes choosing the best route a breeze. Following are some of the highlights.

Maps

You'll find two levels of maps in this book: a **state locator map** (see page iv) and **detailed trail maps**. Use these maps to find the trails nearest you, or select several neighboring trails and plan a weekend excursion. Once you find a trail on the state locator map, simply flip to the corresponding trail number for a full description. Accompanying trail maps indicate each route's access roads, trailheads, parking areas, restrooms, and other defining features.

Key to Map Icons



Parking



Drinking
Water



Restrooms



Featured
Trail



Connecting
Trail



Active
Railroad

Trail Descriptions

Trails are listed in alphabetical order. Each description begins with a summary of key facts about the trail, including possible uses, trail endpoints and mileage, a roughness rating, and the trail surface.

The map and summary information list the trail endpoints (either a city, street, or more specific location), with suggested start and finish points. Additional access points are marked on the maps and mentioned in the trail descriptions. The maps and descriptions also highlight available amenities, including parking; restrooms; and area attractions such as shops, services, museums, parks, and stadiums. Trail length is listed in miles, one way, and includes only completed trail; the mileage for any gaps in the trail will be noted in its description.

Each trail description includes a **roughness rating** from 1 to 3. A rating of 1 indicates a smooth, level surface that is accessible to users of all ages and abilities. A 2 rating means the surface may be loose and/or uneven and could pose a problem for road bikes and wheelchairs. A 3 rating suggests a rough surface that is recommended only for mountain bikers and hikers. Surfaces can range from asphalt or concrete to ballast, boardwalk, cinder, crushed stone, gravel, grass, dirt, sand, and/or wood chips. Where relevant, trail descriptions address alternating surface conditions.

All trails are open to pedestrians. Bicycles are permitted unless otherwise noted in the trail summary or description. The summary also indicates whether the trail is wheelchair accessible. Other possible uses include in-line skating, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, and cross-country skiing. While most trails are off-limits to motor vehicles, some local trail organizations do allow ATVs and snowmobiles.

Trail descriptions themselves suggest an ideal itinerary for each route, including the best parking areas and access points, where to begin, direction of travel, and any highlights along the way.

Each trail description also lists a local website for further information. Be sure to check these websites for updates and current conditions before you set out. **TrailLink.com** is another great resource for updated content on the trails in this guidebook.

Parking Waypoints

In the Parking section for each trail, we've included GPS coordinates for the main parking waypoints. These latitude and longitude coordinates can be used on a GPS device or in online mapping programs to locate parking areas. If you have a smartphone, you can use this guidebook along with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's TrailLink app—available from the Apple App Store and Google Play—which provides driving directions at the tap of a waypoint.

Trail Use Guidelines

Rail-trails are popular destinations for a range of users, which makes them busy places to enjoy the outdoors. Following basic trail etiquette and safety guidelines will make your experience more pleasant.

- **Keep to the right**, except when passing.
- **Pass on the left, and give a clear, audible warning:** "On your left!"
- **Be aware of other trail users**, particularly around corners and blind spots, and be especially careful when entering a trail, changing direction, or passing so that you don't collide with traffic.
- **Respect wildlife and public and private property;** leave no trace and pack out litter.
- **Control your speed**, especially near pedestrians, playgrounds, and congested areas.
- **Travel single file.** Cyclists and pedestrians should ride or walk single file in congested areas or areas with reduced visibility.
- **Cross carefully at intersections;** always look both ways, and yield to through traffic. Pedestrians have the right-of-way.

- **Keep one ear open and your headphone volume low** to increase your awareness of your surroundings.
- **Wear a helmet and other safety gear** if you're cycling or in-line skating.
- **Consider visibility.** Wear reflective clothing, use bicycle lights, and bring flashlights or helmet-mounted lights for tunnel passages or twilight excursions.
- **Keep moving, and don't block the trail.** When taking a rest, move off the trail to the right. Groups should avoid congregating on or blocking the trails. If you have an accident on the trail, move to the right as soon as possible.
- **Bicyclists yield to all other trail users.** Pedestrians yield to horses. If in doubt, yield to all other trail users.
- **Dogs are permitted on most trails,** but some trails through parks, wildlife refuges, or other sensitive areas may not allow pets; it's best to check the trail website before your visit. If pets are permitted, keep your dog on a short leash and under your control at all times. Remove dog waste and place in a designated trash receptacle.
- **Teach your children these trail essentials,** and be diligent in keeping them out of faster-moving trail traffic.
- **Be prepared, especially on long-distance and rural trails.** Bring water, snacks, maps, a light source, matches, and other equipment you might need. Because some areas may not have good reception for mobile phones, know where you're going, and tell someone else your plan.

E-Bikes

Electric bicycles, commonly called e-bikes, are similar to standard bikes in appearance and operation but feature a small electric motor to assist the rider by adding power to the wheels. A three-tiered system has been developed to classify e-bikes based on speed capacity and other factors. Many states allow Class 1 (up to 20 mph; requires pedaling) and Class 2 (uses a throttle) e-bikes to operate on trails, but not Class 3 (up to 28 mph). However, these rules vary by local jurisdiction, so if you would like to ride an e-bike on one of the trails listed in this book, please visit the website listed for the trail or contact the local trail manager to determine whether the use of e-bikes is permitted. Learn more at rtc.li/rtc-ebikes.

Travel Precautions

When planning a trail excursion in the West, check wildfire risk levels before you go. Visit the website listed for the trail or contact the local trail manager to see if there are any fire restrictions in the area you plan to visit. You can also check regional or national resources, such as the Bureau of Land

Management (blm.gov/programs/fire/fire-restrictions), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (fire.ca.gov), or the **National Weather Service** (weather.gov/fire), for current wildfire assessments.

Another consideration in California and elsewhere are encampments of unhoused individuals along some trails, particularly in urban centers. If you come across an encampment, please keep a respectful distance and keep an eye out for individuals, pets, and wildlife that may be crossing the pathway from either side.

Due to California's significantly higher-than-average rainfall in late 2022 and early 2023, we also recommend that you plan ahead and check for any trail repair/closure notices on the trail's website or with the trail manager. You can also visit the National Weather Service website (weather.gov/safety/flood-states-ca) for local flood-hazard information; search by specific cities near the bottom of the web page. Additionally, if the trail you'd like to use runs through land managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, such as a state park or state beach, you can check their website (rtc.li/ca-parks-incidents) for closure notices.

Wherever you explore, remember to #SharetheTrail (railstotrails.org/sharethetrail) and #RecreateResponsibly (recreateresponsibly.org). Trails continue to welcome more and more people of every age and ability. Together, we can help make every trip safe and fun for everyone.

Key to Trail Use Icons



walking



cycling



wheelchair
access



in-line
skating



mountain
biking



fishing



horseback
riding



cross-country
skiing



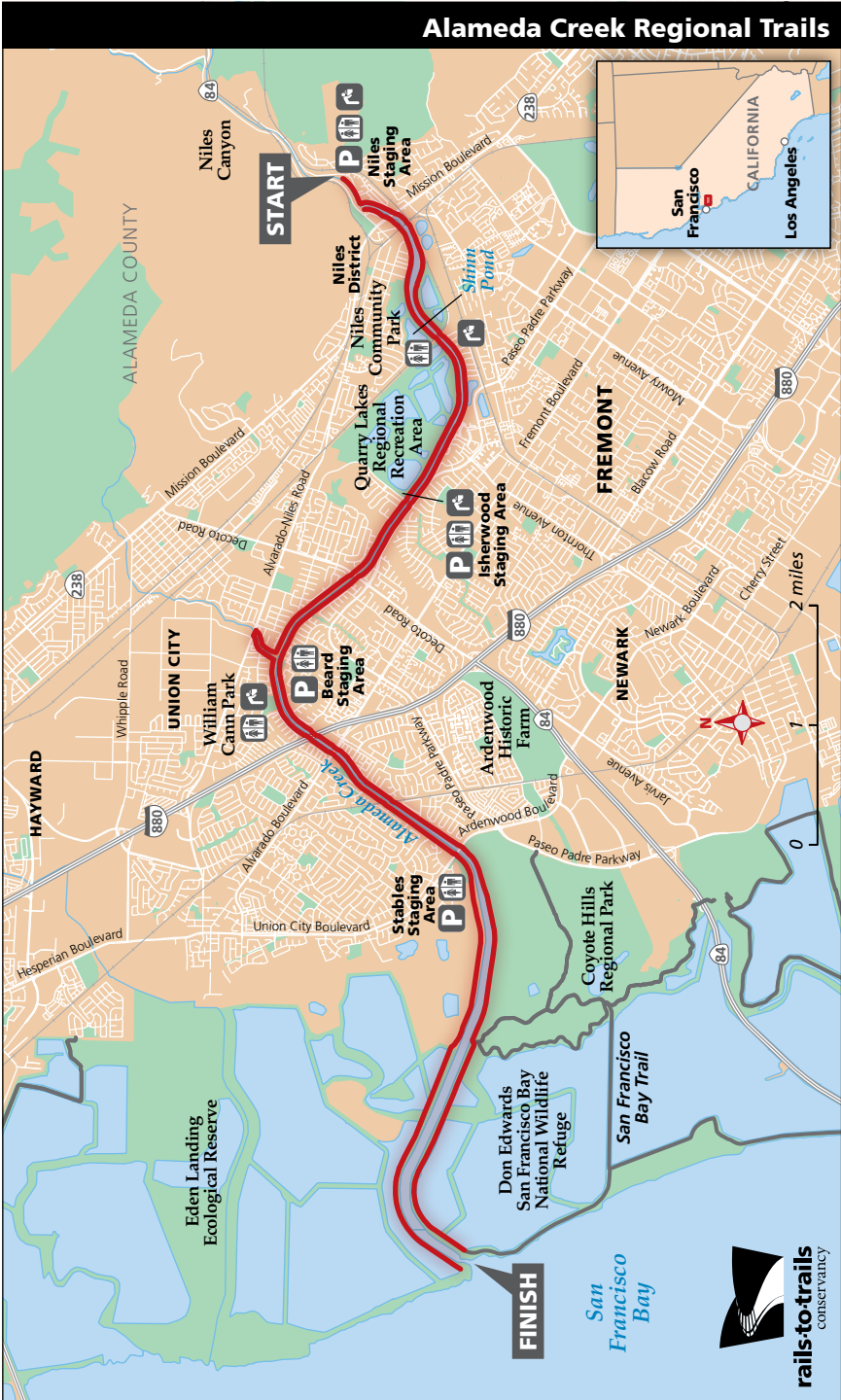
snowmobiling



ATVs

Learn More

To learn about additional multiuse trails in your area or to plan a trip to an area beyond the scope of this book, visit Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's trail-finder website **TrailLink.com**, a free resource with more than 40,000 miles of mapped rail-trails and multiuse trails nationwide.



1 Alameda Creek Regional Trails



The popular Alameda Creek Regional Trails run from the mouth of Niles Canyon in Fremont to the San Francisco Bay, connecting Bay Area neighborhoods with the Indigenous and industrial roots of the region and the rich estuary of the bay.

Featuring northern and southern sections, each roughly 12 miles long, the trails allow recreational access to the levees on both sides of Alameda Creek. The southern section (12 miles), favored by cyclists, is paved until you enter the intertidal zone, where the surface transitions to gravel. The unpaved northern section (12.4 miles) is recommended for equestrians and dog walkers. You'll find access points between the segments at multiple locations along the route. There are also many locations where fishing is permitted in the creek and surrounding ponds, such as Shinn Pond and Quarry Lakes; be sure to verify rules for fishing at each location, as some areas may be protected.



Laura Cohen

County

Alameda

Endpoints

Niles Staging Area on Old Canyon Road, 0.2 mile from Niles Canyon Road (Fremont); San Francisco Bay and Alameda Creek (Fremont)

Mileage

24.4 (12-mile paved southern route; 12.4-mile unpaved northern route)

Type

Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1-2

Surface

Asphalt, Gravel

The creekside trail runs from the mouth of Niles Canyon to the San Francisco Bay.

The easternmost terminus of the trail is in Fremont, where the Niles District pays homage to the first transcontinental railroad that ran through the region beginning in the late 1800s. On the southern trail segment, accessible parking, restrooms, and a picnic area can be found at the Niles Staging Area, which is dedicated to the brief history of silent movies in the area, which featured stars like Charlie Chaplin. Across the creek, the dog-friendly Niles Community Park is accessible from the northern segment.

As you head west, the trail is dotted with ponds and wildlife as it comes upon the Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, which was formed when gravel was taken for the construction of the western end of the transcontinental railroad. In this densely populated area, the trail also features safe walking and biking connections to the surrounding neighborhoods and transit.

Continuing west, the experience shifts from the wetlands of Alameda Creek to the San Francisco Bay's intertidal zone. This area between high and low tide is an important habitat for many bird and wildlife species and is a haven for

The scenic east-west route traverses Fremont in the East Bay region. Danielle Casavant



birders. Picnic areas and benches dot the trail. In some locations, bike racks are located adjacent to walking paths into the surrounding wetlands. Bird species that may be found along the trail include the pied-billed grebe, northern shoveler, great blue heron, spotted sandpiper, American coot, and white pelican.

As the trail approaches the San Francisco Bay, the freshwater of Alameda Creek and the saltwater of the Pacific mix, forming an estuary that's home to many native fish and bird species and serves as a natural barrier controlling floods, erosion, pollution, and sediment. The westernmost regional park along the trail is Coyote Hills, 1,266 acres of marshland and rolling hills where visitors come to walk, jog, bicycle, bird-watch, and picnic on the ancestral homeland of the Tuibun Ohlone peoples, who originally settled the area and relied on the creek as a resource. (Programming about the area's Indigenous history is available in the park.)

A portion of the Alameda Creek Regional Trails is also a significant component of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a developing effort to create a 500-mile multiuse trail encircling its namesake bay. Both are part of the developing 2,590-mile Bay Area regional trail network being spearheaded by the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (railstotrails.org/bay-area) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as a TrailNation™ project to increase safe walking, biking, and trail access for millions of Bay Area residents.

Closure Notice: Due to the 2022–2023 storms, three underpasses along the Alameda Creek Regional Trails are closed and inaccessible to the public until further notice. Visit the website below for details.

CONTACT rtc.li/alameda-creek

PARKING

Parking locations are listed from east to west. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

FREMONT* Niles Staging Area, Old Canyon Road, 0.2 mile from Niles Canyon Road (37.5794, -121.9660).

FREMONT* Isherwood Staging Area, Isherwood Way, 370 feet north of Paseo Padre Pkwy. (37.5723, -122.0131).

FREMONT* Beard Staging Area, Beard Road, 375 feet north of Sanderling Dr./Whitehead Lane (37.5873, -122.0393).

UNION CITY* Stables Staging Area, Eastin Dr. at Eastin Ct., 200 feet south of Union City Blvd. (37.5646, -122.0702).



2 American River Parkway (Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail)

This Northern California pathway follows the American River as it flows through riparian habitat preserved by the American River Parkway. The scenic trail runs for 32 miles between Folsom Lake's southwestern banks at Beal's Point and Discovery Park in Old Town Sacramento.

For the easiest bike ride, you can start at the north-east end of the trail at Beal's Point and travel downhill. The first 8.4 miles of the trail are managed by California State Parks; here, signage refers to the trail as the American River Bikeway. Beginning at Hazel Avenue, the trail is signed as the Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail and is managed by Sacramento County.

The two-lane trail is fully paved, with mile markers, trailside maps, water fountains, and restrooms along the way. Note that signage advises walkers and runners to



Anthony Le

The Guy West Bridge provides access to the California State University, Sacramento, campus.

County

Sacramento

Endpoints

Beal's Point and Oak Hill Dr. (Granite Bay); Jibboom St. and Natomas Park Dr. in Discovery Park (Sacramento)

Mileage

32

Type

Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt

stay on the left side or shoulder of the trail; stay alert while passing. The trail provides picturesque views of Folsom Lake, Lake Natoma, and the American River. It connects with a number of other trails, including the Western States Pioneer Express Recreation Trail, Lake Natoma Trail (see page 117), Folsom South Canal Recreation Trail, Sunrise Bikeway, Sacramento Northern Bikeway (see page 191), and Two Rivers Trail. Multiple unpaved hiking trails also intersect it.

Many beautiful pedestrian bridges cross the river along the route: the Fair Oaks Bridge, a truss bridge built in the early 1900s; the Harold Richey Memorial Bridge, which connects River Bend Park to the William B. Pond Recreation Area; and the Guy West Bridge, a suspension bridge that links the trail to the California State University, Sacramento, campus.

The trail is mostly level, although the route does traverse some rolling terrain. About half the route is shaded by trees, while the other half offers views of wildflower fields. Along the way, you'll pass through several parks and swimming areas, as well as the suburban enclaves of Sacramento.

Caution: Due to the 2022–2023 storms, flooding damage can be found in areas along the west end of the American River Parkway from Discovery Park to Watt Avenue. Visit Sacramento County's regional parks web page for details: rtc.li/saccounty.

CONTACT arpf.org

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from north to south. Select parking areas for the trail are listed below. For a detailed list of parking areas and other waypoints, go to **TrailLink.com™**. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

GRANITE BAY* Beal's Point, 275 feet east of Oak Hill Dr. (38.7206, -121.1686); parking fee.

FOLSOM* Black Miners Bar on Park Road, 0.2 mile south of Greenback Lane (38.6804, -121.1848).

GOLD RIVER* Sacramento State Aquatic Center, 1901 Hazel Ave. (38.6342, -121.2208).

RANCHO CORDOVA* Upper Sunrise Boat Ramp on S. Bridge St., 0.8 mile northeast of Sunrise Blvd. (38.6357, -121.2641).

RANCHO CORDOVA* Sunrise Recreation Area on S. Bridge St., 0.3 mile west of Sunrise Blvd. (38.6318, -121.2699).

RANCHO CORDOVA* Hagan Community Park, 2197 Chase Dr. (38.6041, -121.3102).

CARMICHAEL* William B. Pond Recreation Area on Arden Way, 0.3 mile from McClaren Dr. (38.5880, -121.3351).

SACRAMENTO* Discovery Park on Natomas Park Dr., 0.7 mile southwest of Garden Hwy. (38.6003, -121.5080).

3 Arroyo Mocho Trail

Located on the eastern edge of the San Francisco Bay Area, the Arroyo Mocho Trail is a tale of two trails. From its western starting point at West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton to near El Charro Road (about 5 miles), its surface is loose gravel interspersed with some brief paved areas. If cycling, wide tires and experience on loose gravel are recommended. This section is quite suitable for walking and jogging but is not wheelchair or road-bike friendly. The trail runs mostly below street level here and follows the Arroyo Mocho. A paralleling upper trail allows access to the surrounding neighborhoods and nearby Ken Mercer Sports Park. East of El Charro Road, the trail runs alongside major roadways but is separated from them and feels safe from traffic. The first 9 miles of trail offer little to no shade cover or easily accessible water, so plan ahead on hot days.



Danielle Casavant

Approaching Livermore, the trail meanders through several parks and natural areas.



County

Alameda

Endpoints

Centennial Trail, 0.2 mile south of W. Las Positas Blvd. (Pleasanton); Stanley Blvd. and Isabel Ave. (Livermore); Concannon Blvd. and Normandy Cir. (Livermore); Sunken Gardens Skate Park (Livermore); Almond Ave., between Blossom Cir. and Almond Cir. (Livermore); Charlotte Way and Stockton Loop (Livermore)

Mileage

12.9

Type

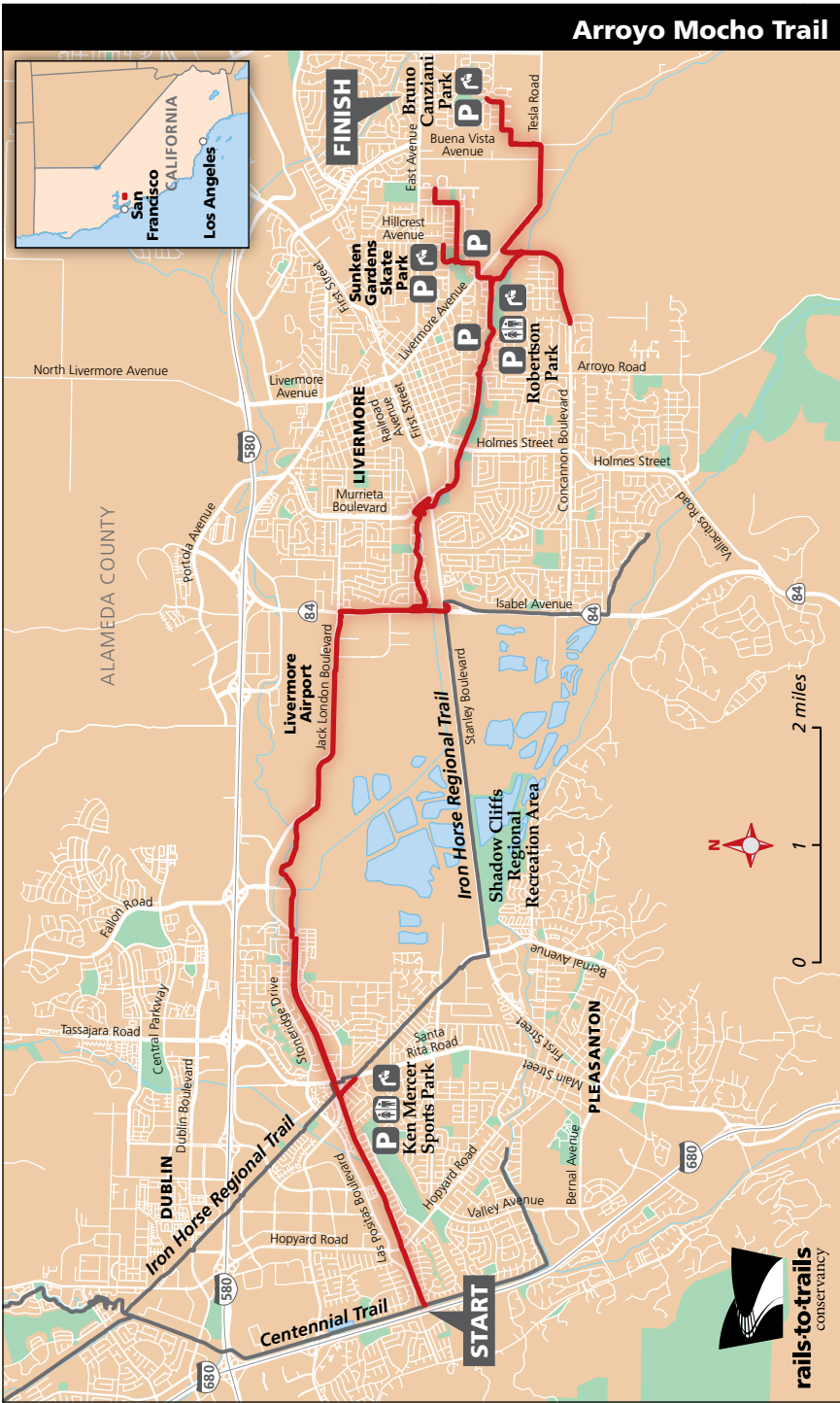
Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1-2

Surface

Asphalt, Concrete, Gravel



As the trail approaches Livermore, it transitions to a more neighborhood feel. The Livermore area is home to many wineries and a brewery not far from the trail. This portion also has many direct access points from the surrounding neighborhoods, which are filled with citrus trees and grapevines that make for an inviting backdrop. For 2.2 miles, the trail meanders through several parks and natural areas with more shade available. There is an equestrian arena at Robertson Park, as well as restrooms and water.

Just east of Robertson Park, the trail branches both north and south. The north branch takes you around Sunken Gardens Skate Park (aka Livermore Skate Park) and ends in a residential area at Almond Avenue. The skate park offers parking and drinking fountains but no restrooms. The south branch of the trail continues 0.4 mile before splitting at Concannon Boulevard: The north-eastern route heads toward Bruno Canziani Park, which has parking, drinking fountains, a dog park, and children's play equipment but no restrooms. The southwest branch takes you along Concannon Boulevard to Normandy Circle. You'll travel through a vineyard area with a winery adjacent to the trail.

CONTACT larpd.org/trails

P A R K I N G

Parking locations are listed from west to east. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

PLEASANTON* Ken Mercer Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Dr. (37.6810, -121.8945).

LIVERMORE Robertson Park on Robertson Park Road, 0.3 mile east of Arroyo Road (37.6708, -121.7628).

LIVERMORE Robertson Park on Robertson Park Road, 0.5 mile west of Concannon Blvd. (37.6690, -121.7565).

LIVERMORE* Sunken Gardens Skate Park, 3800 Pacific Ave. (37.6757, -121.7508).

LIVERMORE* Robertson Park Disc Golf Course, 1505 S. Livermore Ave. (37.6703, -121.7509).



4 Arroyo Simi Bike Path

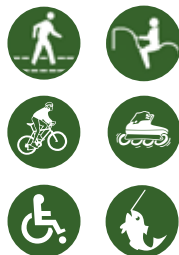
The 8.6-mile Arroyo Simi Bike Path traverses Simi Valley in Ventura County. The majority of this rail-with-trail follows the Arroyo Simi, the creek for which the trail is named, and which serves as a flood-control channel. The trail runs along both the northern and southern sides of the creek for much of the trail. Multiple bridges allow users to switch between the northern and southern sides.

To follow the southern side, begin at Tierra Rejada Road and Stargaze Place. From here, users will enjoy a short on-road segment within a residential neighborhood featuring lovely landscaping, flowers, and a soft surface. The surface quickly changes to paved as the trail transitions to a greenway heading up a somewhat steep hill with scenic views. Users with accessibility needs may want to skip this part of the journey and start at Madera Road, 0.8 mile east of the western endpoint. Madera Road is also the first point at which you can access the trail's northern side.



Suzanne Matyas

The neighborhood trail traverses Simi Valley in the greater Los Angeles area.



County
Ventura

Endpoints

Southern: Tierra Rejada Road and Stargaze Pl. (Simi Valley); Los Angeles Ave. and Fifth St. (Simi Valley); First St., just north of Pacific Ave. (Simi Valley); Chicory Leaf Pl., 0.2 mile from Sequoia Ave. (Simi Valley) **Northern:** Madera Road, between E. Easy St. and Aristotle St. (Simi Valley); Cochran St., between Fig St. and Ralston St. (Simi Valley); Yosemite Ave., just south of Damon St. (Simi Valley)

Mileage
8.6

Type
Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail,
Rail-with-Trail

Roughness Rating
1

Surface
Asphalt, Crushed Stone

The trail continues over a footbridge and then takes its typical formation along the Arroyo Simi. This main part of the trail includes some minor hills, dips, and bumpy sections that could be challenging for wheelchairs. In addition, many of the street access points and crossings are heavily trafficked and lack on-street bicycle infrastructure.

For most of the journey, the trail sits above the Arroyo Simi. Near East Los Angeles Avenue, however, the trail goes beneath an on-street bridge and brings users down closer to the creek. Be on the lookout for turkey vultures, hawks, greater yellowlegs, belted kingfishers, killdeer, common yellowthroats, American kestrels, and ducks.

A highlight of the trail is the beautiful Rancho Simi Community Park, which includes sports facilities, water fountains, restrooms, and the tree-rimmed Rancho Simi Park Lake, a popular local duck pond and fishing hole. About a half-mile farther down the trail, you will arrive at the much smaller Frontier Park, which boasts a historical cannon and playground equipment. The portion of trail following the southern side of the creek ends at Vista Del Arroyo Park, a modern facility with a playground, a gazebo with a picnic table, and a basketball court. Adjacent to the park is the Arroyo Simi Equestrian Center. Horseback riding, while permitted on the trail, is more popular on the regional trails around the equestrian center, especially heading east from here.

The portion of trail following the northern side of the creek continues past the Simi Valley rail station, where Metrolink's Ventura County Line and Amtrak are both available. You may even catch a glimpse of a train on this rail-with-trail segment. Near the end of the trail, you will find the grassy Arroyostow Park, which offers mountain views and play equipment. The trail ends at Yosemite Avenue near Damon Street.

CONTACT rtc.li/arroyo-simi-bikepath

PARKING

Parking areas are located within Simi Valley and are listed from west to east. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

RANCHO SIMI COMMUNITY PARK, WEST RESTROOM* Thompson Lane and Royal Ave. (34.2664, -118.7661).

RANCHO SIMI COMMUNITY PARK, EAST RESTROOM* Erringer Road, across from Elizondo Ave. (34.2657, -118.7616).

ARROYO SIMI EQUESTRIAN CENTER Chicory Leaf Pl. (34.2636, -118.7279); horse trailer parking available.

SIMI VALLEY AMTRAK STATION* 5050 E. Los Angeles Ave. (34.2706, -118.6955).

5 Ballona Creek Bike Path

The Ballona Creek Bike Path follows Ballona Creek along its meandering banks through the residential neighborhoods of western Los Angeles. Beginning at the mouth of the creek overlooking the Pacific Ocean and ending in bustling downtown Culver City, this trail provides users with a unique recreational experience that combines an exploration of the iconic concrete channels of Los Angeles' watershed with unparalleled opportunities for wildflower viewing and bird-watching.

At its western end, the Ballona Creek Bike Path connects to the Marvin Braude Bike Trail (see page 133), a 22-mile trail that travels along Los Angeles' coastline. You can take that trail to catch a glimpse of whales, dolphins, and sea lions frolicking in the Pacific Ocean, or explore the nearby neighborhoods of Venice Beach, Marina del Rey, and Playa del Rey. The western end of the Ballona Creek trail is also your best opportunity to view waterfowl



Ben Kaufman

Following Ballona Creek, the path meanders through the neighborhoods of western Los Angeles.



County

Los Angeles

Endpoints

Marvin Braude Bike Trail adjacent to Ballona Creek, 0.1 mile southeast of Fiji Way (Marina del Rey); southeast corner of Syd Kronenthal Park at the Exposition Line Bikeway (Culver City)

Mileage

6.4

Type

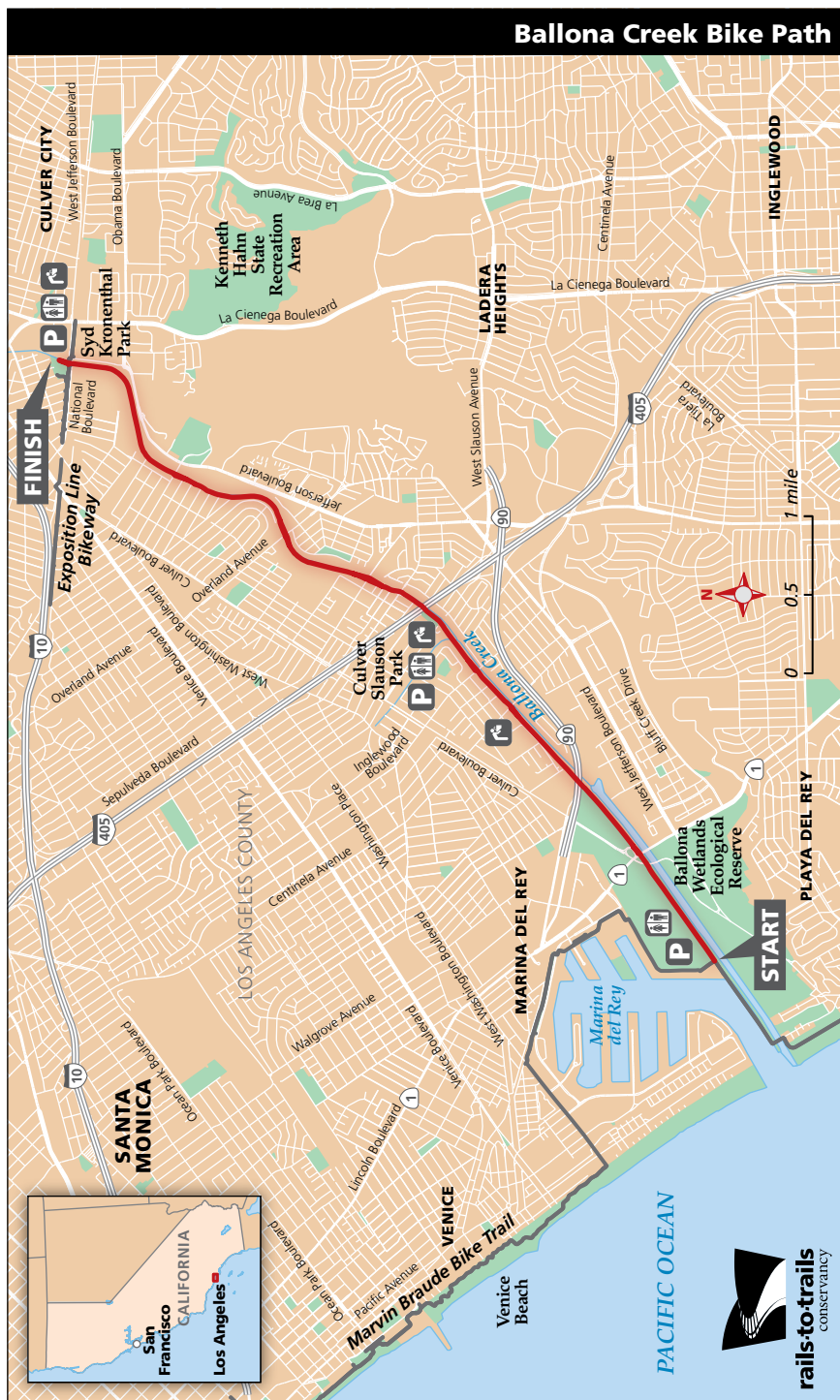
Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt, Concrete



in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, the last remaining wetlands habitat in Los Angeles. Keep your eyes peeled for herons, egrets, godwits, pelicans, cormorants, and ospreys, among other wetlands species.

At its eastern end, the trail connects to the Exposition Line Bikeway, which travels through downtown Culver City and follows the Los Angeles Metro E Line light rail (formerly the Expo Line) west to downtown Santa Monica. Exit the trail at Syd Kronenthal Park to observe a pick-up baseball game, grab a bite to eat at one of the streetside cafés along hip and historic Culver Boulevard, or hop on the E Line and enjoy a relaxing ride to a completely different part of LA.

If you plan to travel the whole trail in one fell swoop, be sure to use the restroom and stock up on water and other provisions beforehand, as there are few restrooms or concessions along the trail. That said, the trail is well-connected to the LA street grid, so there are ample opportunities to peel off and find a local coffee shop or grocery store to restock. The endpoints of the trail are your best bet, although there are several streets along the way that may also have what you're looking for, including Centinela Avenue, Sepulveda Boulevard, and Obama Boulevard.

Along the Ballona Creek Bike Path, there are several paid parking lots at both ends of the trail, as well as parking opportunities in adjacent parks and ample street parking throughout the neighborhoods in between. Water fountains, seating areas, and shade structures can be found sporadically throughout the trail, becoming most prevalent on the eastern end of the trail, east of I-405.

CONTACT trails.lacounty.gov/trail/91/ballona-creek-bike-path

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from west to east. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

MARINA DEL REY* 13745 Fiji Way (33.9731, -118.4459); parking fees may apply.

LOS ANGELES* Culver Slauson Park, 5070 S. Slauson Ave. (33.9937, -118.4066).

CULVER CITY* Syd Kronenthal Park, 3459 McManus Ave. (34.0280, -118.3774).



6 Bayshore Bikeway

Nearly encircling the San Diego Bay, the Bayshore Bikeway offers views of downtown San Diego and the resort town of Coronado while providing access to a number of parks and beaches. Currently, the 24-mile route includes 17.1 miles of completed multiuse pathway, with the rest consisting of on-road sections. The pathway is also a segment of the California Coastal Trail, a network of bicycling and hiking trails that, when complete, will stretch along the coastline for 1,230 miles from Oregon to the Mexican border.

Since much of the route on the eastern side of the bay entails on-road riding, exploring the western side makes for an easier, more relaxing experience. Note that there is no shade along the trail, so be sure to wear sun protection and bring water.

The route begins at Coronado Ferry Landing Park on the northern tip of the Bayshore Bikeway, where parking, restrooms, bike rental shops, and restaurants are readily available. Within minutes of setting off, you'll be treated to a spectacular vista of the Coronado Bridge, which



Laura Stark

The rail-trail offers sweeping views of San Diego Bay, which it nearly encircles.

County

San Diego

Endpoints

Coronado Ferry Landing Park, at First St. and B Ave. (Coronado); Navy Pier and N. Harbor Dr. (San Diego)

Mileage

17.1

Type

Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt, Concrete

received an Award of Merit in the American Institute of Steel Construction's 1970 selection of the country's most beautiful bridges open to traffic, and—in true California style—you'll hit your first beach in less than a mile. You'll also pass by the iconic Hotel del Coronado, which was built in 1888 and has been the backdrop for a few movies, including Marilyn Monroe's *Some Like It Hot*.

Continuing south from the hotel, the pathway follows the Silver Strand, the narrow spit of land that separates San Diego Bay from the Pacific Ocean and on which the Coronado branch of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway once traveled. Construction of the railroad began under prominent San Diego resident John D. Spreckels in 1906 and was completed in 1919.

On the left, you'll find Glorietta Bay Park, which offers a beach, a playground, a picnic area, and restrooms. Although the rail-trail parallels CA 75 on this stretch, wildflowers and brush along the route keep the journey pleasant as you continue south.

As you approach the south end of the bay, you'll have spacious views of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Its preserved wetlands offer prime opportunities for birding and support many endangered and threatened species of flora and fauna. As you enter the residential community of Imperial Beach, look for the entrance to the Bayside Birding & Walking Trail at Seventh Street; the dirt pathway parallels the Bayshore Bikeway for 0.4 mile and has interpretive panels on topics like migratory birds and salt marsh restoration.

On the bikeway's north end, enjoy a spectacular vista of the Coronado Bridge. Laura Stark



After continuing east 0.8 mile from the entrance to the birding trail, take the opportunity to turn right at the short trail spur just before the red pedestrian bridge to reach Imperial Beach's Bikeway Village, where you'll find public restrooms and a coffee shop where you can pick up snacks and refreshments. The continuous, paved portion of the rail-trail ends 1 mile farther on at Main Street and West Frontage Road in Chula Vista.

If you would like to continue on the Bayshore Bikeway along the east side of the bay, follow the marked on-road bike lanes (largely paralleling Bay Boulevard) and a few short stretches of paved pathway north through Chula Vista and into San Diego. A highlight of this section is Chula Vista's Living Coast Discovery Center, which features interactive exhibits on the animals and plants of coastal California. As you approach the Coronado Bridge, be sure to also check out the colorful collection of murals in Chicano Park, which celebrates the heritage and culture of Barrio Logan, San Diego's oldest Mexican-American neighborhood.

Note that the bikeway is currently under construction at South 32nd Street and Harbor Drive. Until this segment is completed in 2025, follow the signed alternative route to close a 2.5-mile gap to Park Boulevard. From there, the trail picks up again at the Embarcadero, San Diego's popular waterfront pathway, and ends at the Navy Pier and USS Midway Museum (housed in a historical naval aircraft carrier).

CONTACT rtc.li/bayshore-bway

PARKING

Parking areas are listed counterclockwise from the Coronado end of the Bayshore Bikeway to the San Diego end. Select parking areas for the trail are listed below. For a detailed list of parking areas and other waypoints, go to **TrailLink.com™**. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

CORONADO* Coronado Ferry Landing, 1201 First St. (32.6982, -117.1692); nominal parking fee.

CORONADO* Coronado Tidelands Park, 2000 Mullinex Dr. (32.6913, -117.1652).

CORONADO* Glorietta Bay Park, 1975 Strand Way (32.6753, -117.1696).

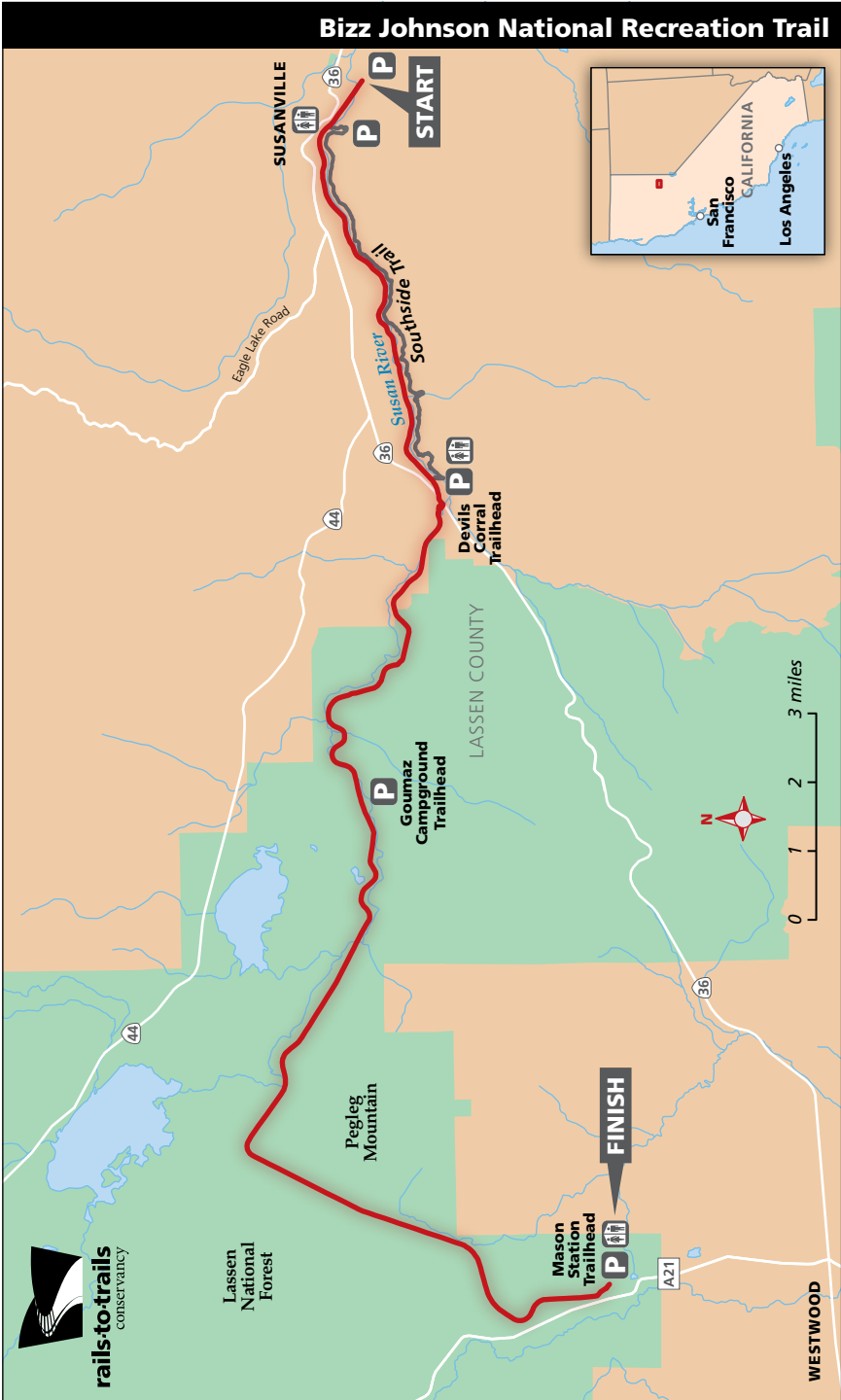
IMPERIAL BEACH* Bayshore Bikeway Parking Lot; accessible only from northbound CA 75, 1.3 mile north of Seventh St. (32.6023, -117.1241).

IMPERIAL BEACH* Biking Village, 13th Street and Cypress Ave. (32.5874, -117.1057).

CHULA VISTA* Bay Boulevard Park, F St. and Bay Blvd. (32.6359, -117.0999).

NATIONAL CITY* Pepper Park, 3299 Tidelands Ave. (32.6503, -117.1114).

SAN DIEGO* Embarcadero Marina Park North, 400 Kettner Blvd. (32.7074, -117.1694); nominal parking fee.

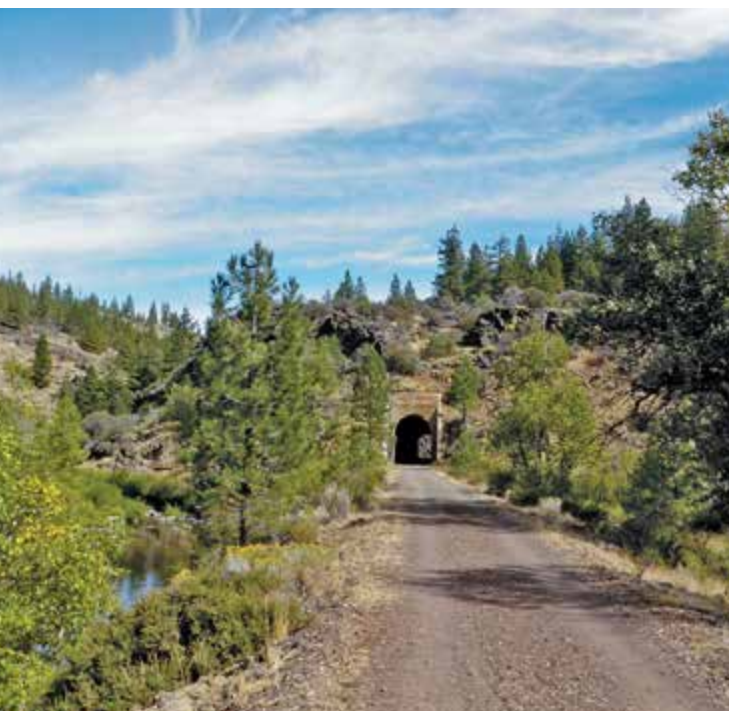


7 Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail



An outing on the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail rewards trekkers with eye-catching Northern California scenery and signs of wildlife. The 25.4-mile packed gravel-and-dirt trail connects the historical logging towns of Susanville and Westwood on a remote route that passes through tunnels and crosses the Susan River on numerous bridges.

Known simply as The Bizz, the rail-trail follows the route of the old Fernley and Lassen Railway line, which was established in 1914 to haul logs and milled lumber between a mill in Westwood and the Southern Pacific Railroad's main line at Fernley, Nevada. The mill closed in 1956, and the railroad ceased operations in 1978. The Bureau of Land Management and former US Representative Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson, who represented the district in Congress from 1958 to 1980, spearheaded the



Michael McCullough

Upland forests of pine and fir dot the trail's arid landscape.

County

Lassen

Endpoints

Susanville Depot (Susanville); Mason Station (Westwood)

Mileage

25.4

Type

Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

2

Surface

Dirt, Gravel

conversion of the corridor into a rail-trail. The pathway—listed in Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Hall of Fame—is named in his honor.

Before setting out, visitors can view exhibits at the Lassen Land and Trails Trust, which is housed in a 1927 vintage railroad depot in Susanville. The trail starts at a caboose across the street and begins a gentle climb along the rushing Susan River. The eastern 7 miles are the most popular, as the trail passes through a semiarid, rocky canyon where the compacted surface is wheelchair accessible. For those who wish to take a slightly different route, the singletrack Southside Trail traces the south bank of the river through the canyon.

Trees on the riverbank make this a colorful journey in the fall, and travelers will cross several bridges and pass through two tunnels in the canyon. Jumbles of sticks and earthen mounds along the river mark beaver and muskrat dams and lodges, and sharp-eyed visitors might see raccoons, mule deer, porcupines, and coyotes at dawn or dusk. More than 100 bird species have been documented here.

The trail emerges from the canyon at the Devils Corral trailhead on CA 36. Leaving the Great Basin Desert habitat behind, it enters the pine and fir forests of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges. The 9,000-acre Hog Fire that swept the area in 2020 left scorched patches in this once dense woodland.

The trail continues climbing for another 10.4 miles to the foot of Pegleg Mountain, where it leaves the Susan River and begins a slight downhill grade for

The trail follows the old Fernley and Lassen Railway route. Michael McCullough



7.6 miles to end at Mason Station Trailhead. From here it's another 4.5 miles along McCoy Road and Mooney Road/A21 to the nearest town, Westwood. Here you'll find a museum and replica of the Westwood Depot, as well as a 25-foot redwood carving of Paul Bunyan. The Lassen Rural Bus provides bike-rack-equipped bus service between Westwood and Susanville (lassen-transportation.com).

When visiting, remember there are no services between Susanville and Westwood. Spring and fall weather can be fickle, as the trail elevations range from 4,100 to 5,500 feet. The U.S. Forest Service, which manages the 18 trail miles west of Devils Corral, allows snowmobiling when winter conditions permit. Primitive camping is allowed throughout.

Those who visit the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend will enjoy the Lassen Land and Trails Trust's annual Rails to Trails Festival in Susanville. The festival, which raises funds to support the region's trails, includes live music, a chili cook-off, handcar races, and other fun family activities.

CONTACT blm.gov/visit/bizz-johnson and lassenlandandtrailstrust.org

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from east to west. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

SUSANVILLE* Susanville Depot, 601 Richmond Road (40.4117, -120.6602).

SUSANVILLE* Bizz Johnson Trail Susanville Trailhead, 514 Richmond Road (40.411502, -120.6608).

SUSANVILLE* Hobo Camp Trailhead, at the end of Hobo Camp Road, 0.7 mile northwest of South St. (40.4174, -120.6736).

SUSANVILLE* Devils Corral Trailhead, CA 36/Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, 1.6 miles southeast of CA 44/Feather Lake Hwy. (40.3981, -120.7737).

SUSANVILLE* Goumaz Campground Trailhead, Forest Road 30N03, 3 miles south of CA 44 (40.4139, -120.8619).

WESTWOOD* Mason Station Trailhead, McCoy Road, 0.4 mile north of the intersection of McCoy and Mooney Roads (40.3621, -120.9992).

8 Browns Creek Bike Path and Orange Line Bike Path

Enjoy a 17-mile trek across multiple Los Angeles neighborhoods on this former Southern Pacific Railroad corridor. The Orange Line Bike Path follows the G Line (formerly Orange Line) rapid bus route's dedicated corridor, meaning LA traffic is not a concern here. With bus stations and bike lockers along the route of the trail, traveling by a combination of bike and bus is a breeze. The buses all have bike racks, so you can bike the entire route, put your bike on the bus, and take it back to where you started.

The trail traverses dense neighborhoods, heavily trafficked roads, and light industrial areas. What it lacks in beauty, however, it makes up for in functionality. There are many heavily trafficked at-grade road crossings that will take some patience to cross, but they are all signalized.

For the longest on-trail journey possible, start at North Independence Avenue and Rinaldi Street, the northern endpoint of the 1.5-mile Browns Creek Bike



TrailLink user vikemaze

Browns Creek Bike Path traverses the Chatsworth neighborhood.

County

Los Angeles

Endpoints

N. Independence Ave. and Rinaldi St. (Los Angeles); Leghorn Ave. and Chandler Blvd. (Los Angeles)

Mileage

17.3

Type

Rail-Trail (Orange Line Bike Path)/ Greenway/ Non-Rail-Trail (Browns Creek Bike Path)

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt, Concrete

Path. This segment includes some murals and pleasant vegetation running along a channelized waterway. As you go farther south, the trail abuts warehouses. Following a short, one-block gap at Lassen Street, you will officially find yourself on the Orange Line Bike Path.

In about 3.75 miles, the trail crosses over a segment of the developing 51-mile Los Angeles River Greenway (also known as the Los Angeles River Trail) just north of the intersection of Canoga Avenue and Vanowen Street, but unfortunately there is not a safe way for bicyclists or pedestrians to connect to it here from the Orange Line Bike Path. The trail will then lead you east to the sprawling Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, which includes a lake, boat and bike rentals, a Japanese garden, an archery range, a model aircraft field, a golf course, sports fields, parking, and restrooms. You can access an additional segment of the Los Angeles River Greenway just past the park's southeast border in the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area at Sepulveda Boulevard and Valleyheart Drive.

Continuing east from the park is a wide, tree-lined segment, followed by a unique portion where the trail weaves beneath the elevated infrastructure of I-405. The route then takes you away from the street for some much-needed peace and quiet.

The trail ends at Chandler Boulevard and Leghorn Avenue. From here, an unprotected bike lane connects to the 2.8-mile Chandler Bikeway, heading east. Plans are in the works to connect these trails via an approximately 3-mile separated cycle track.

CONTACT laparks.org/info/biking and metro.net/projects/orangeline

P A R K I N G

Parking areas are located within Los Angeles and are listed from north to south. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

SEPULVEDA BASIN SPORTS COMPLEX* 6301 Balboa Blvd. (34.1840, -118.5020).

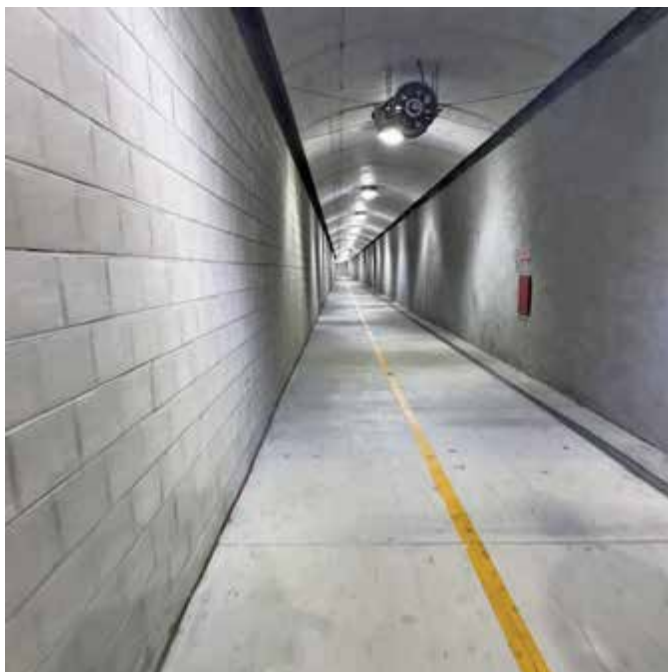
SEPULVEDA BASIN SPORTS COMPLEX* Balboa Blvd., 0.6 mile south of Victory Blvd. (34.1790, -118.5015).

9 Cal Park Hill Tunnel and SMART Pathway



The Cal Park Hill Tunnel and SMART Pathway are located in the heart of the Marin County suburbs, spanning 2.5 miles between Larkspur and San Rafael. This convenient rail-with-trail is perfect for commuting, as it cuts underneath the 200-foot Cal Park Hill and runs adjacent to the Sonoma–Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) commuter train. Additionally, the southern end of the trail is just steps from the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, which provides direct service to downtown San Francisco. Along the way, there are plenty of wayfinding signs, maps, and trailside markers to guide you, and the smooth, paved surface provides an accessible transportation route for all types of trail users.

Although the trail is relatively short, it's part of a planned 70-mile SMART Pathway system that will eventually connect Marin and Sonoma Counties from Larkspur



Peter Dean

County
Marin

Endpoints
Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
and Redwood Hwy./
US 101 (Larkspur);
Second St. and Francisco
Blvd. W. (San Rafael)

Mileage
2.5

Type
Rail-with-Trail

Roughness Rating
1

Surface
Asphalt, Concrete

The trail's namesake tunnel, originally constructed in 1884, cuts underneath the 200-foot Cal Park Hill.

Cal Park Hill Tunnel and SMART Pathway



to Cloverdale. Currently, 24 miles of the pathway are completed, with another 14.5 funded or under construction. The SMART Pathway is also part of a developing 2,600-miles-plus Bay Area regional trail network being spearheaded by the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (railstotrails.org/bay-area) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as a TrailNation™ project to increase safe walking, biking, and trail access for millions of Bay Area residents.

From the trail's southern endpoint, you'll take a ramp up to a pedestrian bridge over Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and reach SMART's Larkspur station in 0.2 mile. Although the trail is situated in a dense urban area, as you continue north you'll be safely separated from road traffic and separated by a fence from the commuter train. Pockets of trees provide welcome shade.

From the SMART station, it's another 0.3 mile to the trail's highlight: the Cal Park Hill Tunnel, originally constructed in 1884. About 0.4 mile after exiting the tunnel, the trail runs underneath Redwood Highway/US 101, where a recent extension takes users northward past office parks and shopping centers en route to downtown San Rafael. Parts of this segment are bollard-separated on-road bike lanes.

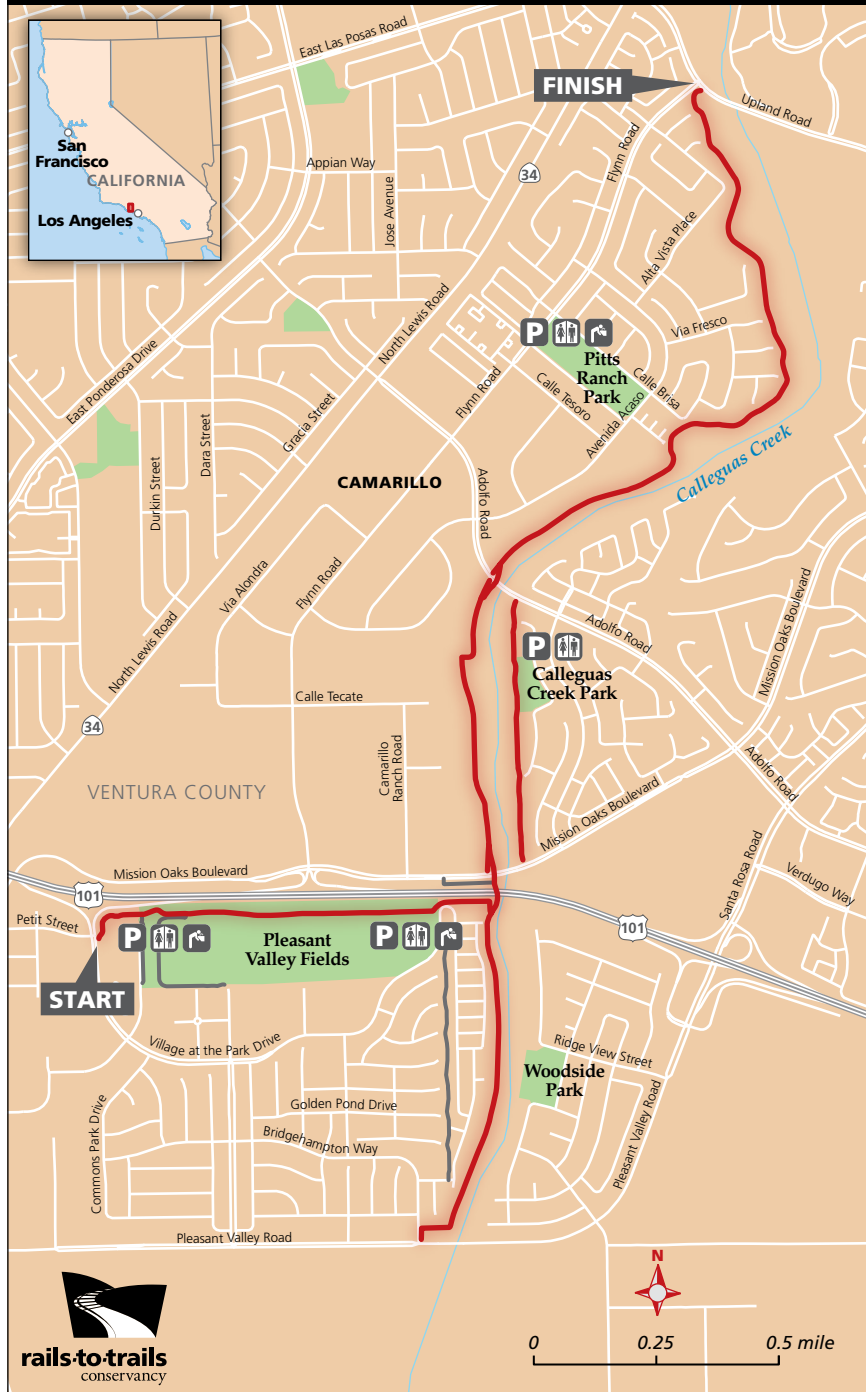
Alternatively, users can travel south from the trail's southern terminus, crossing Corte Madera Creek along a barrier-protected bikeway on US 101 to make additional trail connections.

CONTACT sonomamarintrain.org/smart_pathway

PARKING

Although there are no designated parking lots for this trail, you can reach it via public transit. Bikes are allowed aboard SMART trains, and there are stations at either end of the trail: the **LARKSPUR STATION** (600 Larkspur Landing Cir.; 37.9476, -122.5127), 0.2 mile north of the trail's southern endpoint, and the **SAN RAFAEL STATION** (680 Third St.; 37.9720, -122.5226), 0.1 mile north of the trail's northern endpoint.

Calleguas Creek Bike Path



10 Calleguas Creek Bike Path

Tucked away in aptly named Pleasant Valley at the foot of the Conejo Hills some 50 miles from Los Angeles, the small town of Camarillo boasts 300 days of sunshine annually and many opportunities for fun, such as visiting the Calleguas (pronounced ky-YAY-gas) Creek Bike Path. This 4.4-mile trail traces Calleguas Creek in the eastern part of Camarillo and provides views of the surrounding foothills as well as the namesake creek, an ephemeral stream that runs only when fed sufficient rainwater. The creek is part of the 343-square-mile Calleguas Creek Watershed in Ventura County and is home to a variety of plant and animal life, including low-lying greenery, the occasional shady tree, and 370 bird species. Abundant signage provides information about the area's bird biodiversity along with route guidance.

The paved bike path can also host walkers, runners, and in-line skaters along its undulating route. Note that some of its hills could be challenging for wheelchairs. The



County
Ventura

Endpoints

Village at the Park Dr. and Petit St. (Camarillo); Pleasant Valley Road and Bridgehampton Way (Camarillo); Upland Road and Flynn Road (Camarillo); Adolfo Road, 500 feet west of Rancho Calleguas Dr. (Camarillo); Mission Oaks Blvd., 0.1 mile west of Rancho Calleguas Dr. (Camarillo)

Mileage
4.4

Type
Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating
1

Surface
Asphalt



Ben Kaufman

The route traces Calleguas Creek, part of the 343-square-mile Calleguas Creek Watershed.

path is managed by the city and enables visitors and residents to conveniently explore local neighborhoods, schools, and parks.

Our route starts at the Pleasant Valley Fields, where ample parking (more than 600 spots), restrooms, and drinking water are available. Located near a school and family YMCA, the 55-acre park is equipped with playground equipment, picnic areas, lighted sports fields, a snack bar during events, and a paved pathway to allow for easy navigation around the fields.

The trail runs for 0.9 mile from west to east on the north side of the park to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, where it arrives at a T junction at Calleguas Creek for the 2.6-mile north-south trail segment.

Those turning south can take the trail for approximately 1 mile along the creek's west bank to its endpoint at Pleasant Valley Road and Bridgehampton Way. About halfway down, Woodside Park can be seen to the east.

Heading north from the T junction, users will pass beneath US 101 and then between the creekbed and the back of a business district. About 1.1 mile north of US 101, a side trail on the left connects to Cedarbrook Walk, which ends in 0.1 mile at Pitts Ranch Park. Another of the town's 28 parks, this 10-acre landscaped facility has restrooms, drinking fountains, and parking. Returning to the trail, visitors will trace a residential area for another mile north to the end at Upland Road.

An unattached, 0.5-mile trail segment that runs along the east side of Calleguas Creek can be reached via the bridges at Adolfo Road or Mission Oaks Boulevard. The 3-acre Calleguas Creek Park is located at the northern end of this section and has a drinking fountain, a playground, and picnic tables.

CONTACT rtc.li/calleguas-creek-bike-path

PARKING

Parking areas are located within Camarillo and are listed from southwest to northeast.

**Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

PLEASANT VALLEY FIELDS* Westpark Ct., 0.2 mile north of Village at the Park Dr. (34.2142, -119.0280).

PLEASANT VALLEY FIELDS* Village at the Park Dr., 200 feet west of Calle De La Rosa (34.2152, -119.0180).

PITTS RANCH PARK* 1400 Flynn Road (34.2315, -119.0113).

11 Clovis Old Town Trail and Sugar Pine Trail

Community support was integral to the creation of the Sugar Pine and Clovis Old Town Trails, two adjoining rail-trails that link the northern edge of Fresno to southern Clovis. Joggers, cyclists, businesses, and environmental organizations came together to support the development of the trails, which connect many existing area resources, including shops, restaurants, and parks. Through tree-planting efforts organized by the Coalition for Community Trails, about 4,400 trees offer shade and beautiful scenery.

The 4-mile Sugar Pine Trail begins on East Nees Avenue under Yosemite Freeway/CA 41, near the River Park Shopping Center, a large mall complex. The trailhead is under the overpass and is equipped with benches and a drinking fountain. There is ample parking and a wide selection of eateries at the mall across the street. Heading northeast, the trail parallels Cole Avenue and then



The trail provides access to residential and commercial areas, as well as Clovis's historic downtown.



County

Fresno

Endpoints

E. Nees Ave. under Yosemite Freeway/CA 41 (Fresno); E. Copper Ave. and N. Willow Ave. (Fresno); Clovis Ave., 0.2 mile north of E. Shields Ave. (Clovis)

Mileage

9.6

Type

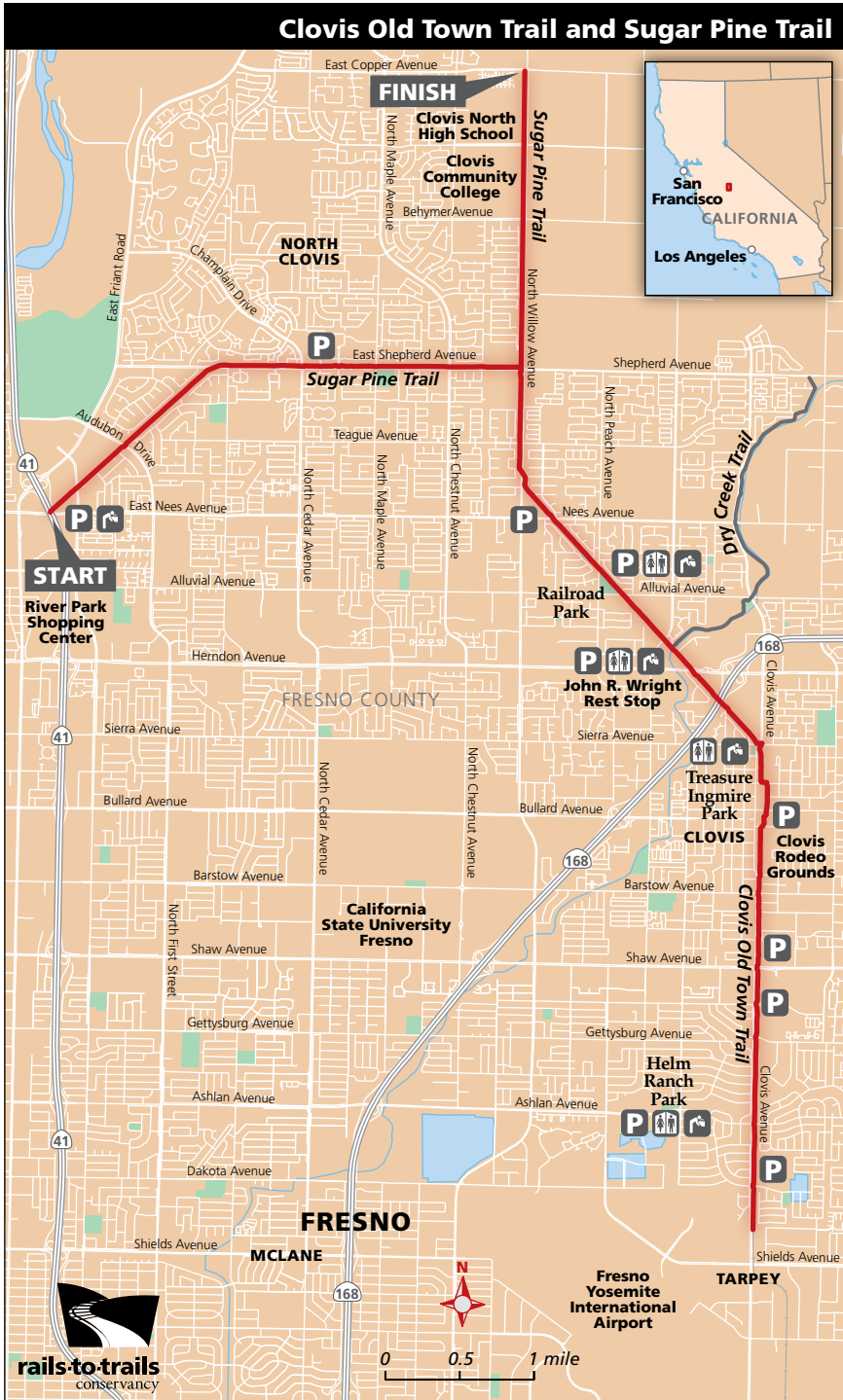
Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt



continues east on Shepherd Avenue through residential parts of northern Fresno on a wide and spacious corridor bordered by mature trees. Underpasses carry the trail through busy intersections. Additional restaurants and stores are within walking distance of the trail along Shepherd Avenue. At North Willow Avenue, the trail turns south, meeting the Clovis Old Town Trail between East Teague and West Nees Avenues. A segment of the Sugar Pine Trail also travels north along Willow Avenue, passing Clovis Community College and Clovis North High School before ending at East Copper Avenue.

The 5.6-mile Clovis Old Town Trail skirts many residential and commercial areas, with easy access, several parks, and rest-stop shelters with various amenities along its entire length. In the city of Clovis itself, users are afforded convenient access to the community's historical downtown, as well as the Clovis Rodeo Grounds, home to an April rodeo held annually since 1914.

Take the Clovis Old Town Trail southeast into Clovis. Roughly 0.9 mile south of the trail's northern endpoint is Railroad Park, on the corner of Peach

The Coalition for Community Trails has added about 4,400 trees to the route. TrailLink user tucker.furguy



and Alluvial Avenues. This neighborhood park has picnic pavilions, restrooms, drinking fountains, and paved trails. In another 0.6 mile, just after North Villa Avenue, is the John R. Wright Rest Stop, behind the City of Clovis Fire Station 3. Here, you'll find picnic pavilions, restrooms, drinking fountains, and a map display board.

Just south of the rest stop is a connection to the 2.5-mile Dry Creek Trail, which heads northeast to connect to the 2.4-mile Enterprise Canal Trail. Roughly 0.9 mile south of the Dry Creek Trail connection is Treasure Ingmire Park, another community park where you can find picnic pavilions, restrooms, and drinking fountains. About 2.7 miles south of Treasure Ingmire Park, you'll reach Ashlan Avenue. If you need a break (even though you're close to the end), head a half mile west on Ashlan Avenue to Helm Ranch Park, where you can find picnic pavilions, restrooms, drinking fountains, and wildlife-viewing. Back on the trail, it's only 0.7 mile to the southernmost endpoint.

CONTACT cityofclovis.com/public-utilities/parks (Clovis Old Town Trail) and fresno.gov (Sugar Pine Trail)

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from northwest to southeast. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

FRESNO* River Park Shopping Center, 71 E. Via la Plata (36.8513, -119.7876); park as close to E. Nees Ave. as possible.

FRESNO* E. Champlain Dr. and E. Shepherd Ave. (36.8672, -119.7563).

CLOVIS* Parkway Trails Shopping Center, 1205–1365 N. Willow Ave. (36.8526, -119.7271); trail access is at the northeast corner of N. Willow and W. Nees Aves.

CLOVIS* John R. Wright Rest Stop, small parking lot (6 spaces) behind the City of Clovis Fire Station 3, on N. Minnewawa Ave. between Birch Ave. and Park Creek Dr. (36.8400, -119.7111).

CLOVIS* Clovis Old Town Trail, between Fifth St. and Rodeo Dr. (36.8227, -119.6996).

CLOVIS* Clovis and Shaw Aves. (36.8093, -119.6998); commercial lot with trail access.

CLOVIS* Clovis and Santa Ana Aves. (36.8069, -119.6998); mall parking lot with trail access.

CLOVIS* Helm Ranch Park, Ashlan and Minnewawa Aves. (36.7943, -119.7107).

CLOVIS* Clovis Recreation Center, 3495 Clovis Ave. (36.7885, -119.6998).

12 Contra Costa Canal Regional Trail

Located in the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area, the Contra Costa Canal Regional Trail follows the Contra Costa Canal in a horseshoe shape from Martinez south through Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek and then east and north to Concord. The canal is a 47-mile aqueduct that was built between 1937 and 1948. It's used as a residential, agricultural, and industrial water supply for almost a dozen communities along the canal. Because it's part of the water supply system, the canal is fenced off, with no access for fishing or other water-based recreation. The canal is a vital part of the community infrastructure, and the trail built alongside it allows myriad access points to the surrounding neighborhoods and business districts.

The paved pathway winds through a diverse array of settings, including neighborhoods, school campuses, parks, and light industrial areas. Much of the trail is tree lined, with several scenic vistas of mountain peaks and



TrailLink user tommyonbike

The trail traces an early 20th-century canal in a horseshoe shape from Martinez to Concord.



County

Contra Costa

Endpoints

Muir Road, 0.2 mile west of Pacheco Blvd. (Martinez); Willow Pass Road, 340 feet east of Sixth St. (Concord)

Mileage

13.8

Type

Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt, Concrete



rolling hills. The canal itself attracts a variety of wildlife, including many bird species. There are multiple road crossings, but they are all well-marked, and the more heavily trafficked intersections have crosswalk buttons.

With several parks dotting the route, it's relatively easy to find a restroom or a place to refill a water bottle. Beginning from the trail's west end, you'll encounter your first one, Las Juntas Open Space, in 3.2 miles. In another 3.6 miles, you'll reach Walden Park, near the trail's midpoint, which offers a playground and sports facilities, including a basketball court and a disc golf course. In another 0.9 mile, you'll reach Heather Farm Park, a popular outdoor space with a garden center, a fishing pond, an equestrian center (equestrian use is permitted on the Contra Costa trail as well), and other recreational amenities. Continuing northeast for 2.4 miles, you'll reach the western boundary of Lime Ridge Open Space, a more than 1,200-acre natural oasis with more trails to explore. After your final 3.7 miles, the trail ends at Willow Pass Road with Willow Pass Community Park across the street.

Several trails connect to the Costa Contra Canal Regional Trail, most notably the 32-mile Iron Horse Regional Trail (see page 99), which bisects the canal trail at about its midpoint. The 5.7-mile Ygnacio Canal Trail offers an opportunity for a loop, connecting with the Costa Contra Canal Regional Trail in two places: at Heather Farm Park and again at Lime Ridge Open Space. The Briones to Mt. Diablo Regional Trail (which includes some unpaved sections) joins the Costa Contra Canal Regional Trail at the bottom of the horseshoe and continues west to Briones Regional Park and southeast to Diablo Foothills Regional Park.

CONTACT ebparks.org/trails/interpark/contra-costa-canal

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from west to east. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

WALNUT CREEK* EBMUD Trail Park and Staging on Geary Road, 450 feet east of Buena Vista Ave./Putnam Blvd. (37.9268, -122.0715).

WALNUT CREEK* Walden Park, 2698 Oak Road (37.9214, -122.0580).

WALNUT CREEK* Heather Farm Park, 301 N. San Carlos Dr. (37.9222, -122.0433).

CONCORD Lime Ridge Open Space on Via Montanas, 0.3 mile northeast of San Miguel Road (37.9574, -122.0207).

The trail is also close to two Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) stations: **PLEASANT HILL/CONTRA COSTA CENTRE** (1365 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek; 37.9284, -122.05598), near the trail's midpoint, and **CONCORD** (1451 Oakland Ave., Concord; 37.9737, -122.0293), near its eastern terminus.



13 Cowell-Purisima Trail

Just south of Half Moon Bay, the Cowell-Purisima Trail would be a worthy addition to any avid trail user's bucket list. As part of the California Coastal Trail—a network of bicycling and hiking trails that, when complete, will stretch along the coastline for 1,230 miles from Oregon to the Mexican border—this 4.1-mile pathway is possibly one of the most beautiful trails in the state. Originating as private family farmland and developed in 2010, it features stunning, unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean for most of your journey.

The Cowell-Purisima Trail is rich with history. The land that the trail was created on has been a working farm since the mid-1800s. In 1988, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) acquired the Cowell family ranch with a mission to protect the coastline and allow farming to continue by selling most of the land to local farmers. The trail is now managed by San Mateo County Parks.



Ryan Cree

With sweeping Pacific views, the trail offers a quintessential California experience.



County

San Mateo

Endpoints

Cabrillo Hwy./CA 1, just south of Dehoff Canyon Road (Half Moon Bay);
Cabrillo Hwy./CA 1, 0.6 mile south of Verde Road (Half Moon Bay)

Mileage

4.1

Type

Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1-2

Surface

Dirt, Gravel

You should probably plan on parking at the northern section of the trail, which maintains a more consistent schedule of opening daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., although the farmers who own the land reserve the right to close the trail at any time for specific purposes related to their farm work, such as moving animals or watering fields.

Although most of the trail is accessible, a small middle section contains steep terrain that would make it extremely difficult for any nonmotorized-wheelchair user to make it through without assistance. It is recommended that wheelchair users park at either end of the trail (north or south) and return to their start point once they reach the challenging terrain.

On your trek from the northern parking lot to quite nearly the water's edge at the southern end, you will travel along a small private farm road and, depending on the time of year, may notice a vast valley of budding Brussels sprouts. As you travel south along the gravel trail, you'll find yourself sandwiched between the Pacific Ocean and the Cowell Ranch Farm, as well as other historical

As you travel the trail, you'll be sandwiched between the ocean and historical farmland. Joe LaCroix



family-owned farms. Here, the trail is immersed in an agricultural setting with picturesque farmland and domestic animals dotting the landscape. As the trail begins to parallel the Pacific coastline, enjoy the vistas of elevated rocky cliffs visible for miles.

The most difficult section of the trail lies between mile 1.75 and mile 2, where the grade is steep and the hillside route is so winding that an average bike rider would need to dismount to proceed. Luckily, this section is short enough that it doesn't present a major concern. Over the next mile, you'll follow the coastline again with breathtaking views of the protected beaches that are home to local harbor seals. The last 0.6 mile continues to wind through vegetable fields and cow pastures and along the Pacific until you reach the southern trailhead. The trail extends just a little beyond a turnoff for a parking area and features another sightseeing spot with expansive views of the water and cliffs.

CONTACT smcgov.org/parks/cowell-purisima-trail

P A R K I N G

Parking areas are located within Half Moon Bay and are listed from north to south. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

COWELL RANCH BEACH ACCESS PARKING* Cabrillo Hwy./CA 1, just south of Dehoff Canyon Road (37.4221, -122.4264).

COWELL-PURISIMA TRAIL PARKING* Cabrillo Hwy./CA 1, 0.6 mile south of Verde Road (37.3963, -122.4157).



14 Coyote Creek Trail



Stretching from Morgan Hill up to the southern extent of the San Francisco Bay, the Coyote Creek Trail is one of the longest trails in San Jose. More than 25 miles are currently open in three main segments and several smaller segments. When complete, it will span more than 30 miles, following Coyote Creek for most of the way. The trail is part of a developing 2,600-miles-plus Bay Area regional trail network being spearheaded by the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (railstotrails.org/bay-area) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as a TrailNation™ project to increase safe walking, biking, and trail access for millions of Bay Area residents.

As of spring 2023, the completed segments of the Coyote Creek Trail are as follows:

- Eagle View Dr. and Morning Star Dr. (Morgan Hill) to Tully Community Ballfields, Tully Road and Galveston Ave. (San Jose)
- Basking Ridge Ave., 0.1 mile south of Veranda Way (San Jose) to Basking Ridge Ave. and Silicon Valley Blvd.



Ryan Cree

Spanning 25-plus miles, the Coyote Creek Trail is one of the longest trails in San José.

County

Santa Clara

Endpoints

Eagle View Dr. and Morning Star Dr. (Morgan Hill); N. McCarthy Blvd., 0.3 mile south of Dixon Landing Road (Milpitas)
Full list of endpoints in the description

Mileage

25.6

Type

Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1

Surface

Asphalt, Crushed Stone

- Kelley Park, Phelan Ave. and Roberts Ave. (San Jose) to Selma Olinder Park at E. William St. between Brookwood Ave. and S. 18th St. (San Jose)
- Mercado Way and Berryessa Road (San Jose) to just past Mercado Way, near Chessington Dr. (San Jose)
- Old Oakland Road between Schallenberger Road and Pear Orchard Dr. (San Jose) to Pear Orchard Dr. and Elderflower Pl. (San Jose)
- Montague Expressway, near Kruse Dr. (San Jose) to CA 237/Southbay Fwy., 0.6 mile east of Zanker Road (Milpitas)
- Alviso Milpitas Road and Ranch Dr. (Milpitas) to N. McCarthy Blvd., 0.3 mile south of Dixon Landing Road (Milpitas)

Begin your journey at the southern endpoint of the trail, which starts at the intersection of Morning Star and Eagle View Drives, a couple hundred feet from the Coyote Creek Visitor Center at Anderson Lake County Park, where parking is available. This longest segment of completed trail—at approximately 18.7 miles—heads north and soon parallels its namesake waterway. There is a parallel foot/equestrian trail for the next half mile until Burnett Avenue, where riders will find a staging area and the beginning of an equestrian trail. (For a map of this trail, including water troughs and other staging areas, please see rtc.li/coyote-trail-map.)

Watch out for hobbyists flying model airplanes as you pass the Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark. At Ogier Ponds, you can spy a rich diversity of birdlife and perhaps even catch a few *birdies* as the trail passes the Coyote Creek Golf Club. Following the club is the Tamienne Monument, a trailside plaque inscribed in binary code that marks the center of the Santa Clara Valley. Immediately following the monument, south of Metcalf Road, the equestrian trail comes to an end. You'll pass Metcalf Park, after which the trail becomes more urban as it enters the southern reaches of the city of San Jose, though it remains largely riparian. After Hellyer County Park, continue another 2.5 miles to Tully Road.

To reach the second, 2-mile trail segment, turn right onto Tully Road and then left onto Lucretia Avenue, with its well-marked bike lanes. In 0.8 mile, turn left onto Phelan Avenue and pick the trail up again in about 0.1 mile at Roberts Avenue. This portion of trail, which opened in 2021, traverses Kelley Park, where it connects to the nearby Happy Hollow Park & Zoo during park hours by way of the arcing Bent Bridge. Cross Story Road to continue along the trail, passing under a historical railway trestle (closed to the public) and through Selma Olinder and William Street Parks to where this segment ends at East William Street.

The northernmost, 4.9-mile section technically begins at Montague Expressway but is not directly accessible for another 0.4 mile north, at Iris Chang Park.

The trail continues along a crushed-stone pathway atop a levee above the southwestern bank of Coyote Creek next to a residential area. The trail soon changes back to asphalt and meets the Highway 237 Bikeway at the Southbay Freeway/CA 237. Merge right onto the trail and turn left to cross at McCarthy Boulevard, where the trail picks up again to the left, off Ranch Drive. The pathway continues north through an industrial area to North McCarthy Boulevard.

CONTACT sanjose.org/listings/coyote-creek-trail

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from south to north. Select parking areas for the trail are listed below. For a detailed list of parking areas and other waypoints, go to **TrailLink.com™**. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

MORGAN HILL* Coyote Creek Visitor Center at Anderson Lake County Park, 19245 Malaguerra Ave. (37.1669, -121.6496).

SAN JOSE* Metcalf Park, Monterey Hwy. and Forsum Road (37.2295, -121.7574).

SAN JOSE* Silver Creek Valley Road near Piercy Road (37.2575, -121.7911).

SAN JOSE* Hellyer County Park, Palisade Dr. and Hellyer Ave. (37.2833, -121.8128); day-use fees may apply.

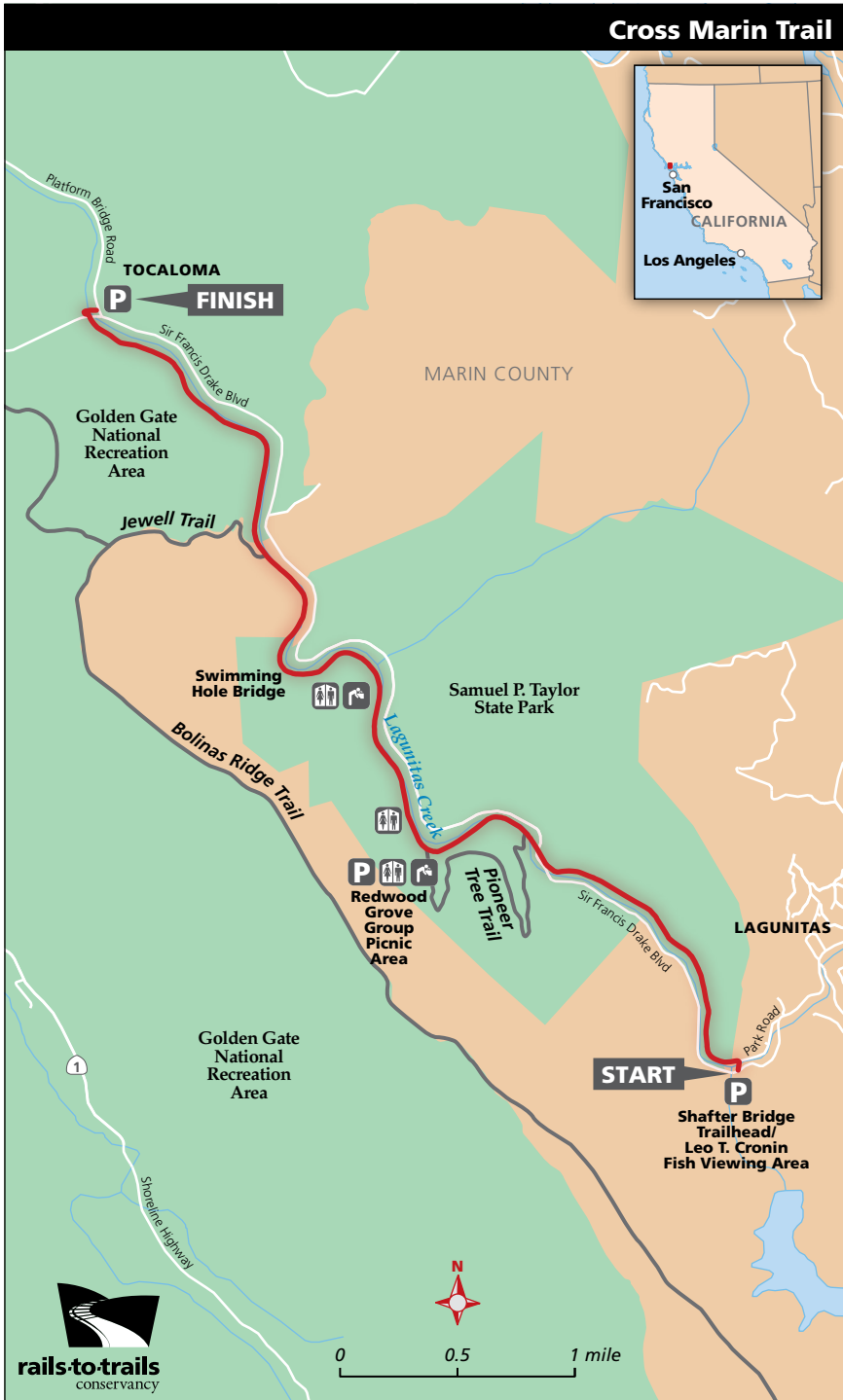
SAN JOSE* Tully Road, between Galveston Ave. and La Ragione Ave. (37.3105, -121.8429).

SAN JOSE* Selma Olinder Park, E. William St., between Brookwood Ave. and S. 18th St. (37.3375, -121.8677).

SAN JOSE Iris Chang Park, Epic Way, 0.4 mile north of Montague Expy. (37.4005, -121.9193); limited on-street parking.

MILPITAS Ranch Dr. and McCarthy Blvd. (37.4258, -121.9249).

MILPITAS* 1425 N. McCarthy Blvd. (37.4471, -121.9225).



15 Cross Marin Trail



The spectacular Cross Marin Trail, also known as the Sir Francis Drake Bikeway, follows the route of the former North Pacific Coast Railroad and roughly parallels the sinuous Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The family-friendly, partly paved rail-trail makes up a segment of Northern California's Bay Area Ridge Trail, which in turn is part of a developing 2,600-miles-plus Bay Area regional trail network being spearheaded by the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (railsto Trails.org/bay-area) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as a TrailNation™ project to increase safe walking, biking, and trail access for millions of Bay Area residents.

On its southern end, the trail begins as a gravel-and-dirt path in the dense woodlands of Lagunitas. While small footbridges ensure users have a safe path over culvert overflows, this unpaved section of trail is not suitable for wheelchair use. On your left are thick redwood stands cushioned by sorrel and ferns, as is the lovely Lagunitas



TrailLink user msten

A state park and other recreational areas provide the backdrop for this scenic pathway.

County

Marin

Endpoints

Sir Francis Drake Blvd., 0.3 mile west of Park Road (Lagunitas); Platform Bridge Road, just north of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (Tocaloma)

Mileage

5.3

Type

Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1-2

Surface

Asphalt, Dirt, Gravel



Many types of trees, including oak, madrone, laurel, and Douglas-fir, are visible along the trail.

TrailLink user msten

Creek (closed from December to mid-June for salmon protection). At mile 1.5, you arrive at a bridge carrying trail traffic over both Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Lagunitas Creek. A cheeky red SALMON CROSSING sign alerts trailgoers to threatened populations of silver (or coho) salmon and steelhead trout that migrate up the creek to spawn during the winter. This is the first of several spots along the trail where you can view them (and possibly, beavers that sometimes work in the area).

Just past the bridge is an unmarked and easy to miss intersection with the 1.6-mile Pioneer Tree Trail, a hiking and equestrian path that rejoins our trail at mile 2. Here, you'll go through a gate that leads to the paved and lightly trafficked on-road section of the trail as it goes through Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Samuel Taylor was an entrepreneur who struck it rich during the California gold rush and created Camp Taylor, one of the first sites in the country to offer camping as a recreational activity. In the 1870s and 1880s, it was common for families to take the railroad out to the camp for the weekend.

You'll pass the Redwood Grove Group Picnic Area, followed by several campsites that, while frequently full, do not detract from the area's natural beauty. Oak, tanoak, madrone, live oak, laurel, and Douglas-fir are all visible along the path, which is lined with California native buttercups, Indian paintbrush, and milkmaids. Black-tailed deer, the most common animal in the state park, can often be spotted from the trail.

The final section is shaded by cool redwood groves. For a quick detour and dip in the creek, veer right at mile 3.1 to the popular Swimming Hole Bridge. Another 0.8 mile north of the swimming hole, you'll intersect the Jewell Trail, a 1-mile connector to the 11-mile Bolinas Ridge Trail. From here, the remainder of the Cross Marin Trail is located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

To extend your day, try exploring the numerous other trails in Samuel P. Taylor State Park (day-use fees apply year-round). Horseback riding is allowed on the entirety of the trail. Public equestrian parking is available along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard via large pullouts.

CONTACT rtc.li/samuel-p-taylor-sp

PARKING

Parking areas are listed from south to north. **Indicates that at least one accessible parking space is available.*

LAGUNITAS* Shafter Bridge Trailhead/Leo T. Cronin Fish Viewing Area, Sir Francis Drake Blvd., 0.3 mile west of Park Road (38.0041, -122.7090); small parking lot with a 1-hour limit.

LAGUNITAS* Redwood Grove Group Picnic Area, dead end of Taylor Park Road, 0.3 mile southwest of Samuel P. Taylor State Park entrance (38.0180, -122.7331).

TOCALOMA Old Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Taylor Park Road, across the road from a historical bridge closed to vehicle traffic (38.0501, -122.7604).



16 Crystal Springs Regional Trail



The Crystal Springs Regional Trail offers tranquil views of two long, narrow reservoirs and a lake that sit atop the San Andreas Rift Zone, a geologic fault that shook violently in the destructive 1906 San Francisco earthquake and others.

The trail runs down a ridge on the San Francisco Peninsula between San Bruno and Woodside and consists of three sections: (from north to south) the 2.6-mile San Andreas section and the 7.2-mile Sawyer Camp section, which make up a connected segment intersecting near where I-280 exits onto Hillcrest Boulevard in Millbrae, and the 6.7-mile Crystal Springs segment.

The two contiguous northern segments are mostly wide, paved, and reasonably graded, except for the southernmost 0.6-mile section of the San Andreas segment. Due to the steeper grade and narrow gravel surface, this stretch is accessible only to walkers and equestrians. To avoid it, bicyclists, skaters, and wheelchair users are directed to



County

San Mateo

Endpoints

San Andreas/Sawyer Camp segment: San Bruno Ave. W. and Skyline Blvd. (San Bruno); Skyline Blvd. and CA 92/Half Moon Bay Road (San Mateo) *Crystal Springs segment:* CA 92/Half Moon Bay Road and Cañada Road (San Mateo); Huddart County Park at Raymundo Dr., 200 feet north of Marva Oaks Dr. (Woodside)

Mileage

16.5

Type

Greenway/Non-Rail-Trail

Roughness Rating

1-3

Surface

Asphalt, Gravel, Dirt



Joe LaCroix

The trail offers expansive views of two narrow reservoirs and a lake.

Index

- Ahwahnee hotel, 237
Alameda Creek Regional Trails, x, 8–11
American River Parkway, x, 12–14, 117, 193
Anderson Lake County Park, 54
Angeles National Forest, 65, 151
Arcata, 87, 88
Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary, 87, 88
Arcata Plaza, 88
Arroyo Mocho Trail, x, 15–17
Arroyo Simi Bike Path, x, 18–20
Arroyo Simi Equestrian Center, 20
Art Depot, the, 177
Artstart, 104
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway,
163, 220, 249

Ballona Creek Bike Path, x, 21–23
Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, 23
Banning Channel Bikeway, 217
Barrio Logan, San Diego, 27
Bay Area Ridge Trail, 57, 156
Bay Area Trails Collaborative, 1, 3, 11, 75,
100, 103, 109, 123, 141, 156, 161, 170,
179, 183, 223, 251
Bayfront Park, 141, 142
Bayshore Bikeway, x, 1, 24–27
Bayside Birding & Walking Trail, 26
Beal's Point, 13
Belvedere, 170
bicycles, 5, 6
Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail,
x, 1, 2, 28–31
Blackberry Farm, 221, 223–224
BNSF Railway line, 249
Bolas Ridge Trail, 59
Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, 96
Bolsa Chica State Park, 96
Bothin Marsh Preserve, 141, 142
Briceburg Visitor Center, 137
Briones Regional Park, 47
Browns Creek Bike Path, x, 32–34
Bruno Canziani Park, 17
Buchanan Field Airport, Concord, 100
Bureau of Land Management, 6, 29, 139

California Coastal Trail, 25, 49, 81, 83, 87,
95, 119, 127, 133, 143, 147, 159, 205,
California Department of Forest and Fire
Protection, 7
California Department of Parks and
Recreation, 7
California State Railroad Museum, 193, 195
Calistoga, 155, 156, 157
Calleguas Creek Bike Path, x, 38–40
Camarillo, 39
Cannery Row, Monterey, 149
Capone, Al, 170
Cascade Volcanoes, 115
Casitas Springs, 167
Castroville, 150
Cedarbrook Walk, 40
Central Park Horse Arena, 192
Chico Electric Railway, 191
children, 6
Children's Park, San Diego, 132
Clam Beach County Park, 80, 84, 85
Clavey River, 256
Cliff House restaurant, 119, 121
Clovis Old Town Trail, x, 41–44
Clovis Rodeo Grounds, 43
Coalition for Community Trails, 41
Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps
Memorial Park, 209
Contra Costa Canal Regional Trail, x, 45–47
Cooke, Juanita, 108
Coronado Bridge, 25, 27
Coronado Ferry Landing Park, 25
Cowell Ranch Farm, 50
Cowell-Purissima Trail, x, 48–51, 81
Coyote Creek Trail, x, 52–55
Coyote Hills, 11
Crescent Golf Course, 69
Cross Marin Trail, x, 56–59
Crow's Nest Interpretive Center, 160
Crystal Springs Regional Trail, x, 60–63
Cucamonga Creek Trail, 177
Cupertino, 221, 223

Danville, 100
De Anza Cove Park, 145
Del Monte Dog Park, 123
Del Norte Street Fishing Pier, 72

- Devils Gulch, 167
- Diablo Foothills Regional Park, 47
- Diestelhorst Bridge, 202
- Dirt World bike track, 181
- Dixie Fire of 2021, 113–115
- dogs, 6
- Donald and Bernice Watson Recreation Trail, x, 64–66
- Dry Creek Trail (Peggy Mensinger Trail), x, 67–69
- Duarte, 65, 66
- Duarte, Andres, 66
- Duarte Recreational Trail, 65
- East La Loma Park, 67
- Econome Family Park, 92
- El Dorado East Regional Park, 211
- El Monte, 188
- El Segundo, 243
- Elk River, 71
- Embarcadero, San Diego, 27
- encampments of the unhoused, 7
- Etiwanda Pacific Electric Depot, 177
- Eureka, 72, 89
- Eureka Waterfront Trail, x, 70–73
- Exposition Line Bikeway, 23
- Folsom, 91, 118
- Folsom Lake, 11, 13, 14, 92
- Fort Bragg, 127, 159
- Fort Miley, 121
- Fort Ord Dunes State Park, 150
- Foster Park, 165, 167, 239, 241
- Francis Beach, 80
- Fremont, 10
- Frontier Park, 20
- Fullerton, 107
- Fullerton Loop, 108
- Garcia-González, Rebeca, 182
- Georgia Pacific Railway mill site, 159
- Glass Beach, 160
- Glorietta Bay Park, San Diego, 26
- Golden Gate Park Multiuse Trail, x, 74–77
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area, 119
- Gravity Car Barn Museum, 174
- Great California Delta Trail, 193
- Great Highway Bike Path, 77
- Great Park, 250
- Great Redwoods Trail, 142
- Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail, x, 78–81
- Half Moon Bay State Beach, 79
- Hammond Redwood Co., 83
- Hammond Trail, x, 82–85
- Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, 54
- Harbour-8 Park, 181
- Heather Farm Park, 47
- Helen Putnam Historical Plaza, 177
- Helm Ranch Park, 44
- Hermosa Beach, 135, 243, 244
- Hetch Hetchy & Yosemite Valley Railway, 255, 257
- Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, 216
- Hidden, Lynn, 111
- Hikshari Trail, 71–72
- Hiller Park, 84, 85
- Historic Downtown Upland, 177
- Hoepfner Park, 250
- Hog Fire of 2020, 30
- Hotel del Coronado, 26
- Huddart Park, 63
- Humboldt Bay, 72
- Humboldt Bay Trail, 73
- Humboldt Bay Trail North, x, 86–89
- Humboldt Northern Railroad, 83–84
- Humbug–Willow Creek Trail, x, 90–93
- Huntington Beach Bicycle Trail, x, 94–97, 217
- Huntington Beach Pier, 96
- icons, 4, 7
- Inspiration Point, 153
- Iron Horse Regional Trail, x, 47, 98–101
- Irvine, 207, 249, 250
- Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail, x, 12–14
- Jepson laurel, 62
- Jewell Trail, 59
- Jim Konopka Volunteer Bridge, 92
- Joe Rodota Trail, xi, 102–105, 251
- John F. Kennedy Park, Napa, 156, 157
- Johnson, Harold T. “Bizz,” 29–31
- Juanita Cooke Greenbelt and Trail, xi, 106–108
- Ken Mercer Sports Park, 15
- Keswick Dam, 199, 201
- Kewin Park, 67
- King Jr., Dr. Martin Luther, 131
- Konopka, Jim, 92

- Lafayette Community Park, 111
- Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, xi, 109–112
- Laguna de Santa Rosa, 104
- Lagunitas, 57
- Lagunitas Creek, 57–58
- Lake Almanor Recreation Trail, xi, 113–115
- Lake Natoma, 93, 117
- Lake Natoma Trail, xi, 14, 116–118
- Lake Redding Park, 202
- Lake Tahoe, 229, 231
- Lands End Lookout Visitor Center, 121
- Lands End Trail, xi, 119–122
- Larkspur Ferry Terminal, 35
- Lassen National Forest, 113
- Lassen Peak, 115
- Lassen Volcanic National Park, 115
- Legion of Honor art museum, 119, 121
- Lexington Reservoir County Park, 125
- Libbey Park, 167
- Liberty Park, 211
- Linda Vista Park, 224
- Little River State Beach, 85
- Live Oak Park, 220
- Livermore, 17
- Livermore Skate Park, 17
- Living Coast Discovery Center, 27
- Long Barn, 227
- Los Angeles River Greenway, 34, 187
- Los Gatos Creek Trail, xi, 123–126
- Los Olivos Community Park, 209
- Los Olivos Trail, 209
- Los Padres National Forest, 165
- Lovers Point Park, Pacific Grove, 149
- Lower Yosemite Fall, 237

- MacKerricher Haul Road Trail, xi, 127–129
- MacKerricher State Park, 129
- Mad River, 83, 84, 85
- Manhattan Beach, 243
- maps
 - See also specific trail*
 - state locator, iv, 4
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade, xi, 130–132
- Marvin Braude Bike Trail xi, 1, 21, 133–136
- Mavericks Beach, 80
- McClellan Ranch Preserve, 224
- McKinleyville, 84
- Merced River, 237
- Merced River Trail, xi, 1, 137–139
- Merrie Way amusement park, 121
- Mill Valley/Sausalito Multiuse Pathway, xi, 140–142
- Miller Regional Park, 195
- Mission Bay Bike Path, xi, 143–146
- Mission Bay Playground, 145
- Modesto, 245
- Monterey, 147
- Monterey Bay Aquarium, 149
- Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail, xi, 1, 147–150
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 149
- Moose Park, 67
- Moraga Commons Park, 111
- motor vehicles, 5
- Mount Rubidoux, 216
- Mount Tamalpais, 173
- Mountain View, 221, 223
- Mt. Lowe Railway Trail, xi, 151–153
- Mt. Tamalpais State Park, 174
- Muir Woods Railway, 173
- Murphy Windmill, 77

- Napa Valley Railroad, 156
- Napa Valley Vine Trail, xi, 1, 154–157
- National Weather Service, 7
- Newport Beach, 207, 209
- Niles Canyon, Fremont, 9
- Niles Community Park, 10
- Nimbus Flat State Recreation Area, 117
- North Coast winery region, 155
- North Sacramento, 191, 192
- Northwestern Pacific Railroad, 87, 142
- Noyo Headlands Coastal Trail, xi, 3, 158–160

- Oak Avenue Bridge, 66
- Ocean Shore Railroad, 79
- Ohlone Park and Greenway, xi, 161–164
- Ohlone peoples, 11, 161
- Ojai, 165, 167, 239
- Ojai Valley Trail, xi, 165–167
- Old Fishermen's Wharf, 149
- Old Rail Trail, xi, 168–171
- Old Railroad Grade, xi, 172–174
- Old Sacramento Waterfront District, 193
- Olympic Park, Olympic Valley, 230
- Orange Line Bike Path, x, 32–34

- Pacific Electric Inland Empire Trail, xi, 175–178
- Pacific Electric Railway, 65, 107, 153, 175
- Park and Cliff House Railway, 121
- parking waypoints, 5
- Peck Road Water Conservation Park, 188
- Peggy Mensinger Trail (Dry Creek Trail), x, 67–69
- Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railway, 103, 251
- Phillip C. Cohn Park, 92
- Pioneer Tree Trail, 58
- Pitts Ranch Park, 40
- Pomo Bluffs Park, 160
- Poplar Beach, 81
- Pudding Creek Trestle, 159–160
- Pulgas Water Temple, 63
- Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, 10
- Railroad Park, Clovis, 43–44
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), 265
- rail-trail described, 2
- Rail-Trail Hall of Fame, 1, 2, 30
- rail-with-trail described, 2
- Rancho Simi Community Park, 20
- Rancho Simi Park Lake, 20
- #RecreateResponsibly, 7
- Redding, 199
- Redondo Beach, 243, 244
- Redwood Grove Group Picnic Area, 59
- Richardson Bay, 169
- Richmond Greenway, xi, 163, 179–182
- Richmond–San Rafael Bridge Path, xi, 183–185
- Rio Hondo River Trail, xi, 186–189
- Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds, 188
- River Park Shopping Center, 41
- River's End Park, Seal Beach, 211
- Robertson Park, Livermore, 17
- Rodota, Joe, 103
- roughness rating of trails, 4
- Roy Hayer Park, 192
- Royal Oaks Park, 66
- Rynerson Park, 211
- Sacramento Northern Bikeway, xii, 14, 190–192
- Sacramento Northern Railway, 111, 191
- Sacramento River Parkway Trail, xii, 193–196
- Sacramento River Rail Trail, 197–199
- Sacramento River Trail, xii, 1, 200–203
- Sam Merrill Trail, 153
- Samuel P. Taylor State Park, 58, 59
- San Andreas Rift Zone, 61
- San Bernardino, 215, 216
- San Clemente Beach Trail, xii, 204–206
- San Clemente Pier and State Beach, 205–206
- San Diego Bay, 25
- San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 26
- San Diego Convention Center, 131
- San Diego Creek Trail, xii, 207–210
- San Diego Trolley, 131
- San Francisco Bay, 9, 11
- San Francisco Bay Trail, 11, 156, 170, 185, 193, 223
- San Gabriel Mountains, 65, 151
- San Gabriel River Trail, xii, 211–213
- San Rafael, 37
- Sand City, 149, 150
- Santa Ana River, 95, 96
- Santa Ana River Trail, xii, 214–217
- Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark, 54
- Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, 213
- Santa Fe Railway, 131, 163, 243
- Santa Fe Springs Park, 213
- Santa Fe Trail, xii, 218–220
- Santa Monica, 135
- Santa Rosa, 103
- Sebastopol, 104, 251
- Sebastopol Road Trailhead, 103
- Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, 34
- Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, 100
- #SharetheTrail, 7
- Shasta Dam, 201
- Shasta Lake, 197
- Shinn Pond, 9
- Shoreline Park, Tiburon, 170
- Sir Francis Drake Bikeway, 57
- 64-Acres Park, 229
- SMART Pathway, x, 35–37
- snowmobiles, 5
- South Shores Park, 143
- Southern Pacific Depot, 100
- Southern Pacific Railroad, 33, 99, 147, 165, 220, 239
- Spreckels, John D., 26
- Stampede Circle of Stones, 234
- Stanislaus National Forest, 255, 257
- Stanislaus River, 225, 227

- Stargaze Place, 19
- state locator map, iv, 4
- Stevens, Captain Elijah, 221
- Stevens Creek Trail, xii, 221–224
- Strand, The, 1, 133
- Sugar Pine Railway Trail, xii, 225–227
- Sugar Pine Trail, x, 41–44
- Sundial Bridge, 1, 202
- Sunken Gardens Skate Park, Livermore, 17
- Sunrise Bikeway, 14
- Surfers Beach, 80
- Susan River, 29
- Susanville Rails to Trails Festival, 31
- Sutro Baths ruins, 121
- Syd Kronenthal Park, 23
- Tahoe City, 229
- Tahoe City Public Utility District Multi-Use Trail System, xii, 228–231
- Tahoe Trailways, 229
- Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, 233
- Talbert Regional Park, Costa Mesa, 216
- Tamienne Monument, 54
- Taylor, Samuel, 58
- Ten Mile Railroad, 160
- Ten Mile River, 127
- Tiburon, 170
- Tiburon Historical Trail, 169
- Tidewater Southern Railway corridor, 245
- Tiscornia Park, 192, 193
- Torrance, 135
- trail descriptions, 4–5
- trail etiquette and safety, 5–6
- trail maps, 4
- TrailLink app, 5
- TrailLink.com, 5, 7
- TrailNation described, 2–3
- Truckee River, 229, 230, 233
- Truckee River Legacy Trail, xii, 232–234
- Truckee River Regional Park, 233, 234
- Tulare, 219
- Tulare Lake, 220
- Tuolumne City trailhead, 259
- Turner Trail, 108
- Turtle Bay Exploration Park, 203
- Two Rivers Trail, 14, 192, 193
- Union Lumber Company, 129
- Union Pacific Railroad, 108
- Union Pacific Redding Trestle, 202
- Unity Park Community Plaza, 181
- Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve, 207
- Urban Tilt's Edible Forest, 181
- USS Midway Museum, San Diego, 27, 132
- Valle Vista, 111
- Valley Loop Trail, xii, 1, 165, 235–238
- Vasona Lake County Park, 125
- Venice Fishing Pier, Santa Monica, 135
- Ventura, 165, 241
- Ventura and Ojai Valley Railroad, 165
- Ventura Pier, 241
- Ventura River Trail, xii, 239–241
- Veterans Parkway, xii, 242–244
- Virginia Corridor Trailway, xii, 245–247
- Vista Del Arroyo Park, 20
- Walden Park, 47
- Walnut Creek, 100
- Walnut Trail, xii, 248–250
- Washoe people, 234
- Watson, Donald and Bernice, 66
- Wavecrest Open Space, 81
- West County Regional Trail, xii, 104, 251–253
- West Point Inn, 174
- Western States Pioneer Express Recreation Trail, 14
- Westside Rails to Trails (Hull Creek to Clavey River), xii, 254–256
- Westside Rails to Trails (Tuolumne City to North Fork Tuolumne River), xii, 257–259
- Westwood, 31
- wheelchair access, 5
- White City resort, 153
- Whittier Greenway Trail, 213
- Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, 188
- Wilder Ranch State Park, 147
- wildfire risk levels, 6–7
- Will Rogers State Beach, 133
- Willow Creek Recreation Area, 93, 118
- Wilson, Avon, 111
- Windrow Community Park, 209
- Wiyot people, 72
- Ye Alpine Tavern, 153
- Ygnacio Canal Trail, 47
- Yorba Regional Park, 216
- Yosemite National Park, 1, 235
- Yosemite Valley Railroad, 137

Support Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is a nonprofit organization working to build a nation connected by trails. We reimagine public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike, and be active outdoors. Since 1986, RTC has worked from coast to coast, helping to transform unused rail corridors and other rights-of-way into vibrant public places, ensuring a better future for America made possible by trails and the connections they inspire.

We know trails improve lives, engage communities, create opportunities, and inspire movement. And we know these opportunities are possible only with the help of our passionate members and supporters across the country. Learn how you can support RTC and discover the benefits of membership at **railstotrails.org/support**.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and contributions are tax-deductible.

Love Reading About Trails?

In each issue of *Rails to Trails* magazine, you'll find:

- Features on transformational trails around the country
- Travel recommendations for hot trail destinations
- Insider info on developing trail projects
- Gorgeous photos, trail maps and more!



Subscribe at railstotrails.org/magazine.



rails-to-trails
conservancy

SHARE THE TRAIL

Be nice.
Trails are for everyone.



Calling all trail users! Rails-to-Trails Conservancy challenges YOU to be the best you can be on America's pathways! Remember—safe + fun = a great time for everyone!

#sharethetrail

Visit railstotrails.org/sharethetrail for more.



Find your next trail adventure on TrailLink

Visit TrailLink.com today.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Explore 72 of the best rail-trails and multiuse pathways throughout California

Inside, you'll find

- Succinct descriptions written by rail-trail experts
- Detailed maps for every featured trail
- GPS coordinates of parking waypoints
- Icons indicating the activities each trail can accommodate

"You can now throw away all your self-help books on fighting depression, losing weight, toning muscles, finding something to do with your kids, and learning American history. Just use this guide, find a great trail—and enjoy!"

—Peter Harnik, Director, Center for City Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land

All across the country, unused railroad corridors have been converted into public multiuse trails. In this book, the experts from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy present the best of these rail-trails, as well as other multiuse pathways. Many rail-trails are paved and run within view of the most scenic parts of town. Others, such as the Merced River Trail, offer rugged scenery on more challenging routes through wilderness areas. Enjoy sandy beaches, sea lions, and shopping on the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail. Travel between two dams on the Sacramento River Rail Trail. Experience the varying personalities of the 25-mile Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail. No matter what your preferred mode of travel, you'll love the variety in this collection of multiuse trails!

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is the nation's largest trails organization, with a grassroots community more than 1 million strong. With more than 25,000 miles of open rail-trails nationwide and more than 9,000 miles ready to be built, they are dedicated to building a nation connected by trails—reimagining public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike, and be active outdoors.



rails-to-trails
conservancy

an imprint of AdventureKEEN

Travel/California

ISBN 978-1-64359-087-5



9 781643 590875



WILDERNESS PRESS ... on the trail since 1967