

Welcome to Deer Creek Hills!

The Deer Creek Hills Preserve Interpretive Trail is now open to the public on fourth Saturdays, March-May, on a docent-supervised, check-in/out basis only from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For a full list of guided hikes visit www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

The Conservancy owns the preserve in partnership with the County of Sacramento, the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The Conservancy manages the site with input from local ranchers, adjacent landowners and the general public. Preserve uses include habitat preservation, cattle grazing, and public use.

The California blue oak habitat range in the low foothills ringing the Central Valley is currently under substantial development pressure throughout the state. The Deer Creek Hills Preserve and Master Plan serve as models for how to save and care for our oak woodlands. As a careful user and by supporting the preserve, you can help forge long-term relationships with ranchers, other landowners, nonprofits, youth groups, research institutions and public agencies.

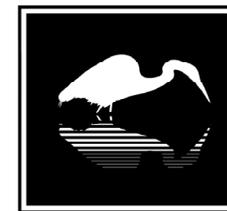


Trail Rules and Safety

When at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve, please help keep the Preserve pleasant for all.

- Stay on existing, signed trail
- Do not cross any fences or gates
- Respect private property, do not trespass
- Leave no trace and keep trails clean – carry out your own trash, and pickup after others who are less considerate
- Do not pick plants and flowers
- Respect wildlife in general but be aware of potential encounter with rattlesnakes, ticks, or large mammals including mountain lions, bobcats, and deer (look before sitting on rocks or logs)
- Share the trail, be courteous
- No dogs or pets
- No motorized vehicles
- Learn to identify and avoid poison oak, potentially present in wooded areas!
- Do not disturb cattle. Move slowly and away from them to avoid direct encounters if possible. Give cattle a clear exit path away from you and other hikers. Never get near a calf and its mother.
- Avoid very wet and muddy conditions
- Obey all gate closures and signs
- Pass others with care and let others know you are about to pass
- Respect the rights of others, regardless of their mode, speed or skill level.
- Do not block trails or gates
- Carry a working cell phone. Call 911 in case of emergency.
- No weapons allowed in the preserve.
- **Bring good walking shoes, water, sunscreen, hat and mosquito repellent. No water available at preserve. No flip-flops.**

Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Preserve & Working Ranch



sacramento valley
conservancy

Open Space. For all of us.

P.O. Box 163351
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 492-0908

www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

TRAIL MAP

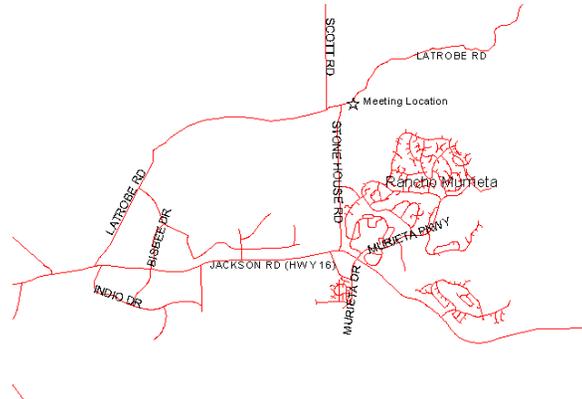
Camping for docent-led groups ONLY.
Call SVC at 916/492-0908.



Staging Area=Parking/Restrooms/Picnic
No other picnics allowed. Stay on trail.
PLEASE CARPOOL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP
WITH OUR LIMITED PARKING. THANKS!

ACCESS RULES

ACCESS TO PRESERVE ONLY WITH PERMISSION OF SACRAMENTO VALLEY CONSERVANCY. IF THERE IS NO SVC DOCENT TO CHECK YOU IN, YOU ARE TRESPASSING. PLEASE STAY ON TRAIL AT ALL TIMES. IF TRAIL USER PROBLEMS OCCUR, TRAIL MAY BE CLOSED. IF TRAIL USERS BREAK ANY RULES, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ACCESS THE PRESERVE. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.



DIRECTIONS

From Sacramento – Take Hwy 50 to Bradshaw Exit, turn right (South) onto Bradshaw, turn left (East) onto Jackson Rd (Hwy 16), continue East, past Slough House, turn left (North) onto Latrobe Rd.

From Folsom – Take Hwy 50 to Scott Rd. Exit, turn left (South) onto Scott Rd., turn right (West) onto White Rock Rd., turn left (South) onto Scott Rd., turn left (East) onto Latrobe Rd.

From Rancho Cordova – Take Jackson Rd (Hwy 16) east, turn left (North) onto Latrobe Rd.

From Elk Grove – Take Grant Line Road to Jackson Rd (Hwy 16), turn left (North) onto Latrobe Rd.

Proceed about 1/2 mile east on the dirt portion of Latrobe Road, until you arrive at the corral parking area, where you will see our docents. **NOTE: Crevis Creek must be crossed to get to the trail staging area/corral. The preserve will be closed during high water events. Use caution and drive slowly when crossing the creek. High-clearance vehicles desirable.**

HISTORY

A Resource for Native People

Native American People of this area valued oak trees for a diet staple, the acorn. Some oaks produce 200-300 pounds of acorn on a single tree. A whole village would gather the acorns in the fall, dry them in the sun, and then store them in baskets and granaries.

Mining and Ranching

The town of Michigan Bar numbered about 15,000 people during the Gold Rush period. The town site (near the Deer Creek Hills Preserve) now hosts only a few stone chimneys. Evidence of small mining operations abounds on the preserve. Basque sheep ranchers ran their livestock here in the 1800's. Cattle ranching started in the early 1900's. Cattle families had winter pasture in the valley and summer pasture in the Sierras. The Scott family (Scott Road) ranched nearby and summered their cattle at Squaw Valley. The cattle ranching tradition continues with Lucky Seven Ranch, a three-generation operation that has ranched at the preserve for over 40 years.

ENVIRONMENT

Blue Oak Woodland and Valley Grasslands

The landscape around you is a typical, extremely scenic low foothill California landscape. The native blue oaks provide important cover for deer, coyotes, bobcats, burrowing owls, mountain lions between the valley and the mountains. Hawks, falcons, eagles, kites, owls, red-winged blackbirds, acorn and Lewis' woodpeckers abound here. See SVC website for up to date bird list.