

Welcome to Deer Creek Hills!

The Deer Creek Hills Preserve Interpretive Trail is now open to the public on Saturdays from February-May and October-November for free self-led hikes (weather permitting) on a staff-supervised check-in/out basis only. View the list of hikes and hours the Preserve will be open, and register for all outings at: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) is a nonprofit land trust that owns this preserve in partnership with the County of Sacramento, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. SVC manages the 4,500-acre site with input from local ranchers, neighboring landowners and the general public. Preserve uses include wildlife & habitat preservation, cattle grazing, and public use.

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



Trail Rules and Safety

Please help keep the Preserve pleasant for all.

- Stay on existing, signed hiking trail
- Do not open or cross any fences or gates, and obey all posted signs
- Respect private property. Do not trespass
- Leave no trace and keep trails clean – carry out your own trash, and pick up after others who are less considerate
- Do not pick plants or flowers
- Respect all wildlife, and be aware of potential encounters with rattlesnakes (look before sitting on rocks or logs), ticks, or large mammals including mountain lions, bobcats, and deer
- **No dogs** or pets, except working service dogs (please check in with SVC Staff)
- No motorized vehicles
- Learn to identify and avoid poison oak, potentially present in wooded areas
- Do not disturb cattle. Move slowly and give cattle a clear exit path away from you and other hikers. Avoid encounters when possible. Never approach a calf, mothers are very protective.
- Avoid very wet and muddy conditions
- Share the trail. Pass others with care and call out to notify you are approaching
- Respect the rights of others, regardless of their mode, speed or skill level
- Do not block trails or gates
- No hunting, fishing, or catching wildlife
- No mining, collecting, or removing anything from the Preserve
- Carry a working cell phone. Call 911 in case of emergency and notify SVC as soon as you are able to at 916 612-3719
- Check in & out with SVC at the corral
- No weapons allowed on the Preserve
- **Hydrate before you hike. Bring good walking shoes, water, sunscreen, hat and mosquito repellent. No water is available at the Preserve. No flip-flops, sandals or open-toed shoes allowed.**

Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Preserve & Working Ranch

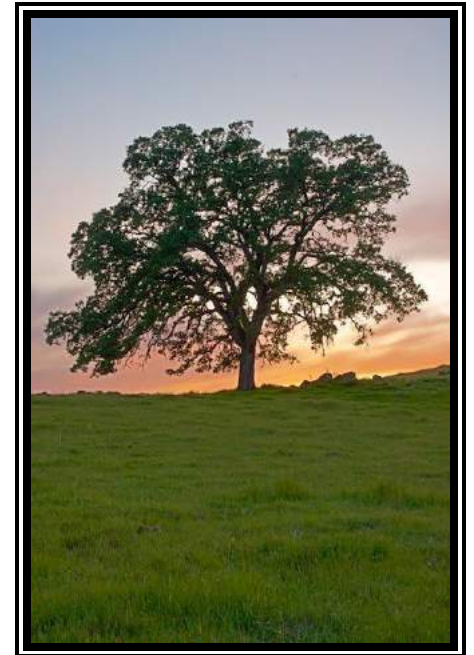


Photo by Ron Maertz



sacramento valley
conservancy

open space. for all.

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(916) 612-3719

www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

TRAIL MAP

for *self-guided hiking* ONLY.

Need assistance? Call 916-612-3719

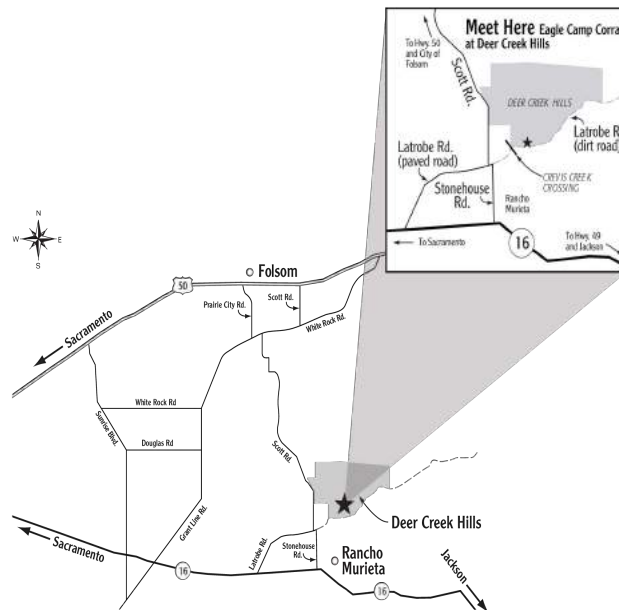


Round-trip hike is approximately 3.5 miles. Eagle Camp Corral provides free parking, an information kiosk, picnic tables, and a porta-potty. No water available on site.

PLEASE CARPOOL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP WITH OUR LIMITED PARKING. THANKS!

ACCESS RULES

This is a closed preserve. Access is only allowed with permission from the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. If there is no SVC Staff to check you in, you are **TRESPASSING**. Please stay on the marked trail at all times. If hikers abuse this privilege, the trail may be closed. If trail users break Preserve rules, they will not be allowed to return. Thanks for your help and understanding.



DIRECTIONS

From Sacramento – Take Hwy 50 to Bradshaw Exit, turn right (south) onto Bradshaw, turn left (east) onto Jackson Road (Hwy 16), continue east, past Slough House, turn left (north) onto Latrobe Road.

From Folsom – Take Hwy 50 to Scott Road. Exit, turn left (south) onto Scott Road., turn right (west) onto White Rock Road., turn left (south) onto Scott Road., turn left (east) onto Latrobe Road.

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

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

On Latrobe - Proceed about 3/4 mile east on the gravel portion of Latrobe Road, until you arrive at the Eagle Camp Corral parking area, where you will see SVC Staff or docents. Please sign in at the corral.

NOTE: Crevis Creek must be crossed to get to the trailhead and parking lot at Eagle Camp Corral. Preserve will be closed during high water events. Use caution and drive slowly when crossing the creek. High-clearance vehicles are recommended.

HISTORY

Oaks: A Resource for Native People

Native American People of this area valued oak trees for a dietary 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 Deer Creek Hills) 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 Sierra. The Scott family (Scott Road) ranches nearby and summered their cattle at Squaw Valley. The cattle ranching tradition continues with the Lucky Seven Ranch, a three-generation operation that has ranches at the preserve for over 50 years. Cattle are an important component of SVC's management practices on the property.

ENVIRONMENT

Blue Oak Woodland & Valley Grasslands

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