



Round Valley Regional Preserve

Miwok/Murphy Meadow Trails/Round Valley Group Camp and back

Length: 7.26 miles round trip

Location: Brentwood

Intensity: Challenging

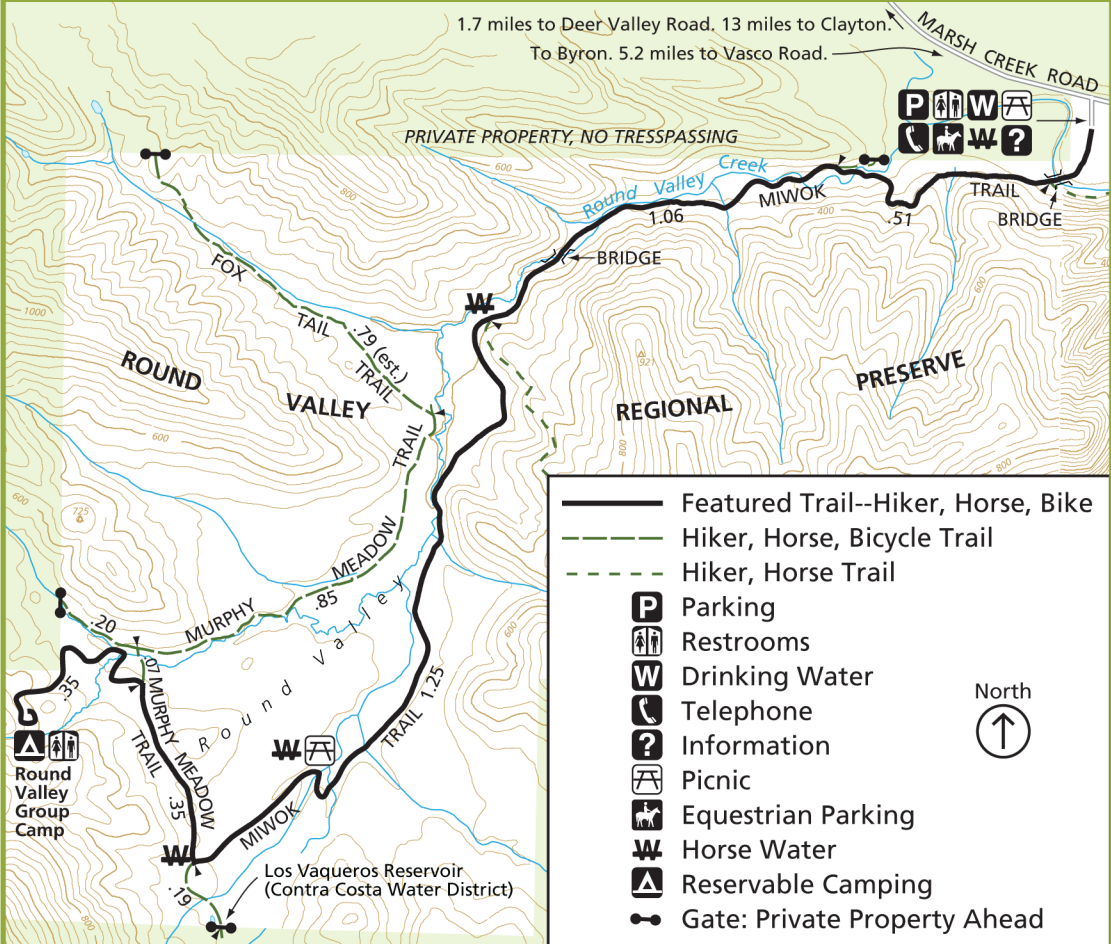
Park Overview: This park is a beautiful preserve that gives people the chance to enjoy the Bay Area countryside. The 2,024-acre preserve is primarily grassland with valley oak lining the drainages. Portions of the preserve support mixed oak woodlands and chaparral. Riparian vegetation occurs primarily along Round Valley Creek. The trail system is great is for all types of users, especially mountain bikers and equestrians. Adjacent to Los Vaqueros Watershed and Morgan Territory, the trail system stretches far and wide; great for park explorations! Also, the group camp makes for a base camp to explore the area. Be sure to stay on the designated trails (There are many unauthorized trails throughout the park). Summer temperatures can reach more than 100°, be prepared and use sunscreen, wear a hat and good hiking shoes, and bring plenty of water. Drinking water, toilets, and picnic tables are at the staging area at the park entrance; toilets and picnic tables are also at the Round Valley Group Camp.

Trail Directions: Grab a map, check the park bulletin board for park updates, and fill up your water bottle before heading out. Begin the route at the southwestern end of the parking lot, taking the trail over the bridge. After the bridge, turn right on Miwok Trail. The first portion of the trail is hilly and has many curves. Continue past an unauthorized trail on the right, about ½ mile along, to stay on Miwok Trail. After about another ½ mile, cross a bridge and begin



Photo: Bob Walker, collection of the Oakland Museum of CA

a short but steep incline in elevation. During the rainy season, the trails can become muddy, so good hiking shoes and trekking poles are highly encouraged. After almost another ½ mile, there is a horse watering station on the right. Shortly after there is a well used “bootleg” off-trail path; stay left at the fork. The trail leads to a gate with a “Miwok Trail” sign; go through the gate. After another 1.25 miles, a shady picnic area near the center of Round Valley will emerge. The winds can become very strong, getting channeled through the valley easterly towards Los Vaqueros and beyond. This is a good place to rest and scan the hillsides for birds of prey riding the wind currents as well as the many species of wildlife including the California ground squirrel, San Joaquin pocket mouse, and desert cottontail. Shortly beyond the picnic area, turn right on Murphy Meadow Trail and head towards Round Valley Group Camp. Turn left at the ‘T’ intersection to visit the group campsite. There is a restroom and picnic area where you can rest and soak in your surroundings. Retrace your steps back to the staging area.



Driving Directions: From I-680 in Walnut Creek, exit at Ygnacio Valley Road. Proceed on Ygnacio Valley Road to Clayton Road in Concord and turn right (east). Clayton Road becomes Marsh Creek Road in Clayton. Proceed east on Marsh Creek Road, past Deer Valley Road, until you reach the preserve staging area on your right.

Park Amenities: Restrooms, drinking water, horse water.

Park Hours: 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fees: None. Dogs not allowed (service dogs accepted).

Web Site: www.ebparks.org/parks/round_valley