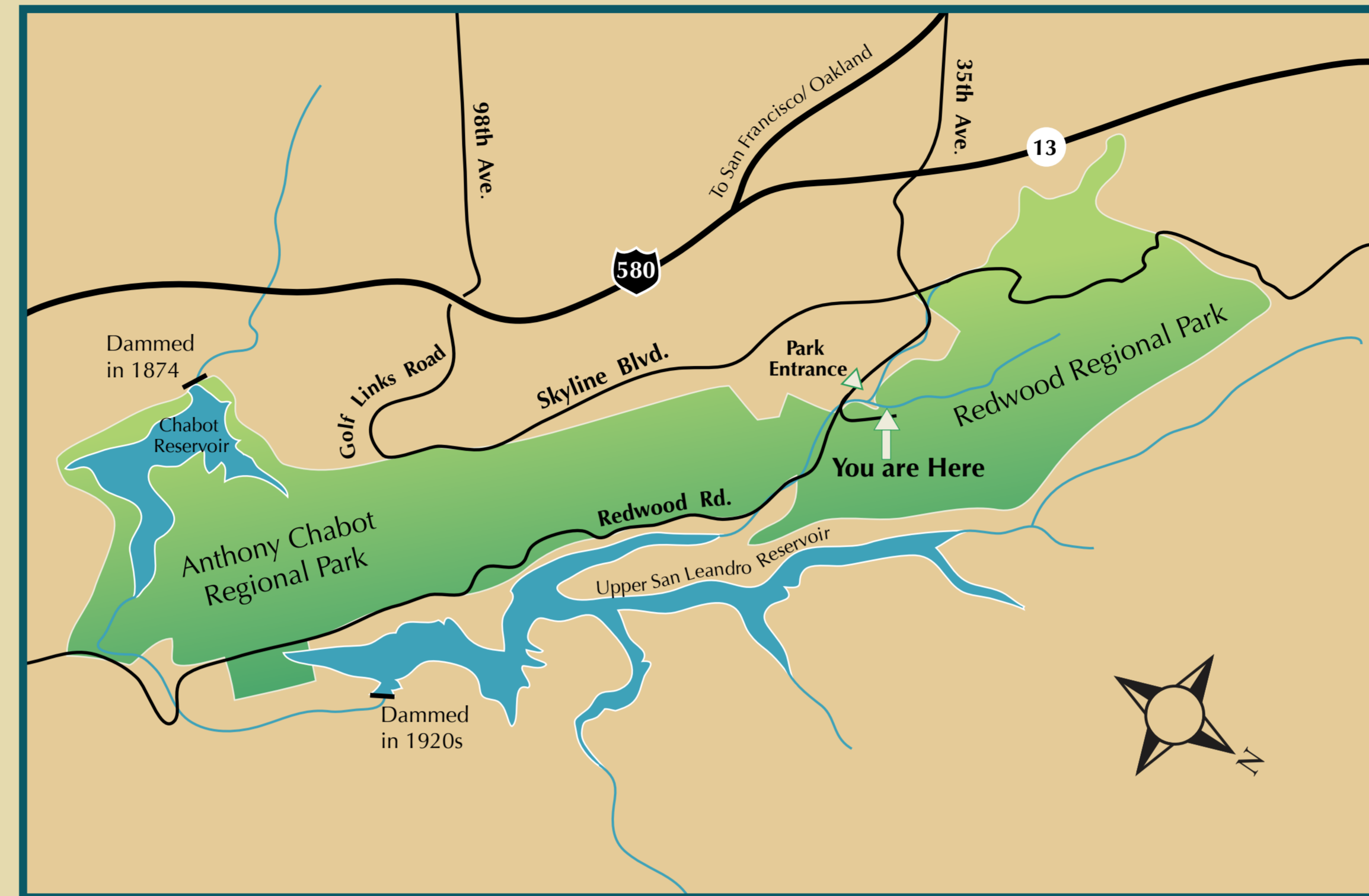


Where Are Rainbow Trout Found?

New Native Species Discovered

From this Redwood Creek drainage in 1855, three native fish were collected and sent to Dr. W.P. Gibbons, founder of the California Academy of Sciences. He described and assigned them the scientific name *Salmo iridia*. It was later determined that Johann Julius Walbaum, a German naturalist, had described and named the same species in 1792, and so Walbaum's original scientific name, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* is now used to refer to this species, and *iridius* is still used today as the subspecies name for rainbow trout.

Since that time, rainbow trout have been introduced to fresh water streams throughout the world. Strains within this species have been interbred, developing new strains which thrive in commercial hatcheries, grow quickly and are hardy enough to survive transplanting from hatchery tanks into the wild. Transplants of hybrid rainbow trout are now so common that pure (wild) strains like those in Redwood Creek are becoming rare.



Native Trout Still Survive Here

When San Leandro Creek was dammed, native rainbow trout were isolated in upper San Leandro Reservoir. They were protected from interbreeding with non-native strains and from fishing pressure. The rainbow trout seen in this creek are descendants of the native fish isolated here by the dam built in 1874. Following their instincts they return home to streams to reproduce.

To preserve this native California resource, fishing is not permitted in upper San Leandro Reservoir or its tributaries.



Range 1855

Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific coast of Northern America from Alaska to Mexico and the northeastern coast of Asia.



Range Today

Rainbow trout are established in temperate zones throughout the world. They were first introduced outside their native range in 1874.