

Round Valley Regional Preserve

Miwok Trail/Murphy Meadow Trail/Miwok Trail Loop

Length: 6.42 miles

Elevation Gain: 469 feet

Location: Brentwood

GPS Coordinates: 37.86979,-121.75022

Intensity: Moderate



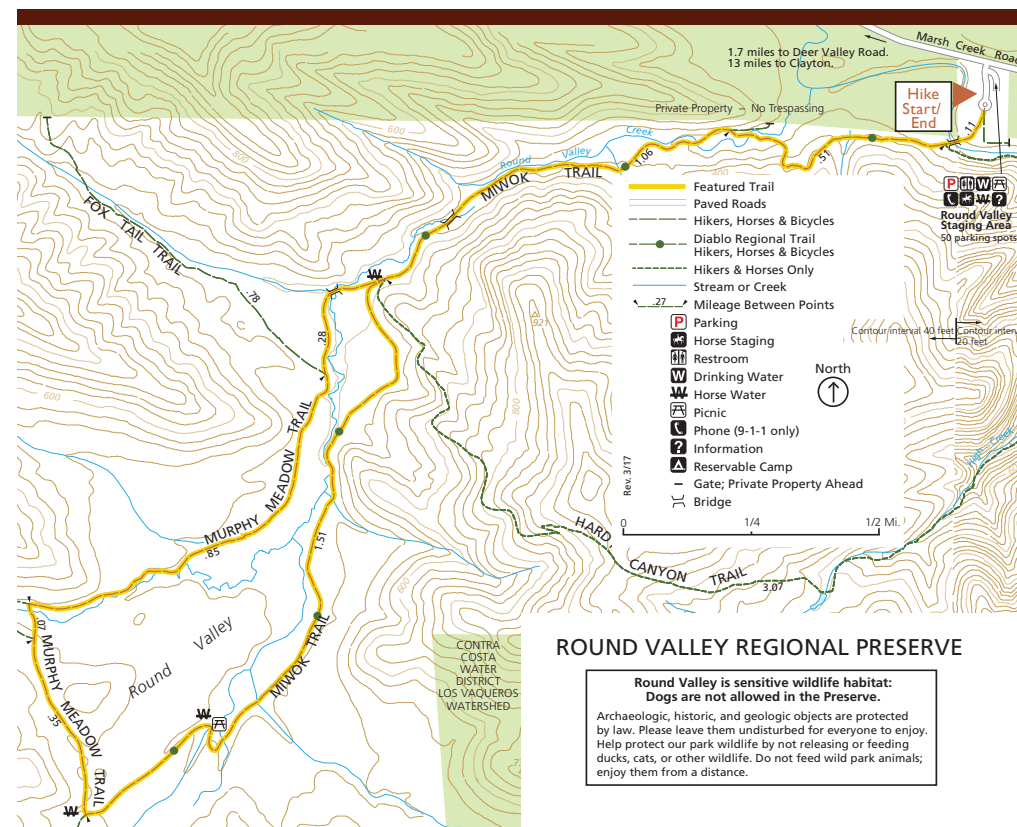
Park Features: This remote and wild valley abounds with wildlife and scenic beauty. The land still contains evidence of its historic use as ranchland by the Murphy family—from old plows to the remnants of old farm buildings. Its lush grasses and the almost cove-like shape of the hills surrounding the valley give it a distinctly pastoral feel. Marsh Creek, which runs seasonally under the bridge at the beginning of the trail, is an ideal place to soak your feet after a satisfying hike. The park also features several picnic areas and one camping area.

Trail Highlights: Save for a couple of moderately steep climbs at the beginning on the Miwok Trail, this is a flat route that takes you through the heart of peaceful Round Valley. Much of the trail borders a gentle, seasonal stream. You'll wander beneath the high hills, amid tall grasses and scattered oak groves, but much of the hike is in direct sunlight with little shade. Plan accordingly, arriving in early morning during summer months or enjoying the park in spring, late fall and winter. Make sure to stop at the picnic tables along the Miwok Trail for a snack in the shade of the mature oaks surrounded by historic farm relics.

Trail Directions: From the parking lot, walk .11 miles to the cement bridge, following signs for Miwok Trail. Cross the bridge and go through the cattle gate, staying right to follow Miwok Trail for 1.06 miles. There are smaller, single-track paths paralleling the main trail that dip down to the stream – you may follow these if you choose, as they never stray far from the trail and may in fact have more shade! Shortly after crossing a second bridge, you will come to an intersection where you continue straight on



Health Tip: Your mind and body are connected – regular exercise can help lift your mood and reduce stress. Positive thinking helps you bounce back from difficult times and enjoy yourself and others more.



Miwok Trail for another 1.51 miles. At the second horse water trough, take a right onto the Murphy Meadow Trail. Follow this trail section for 0.42 miles, then take a right at the sign post and continue on Murphy Meadow Trail for another 1.13 miles. Continue past the intersection with the Fox Tail Trail, follow the trail through a green cattle gate to your right. You will then cross a small bridge and finish the loop by rejoining the Miwok Trail. Stay left and follow the Miwok Trail back to the parking lot.

Driving Directions: From Walnut Creek: From I-680, 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.

From Brentwood: Take Walnut Blvd. south to Marsh Creek Road and turn right. When Marsh Creek Road intersects with Camino Diablo Road, bear right and stay on Marsh Creek Road. You will reach the preserve staging area on the left.

Park Hours: 8am-sunset (varies seasonally).

Fees: No fee. No dogs allowed.

Website: www.ebparcs.org/parks/round_valley