

## Discover a trail: Clover Creek Preserve features wildlife and easy, low-impact trails

By Arlene Kallis Special to the Record Searchlight

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Clover Creek Preserve will impress you right away with its size and wide-open spaces.

If you are looking for an expansive, natural area that includes hiking and biking trails in Redding, this is the place to go. Encompassing 129 acres, you feel like you are way outside of town, but it is actually in Redding close enough for many residents to enjoy.

Built in 2006, the preserve fulfills several important functions. Located in the flood plain of Clover Creek, it contains a storm water detention basin designed to handle water inflow up to the capacity of a 100-year storm event.

In addition to flood control, an important dual purpose for the preserve is the protection and enhancement of natural habitat interwoven with recreational opportunities for people who want to get out enjoy low-impact trails and abundant wildlife in a natural setting.

You can use the trails from dawn to dusk, and with the grand vistas in this area you are likely to see some spectacular sunrises and sunsets. No matter what time of day you arrive you will find people of all ages walking, jogging and biking with accompanying kids and dogs.

This a very family friendly area and people seem to enjoy stopping for a moment to talk to fellow recreationists.

Sandra Sherman uses the paved trail every morning with her electric scooter and likes to come early so she can see the wildlife and avoid the hotter part of the day. Sherman says the "access is good" for her and she especially enjoys the "muskrats, hummingbirds and rabbits."

Wildlife is abundant here with a variety of habitats including seasonal wetlands, vernal pools, emergent marsh, blue oak woodland and riparian communities.

For bird watchers, Clover Creek Preserve is known as an attractive site for waterfowl migrating in the Pacific Flyway extending from Alaska to South America. An interpretive sign on the main trail informs visitors that they can watch for green-winged

teal, northern shoveler, American widgeon, American coot, and northern pintail all stopping over here in the spring to feed in the many temporary spring pools rich with invertebrates.



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