

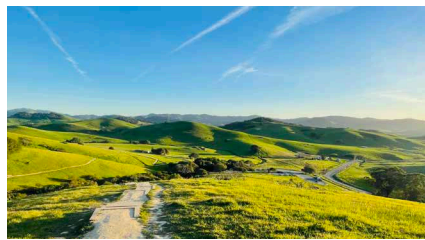


Helen Putnam Regional Park



See What's New at Helen Putnam Regional Park

Follow this self-guided tour to learn about recent investments and improvements in the park. At each stop you'll find a storyboard explaining what's new.



1 Chileno Valley Trailhead - The parking lot and trailhead on Chileno Valley Road feature significant investments to park infrastructure, including improved accessibility, a new parking lot layout and surfacing, expanded equestrian parking and new signs.



2 Savannah Trail - Portions of the Ridge Trail and Savannah Trail were eroding due to their steep grade. These sections were realigned with in-sloped turns to reduce the overall slope of the trail. Trail sections also have been armored with gravel to improve drainage.



3 Cattail Pond - Trails near Cattail Pond were realigned to avoid wetlands, reduce erosion and improve drainage. Over 400 native trees, shrubs, and grasses were planted to restore impacted areas. A new picnic table features a view overlooking the pond.



4 South Loop Trail - Many sections of the South Loop Trail were rutted because they were not draining properly. Trail sections were reconfigured with an out-slope to allow them to drain, and rolling grade reversals were installed to redirect water off the trail.



5 West Wind Trail - The new West Wind Trail increases access to the park, providing an entry point closer to the city center and additional parking in a new lot on Windsor Drive (5b on map). The trail adds .85 miles to the park's trail system.



6 Panorama Steps - Affectionately known as "Stairway to Helen," this 123-step staircase replaces the steep trail that had eroded to 80 feet wide in places. The steps provide an environmentally sensitive redesign that still allows hikers to challenge themselves with a steep climb.



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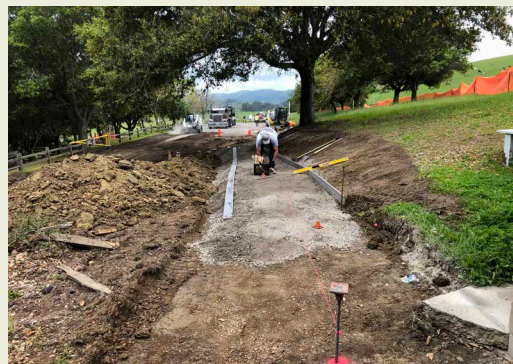
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Before: This steep, now-decommissioned trail had grown to become 80 feet wide at its widest point.



After: The Panorama Steps offer the same climb without causing erosion into San Antonio Creek.



A new accessible pathway was built at Chileno Valley Trailhead.



Youth crews installed fencing to discourage trail shortcutting.



New trail signs were installed throughout the park.



These improvements would not have been possible without the hard work of the Redwood Trails Alliance, Conservation Corps North Bay, Sonoma County Regional Parks staff and community volunteers.



Improvements at Helen Putnam Regional Park were made possible by the Measure M - Parks for All sales tax approved by Sonoma County voters in 2018, the Habitat Conservation Fund, Conservation Corps North Bay/Proposition 68, and hundreds of generous individuals who contributed to the Sonoma County Parks Foundation's Putnam Park Challenge Grant.

In addition, the Redwood Trails Alliance provided training for Conservation Corps North Bay youth, organized volunteer workdays, and collaborated with Sonoma County Regional Parks to create an exceptional trail system at Helen Putnam Regional Park.

Parks Foundation fundraising helped construct the West Wind Trail and improve nearly 5 miles of trails, including Savannah, Ridge, Panorama and South Loop Trails. With support from donors, the Parks Foundation also provided funds to restore habitat with 400 native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses around the pond and to support grazing to control poison oak and promote wildflowers.

The Parks Foundation is continuing to raise funds for additional work at the park, including trail improvements, interpretive signs, fishing landings and supplemental plantings at the pond, and native trees for shade and aesthetics at the Chileno Valley Road and Windsor Drive parking areas.

The Parks Foundation welcomes your support in revitalizing this deeply loved community resource.

SonomaCountyParksFoundation.org