

open Space

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Bounded by Los Altos Hills, Stanford University and Portola Valley, the 622-acre Enid **Pearson-Arastradero Preserve contains three** major plant communities: grassland savanna, oak woodland and riparian. Small plots of native grasses are still found on Pearson-Arastradero



Before it was preserved as open 433 acres in 1976.

In 1984 the Council adopted a

Park Master Plan for the creation of

a "low intensity park, with emphasis

ities of the land and sensitivity to

the fragile foothills ecology." Since then 189 more acres were acquired,

bringing the total acreage to 622.

Since 1997 Grassroots Ecology

has undertaken a unique partnership

with the City to conduct a steward-

on the natural and open space amen-

HISTORY space, Enid Pearson-Arastradero early 1970s, a developer proposed building 1,776 new houses on the property. Determined to keep land in the foothills as open space, the

Preserve was a working ranch. In the

Palo Alto City Council purchased

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

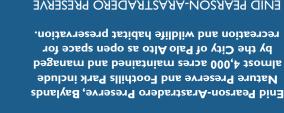
- riding, bird and nature watching. Walking, jogging, biking, horseback
- visit grassrootsecology.org. information about restoration activities, 650-962-9876 x311 to RSVP. For more the preserve parking lot. Please call holidays fall near a workday. Meet in 9 a.m. to I p.m. Call to confirm when Ath Saturdays of each month from habitat. Workdays are on the 2nd and Volunteers help restore degraded
- Call 650-329-2423 for information. at http://enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org. available in the City's Enjoy! catalog or the year. A schedule of programs is all age groups on weekends throughout and natural history are presented for Nature walks and programs on ecology

PRESERVE RULES

- Please be courteous to other trail Park in designated parking areas.
- group, avoid blocking the trail. must also yield to hikers. When in a users. Always yield to equestrians. Bikes
- when the ground is firm. and will be re-opened by Park Rangers are closed during periods of high rain Stay on marked trails. Seasonal trails
- and Peers Park (1899 Park Blvd.). at Mitchell Park (455 E. Charleston Rd.) Off-leash areas in Palo Alto are located Dogs must be on leash at all times.
- are prohibited. present. Fires, barbecues and smoking • The danger of a wildfire is always
- No hunting or camping.
- No remote-controlled devices. Bicycle helmets required.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.







recreation and wildlife habitat preservation. by the City of Palo Alto as open space for almost 4,000 acres maintained and managed Nature Preserve and Foothills Park include

cityofpaloalto.org/openspace open.space@cityofpaloalto.org **650 329-2423** Palo Alto, CA 94304 1530 Arastradero Road ENID PEARSON-ARASTRADERO PRESERVE

Gates are locked at closing time. sign near the parking lot entrance. the closing time posted on the Last entry is one-half hour before from 8 a.m. to sunset. Open to the public every day HOURS





We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which

we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

-ALDO LEOPOLD

along the creekside corridors.

including purple needlegrass, blue wild

rye, wet meadow rye, and California

brome. Blue, valley and coast live oak

are the predominant oaks found on the

hillsides and in ravines, with smatterings

of black and scrub oak found elsewhere. California laurel (bay tree), willows,

toyon, buckeye, elderberry, wild rose,

snowberry, and poison oak are found

RESTORATION & HABITAT PROTECTION

Two hundred years ago, California's golden valleys and foothills were dominated by perennial bunchgrasses and wildflowers. These perennials supported vast herds of elk, deer and antelope that roamed the landscape. European annual grasses, introduced by Spanish settlers, quickly out-competed the native plants since they produced more seeds and had no predators. Eventually, these non-native grasses and weeds replaced over 90% of the Californian grasslands.

Our oak woodlands have declined as well; settlers cleared the land of oaks to increase grazing land for livestock. The livestock ate acorns and saplings and compacted the soil making it difficult for oak roots to penetrate. The proliferation of non-native plants compounded the impact to the oaks since they deplete soil moisture faster than native grasses.

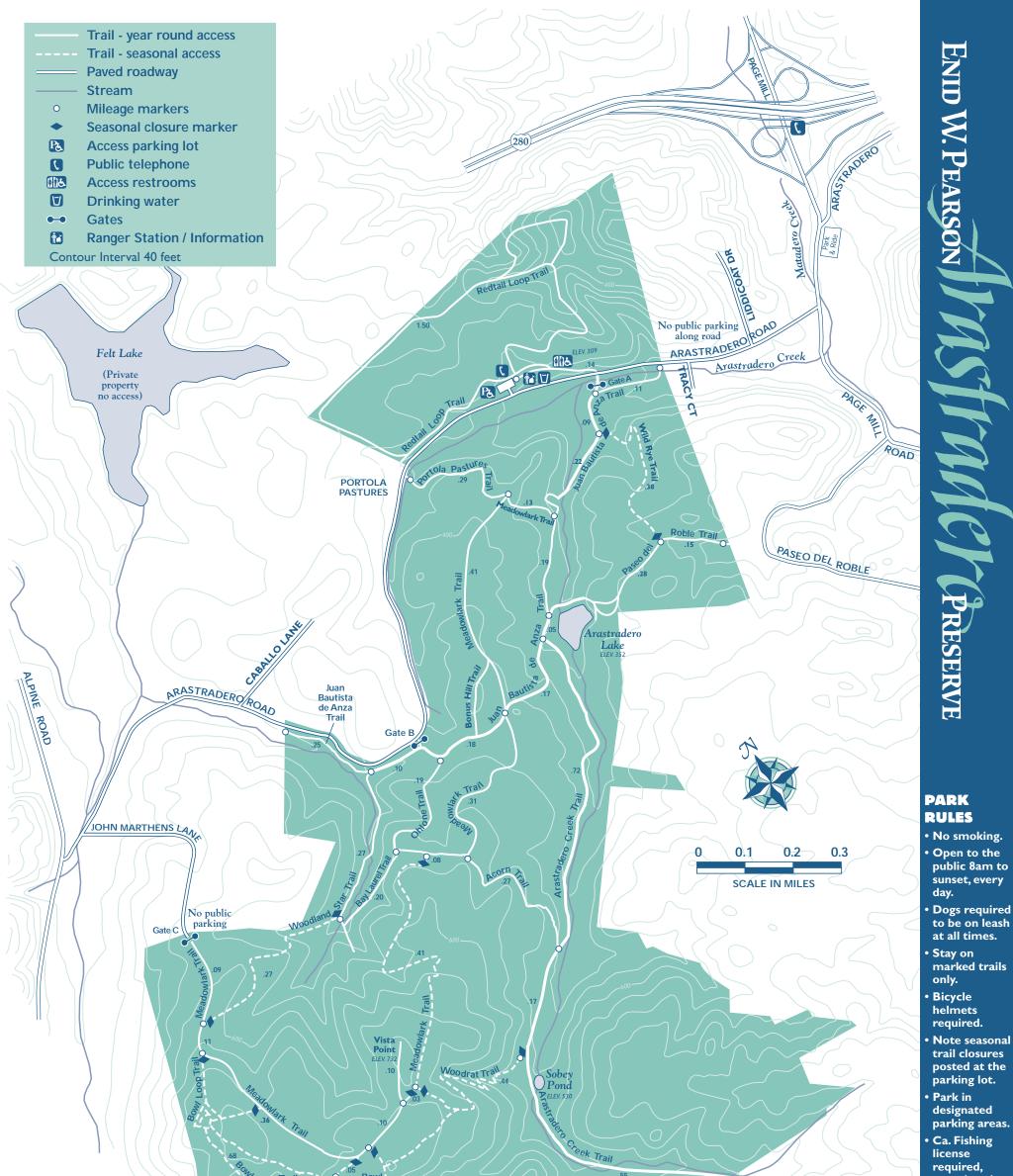
ship program on the Preserve. Grassroots Ecology has been responsible for improvements to the trail system, control of non-native plants, environmental education programs and habitat restoration projects.

Volunteers are presently at work planting acorns and caging oak saplings to increase the number of oaks in the Preserve. In the grasslands, they are removing thistle and teasel, and planting native grasses. The goal of this ambitious project is to restore precious habitat to its natural splendor for the benefit of wildlife and future generations.

Poison oak benefits wildlife and provides beautiful fall color, but oil from any part of the plant can cause a severe rash. Poison oak appears in different forms and is best avoided by staying on trails and not touching unknown plants.



ENID W. PEARSON



no swimming, wading or boating in lake and pond.

 Feeding wildlife prohibited.
No remote controlled devices.

Gate D. Bay-to-Ridge Trail access through Foothills Park. Pedestrians only. No dogs on weekends or holidays.

Redtail Loop Trail

1.50 miles, 40 min. round-trip Leads from north edge of the parking lot up steep grassland trails.Views of Stanford and Palo Alto to the Bay. Hilly terrain, trails are very steep in places—at the steepest place the trail has a 15% slope. Trail tread is natural soil with few obstacles.

Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail

1.28 miles, 30 min. one-way This regional trail leads from the border of Los Altos Hills through the Preserve and back out to Arastradero Road. Broad, multi-use trail travels past Arastradero Lake through mixed terrain including stands of wildflowers.Very steep in places—at the steepest place the trail has a 15% slope. Mixed trail surfaces including natural soil, loose and compressed gravel and wood footbridges.

Bowl Loop Trail .68 miles

Seasonal access—posted closed during periods of heavy rain. Provides fun riding for mountain bikers of various skill levels. Hilly terrain through open grassland on narrow dirt trails. Trail leads through a dry stock pond and a small quarry. 400 ft. elevation rise from parking area to Loop.

Arastradero Creek Trail 1.44 miles

Follows Arastradero Creek from Arastradero Lake to Foothills Park. Pedestrians may enter Foothills Park on this *Bay-to-Ridge Trail* connection (no bikes or horses). Riparian corridor, shaded by oaks and bay laurels. Steep terrain—20% slope in places on the west end of the trail. Wide, compacted gravel surface; no obstacles.

Arastradero Lake .57 miles, 20 min. one-way from the parking area.

Follow the trail past the Gateway Facility across Arastradero Road and then along the de Anza Trail to the Lake. Once a ranch stock pond, now a home for many species of fish, reptiles and birds. Quiet place for resting and nature watching. Mixed terrain including loose and compacted gravel and native soil. Generally flat, broad trail except one stretch that rises 40 feet in 350 feet. No facilities.

Meadowlark & Woodland Star Trails 2.45 miles

ELEV. 789

Partial seasonal access posted closed during periods of heavy rain. For those who want a long trek, the winding Meadowlark Trail branches from the de Anza Trail and rises 300 feet on natural soil tread through open grassland to Vista Point. Best valley views. Trail continues on wide, hilly compressed gravel trail to Woodland Star Trail. Woodland Star Trail loops back to the de Anza Trail through shady oak woodlands. Steep in areas. Some root and rock obstacles on natural soil trail tread. Favored by equestrians.

Woodrat Trail .44 miles

Connects Meadowlark and Arastradero Creek Trails and wanders through beautiful shady oak woodlands to nearby Sobey Pond. Fairly consistent slope throughout—trail rises 50 feet. Natural soil surfaces; no obstacles. Best shade route.