

# Austin Creek State Recreation Area



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**Austin Creek State Recreation Area (SRA)** is 5700 acres and is adjacent to Armstrong Redwoods SNR and accessed through the same entrance. Its open woodlands, rolling hills and meadows offer a strong contrast to the dense, primeval redwood forest below. Here you will discover deep tree-lined ravines cooled by year round streams; grassy hillsides burnished golden by the heat of summer sun and turned emerald by plentiful winter rains; oak capped knolls that seem to float like islands on lakes of lowland fog; and rocky mountaintops that offer glimpses of the Pacific Ocean. A paradise for the hikers and equestrians, Austin Creek rewards the explorer with twenty miles of trails and panoramic wilderness views, back-country camping, and Bullfrog Pond Campground (accessible by vehicle). The park's rugged topography, with elevations ranging from 150-1500' in elevation, offers a sense of isolation from the accustomed sights and sounds of civilization.

This wilderness area is home to a rich diversity of native animals and plants. The springtime wildflower displays include Douglas iris, Indian paint brush, buttercups, lupines, brodiaes, California poppies and shooting stars. The grasslands, chaparral, conifer, oak woodland and riparian habitats of Austin Creek SRA are home to a wild range of native animals including squirrel, deer, raccoon, fox, coyote, skunk, bobcat and an occasional black bear or mountain lion. Introduced species that are commonly seen include feral pigs and wild turkeys. Bird life in the park includes the colorful wood duck and the rare spotted owl. Other more frequently seen birds include great blue herons, ravens, black-shouldered kites, California quail, various woodpeckers, hawks and flycatchers. Several aquatic species live in Bullfrog pond including sunfish, black bass and bull frogs. Trout, salmon, newts and salamanders are found in the many streams. Licensed anglers may fish Bullfrog Pond, but all streams are closed to fishing to protect important spawning habitat.

# Volunteer Opportunities at Austin Creek State Recreation Area



## Public Assistance Program - Hiking and Mounted Patrols

A new public assistance program trains volunteers who hike the trails, ride on horseback or bicycles on designated trails to provide assistance to park visitors who need directions, water or help. This invaluable public service increases the safety of the visiting public and reduces the possibility of fire and illegal activities in this 5700 acre wilderness area. Public assistance volunteers are trained to report 9-1-1 emergencies by radio and report non-emergencies to staff.

## Stewardship Crews

Since 1994, volunteers have been maintaining the trails at Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek on a monthly basis. Projects include bridge projects, fence removal, trail building and maintenance and brush removal. Volunteers will be increasing their assistance by monitoring the trails, clearing down trees and limbs and doing routine maintenance in the campgrounds.



## Camp hosts - short-term or long-term positions available

Short-term and long-term camp host positions are available to assist with collecting fees, selling firewood and other convenience items and light housekeeping. Camping, electricity, and phone service are provided for free.

## Docent-Led Wildflower and Plant ID Hikes

Learn to lead park visitors on hikes into the oak woodlands of Austin Creek SRA where the seasonal displays of wildflowers are magnificent. Native plant ID walks are enjoyable year-round. The ridgetop views are spectacular and the creeks are filled with trout and salmon. Volunteers are also being recruited to provide interpretive programs and junior ranger activities in the campground.



## Cultural Resource Cleanups and Tours at Pond Farm

Volunteers assist with annual cleanups of Pond Farm Pottery, a cultural resource in Austin Creek SRA. This cultural resource was the home and pottery school of Marguerite Wildenhein, an internationally renowned potter who lived, worked and taught at Pond Farm until her death in 1985. Docents are needed to lead interpretive programs at Pond Farm.



## Volunteers are trained and recognized at part of the State Park Volunteer in Parks Program. Benefits include:

- Workers Compensation Coverage
- Free District-wide day-use passes for 16 hours of service
- Free State-wide day-use passes for 200 hours of service

These programs are supported and funded by  
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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