

OLD NORTH FORK OF PUTAH CREEK



Overview

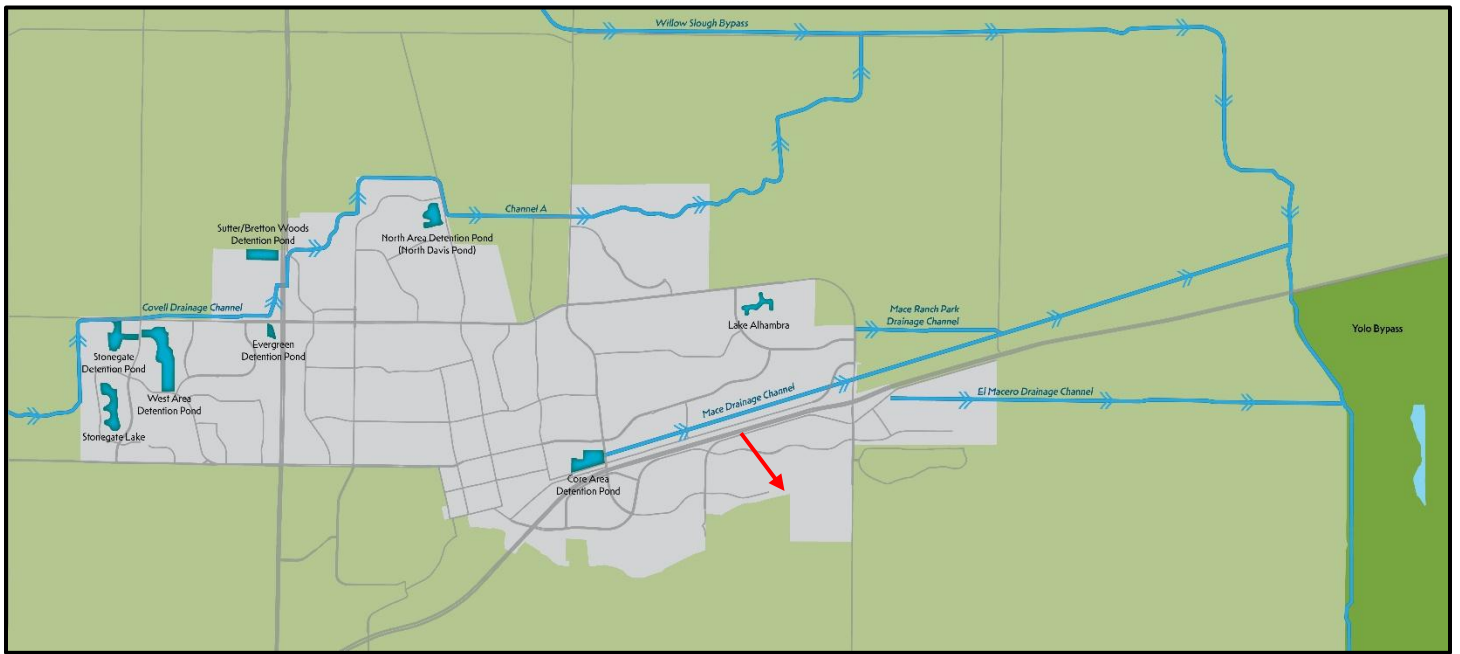
Even though they look like open spaces, the City's drainage channels, detention ponds and wetlands are not maintained by the City's Open Space Program. Instead, they are maintained by the City's Public Works Department because they are part of the City's vast stormwater drainage system that protects the City from flooding. In Davis, these drainage features all have natural soil surfaces and vegetation, which act as a natural water treatment filtration system and provide seasonal habitat for aquatic plants and wildlife. The stormwater flows into the Yolo Bypass and eventually into the Sacramento River and the San Francisco Bay.

The Old North Fork of Putah Creek is a stormwater detention channel that runs through the City's Willowbank and Willowcreek neighborhoods. It is a portion of what is left of the old North Fork of Putah Creek. Beginning in the 1870s, Putah Creek was diverted into the South Fork channel to protect the City of Davis from flooding. The historic natural channel is now the UC Davis Arboretum Waterway, the Putah Creek Parkway, and the Old North Fork of Putah Creek. The channel offers opportunities to enjoy a naturalized channel within an urban environment.

Key information:

- The channel features a meandering paved trail, benches, and well-established riparian habitat.
- Dogs are allowed but only on-leash and on the designated paved trail.
- Public access is allowed on designated trail only.
- Bathrooms and potable water are not available.
- The channel is open seven days a week, from dawn to dusk.

It is very important to keep the City's stormwater clean. When pollutants, such as dirt, trash, animal waste, oil, gas, fertilizers, pesticides, and metals, get into the City's stormwater, they can harm aquatic plants and animals like those in the Old North Fork of Putah Creek. Only rainwater belongs in a storm drain. A map showing the location of the channel can be found below.



Things you can do along the Old North Fork of Putah Creek

- Take a walk/hike/run.
- Take a bike ride.
- View birds and wildlife.
- Walk your dog on leash on the paved trail.

Rules and Regulations

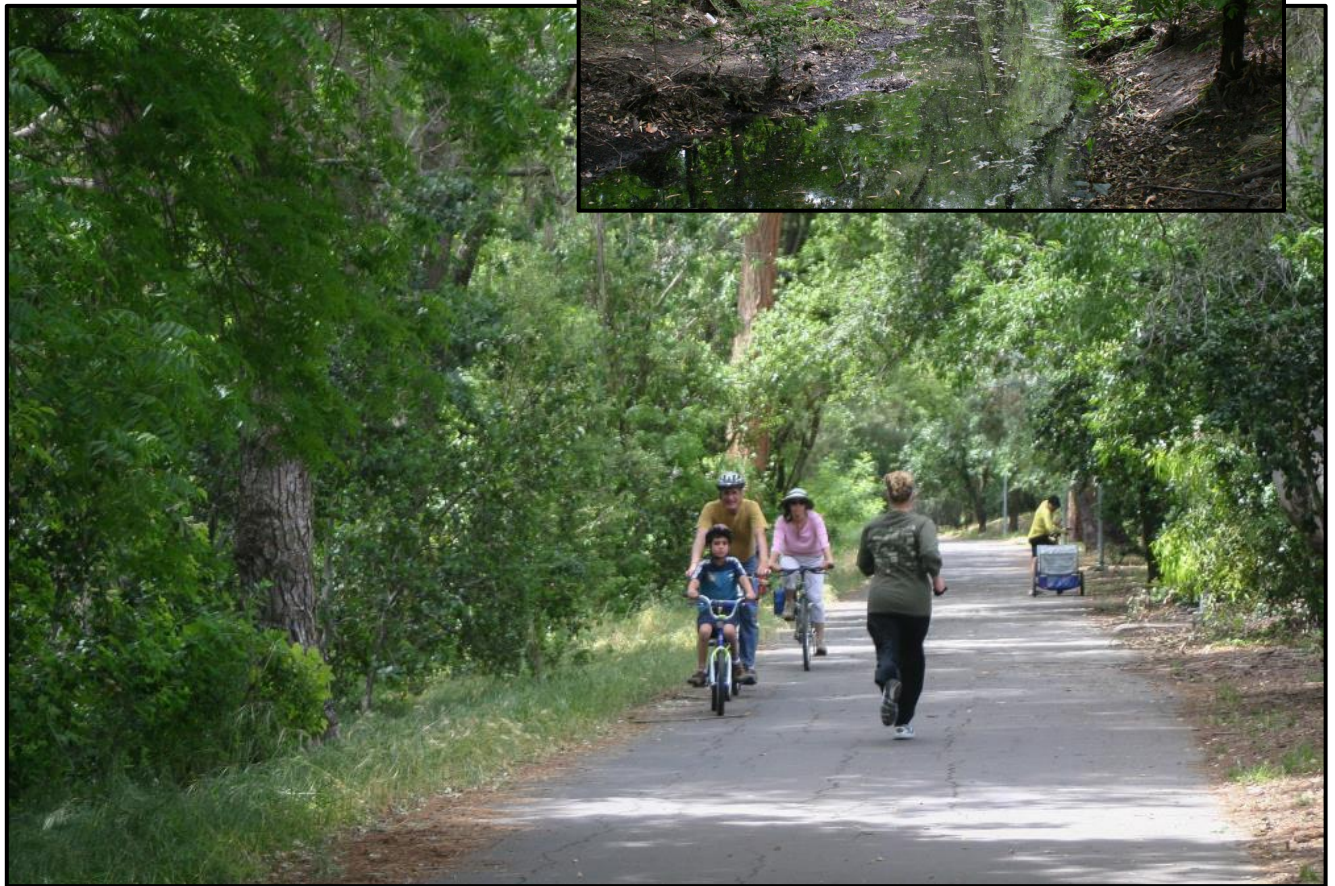
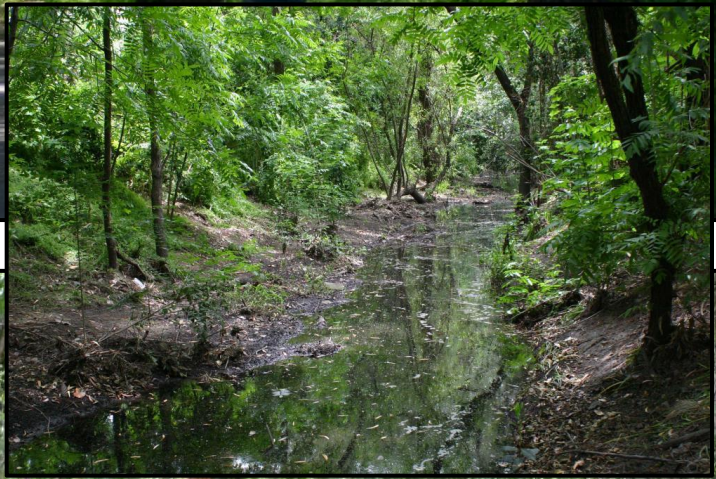
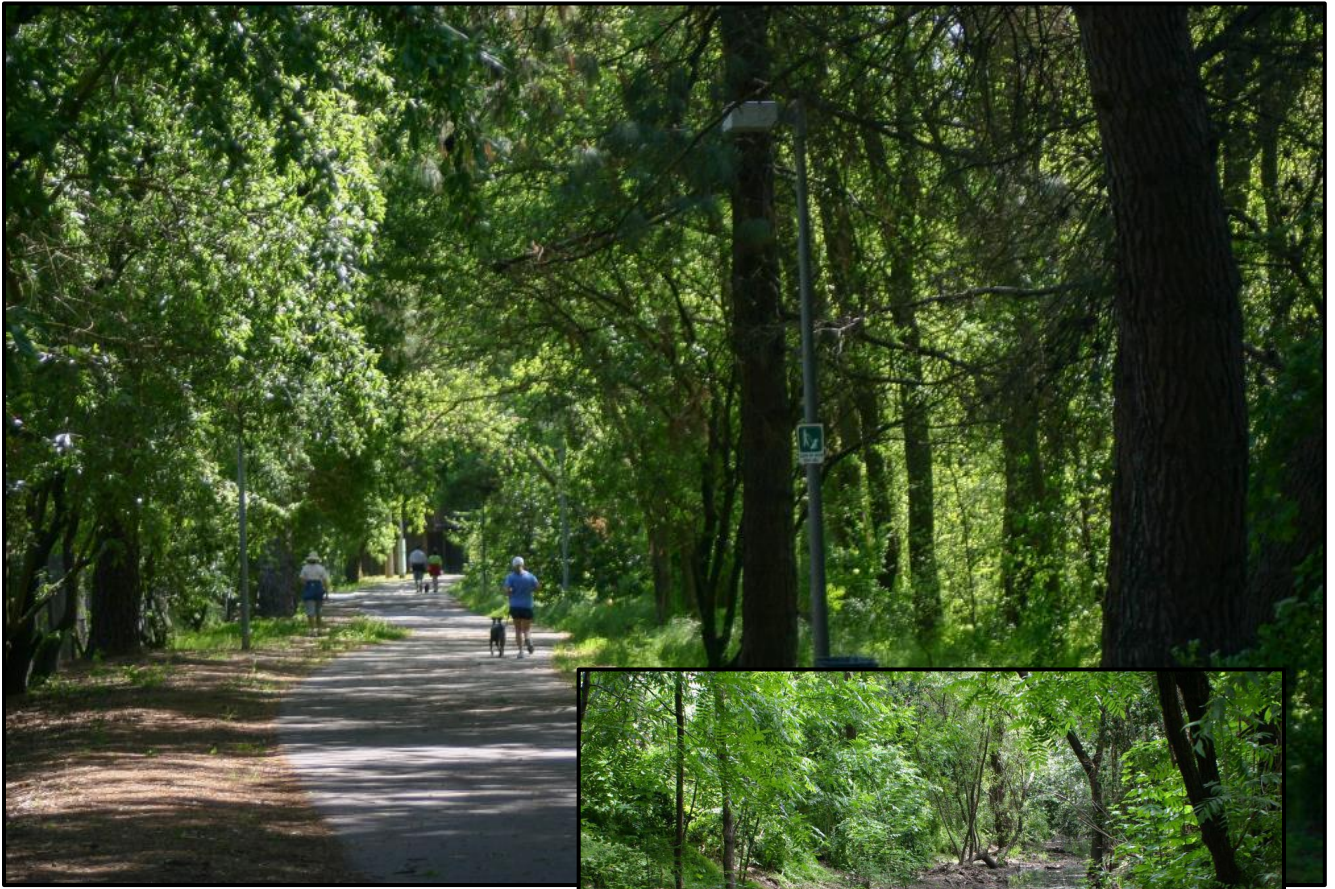
Even though the Old North Fork of Putah Creek is not an open space area, visitors should treat it like an open space area. Key rules and regulations at this location include:

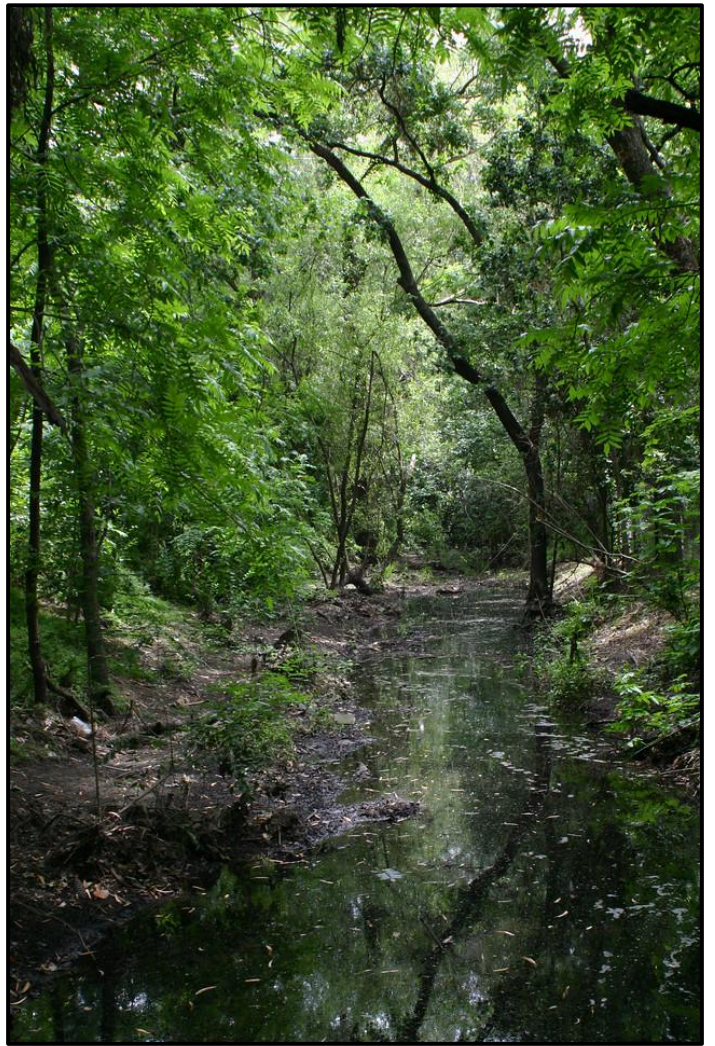
- Dogs are allowed at this location, but they must be leashed and remain on designated trail.
- Dogs are not allowed to be off-leash on the trail or in the habitat areas.
- Pedestrians must stay on designated trail and not walk into the habitat areas.
- Biking is allowed at this location, but only on the paved trail.
- No horseback riding.
- No watercraft.
- No hunting.
- No camping.
- No fires.
- No smoking.
- No drones.

Directions

The Old North Fork of Putah Creek can be accessed at several different locations. You can enter via Drummond Avenue, Lillard Drive, Yana Place, and San Marino Drive. It also can be accessed via the greenbelt that runs south from Willowcreek Park.

Photo Gallery





Photos courtesy of Marc Hoshovsky.