

what is a water loop?

Water loops are recreational waterways on a lake, river, or ocean between specific locations, containing access points and day-use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Water loops emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of the resources, while providing healthy outdoor activity.

Lake County Water Loop maps can be found online at www.lakecounty.com or at Lake County Visitor Centers.



don't move a mussel!

Help protect Lake County's beautiful lakes and creeks by preventing the spread of harmful plants, animals, and other organisms, such as Quagga and Zebra mussels. These aquatic nuisance species can hitch a ride on boats, trailers, clothing, gear, etc., and then spread to other bodies of water. If conditions are right, these invasive species can severely impact the aquatic ecosystem. Each time you leave any water body, be sure to thoroughly clean, drain, and dry all items that come in contact with water.

boat inspections

To protect local water bodies from invasive species, the County of Lake requires that certain types of vessels be inspected prior to launching in Lake County waters. While kayaks and canoes currently are exempt, information about the inspection program is available through the Lake County Mussel Hotline: (707) 263-2556 or www.co.lake.ca.us/mussels

reporting water pollution

If you see anything suspected to be pollution or disturbance of the waterways, report it immediately by contacting the Lake County Sheriff's Department at (707) 263-2690.



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This is one in a series of Lake County Water Trails Brochures, published as a cooperative effort of the County of Lake, and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Photographs courtesy of Lyle Madeson, Redbud Audubon Society, Laura Lamar

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leave no trace

- Plan ahead and prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Respect wildlife—observe from a distance.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife especially during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young.
- Leave what you find. Examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Respect the privacy of landowners.
- Always ask permission before entering private land; unless otherwise posted, assume it is private property.
- Don't litter.
- Remember sound carries across water more clearly than on land; avoid loud noises or boisterous behavior.



respect wildlife



The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects grebes and other migratory waterfowl. It is illegal to

hunt, persecute, harass, kill, or disturb grebes and/or their eggs. Do your part to protect them:

1. Avoid nesting areas—stay 300 feet away from colonies and avoid prolonged presence.
2. Watch your wake—move slowly when paddling around nesting areas.
3. Take a scenic detour—paddle around flocks and colonies, not through them.
4. Pack out your trash—adults and young can become tangled in fishing line and other plastic trash.
5. Educate others to ensure the survival of these beautiful, valuable birds.
6. Report any illegal activity to the CalTip hotline: (888) 334-2258.

watch for these other species:



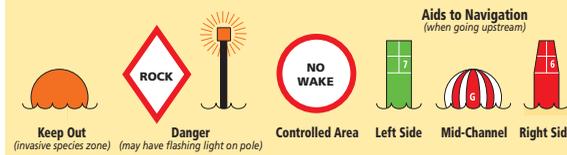
paddling safety

All canoes, kayaks, and inflatable rafts must carry a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (life jacket) for each person on board. Before setting out, boaters should become knowledgeable about local conditions such as currents, rapids, flow levels, weather, and hazards.

- Test new or unfamiliar equipment before use.
- Leave word with a responsible person concerning your destination and when you will return.
- Always make sure your craft is in good repair.
- Securely fasten all gear within the craft or in waterproof containers that will float high and be easily retrievable.
- Learn how to swim; learn first-aid techniques and CPR.
- Paddlers are harder to see from other vessels. Keep paddling groups together. Avoid long lines.
- Watch for and avoid hazards such as fallen trees, brush, fences, bridge abutments, or old pilings.
- Do not boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Additional recommended equipment: protective foot gear, extra paddle, anchoring device, bailing device/sponge, boating maps, flashlight, compass, first-aid kit, boat-repair materials, hat, sunglasses, whistle, sunscreen, waterproof storage bags, emergency light, water, GPS unit, cell phone, knife, and a 50- to 100-foot throw rope.

regulatory or advisory markers



cold water dangers

Capsizing or falling overboard into cold water can cause immediate health problems, ranging from disorientation and hyperventilation to heart attack. Cold water quickly numbs hands and feet and saps overall strength. To increase your chance of survival in cold water:

- Always wear a personal flotation device (life jacket).
- Get out of the water as fast as you can since you get colder faster in water than air.
- Dress properly.

in case of emergency, call 911

info and resources

Lake County Water Resources: (707) 263-2341
 Lake County Parks & Recreation: (707) 262-1618
 Lake County Sheriff (*non-emergency*): (707) 263-2690
www.lakecounty.com; www.konoctitrails.com;
<http://watershed.co.lake.ca.us/>

Clear Lake Water Loop 2

konocti
regional
trails

Anderson Marsh

tule maze & islands



6.2 mile round trip | About 3-4 hours
 Experience Level: Beginner thru Advanced
 Launch Area: Redbud Park Boat Launch
 14655 Lakeshore Drive, Clearlake, CA



- Wetlands, tule reeds
- Migratory waterfowl route
- Wildlife nature preserve
- Grebe nesting areas
- Historic cultural resources
- State park
- Picnic spots

Lake County Visitor Information Center

6110 East Highway 20, Lucerne, CA 95458
 (707) 274-5652 | (800) 525-3743 | (800) LAKESIDE
www.lakecounty.com | info@lakecounty.com



Clear Lake Water Loop 2: The Tule Maze of Anderson Marsh



trail description



View from Anderson Marsh north toward Clear Lake

A favorite among birdwatchers, this is a scenic loop around Indian Island into the tule marshes of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, and traversing back into Cache Creek and the western shoreline of Clear Lake. Paddling at a leisurely pace, the jaunt takes about 3 hours and is a bird watcher's paradise. While the marsh itself is quite calm, be aware that winds can whip up large waves in the open waters off Redbud Park.

trail route

The loop begins at Redbud Park **P** in the city of Clearlake. As you head across the lake to the opposite side, an island emerges from the background. Indian Island **1** was once a major village housing up to 300 people; it also was the political and religious center of the Koi Tribe for at least 8,000 years. While the island is now privately owned, a portion of these cultural resources are protected by the California State Park System through a conservation easement, and the island is included on the National Register of Historic Places. The extended Anderson Marsh area contains prehistoric archaeological resources that date back at least 10,000 years, making them among the oldest in California.

Paddle around the back side of the island and head south. To your right is the former site of McVicar Wildlife Sanctuary, which is now part of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. A nice sandy beach off the tules is an inviting picnicking spot **2**. Notice the volcanic rock of Indian Island; it is part of the formation known as Dacite of Thurston Creek. Lava eruptions and flows began approximately 450,000 years ago, forming the ridge you see



Paddling south, down the west side into the marsh

to the west as you paddle south from **1** to **5**. After **4** you will encounter very little motorized boat traffic. Kick back and enjoy the quiet, interspersed with sounds

of nature. Rolling hills and vineyards are visible to the south. These hills are lava flows, part of the formation known as the Basaltic andesite of Round Top Mountain. Much younger in age; the flows started erupting roughly 125,000 years ago. Round Top Mountain is currently the site of a rock quarry; the vibrant red volcanic cinders are a favorite for landscaping.

You are passing the official marker to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. From **4** to **5** you will paddle peacefully through the area informally dubbed "The Tule Maze." Over the years, 84 percent of the original wetlands on Clear Lake have been lost. But here, 540 acres of tule marsh have been designated a natural preserve. This remaining tule marsh is vital to the ecosystem of the entire lake, providing protection, food, and breeding areas for many species of wildlife and also filtering water flowing into the lake.

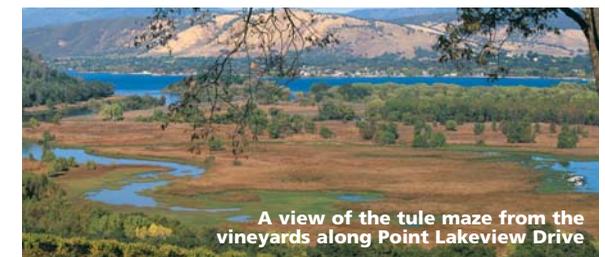
Birds commonly seen are grebes, white pelicans, herons, coots, mallards, and egrets with the occasional sighting of bald eagle and peregrine falcon. In the spring, please be especially aware of bird nests among the tule reeds and keep a respectful distance. This area is a grebe nesting site. Flocks of white pelicans also are a common site at this location, particularly during the winter migratory season. At least 150 bird species use the marsh and surrounding area. During the spring, spawning carp—some the size of small logs—can be seen jumping, causing quite a stir in the tule beds.



A Mallard on picnic beach

Depending on the lake level, you can weave through the tule marsh by following any open channel of water—waypoint **4** is the entrance to another canal leg. However, you will need to return following the same route because there is no shortcut through the tule maze. Please note if you venture further into the "swamp forest," it is easy to become lost. Be sure to follow the ridges and hills to orient yourself as you back out. The best time to visit is in the winter and spring months, due to higher water levels and large groups of migratory birds.

Heading back, veer east at **3** and paddle into the entrance of Cache Creek, which itself is another great adventure for a different day. Loop north around Garner Island at **6**, past the North Flat Day Use Area **7** that offers another good picnic site, and then hug the shoreline until you arrive back at the Redbud Park boat ramp.



A view of the tule maze from the vineyards along Point Lakeview Drive