

## 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](http://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](http://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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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.

## the role of aquatic plants

Since 1992, reduced algae growth has resulted in increased clarity in Clear Lake. With clearer waters, there has been a substantial increase in submerged aquatic plants. While water plants can be a nuisance to navigation and recreation, they are a valuable element of a healthy ecosystem, providing habitat for fish and other wildlife. In addition, they consume nutrients that would otherwise support algae growth.

Unfortunately, several non-native aquatic plants have been introduced to the lake. Invasive species such as hydrilla, Eurasian watermilfoil, and the yellow-flowered water primrose form dense mats that can crowd out native plants, destroying fish and wildlife habitat. Some of these spread via tubers, and others through plant fragmentation, which occurs naturally or when disturbed by a boat motor. These fragments float to other areas, sink, and start new plants. The County is actively engaged in protecting the lake via an Aquatic Plant Management Program.

## watch for these other species:



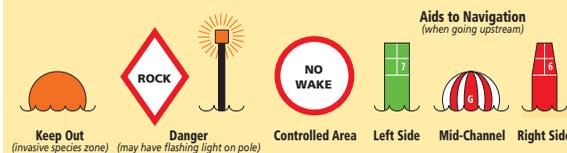
## paddling safety

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 & 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](http://www.lakecounty.com); [www.konoctitrails.com](http://www.konoctitrails.com);  
<http://watershed.co.lake.ca.us/>

## Clear Lake Water Loop 7

konocti  
regional  
trails

# Rodman Slough



**7.9 miles round trip** | About 4-6 hours  
 Experience Level: Beginner thru Advanced  
 Launch Area: Rodman Slough County Park  
 Nice-Lucerne Cutoff, Nice, CA



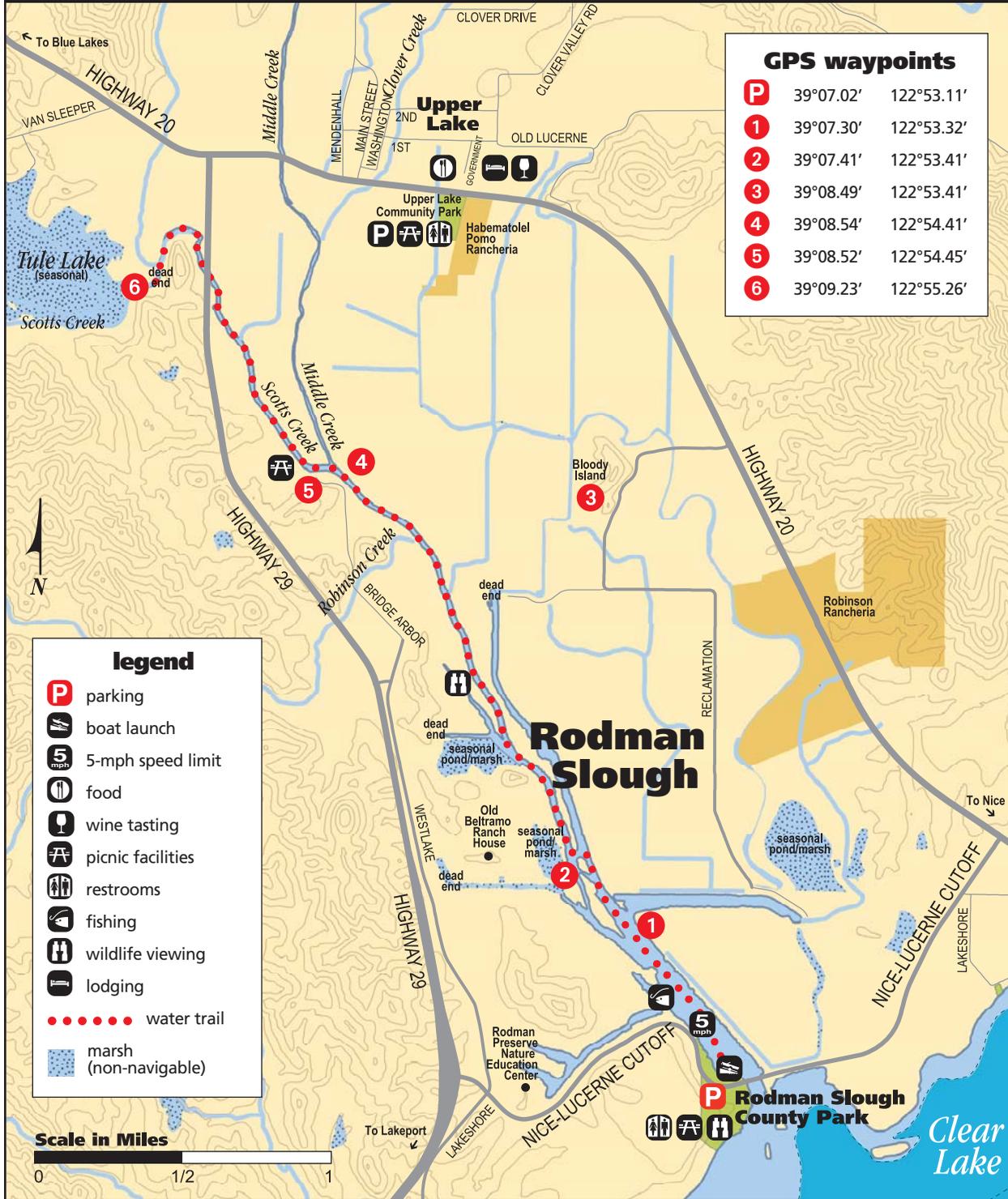
- **Great Blue Heron rookeries**
- **Serene paddling, calm waters**
- **Scenic ridgeline vistas**
- **Wetlands, tule reeds**
- **Migratory waterfowl route**
- **Wildlife nature preserve**
- **Picnic spot**

## Lake County Visitor Information Center

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



## Clear Lake Water Loop 7: Rodman Slough



## trail description



A peaceful excursion through Rodman Slough—passing Great Blue Heron and Double-Crested Cormorant rookeries (nesting areas)—to the culvert at Tule Lake. Beautiful views of the north shore ridgeline, oak woodlands, tule reeds, and the Middle Creek restoration area. This route is best taken in winter, spring, or early summer. Late summer and fall can bring intense sun, low water levels, mud flats, algae, and invasive weeds that may impede paddling. This is a great trip for watching waterfowl, particularly in winter and spring.

## trail route



The water trail is accessed via a soft launch located just across the street from the parking lot at Rodman Slough County Park. It is not uncommon to hear the sounds of loud chirping; look up to see the huge osprey nest atop a telephone pole adjacent to the parking lot P. The extension pole was installed by PG&E, to protect nesting birds from electrocution.

Set off from the launch at the slough side of the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff Bridge. The first part of the paddle passes by the original Rodman Ranch and Slough, preserved by the Lake County Land Trust in 1998. The wetland areas of Rodman Slough and the surrounding oak woodlands are home to a large Great Blue Heron rookery. This dramatic bird, which stands four feet tall and has a six-



foot wingspan, is the largest of North American herons. In the fall, migrating birds congregate here. It is not uncommon to see large groups of American White Pelicans co-mingled with Canada Geese, cormorants, herons, egrets, and grebes.

Just over half a mile into the paddle, you will reach a confluence 1—take the center route. Continue a little ways and just before your first mile, you will see a small canal opening to the left 2.

If you choose to paddle straight ahead, after one mile, you will reach a dead end. Not visible from the slough is nearby Bloody Island 3, the site of a huge massacre in the spring of 1850. For years, white settlers had enslaved and abused Pomo natives; the Pomo revolted. Accounts differ as to the number of Pomo—women and children

included—who were ultimately slaughtered, as it is believed some escaped into the tule reeds. Currently on the State Historic Register, the Bloody Island historical marker is located on Highway 20.

Turning left at waypoint 2, you will paddle through some downed trees to enter into the main route of Rodman Slough. The water is gentle here, and sounds of bird calls fill the air. You are passing by the proposed Middle Creek Restoration Project, stretching from here to Highway 20. The area to your right was once Robinson Lake. In the 1920s, levees were constructed to convert wetlands to farmland. While 9,300 acres of wetlands once existed in the Clear Lake Basin, roughly 80% has been lost. By removing three miles of substandard levees, this project will eliminate flood risk to 18 residences and restore more than 1,400 acres of lake bottom and wetlands, thereby enhancing wildlife and fish habitat and improving the water quality of Clear Lake.



At roughly 2.5 miles into the paddle, you will come to a fork, where Middle Creek 4 enters on the right. Stay to the left. Shortly past Middle Creek, you will see large cement pilings on each side of the slough; these are remnants of the Bridge Arbor Bridge, a great spot to stretch or have lunch 5. Scramble up the south side where a massive cement picnic table sits under a shady oak, overlooking the slough. During the later summer and fall, the water level may not allow paddling beyond this point, and you will have to turn back.

Continuing on another mile, you will cross under the Highway 29 overpass. Note the numerous mud swallow nests that line the underside. Continue paddling for another half mile, and you will reach your turning point, a dead end at the culvert to Tule Lake 6.

In the winter, Scotts Creek overflows its banks, forming Tule Lake, a seasonal lake that flows into Rodman Slough and on into Clear Lake. It is dry in the summer. The name was derived from the numerous tules that once covered the area. The roots were a favorite with Native Americans who camped on the shores during root-digging season.

Near the culvert is a good spot to pull up and stretch your legs under shade trees, before retracing your strokes back to the Rodman Slough boat launch. As you head into the home stretch, Mount Konocti provides a beautiful backdrop.

