

The Dragoon Gulch Trail is located in the City of Sonora. Named for a group of dragoons, or cavalry soldiers of the United States Army, who stayed in the area and mined for gold in the ravine, the existing trail network provides visitors with a unique opportunity to stroll through the Mother Lode's beautiful oak woodlands. The 2.5 mile looped trail travels along a natural creek up to a vista that provides a spectacular view of Sonora's Historic Downtown along with the surrounding mountain ranges. The trails vary in difficulty making it the perfect location for the casual walker and for those who want a strenuous hike or jog.

In June of 2013 the Sonora City Council approved the Dragoon Gulch Master Trail Plan. Under the Plan, the Dragoon Gulch Trail will be expanded across 102 acres and provide a natural trail system totaling a length of 9.7 miles. It will include an undulating track "fun run" and bike downhill trails. Environmental review for the expansion area will be conducted in early 2014 with initial trail construction anticipated to begin in summer of 2014.

Spend a day or a weekend in Historic Sonora and enjoy the beautiful Dragoon Gulch Trail!

TRAIL TIPS

- ✓ CARRY & DRINK WATER
- ✓ DON'T DRINK WATER FROM STREAMS
- ✓ WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR
- ✓ A CELLULAR PHONE CAN BE A LIFE SAVER
- ✓ WALK OR JOG WITH A BUDDY
- ✓ A WALKING STICK CAN ASSIST WITH SUPPORT & FEND OFF ANY WILDLIFE
- ✓ IF ANY PROBLEMS OCCUR CALL – (209) 532-7725
- ✓ FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911

Trail Information



EXISTING LENGTH - 2.5 Mile Loop

HOURS - Dawn to Dusk

DIFFICULTY - Easy to Strenuous

SURFACE - The South Creekside Trail is surfaced and **ADA accessible**, the North Forest Trail is paved, and all other trails are natural surfaces

CAMPING - No Camping

FEES - No Fees

EXISTING TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS -

North Forest Trail –

(1650 Ft./Average Slope 5%) Moderate

The North Forest Trail leaves from the kiosks area at the Woods Creek Park entrance. Following the Trail Pavement Markers, cross over the bridge and continue along N. Forest Road. This Trail is well shaded and travels through a quiet neighborhood to connect with the South Creekside Trail.



South Creekside Trail -

(1242 Ft./Average Slope 1.5%) Easy

This Trail is surfaced and **ADA accessible** from the Alpine Lane Parking Lot. Enjoy a tranquil stroll while meandering along the seasonal creek. As you hike along the Trail you will see many wetland trees, shrubs, birds and aquatic insects. This Trail connects with the North Creekside Trail, North Forest Trail, and the Alpine Lane Parking Lot.



North Creekside Trail – (1368 Ft./Average Slope 4.5%) Easy

This natural surface Trail continues along the seasonal creek. Along which you will see several piles of "mine tailings" (discarded rock left from early mining operations in the gulch). The Trail provides access to both the Ridge and Vista Trails.

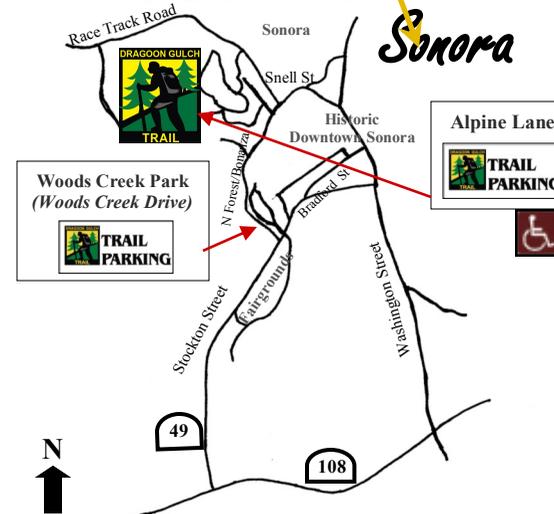
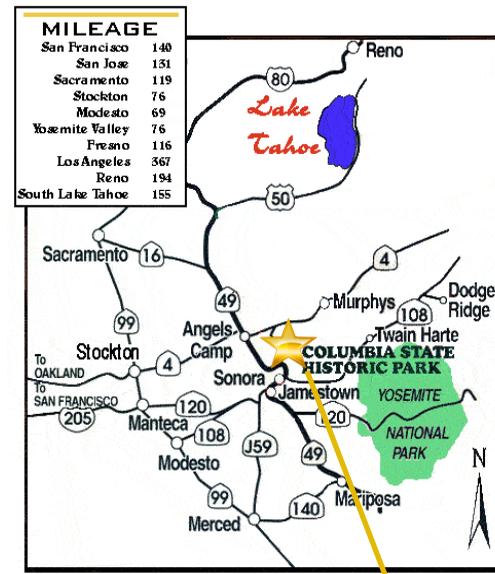
Ridge Trail – (3536 Ft./Average Slope 5%) Moderate

The gentle grade of this naturally surfaced Trail travels through groves of oaks and Ponderosa Pines as it tops the ridge and joins the Vista Trail. Interesting rock formations exist at the top of the Trail. Note the mine pit and sections of the miner's ditches as you walk along the Trail.

Vista Trail – (2066 Ft./Average Slope 11.5%)

Strenuous

This naturally surfaced Trail is the steepest of the Dragoon Gulch Trail System but well worth the effort to see the beautiful vistas at the top. Take advantage of the strategically placed benches to rest and enjoy the view of Historic Sonora and its beautiful mountain ranges. As you travel downhill along this Trail a canopy of Manzanita bushes will keep you cool. In the springtime this Trail is abundant with wildflowers.



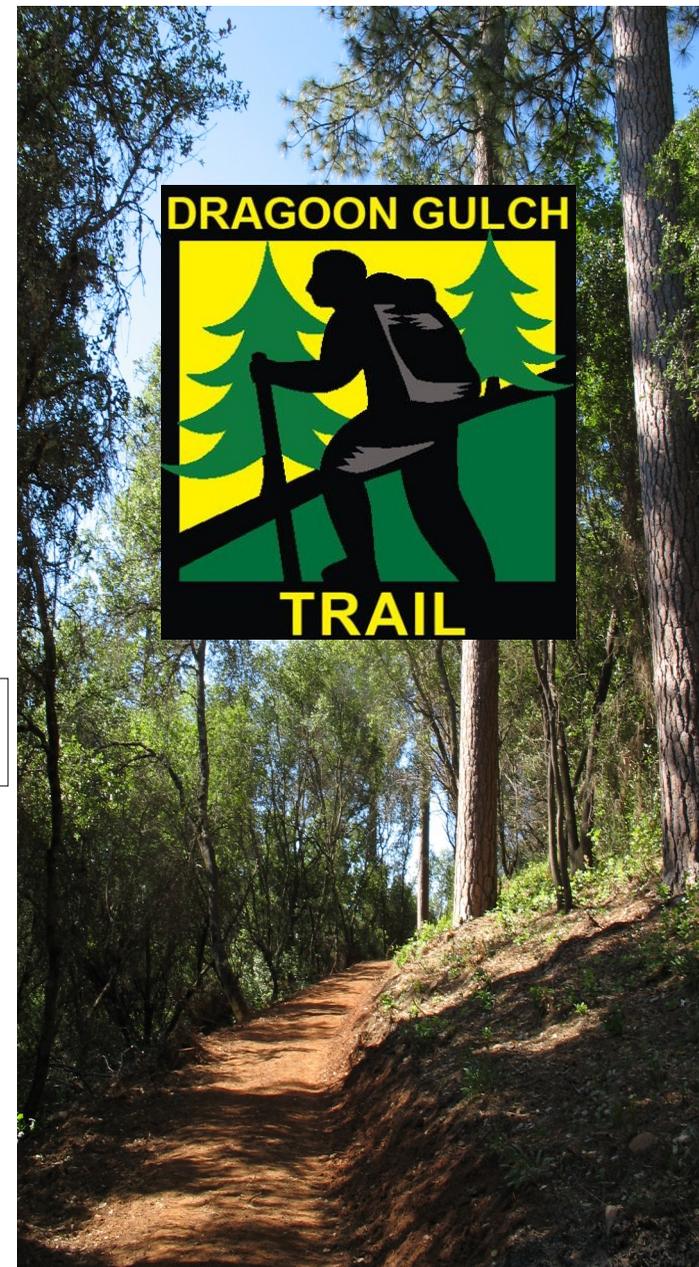
This brochure was produced by the City of Sonora through a Community Transformation Grant administered by Tuolumne County.



www.sonoraca.com

For Trail Information:

City of Sonora
 Community Development
 Department
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 Sonora, CA 95370
 (209)532-7725
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City of Sonora

DRIVING DIRECTIONS -

The main entrance to the Trail is located at Woods Creek Park. From the Bay Area and Central Valley take Highway 108 East to Highway 49 North into the City of Sonora. From Highway 49 (Stockton Street) turn left on Woods Creek Drive (across from the Mother Lode Fairgrounds) and follow the signs to the trail. If traveling south on Highway 49 into the City, stay on Highway 49 (Stockton Street) and turn right on Woods Creek Drive. Parking is available at the trail entrance.

The secondary, and ADA entrance, for the Trail is located off of Alpine Lane. To access this entrance, from the Bay Area and Central Valley continue north on Highway 49 through downtown. At the Historic Red Church, turn left onto Snell Street. If traveling south on Highway 49, turn right on School Street, near Sonora High School, then turn right on Snell Street.

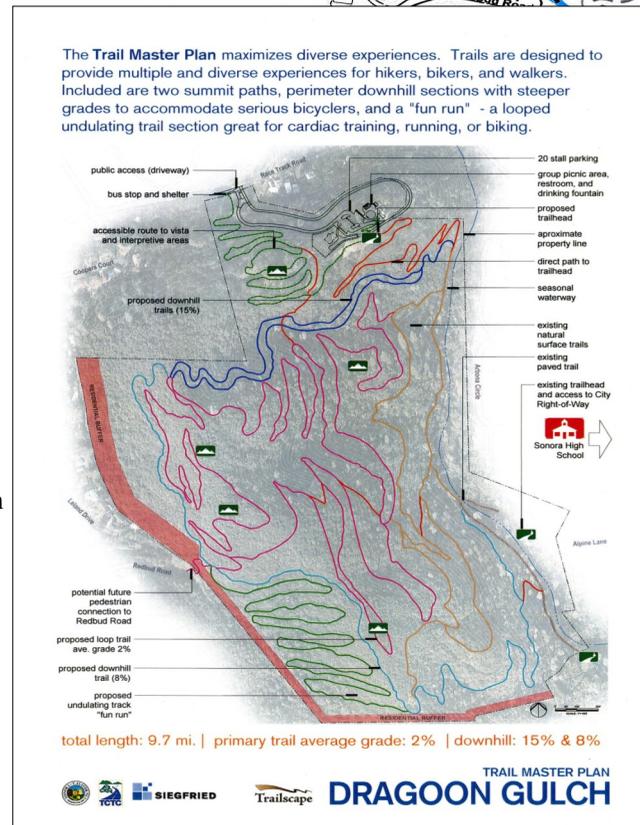
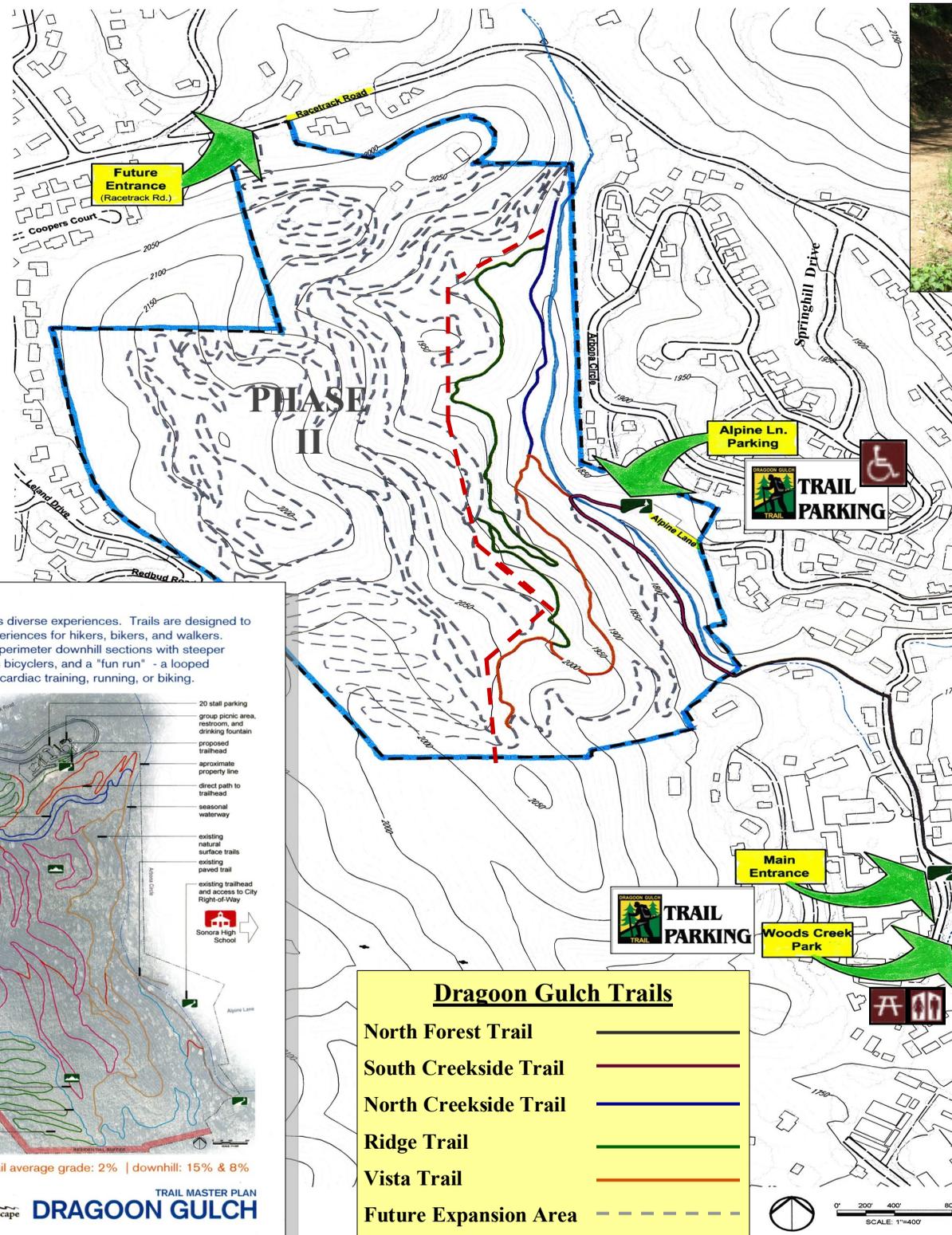
At the first stop sign (about 1/3 mile) continue straight through the intersection (the street name is now Bonanza Road). Go one block and turn right onto Calaveras Street. Go one block and turn left onto Alpine Lane. Take Alpine Lane to the first intersection (about 1/8 mile). There are no street signs at the intersection, turn left and go one block through the gate to the Dragoon Gulch Alpine Lane Parking Lot. *Remember that the gate is locked at dark.*

WALKING DIRECTIONS - (Approx. 1/2 Mile)

The Dragoon Gulch Trail is within easy walking distance from Historic Downtown Sonora.

Woods Creek Park Entrance - from the intersection of Washington and Stockton Streets (Highway 49) walk west along the north side of Stockton Street to Woods Creek Drive turn right and walk past the park to the trailhead.

Alpine Lane Entrance - from the intersection of Washington (Highway 49) and Snell Streets, at the Historic Red Church, walk north along Snell Street to the first stop sign continue straight through the intersection. Turn right onto Calaveras Street and left onto Alpine Lane. Stay on Alpine Lane until the first intersection. There are no street signs at the intersection, turn left and at the end of the block you will see the sign for the Dragoon Gulch Alpine Lane Parking Lot.



TRAIL ETIQUETTE "TAKE ONLY PICTURES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS"

- * **PACK IT IN – PACK IT OUT** - Carry out your own trash
- * **Protect wildlife and vegetation** - Do not allow pets to chase wildlife
- * **Respect adjacent private properties** and do not trespass
- * **Stay on the established trail**
- * **Bikers yield to pedestrians**
- * **Bikers keep your speed down** to a reasonable pace
- * **PETS MUST BE RESTRAINED BY LEASH AT ALL TIMES** AND KEEP PETS CALM & QUIET
- * **IMMEDIATELY PICK UP AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PET DROPPINGS**
- * **No motorized vehicles or equestrians are allowed on the trail**
- * **Camping or building fires is strictly prohibited**
- * **Recognize your limitations and your assumed risk**
- * **The City of Sonora wants you to enjoy Dragoon Gulch, but will not take the responsibility for personal injury or losses while using the trail**

PLEASE DO NOT

- ✓ Take alcoholic beverages on the trail
- ✓ Take glass containers on the trail
- ✓ Carry firearms, BB or pellet guns, sling shots, bow & arrows or knives with over a 3 1/2 inch blade on the trail
- ✓ Carry or use paintball guns
- ✓ Use loud voices
- ✓ Leave pets unattended in hot vehicles