



Area 31 FLORIDA REFUGE



Pond in Florida Refuge

Size: 63 acres

ACCESS/PARKING: South side of Florida Hill Road, 0.2 mile east of intersection of Florida Hill and Cooper Hill roads; West side of Florida Road, 0.2 mile from intersection of Florida and Florida Hill roads. Parking can be found at the south side of Florida Hill Road; one car at Florida Road near entrance. The refuge can also be accessed from the Rail Trail. [GPS Addresses: 230 Florida Road, 200 Florida Hill Road]

DIFFICULTY: Moderate, with some hills. 1.5 hours.

FEATURES: Florida Refuge trails cross wetlands via bridges and walkways. Platforms offer good viewing for abundant amphibians found here. Wildflowers in the area include marsh marigold, hepaticas, and Dutchman's-breeches.

The many large boulders, some with impressive overhangs, make good resting or picnic spots. The hillside trail offers overlooks of the terrain below and across Route 7 to Redding when there are no leaves.

HISTORY: The 34-acre, western section was acquired by the commission with state and federal aid from Helen Woodbury Boulton in 1969. The 26-acre eastern section was acquired by the commission with the help of The Nature Conservancy from Henry and Rosemary Hayes in 1974. The Nature Conservancy was repaid with money from the Open Space Conservation Fund and with state and federal aid. Additional land was acquired through several subdivisions.



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