

Mount Konocti County Park

Mount Konocti County Park, opened in the fall of 2011, is Lake County's largest park, covering an area of 1,520 acres at the top of Mount Konocti. The park was acquired in 2009 with geothermal royalty funds, and annual park maintenance is funded by cell tower leases. The county property is intertwined with federally owned Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, for a combined total of 2,341 acres of public open space.

In private hands since the mid-1800s, few have previously enjoyed the breathtaking beauty seen from the top.

There is a vision to connect the park with nearby communities and other recreational areas such as Clear Lake State Park. The county continues to accept donations for further property acquisition.

park regulations

- Non-motorized day use (dawn to dusk) only, except for officially authorized vehicles.
- No fires or smoking on Mount Konocti.
- Hiking only. Special arrangements can be made for other activities by contacting the Parks & Recreation Department.
- The Park may be closed during high fire danger, severe weather conditions, or for other health, maintenance, and safety reasons.
- A portion of the trail crosses private property. Respect the privacy of the property owner by staying on the trail.

what is krt?



The Konocti Regional Trails system (KRT) is a network of trails and community pathways on and around Clear Lake, which highlight: (1) the region's outstanding scenic beauty, diverse wildlife, natural landscapes, and cultural history; (2) enhance the visitor experience by providing an opportunity for recreation and appreciation of these unique assets; and (3) promote community health and economic vitality throughout the region. For more information, visit www.KonoctiTrails.com



a towering giant



subject of legends, the mountain is one of the few landmarks ever-visible from most locations throughout the county.

Mount Konocti is a dormant volcano, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, and dating back to the Pliocene era nearly five million years ago. Geologists believe that Mount Konocti, first erupted 350,000 years ago, and as recently as 10,000 years ago. Geothermal activity still abounds in the area.

Unlike traditional volcanoes, Mount Konocti has five peaks - Wright 4,299 ft., Howard 4,286 ft., South 4,050 ft., Buckingham 3,952 ft., and Clark 2,850 ft. The cones are composite didactic lava domes, the result of a series of non-explosive eruptions and lava flows.

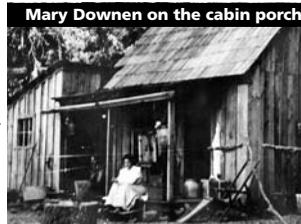
Archaeologists have found evidence that native people, principally Pomo and Wappo, began inhabiting the area more than 11,000 years ago. An essential part of Pomo spirituality, Mount Konocti was never inhabited by Native Americans, but remains sacred to the local tribes.

the pioneering spirit

In the spring of 1903, Mary Downen of Lakeport began a quest for a quiet and remote place to live. Fiercely independent, she took a horseback ride to the top of Mount Konocti with her son-in-law, Euvelle Howard, and fell in love with the unsurpassed views, majestic oaks, and good soil. The following morning, Mary staked her claim, paying \$600 to have the land surveyed. A small cabin was built and she began homesteading on the mountain.

With no streams or springs nearby, water was initially hauled up the mountain, and then rain water was collected in barrels until cisterns were dug. Each sunny day at 2 p.m., Mary would communicate with her daughter and family in Lakeport by flashing a mirror.

Euvelle Howard ultimately moved to Mount Konocti and planted the orchards at the edge of the cabin. Howard Peak is named after his family. Upon his death in 1942, his life-long request was honored, and his remains were buried about 200 yards up the hill, where the words "Euvelle Howard 1867-1942" are chiseled into a large boulder.



Mount Konocti, Lake County's ancient volcano, provides a backdrop to California's Clear Lake. Home to falcons and other raptors, and the

hiking safety

- Recommended gear: water, binoculars, cell phone, hiking stick, insect spray, first aid kit, sun protection.
- Watch where you step. Keep your hands out of crevices to avoid rattlesnakes.
- Watch out for poison oak.
- Be careful when stepping on rocky crags.
- Watch for signs depicting seasonal trail closures.
- Watch the weather. In the winter, expect snow and ice in higher elevations and extended areas of sun in the summer.
- Please report any trail safety issues to the Parks & Recreation Department.

leave no trace

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Respect wildlife and observe from a distance.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young.
- Leave natural objects as you find them. Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Avoid introducing non-native species.
- Don't litter.

respect private property

- Always ask permission before entering private land. Unless posted, assume the land is private property.
- Stay on the trail to ensure you are not trespassing.

watch for these other species:



in case of emergency, call 911

info & resources

Lake County Parks & Recreation: (707) 262-1618
(Contact Parks & Recreation for information about special arrangements and the Cal Fire tower docent schedule.)
Lake County Sheriff (*non-emergency*): (707) 263-2690
www.lakecounty.com; www.konoctitrails.com;
www.preservekonocti.org; www.co.lake.ca.us;
www.lakesheriff.com

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This is the first in a series of brochures featuring Lake County's parks and recreational areas, published as a cooperative effort of the County of Lake and Konocti Regional Trails.

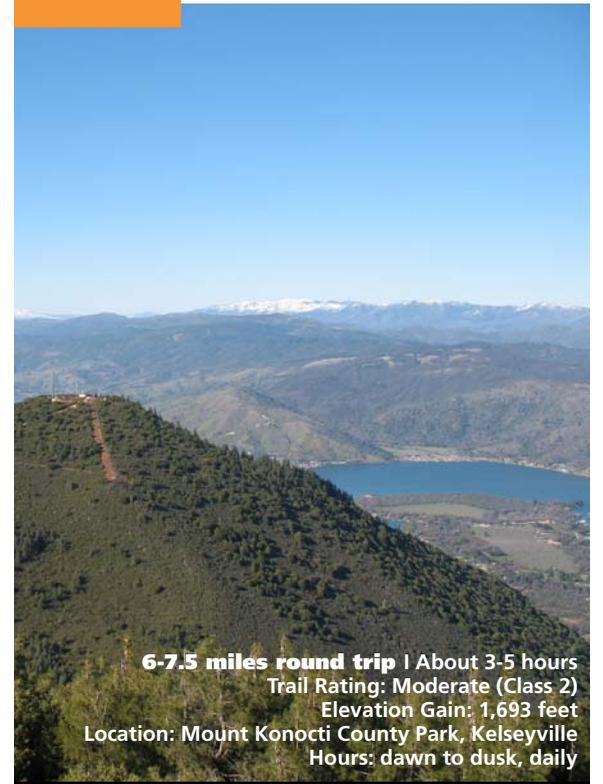
Photographs courtesy of County of Lake, Chuck Lamb, and Frankie Blavet.

Mount Konocti Hiking Trail

konocti regional trails

Wright Peak Summit Trail

mountain vistas



6-7.5 miles round trip | About 3-5 hours
Trail Rating: Moderate (Class 2)
Elevation Gain: 1,693 feet
Location: Mount Konocti County Park, Kelseyville
Hours: dawn to dusk, daily

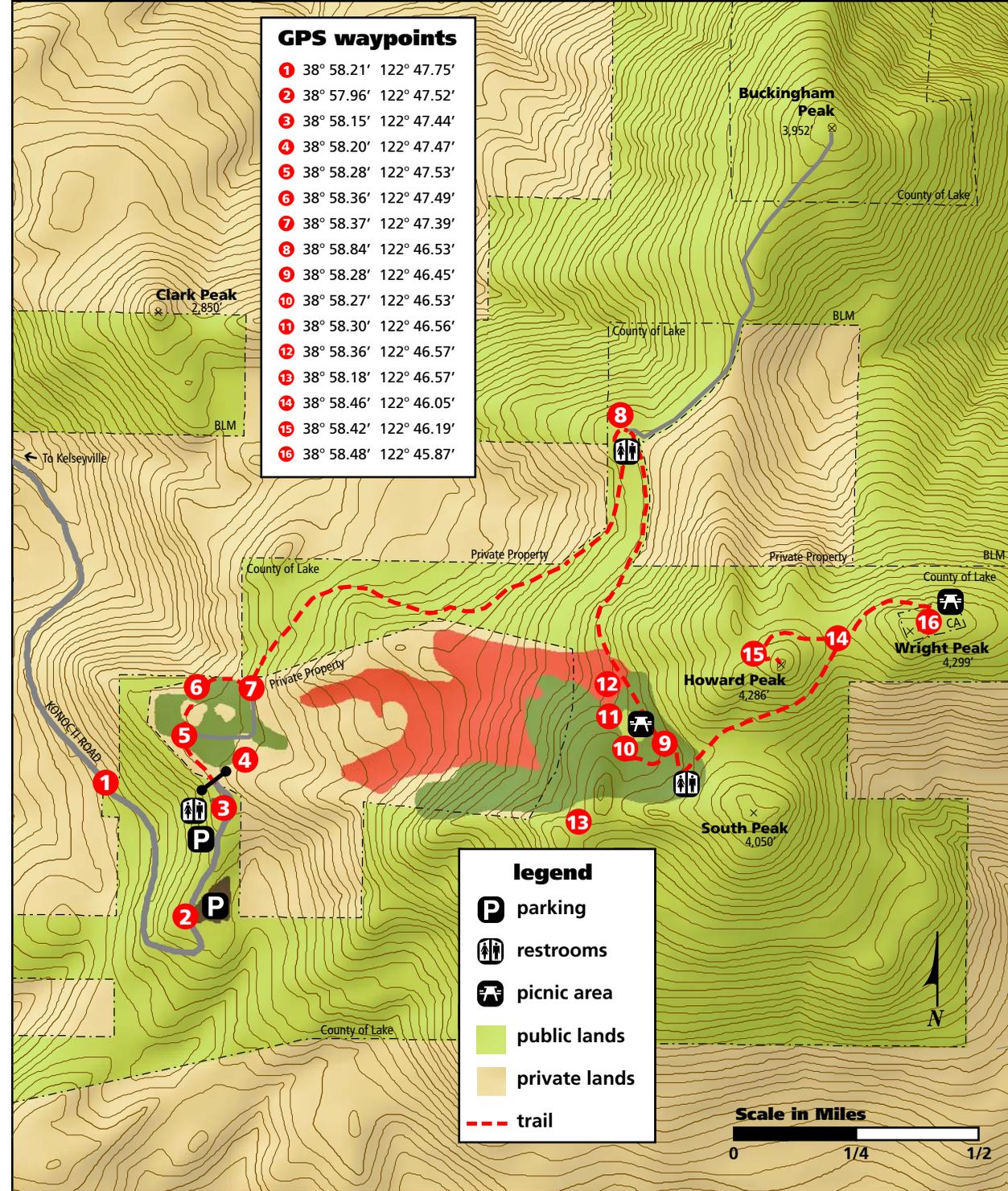


- Historic cabin site
- Ancient maul oaks
- Distant mountain vistas
- Panoramic lake views
- Volcanic peaks
- Apple and walnut orchards

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



Mount Konocti Hiking Trail: Wright Peak Summit



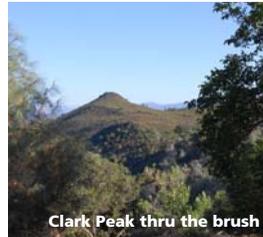
trail description



A steady 1,649-ft. climb along a winding dirt road through open brush, past mature orchards, under towering oak forests to reveal stunning views at the top of Mount Konocti. During winter, while weather might be fine at lake level, winter storms can bring snow and ice. Though the trail contains long stretches of shade, in the summer, mornings are best due to intense midday sun. There are no water sources on the mountain, so fill your bottles ahead. Best views are from the Cal Fire Tower, only open to the public during docent tours.

trail route

From downtown Kelseyville, turn onto Konocti Road and drive past the park entrance **1** for 3 miles. From the parking lots **2** & **3**, head up the road. Shortly you will come to a locked gate **4**; skirt this to begin your hike. A flat dirt road takes you toward the trail head at a walnut orchard. Turn onto the trail **5**, and soon you will notice a peak directly in view - Clark Peak **6**, elevation 2,850 ft.



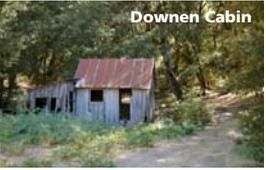
Scramble up a steep hill which reconnects to the dirt road **7**. Continue for 1.2 miles. Occasional clearings in the brush offer peek-a-boo views of Clear Lake and the ridge line.

At 1.6 miles, you come to a fork in the road **8** - the left heads off to Buckingham Peak and the cell towers. Take the right hand road on your trek to Wright Peak. You are now at 3,489 ft. elevation.

Soon you will enter a deep forest filled with towering canyon oaks, some believed to be more than 500 years old. Nicknamed 'maul oaks' for their use as axe handles, one can marvel at how they thrive in an area seemingly devoid of water. Relax, sit in the shade, and listen to birds singing.

In the middle of the oak forest, turn right down a shady dirt road **9**. Ahead you will see remains of the first homesteader's cabin, built in 1903 by pioneering woman Mary Downen **10** - (see back for more info). Areas have been cordoned off to protect potential archaeological sites - please respect them. The cabin sits on the edge of a bucolic orchard planted by Mary's son-in-law, Euvelle Howard.

Head down the path through the orchard. A short side-trip **11** will take you to one of the oldest and largest 'maul oaks.' Continue into the walnut orchard **12** for glimpses of Lakeport and the west shoreline of Clear Lake. Each day at 2 p.m., Mary Downen would flash a mirror, signaling her health to her family in Lakeport. Retrace your steps to the cabin. The grave of Mary's son-in-law, Euvelle Howard, rests 500 feet away **13**, his epitaph chiseled onto a huge boulder.



Back at the main road, turn right - you are at 3,775 ft. elevation. Continue the upward climb another 0.5 miles until you reach a fork **14**. A half-mile detour will take you to the top of Howard Peak **15**, elevation 4,286 ft. Beautiful views of Big Valley, south toward Cobb Mountain, Lakeport, and the North shoreline abound, but the last 200 feet are only for the sure-footed - the road is steep and slippery.

Continue up the main road, past large rock outcroppings for your last 0.25 miles. From the early 1900s, residents began describing strange findings in caves near the top. Items dropped into deep shafts - possibly created by molten lava - were found floating in the lake. Though some locals believe huge catacombs exist within, only small caves have been found.

Head up the hill to the Cal Fire Tower. You've reached the summit at Wright Peak 4,299 feet, the highest point on Mount Konocti **16**. Breathtaking views of Clear Lake and the surrounding mountains can be seen from each side of the peak.

View of Clear Lake from tower



To the south, Napa's Mount Saint Helena stands just 43 feet taller. To the west, the Mayacamas, north to Pinnacle Rock and the remote Snow

Mountain region. On a clear day, there are views east to the Sutter Buttes and as far as Mount Lassen. If a docent is on-site, you can climb the tower for stunning 360 degree views. Until recently the panorama was utilized by fire lookout crews since the tower's construction in 1964.

Relax and take in the scenery, knowing that the 3-mile return trip is all downhill. Retrace your steps and you will arrive back at the parking lot.

For an additional route, take the left fork **8** for a 4.7-mile round trip excursion to Buckingham Peak (elev. 3,952 ft.) and the cell towers.