

Lake Clementine Access Trail

(#17 on the Auburn SRA Topo Trail Map)



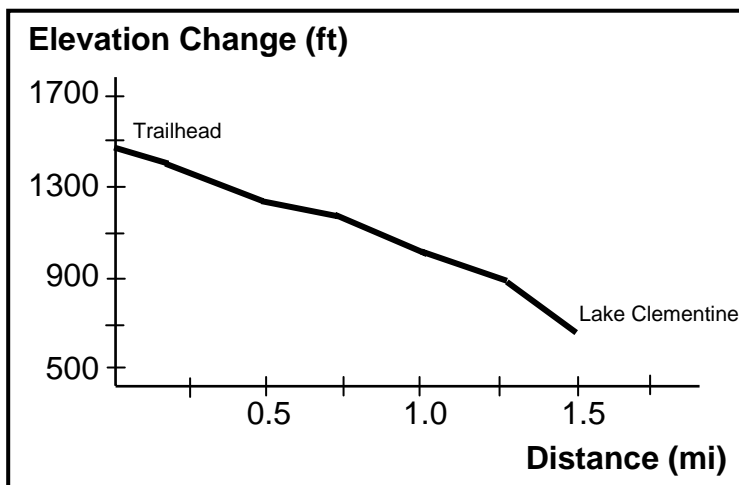
- Distance:** 1 1/2 miles one way; 3/4 hrs. (hiking)
- Difficulty:** Easy down, moderate up
- Slope:** 9.5% avg. 15% max. (see below)

Trailhead / Parking (N38-56-107; W121-00-254)

Trailhead is on Lake Clementine Road off Foresthill Road. Take I-80 to the Foresthill exit. From the light proceed towards Foresthill for approx 3.2 miles. Turn left on the Lake Clementine Road. Shortly after turning, the parking area is on the right. The trailhead is behind the green gate 200 feet back up the road.

Description

This is a good year round trail due to its wide, gentle gradient and alternating stretches of sun and shade. This wide pleasant trail traverses typical foothills woodlands while providing superb views of Lake Clementine and Lime Rock as it wends its way down to lake level. It is the only trail that goes down to the lake above the dam and below the Upper Lake Clementine day use area.



The Lake Clementine Access Trail begins behind the green gate just 200 feet back towards the Foresthill Road. The trail goes straight down the hill behind the green gate. **Do not** take the unsigned Lakeview Connector Trail (See separate trail guide) that crosses the Lake Clementine Access Trail here going left and right parallel to the Lake Clementine Rd.

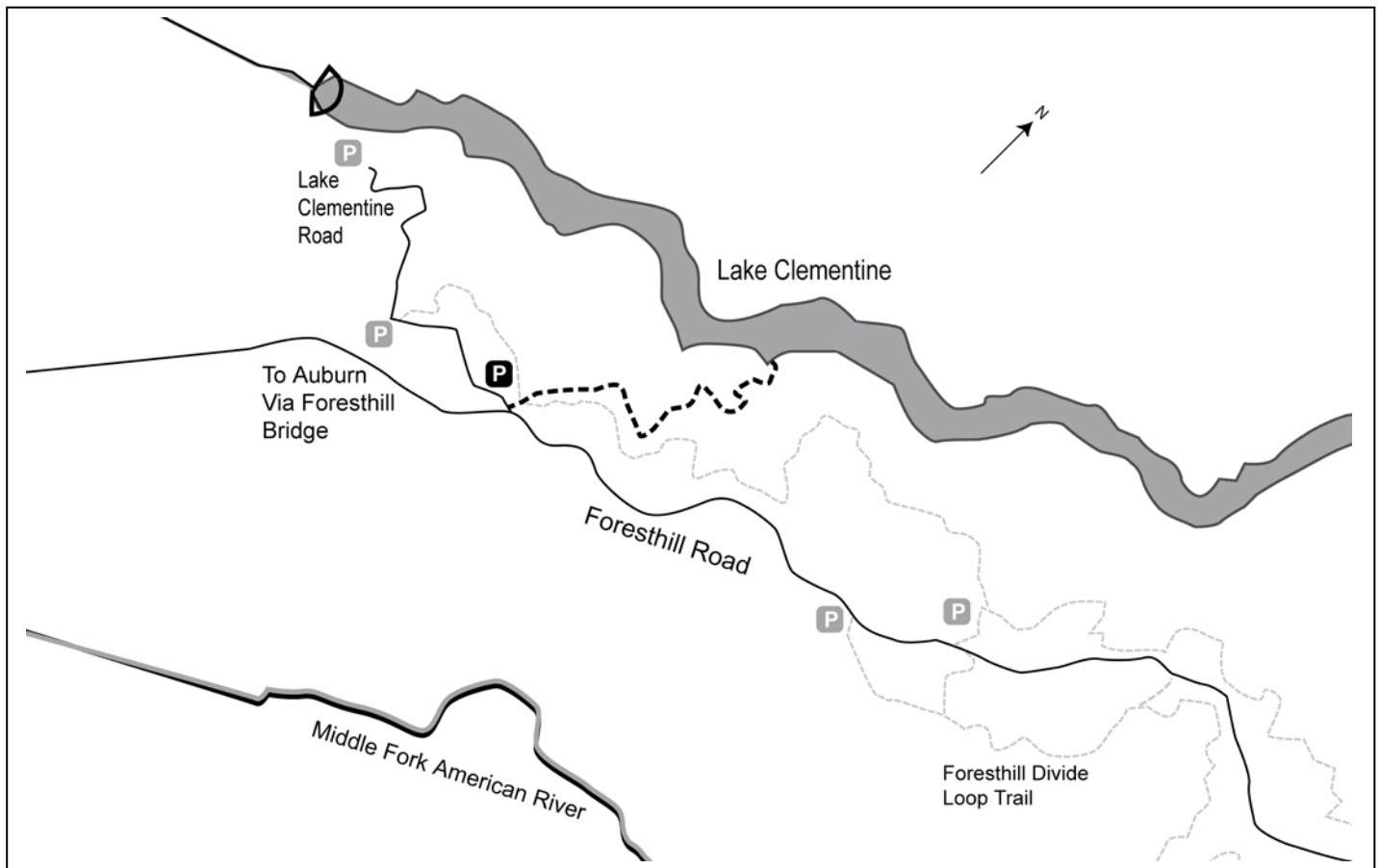
This nicely graded service road offers an enjoyable hike down to the edge of Lake Clementine. It alternates between sun and shade while offering a few aerial type views of the lake. Note the many different types of trees found along the way. There are several strands of manzanita and madrone, whose reddish trunks always feel cool to the touch, as well as ponderosa pine, bay, several types of oaks and other foothill favorites. There is a nice display of maidenhair and bracken ferns along the side of the trail about half way down in the wetter months.

The trail ends in a small clearing at the edge of Lake Clementine. A small stream, on the edge of the clearing, bubbles over moss covered rocks in this shady riparian zone. Trees overhang the area and provide welcome shade on sunny days. In summer, this is a nice place to cool your feet, while enjoying the shade and lake views. The SS relief (the port-a-potty for boaters) is usually moored in the center of the small cove.

The trail offers some great views of Lake Clementine and the limestone outcroppings on the opposite shore. These outcroppings are a continuation of the same type of hard limestone deposit that has been mined for commercial use since the 1880's at the quarry located on the Middle Fork American River. The most predominant feature is Lime Rock, known locally as Robber's Roost. (See sidebar)



Auburn State Recreation Area



Did You Know? -- Lake Clementine is used exclusively for public recreation. It was created when the North Fork Dam was completed in 1938. The dam was designed and built by the Army Corps of Engineers to collect sedimentation from upriver hydraulic mining. It was made superfluous when such operations were discontinued by state edict.

Did You Know? -- Lime Rock is locally known as Robbers Roost. When Foresthill was still a booming gold mining site, a local band of outlaws, the Gassaway Gang, is reported to have used the rock as a strategic lookout point to spot and then signal when the stagecoach was enroute from Foresthill to Auburn.