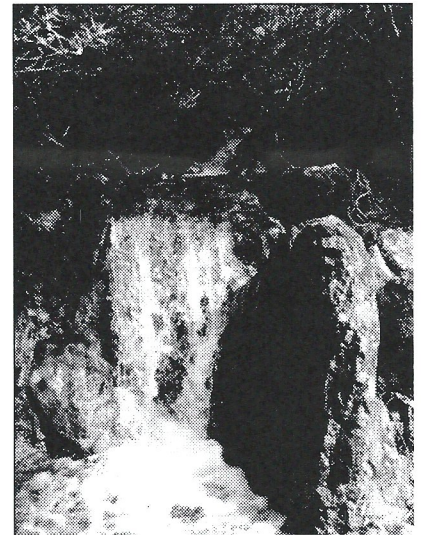


Falls Trail Loop

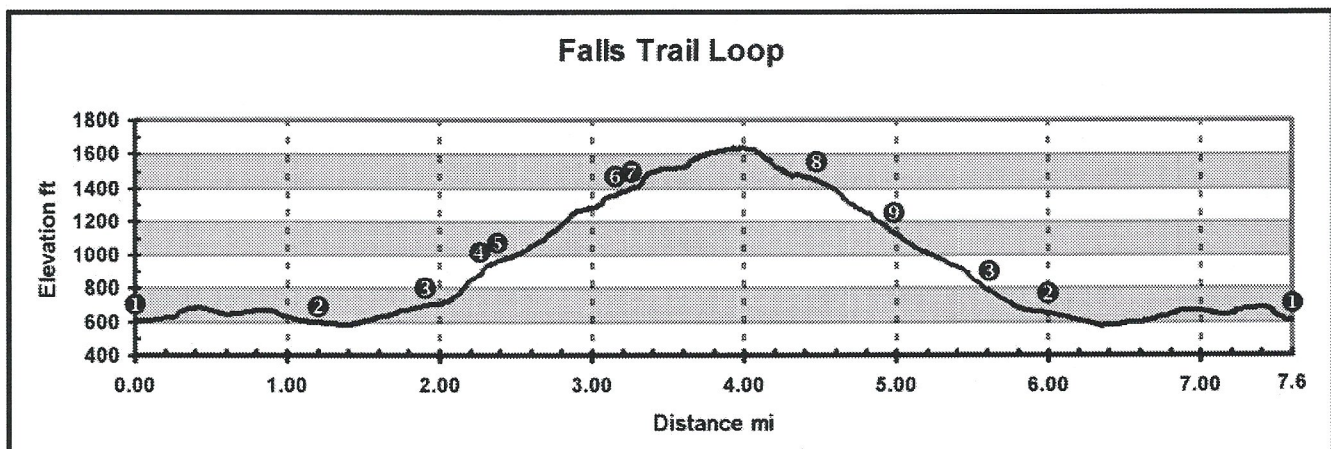
Distance, difficulty: 7.6-mile loop – moderate
Estimated hiking time: 3.5 to 5 hours
High point, elevation gain: 1,637 feet, 1,063-foot gain
Terrain: Unsuitable for wheelchairs

Trailhead: End of paved part of Mitchell Canyon Road, north entrance to park, near the town of Clayton. Drinking water and restrooms. Park in staging area. Day use fee. **Alternate trailhead:** The hike is two miles shorter if you start at the Regency trailhead near ② Donner Canyon Road. Drive through Clayton. Turn right on Regency Drive, drive to the dead end, and park beyond the last houses. Walk down to the trail below; the park gate is a short distance toward the mountain. No facilities.

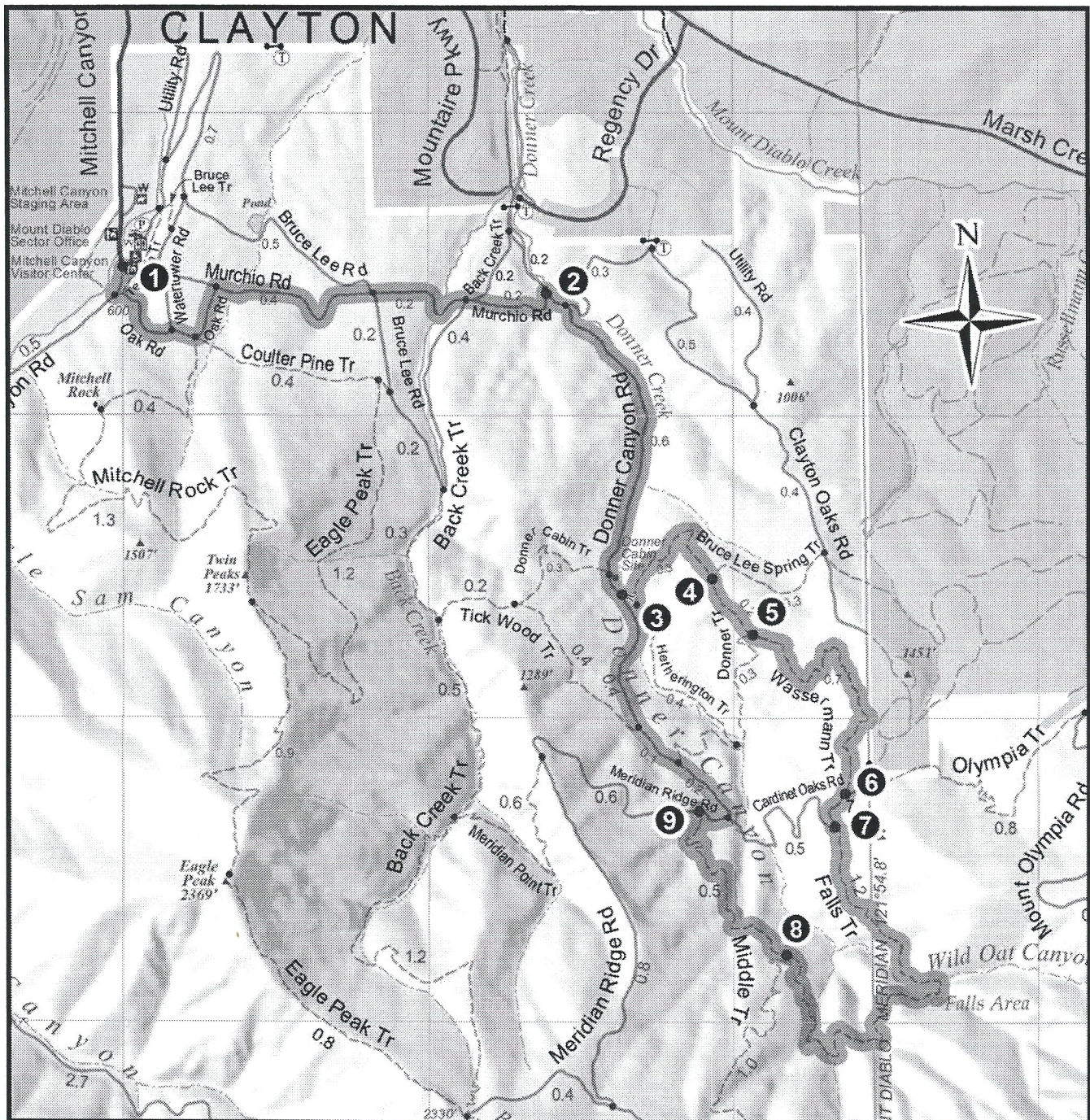


Description: A few yards beyond ① the Mitchell Canyon Road trailhead, Oak Road takes off to the left where the split rail fencing ends. A short climb up the fire road takes you to a meadowy plateau. Continue on Oak Road as it takes a sharp left turn, then intersects with Murchio Road. Turn right onto Murchio Road to ② Donner Canyon Road. Turn right and follow this road to the site of Donner Cabin. Just beyond, turn left to cross Donner Creek on a foot bridge. After a few steps along ③ the Hetherington Trail, turn left and follow the Bruce Lee Spring Trail, ④ Donner Trail, and ⑤ Wassermann Trail to ⑥ Cardinet Oaks Road. A short distance to the right is ⑦ the Falls Trail. This, in turn, ends at ⑧ Middle Trail; turn right and follow Middle Trail to its end at ⑨ Meridian Ridge Road. Turn right and, shortly thereafter, left onto Donner Canyon Road. Take Donner Canyon Road down to Murchio Road, and retrace your steps back to the trailhead. The hike is not difficult, but some stream crossings are steep and slippery. In winter and early spring, the roads may be muddy. In winter (rainy season) and throughout spring after it rains, the Falls Trail offers fine views of one of the mountain's most spectacular attractions, several waterfalls up to 100 feet high. Spring also brings astounding displays of wildflowers, and the colorful rock formations are worth the trip at any time. Please refrain from scrambling down to the falls; it is dangerous and damages the landscape.

Another route to the Falls Trail: This path is approximately half a mile shorter, but the stream crossings may be more challenging: From Mitchell Canyon Road, left on Oak Road, straight on Coulter Pine Trail, right on Bruce Lee Road, right on Back Creek Trail, left on Tick Wood Trail, right on Donner Canyon Road, left on Cardinet Oaks Road, and right on Falls Trail.



Falls Trail Loop



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact Mount Diablo State Park, 925-673-2891 (Bay Sector Office) or 925-837-6129 (Junction Ranger Station); 711, TTY relay service. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting Mount Diablo State Park, 925-673-2891.



Mount Diablo State Park
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517
925-837-2525 • 711, TTY relay service

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association
P.O. Box 346
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346
925-927-7222 • www.mdia.org