



Seasonal Trail Closure Policy – Enid W. Pearson Arastradero Nature Preserve

Seasonal Trails: Bowl Loop, Woodland Star, Woodrat, and Wild Rye trails are subject to seasonal closures. All other trails remain open year-round.

Trail Closure Criteria:

Seasonal trails will be closed if rainfall exceeds **0.5 inches over 24 hours** or **1 inch within 7 days**, as measured at the Foothills Nature Preserve weather station.

Trail Reopening Criteria:

Trails may be reopened after **at least 48 hours of no rain** and only when trail conditions are dry and tracks are not left by all user groups.

Trail Locations:

Seasonal trails are generally located on the western side of the preserve, except for Wild Rye Trail, which is in the lower area. These trails are marked in **red** on the map attached in Appendix A.

Why Seasonal Closures Matter:

Closing trails during wet conditions helps protect the preserve's natural environment by:

- Preventing trail erosion and damage to fragile soil structures
- Protecting sensitive wildlife habitats, especially during the winter and early spring
- Allowing native vegetation to recover and reducing the spread of invasive species
- Minimizing maintenance needs and preserving trail quality for future use

Authority and Management Plan:

Seasonal closures are part of the Arastradero Trail Maintenance Plan, which guides sustainable use and long-term preservation of trail infrastructure.

Authority for trail closures are granted under Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) 22.04.250 – Regulation R1-3 (Closure of Facilities), which allows the City to temporarily close areas for public safety, environmental protection, and resource conservation.

Stay Informed:

For current trail status, please check:

- City of Palo Alto Trail Conditions Website
- The preserve parking lot bulletin board
- Or call the Foothills Nature Preserve Interpretive Center at (650) 329-2423

To view rainfall data used in closure decisions, visit the Creek Monitor page on the City of Palo Alto website.

Appendix A: Seasonal Trails highlighted in Red on Preserve Map

