



TRAIL AT-A-GLANCE:



LAKE CLEMENTINE AND CLARK'S HOLE TRAIL

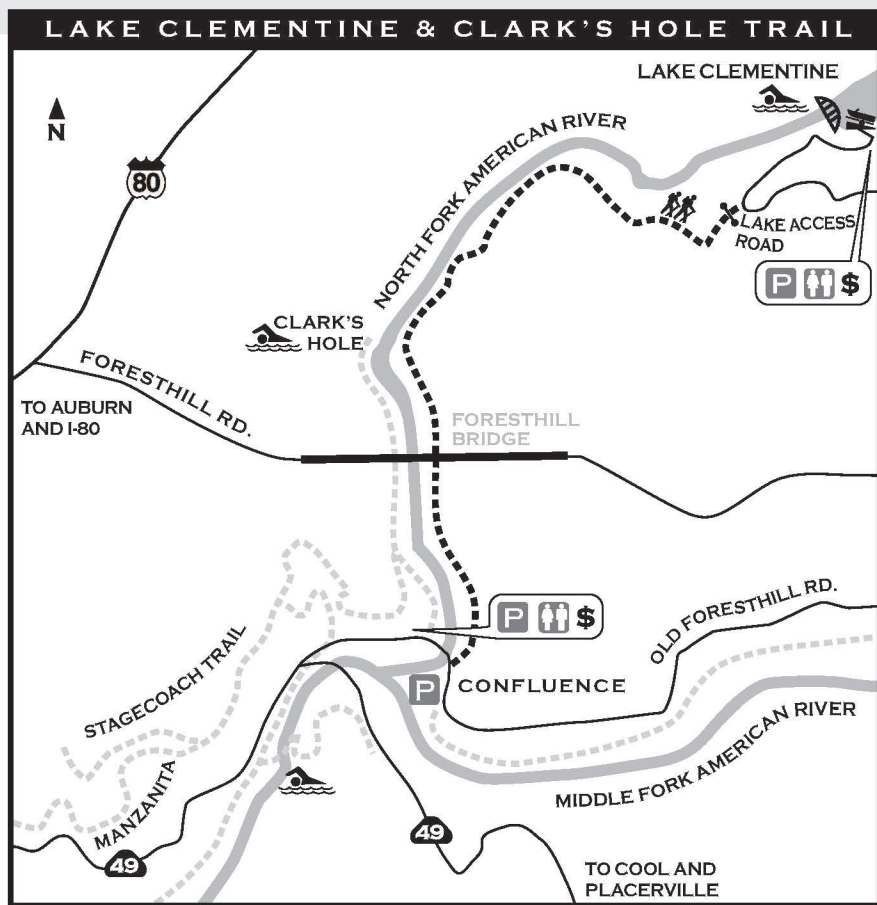


DISTANCE: 1.9 miles one way; 1 hour each way (hiking)

DIFFICULTY: Easy

ELEVATION

CHANGE: +/- 350'



Lake Clementine and Clark's Hole Trail

TRAIL SNAPSHOT

An easy and ideal trail for a panoramic hike along the North Fork American River, mostly in the shade of conifers and oaks. Several side trails lead down to the river; the last one descending to a deep pool beneath the North Fork Dam where a spectacular year-round waterfall cascades over the dam into a summer swimming pool.

Trailhead Parking

(N38-54.941; W121-02.144)

Trailhead is at Confluence area, 1¼ miles south of ASRA Park Headquarters. Take Hwy. 49 from Auburn (south) to Old Foresthill Road at the bottom of the canyon. Continue straight for ¼ mile, cross the curved Old Foresthill Rd. Bridge, and park on the right. Trailhead is on the left across from the parking area behind the green gate (#139).



LAKE CLEMENTINE AND CLARK'S HOLE TRAIL

The Lake Clementine Trail begins at the Confluence area on the far side of the curved Old Foresthill Rd. Bridge (built in 1955). It parallels the North Fork American River upstream, river left. At ¼ mile, concrete abutments for what was known as the Steel Bridge (1911-1955), may be seen on the opposite riverbank. At ½ mile, the trail goes under the Foresthill Bridge (*see sidebar on following page*).

At ¾ mile, Clark's Hole can be seen on the left. It is a deep and clear rock-lined swimming hole popular with locals for over one hundred years. A short side trail, on the left, leads down to the pool and a sandy beach. The summer water temperature of the river below Lake Clementine is surprisingly warm since it is fed from sun-warmed water from the surface of Lake Clementine flowing over the North Fork Dam. By contrast, the Middle Fork American River is fed from the bottom of Oxbow

This 185-foot-long, covered North Fork bridge was a privately built toll bridge linking Auburn to the towns of Yankee Jim's, Foresthill and Michigan Bluff. Pictured in front is the Auburn-Foresthill Stage, circa 1910.



Reservoir and is considerably colder.

At 1 mile, rock abutments of a wooden covered toll bridge, built in 1875 and used until 1911, are visible on the opposite riverbank. A short distance upriver, if you look carefully, you can see evidence on the opposite riverbank of abutments where three different bridges existed between 1852 and 1875.

Continuing upriver, this part of the trail uses a largely shaded roadway once the old stagecoach route connecting Auburn with the gold rush camps of Foresthill, Yankee Jim's and Iowa Hill.

Lake Clementine trail ends at Lake Clementine Road. Follow this paved road to the left for about ¼ mile and then take the unmarked side trail on the left towards the river for an exciting view of water plunging over the dam face into a summer swimming pool (see page 76 sidebar in the *Applegate to Lake Clementine Trail* section).

TRAIL SNAPSHOT:

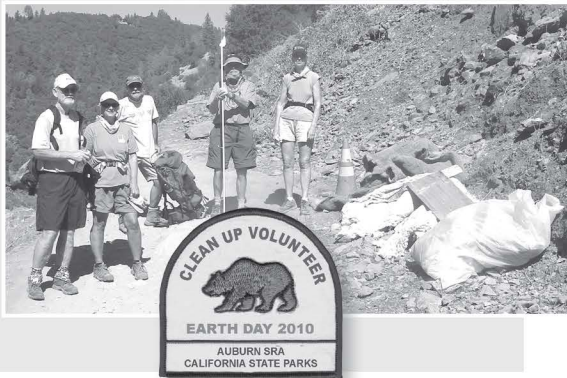
Foresthill Bridge

The 2,248 foot long Foresthill Bridge was designed to span the reservoir that would have resulted had the Auburn Dam been completed. (Work on the dam was discontinued in 1976.) Water was expected to reach the top of the cement piers, but today the bridge towers 730 feet above the river, making it the tallest bridge in California. It was opened in 1973 with much fanfare and has been featured in numerous movies and commercials. It has been the site for many stunts—both legal and illegal.



The California Highway Patrol helicopter removes a cargo net bag of trash collected by dedicated volunteers at the annual Earth Day American River Cleanup.

Trash thrown off the bridge creates a safety hazard for those recreating in the river and using the trails below. As part of the 2012-2014 Foresthill Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project, the bridge railing has been raised to 5½ feet to deter dumping and suicide plunges from the bridge.



TRAIL AT-A-GLANCE:



MIDDLE FORK CONFLUENCE TRAIL

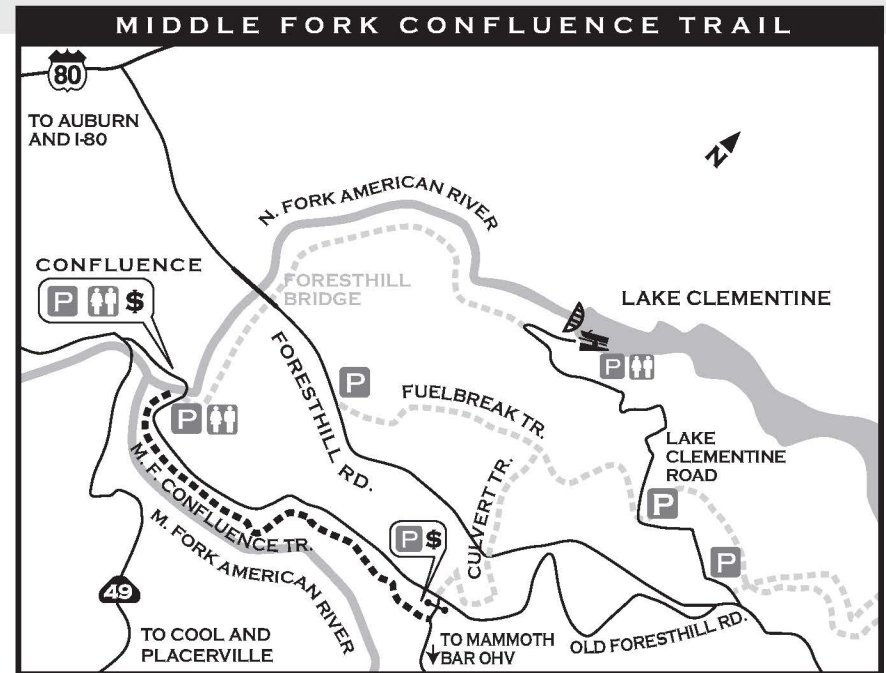
DISTANCE: 1.8 mile one way; ½ hour down; 1 hour up (hiking)



DIFFICULTY: Moderate

ELEVATION

CHANGE: +/- 600'



An unique view of a Foresthill Bridge base-jumper at the 2013 Adventure Auburn event.



Photo by Gary Hughes

