



HANGTOWN RAILS TO TRAILS

RAILS TO TRAILS WALK AND BIKE

PLACER PACERS

November 8, 2025, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

RAILROAD HISTORY

In 1853, the first railroad to be built in California began laying tracks in Sacramento near the docks on the river. It was called the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad. By the time the Central Pacific Railroad was laying tracks to Auburn and over the Sierra, the railroad was moving into the foothills and eventually it reached Placerville and all the way up to Camino. By 1888 it was owned by the Southern Pacific and served several small communities along the way like Shingle Springs and El Dorado. The railroad carried both freight and passengers until the 1940s and then just freight until 1986 when it was shut down. Today, a small portion of the tracks are used for excursions on Sundays, starting at the El Dorado's train station.

The County of El Dorado has converted a large portion of the railroad grade into the paved **El Dorado Trail**. From its central point in downtown Placerville, you can walk or bike about 15K to the east and 20K to the west. We have developed the following walks and bike rides for your enjoyment, all of which start at the Buttercup Pantry Restaurant.

WALKING OPTIONS

There are two 5K/10K options, EAST or WEST.

In the first option you can walk **EAST** from the Buttercup Pantry through downtown enjoying window shopping and then pick up the El Dorado Trail heading east through a short tunnel and then along a shaded hillside with lots of views. 5K walkers have a turnaround spot.

In the second option you can walk **WEST** from the Buttercup Pantry along the railroad grade to the top of a tall railroad bridge with a great view and then turnaround. Also, 5K walkers have a turnaround spot.

BIKING

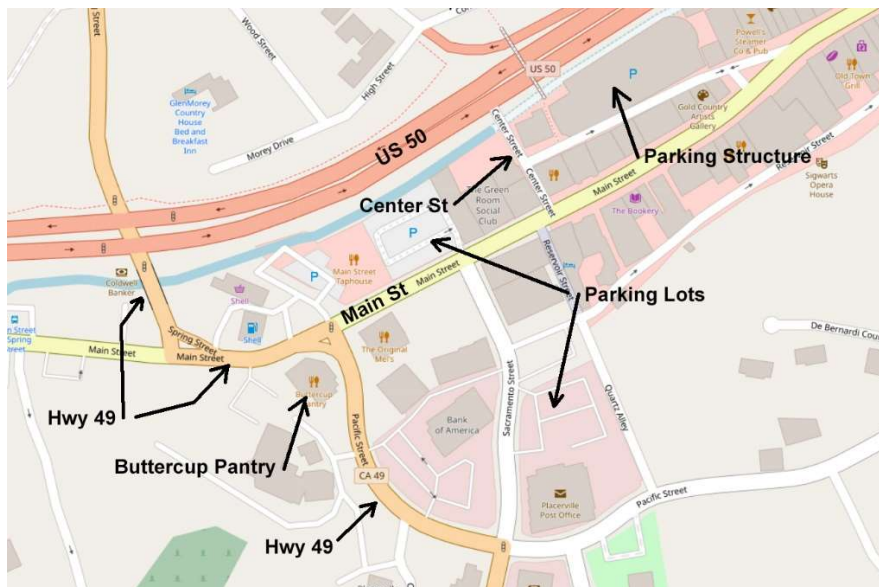
The biking option is 23K (14 miles). You start from the Buttercup Pantry and ride east on the El Dorado Trail past where the walkers turn around, and then return to the Buttercup Pantry for 13K and then ride west to the Railroad Bridge and back for a total of 23K. All of the routes are on gently sloping old railroad grade.

DIRECTIONS

Take Hwy 50 east from Sacramento to Placerville. Right at the Hwy 49 South signal. Left on Main Street. Start at Buttercup Pantry is immediately on the right.

PARKING

DO NOT PARK IN THE BUTTERCUP PANTRY PARKING LOT. There are two city parking lots one block away and a 4-story parking structure, two blocks away. See map. The first two hours of parking are free. There is a small per hour charge after that.



RESTUARANTS

Please consider having a meal before or after the event at the Buttercup Pantry. The food is great, and they have housed our Placerville Walk Box for years.

START/FINISH TIMES: 9am to noon, finish by 3pm.

SANCTION NUMMBER: #xxx-25,

RATING: The two walks and the bike ride are rated 1A. Paved bike path.

START LOCATION: Buttercup Pantry, 222 Main St, Placerville, CA 95667.

REGISTRATION: Credit and Guest fee is \$400. No pre-registration for this event.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Rails to Trails, Town Hall/City Hall, Walking America,

MISCELLANEOUS: Restrooms are available at the start and on the East Walk and Bike Ride. Dogs are OK with leash and cleanup. Strollers-medium, Wheelchairs-medium.

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