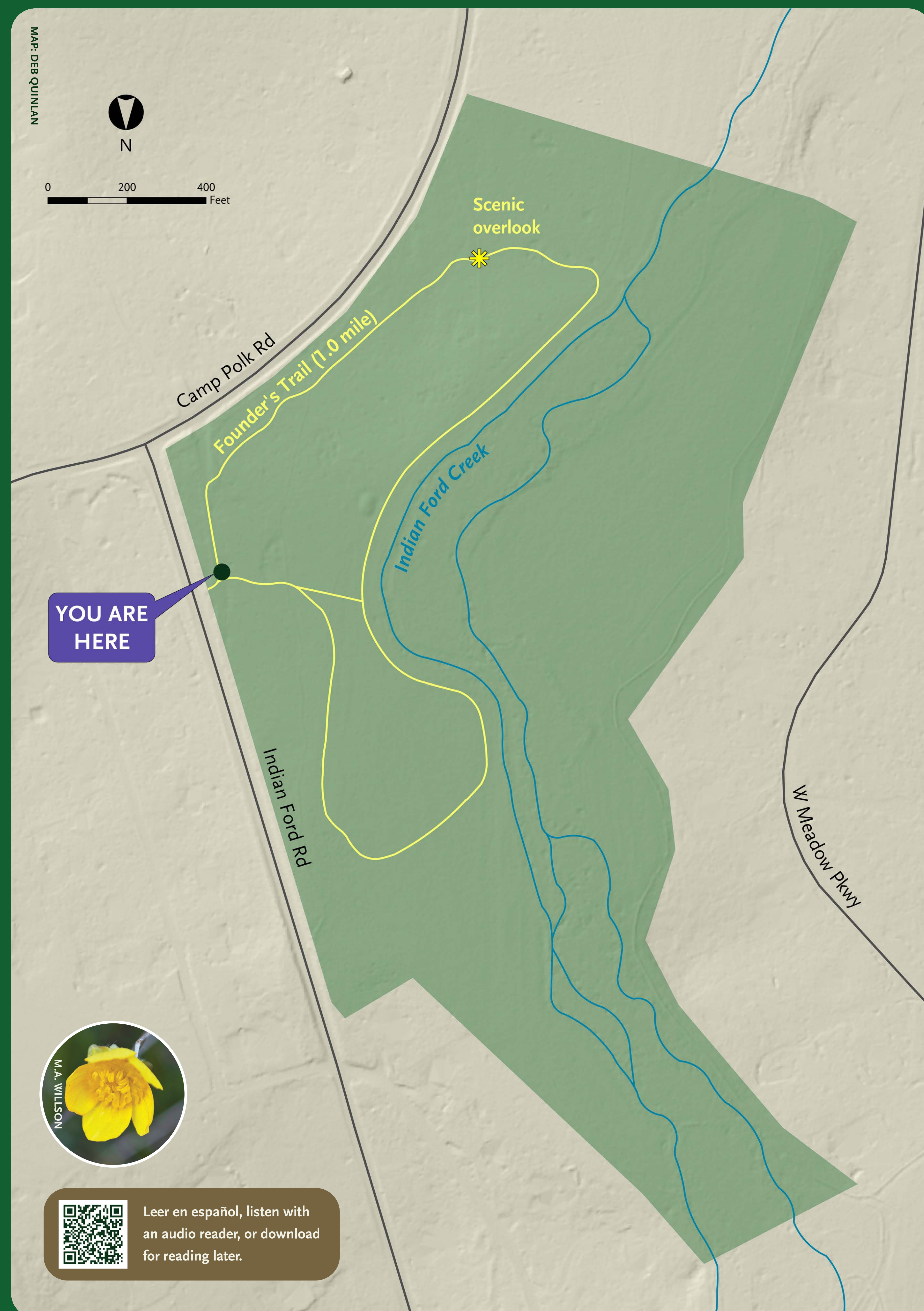


WELCOME TO INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE



EXPLORING INDIAN FORD MEADOW PRESERVE

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is open to the public during daylight hours year-round and use is conditional upon following these and any other posted rules:



Dogs must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES. Please clean up after your pet.



Pedestrian travel only: no bike, horse, or motorized vehicle use. Stay on trails and respect restrictions as posted.



Help care for plants and animals. Removal or disturbance of plants, wildlife, and historical artifacts is prohibited.



No hunting, camping, campfires, smoking, or unmanned aircraft use. Commercial use and private events are prohibited.

This Preserve is private property owned by Deschutes Land Trust. Your use of the property is conditional upon these and any other posted rules. Preserve users failing to observe posted rules are trespassing and subject to applicable laws and penalties. Visitors to the Preserve may encounter risks associated with terrain, wildlife, and weather. The Deschutes Land Trust is not liable for injuries to Preserve visitors.



The Deschutes Land Trust conserves and cares for the lands and waters that sustain Central Oregon, so local communities and the natural world can flourish together for generations to come. We protected Indian Ford Meadow Preserve with the help of generous donors and countless volunteers. You can continue to protect the places you love by exploring our Preserves, and by becoming a member or volunteering today.

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Coming Together for the Land

In 1995 a small group of passionate people came together to start the Deschutes Land Trust. They saw a need to help private landowners voluntarily conserve their land. They chose to form a land trust, modeled on national standards, to conserve and care for the land. The end goal: protected lands that benefit local communities for generations to come.

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve was the Deschutes Land Trust's first property. A generous and thoughtful local family donated it to the young land trust in 1996. Today Indian Ford Meadow Preserve remains protected for all Central Oregonians. It's a place where wildlife, native plants, and people flourish, all thanks to the hard work of those dedicated volunteers who worked to shape the future years ago.



Founder's Trail

The primary trail at the Preserve is called the Founder's Trail to honor the hard work of those individuals who made the Land Trust and the Preserve possible: Brad Chalfant, Bill Dakin, Win Francis, Brian Harrington, Jim Knapp, Dave Leslie, Catherine Morrow, Russ Olson, Maret Pajutee, Bruce White, and Ted Wise.



LUPINE LAND TRUST

STEVE PEDERSEN



Learn more about the natural wonders of Indian Ford Meadow Preserve at our nearby viewpoint along the Founder's Trail.

COMMON GROUND

Indian Ford Meadow has been a gathering place for humans and wildlife for thousands of years. The meadow was once a part of a large series of wetlands and meadows that followed Indian Ford Creek. It stretched from Black Butte to where Indian Ford Creek meets Whychus Creek. These meadows provided a lush oasis in the high desert. Dense willow lined the banks of Indian Ford Creek. Meadow grasses were thick and abundant. Pine and aspen trees grew tall and strong. Fish and wildlife thrived.

Native Americans

Since time immemorial, Native American groups from the Great Basin, Columbia Plateau, and Willamette Valley traveled through Indian Ford Meadow. They visited seasonally to make use of the meadow's game, plants, and water. They stayed in temporary shelters, perhaps made of woven tule. Indian Ford Creek was called "Que-y-ee" by some Native peoples.



DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sahaptin woman and man outside tipi covered with woven tule mats.

Euro-Americans

The first Euro-Americans began to arrive in the 1800s. They camped and grazed their horses on the meadow as part of their journey to explore railroad routes from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Their journals record detailed accounts of the beauty of the land.



BOWMAN MUSEUM

Drawing of Indian Ford Meadow from the Abbot and Williamson Journals, 1855.

Early Settlement

In 1865, the Santiam Wagon Road, which followed Indian Ford Creek towards Camp Polk Meadow, was completed. It provided direct access to Central Oregon from the busy Willamette Valley. As Central Oregon was homesteaded, Indian Ford Meadow became part of the Willows Ranch, one of the earliest ranches in the area.



BOWMAN MUSEUM

Central Oregon stage coach, circa 1910.

Our Future

The Deschutes Land Trust's vision for Indian Ford Meadow Preserve is that it continues to be the common ground upon which we all come together to create a better future for Central Oregon. Together we can help scenic meadows, plants and animals, and the people that love these places flourish together for generations to come. Join us today!



LAND TRUST

Volunteers help protect young aspen from heavy browsing by deer and elk.