

This trailhead accesses all routes for climbers and hikers on the south and west sides of the mountain. It is also the point for any and all spiritual seekers, motor tourists and any other folks making a quick visit off the I-5 for site seeing. This road is plowed to Bunny Flat year-round and thus is the standard access point for all winter recreation too. Activities here are vast. You can take day hikes to Horse Camp, Hidden Valley and Lake Helen; climb up a multitude of world class routes; cross country ski, sled, or snow shoe; and sight-seeing and meditating. Treat the area and other types of users with respect. Pick up trash and leave trails in better condition than when you arrived.

## Panther Meadow/Campground

Panther Meadow Campground is a walk-in campground located near timberline on Mt. Shasta at 7,500 feet. There are 15 sites, all within a short walk of your vehicle. This site includes tables, fire-rings, and vault toilet. Bring your own water or purify the creek water nearby. There is 3-day limit, but currently no fee. No reservations accepted here (first come first serve). Self-register on site. Usually opens around July 1st, depending on winter snowpack, and closes late October or by November 1st.

Panther Meadow features two sub-alpine meadows with hiking trails that take visitors from the lower meadow to the upper. You can also park at the Upper Meadow for an easier hike that leads more directly to the Panther Meadow Spring. This meadow is highly revered and is considered sacred among local Native American tribes and spiritual folks who come to this location for pilgrimage and to commune with the land, spring, and mountain.

Lower Panther Meadow Trailhead forks off into two directions, one leading to a lovely and beautiful trail to summit Gray Butte, and the other that leads up the slope to upper Panther Meadow.

**Features:** Highest campground on the mountain with open views and vistas. There are two small sub-alpine heather meadows a short distance from the campground as well as a trail to Gray Butte. Because of the fragile nature of the meadows, great care must be given by all who visit not to incur damage. In recent years, a major effort has been made by local tribes, volunteers, and the Forest Service to re-vegetate the native species and improve the trail system to minimize erosion.

## Old Ski Bowl Trail Head

Welcome to the Old Ski Bowl, the end and stopping point of Highway A10 Everitt Memorial. Up here at 7,800 ft you will find a curved parking lot with a large open area for picnicking and site seeing. It is like a sky ocean up here, as the surrounding mountains and clouds look like rolls of waves in an ocean. Here at the Old Ski Bowl, a ski lodge existed from the mid 50's until 1978, when an avalanche wiped out several of the chairlift towers, closing the ski lodge permanently. The ski park is the reason that there is a trail in the Old Ski Bowl, as well as a paved road leading all the way to the trailhead.

From the Old Ski Bowl, you can access numerous trails that lead into the Mount Shasta Wilderness, Shortly below the parking lot is access to upper Panther Meadows trailhead, and at the highest point, you can reach the Old Ski Bowl Trailhead, a route to Gray Butte and a route to South Gate (formerly Squaw Meadow)—a gorgeous mountain meadow/spring filled with blooming wildflowers.

It truly is a site to behold and an experience to cherish and relish in.

## Exploring the Mount Shasta Wilderness From Everitt Memorial

Everitt Memorial Highway is an excellent access point to the Mount Shasta Wilderness. To access the Mount Shasta Wilderness, you will need to have a wilderness license, which can be picked up at the Forest Service in Mount Shasta. Don't forget to bring a first aid kit, water, and disposable waste bags. You are responsible for cleaning up after yourself and limiting impact on trails and local wildlife. To learn more about accessing the Mount Shasta Wilderness, visit the Forestry website in the links provided below.

## Useful Websites and Resources

**Forest Service:** [www.fs.usda.gov/stnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf)

**Mount Shasta Trail Association:**  
[mountshastatrailassociation.org](http://mountshastatrailassociation.org)

**Gateway Trail Expansion:** [www.gatewaytrail.org](http://www.gatewaytrail.org)

**Hike Mount Shasta:** [www.hikemtshasta.com](http://www.hikemtshasta.com)

**Mount Shasta Avalanche Center:**

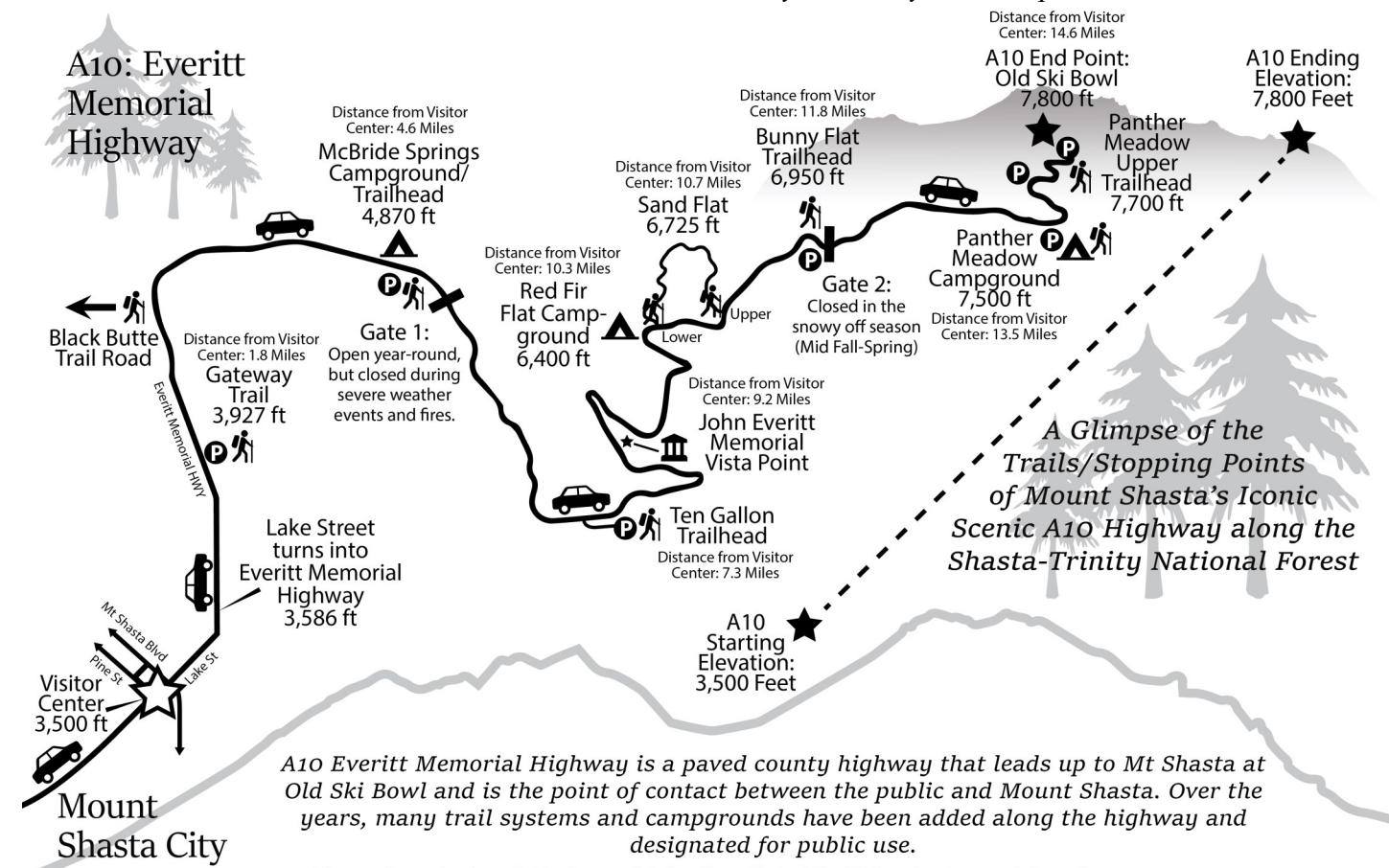
[www.shastaavalanche.org](http://www.shastaavalanche.org)

**Mount Shasta Nordic Center:** [www.mtshastanordic.org](http://www.mtshastanordic.org)

**USGS Mount Shasta Geological History, Seismicity, and Updates:** [www.usgs.gov/volcanoes/mount-shasta](http://www.usgs.gov/volcanoes/mount-shasta)

# Everitt Memorial Highway History and Mount Shasta STNF Hiking Trails/Campgrounds

**Note on Accessibility:** The following trails/locations are accessible at different times/seasons of the year and some require a wilderness license to access. Please take all precautions when going into the wilderness and if you have any questions on licenses, accessibility, or safety concerns, please contact the Forest Service: 530-440-4509, or Siskiyou County Road Dept.: 530-926-4524



## About A10 Everitt Memorial Highway: The Highway leading up to Mount Shasta

**County Route A10 Everitt Memorial Highway** is a 15.19-mile (24.4 km) long road in Mount Shasta. It runs from Rockfellow Dr in Mount Shasta City to Old Ski Bowl, a dead end located at about 8,000-foot elevation on Mount Shasta's south-west facing side. The highway was completed in 1958 and originally built to provide access to the Mount Shasta Ski Bowl, a ski lodge destroyed by an avalanche in 1978. Today, the highway provides

access to Mount Shasta for campers, climbers, cross country skiers, hikers, snowshoers, spiritual seekers, and anyone wanting access to the mountain. The highway takes adventurers from Mount Shasta City into the Mount Shasta Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF) and surrounding wilderness.

The John Everitt Memorial Lookout Vista and Highway A10 are named after John S. Everitt, the forest supervisor for the Shasta National Forest who died while fighting the Bear Springs Fire in 1935. John Everitt ran the forest administration on and around Mount Shasta. Everitt previously worked for the Forest Service in the Lassen, Plumas, and Stanislaus National Forests. He was appointed the head of the Shasta National Forest

early in 1935. Everitt lead the effort to contain the Bear Springs fire that started on the southern slopes of Mount Shasta. While scouting the fire alone one afternoon, the winds shifted suddenly and Everitt was trapped and killed.

Everitt Memorial Highway is accessible year-round but closed at the second gate at Bunny Flat once the snow season picks up at the end of October. At the end of Spring-early Summer (depending on weather conditions), the gate is opened again and leads up to the Old Ski Bowl, the highest paved driving location on Mount Shasta. Expect the first gate near McBride Springs Campground to be closed during winter snowstorms or severe wildfires affecting Mount Shasta.

**Location:** Mount Shasta City, California. E Lake Street turns into A10: Everitt Memorial Highway at the point between N Washington Dr and Rockfellow Dr. The Highway continues up Mount Shasta and ends at the Old Ski Bowl, with gates located near McBride Springs Campground and at Bunny Flat Trailhead.

## Camping along the Everitt Memorial Highway

There are many dispersed camping sites along the Everitt Memorial Highway as well as at Bunny Flat proper. These sites are open access and first come first serve. There are several designated campgrounds that offer more services in camping, such as McBride Springs, Red Fir Flat Group Campground, and Panther Meadows Campground. It is recommended to disperse camp on the downhill side of the road and not above the road in Bunny Flat proper. There are many great sites below the road with existing fire rings and places to park. Camp in your van, RV or vehicle in dispersed camping parking lots, but don't set up a giant base camp in these parking lot locations and be sure to be respectful of the surroundings, people, and wildlife and always clean up after yourself.

## Gateway Trail

The Gateway Trail is the first official trailhead off the Everitt Memorial Highway. The Gateway Trail is a literal Gateway of trails into the Mount Shasta Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Wilderness. The Gateway Trail is a premiere hiking and biking

destination for locals and adventure seekers. This trail system is continually evolving and in development by the Mount Shasta Trail Association:

"When completed, it will connect the city of Mount Shasta with surrounding recreation sites, including the Mount Shasta Ski Park, Shastice Bike Park, Nordic Center, McBride Springs Campground, and John Everitt Vista Point. The effort also involves constructing four new trailheads with parking areas, expanding McBride Springs Campground with more campsites, and installing interpretive signage and maps at trail junctions. The project will offer stunning scenic overviews featuring the unique volcanic landscape of the Mount Shasta Wilderness Area, the upper Sacramento headwaters, and thousands of acres of STNF" (Mount Shasta Trail Association).

To get a glimpse of this trail system, you can see the accompanying trail map or visit: [www.gatewaytrail.org](http://www.gatewaytrail.org).

## Black Butte Trail Road: Black Butte Trailhead Access

### Warning: Back Butte Trail is in Dangerous Condition.

The next area of interest off Everitt Memorial is the Black Butte Trail Road, which takes users to the Black Butte Trailhead. If you are in Mount Shasta and you see the large domes right next to I-5 Highway on the East side, you may have become curious about these unique geographic features, which look like mini volcanos next to Mount Shasta. Black Butte is a group of overlapping dacite domes. The extrusion of the domes came about 9,500 years ago during a volcanic event, which included pyroclastic flows. Although the Black Butte Trail itself is considered dangerous due to a lack of funding and trail maintenance, it is an interesting place to stop and poke around and get up close and personal with on your scenic drive along the Everitt Memorial Highway. Just keep in mind the road that accesses the trailhead is a dirt road and may not be friendly for 2-wheel drive vehicles. Exercise all caution and safety when driving to Black Butte Trailhead and exploring the area, which is also notorious for rattle snakes. Be respectful of wildlife and the surrounding ecology.

## McBride Springs Campground

As you continue driving up the Everitt Memorial Highway, your next stop is the McBride Springs Campground. Situated on the lower slopes of Mount Shasta at an elevation of almost 5000 feet, this popular campground currently has 12 sites with tables and fire rings, suitable for tents and small RV's and include vault toilets. McBride Springs Campground is a popular destination due to its spring water station (depending on the yearly precipitation may or may not be dry). This campground offers visitors a unique getaway with plenty of areas to explore around the campsite, including close proximity to the Gateway Trail System.

## Ten Gallon Trailhead

Next on the stop is Ten Gallon Trailhead. The Ten Gallon is part of the 2021 Gateway Phase 2 trail expansion. 10 Gallon trail was built as the first addition of that project and features premier hiking and biking just off Everitt Memorial Highway on the way up to Mount Shasta. The Ten Gallon Trail connects to both the Bear Springs and Muir's Ascension trails and other roadways in the foothills surrounding Mount Shasta.

## John Everitt Memorial Vista

Hidden amongst the dense forest of Mount Shasta's southwestern flank is The John Everitt Memorial Vista. This memorial vista is located .5 miles off the trailhead and has an easy 100-foot elevation climb. The vista vantage point offers panoramic views stretching from the Lassen area in a wide arc to the northwest all the way to China Mountain at the nexus of the Trinity Divide and the Scott Mountains.

## Red Fir Flat Campground

Red Fir Flat Group Campground is located on the southern slope of Mt. Shasta at 6,400 feet in elevation. It is named for the nearly pure stands of towering old growth Shasta Red Firs. These stately trees, up to 175 feet tall, make up a large, high elevation forest—perhaps the most characteristic forest of Shasta. Snowpack in this location may extend into late June on heavy snow years, and

usually sees late season snowfall in early November, possibly October. It is a popular site for meditation/retreat groups. Usually opens June 15th.

## Sand Flat (Upper and Lower)

Sand Flat is a picturesque flat open area of about 30 acres of sandy volcanic sediment offering some of the best high views of the mountain with a trailhead at 6,830 feet. Its access is off the Everitt Memorial Highway, just before Bunny Flat. There is an "upper" and "lower" Sand Flat road and either can be used to get to the trailhead. In the snow seasons, the road is closed but can still be hiked by snowshoe trails. Sand Flat is popular with hikers, snowshoers, and cross-country skiers. Sand Flat accesses all the same routes as the Bunny Flat trailhead, just from a slightly different angle. It's a great trailhead for use by hikers later in the season looking for an alternative trail for hiking adventures on the south and west sides of the mountain. The trail joins the Horse Camp trail approximately 1/4 mile before the Mount Shasta Wilderness boundary. There are numerous dispersed camping spots in the Sand Flat area and gorgeous views of Casaval Ridge and upper Mount Shasta. Sand Flat features huge Shasta Red Fir trees, bright green moss, and a quiet, tranquil space.

## Bunny Flat Trail Head

Bunny Flat is 3 miles before A10 road's end and 900 feet lower at 6,950 ft. With great views to the south and the immense bulk of Mount Shasta towering overhead, it is a gorgeous, scenic location. Here you will find the Horse Camp and Green Butte Ridge Trails, a climb up the mountain from the trailhead, and receive the opportunity to explore beautiful, scenic areas on the volcano. The Horse Camp Trail leads to the Shasta Alpine Lodge, owned by the Sierra Club. You can also hike into the Old Ski Bowl from here, a beautiful hike that takes you up past the timber line to the upper part of A10. Bunny Flat is a multi-use trailhead and the busiest year-round. Self-issue Wilderness Permits, Summits Passes, Pack-out bags, camping, and bathrooms are available here. There is no water available. The nearest water is the Horse Camp spring, Panther Meadows spring or back to town. It is recommended to bring your own water, as winter and early to mid-spring conditions can have springs covered in snow.