Located ten miles south of Dixon, Jepson Prairie is one of the few remaining vernal pool habitats and native bunchgrass prairies in California. The 1,566-acre site was purchased by the Nature Conservancy in 1980. Two years later, the Nature Conservancy dedicated the property as the Willis Linn Jepson Prairie Preserve. In 1983, the University of California brought the preserve into the University’s Natural Reserve System. In 1987 the National Park Service designated Dixon Vernal Pools, of which Jepson is the centerpiece, a National Natural Landmark. This property site was transferred to Solano Land Trust (SLT) in 1997. SLT manages the property in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, University of California Natural Reserve System, and Department of Fish and Wildlife.

SLT is seeking donations to upgrade the parking lot, install a visitor orientation kiosk, and construct trail improvements with interpretive signage. The cost of these improvements is $160,000. The Jepson Chapter recently donated $2,000 for this project.

Provided there is enough winter rain, the tour season begins in mid-March and ends in mid-May. SLT schedules tours every Saturday and Sunday beginning at 10am and lasting approximately two hours. On guided tours, docents share information about the flowers and the aquatic invertebrate that live in the vernal pools. Visitors are welcome to visit the Jepson Prairie on any day of the year. We had normal rainfall this winter. These pictures were taken on April 15, 2018, during a self-guided hike.
Jepson Prairie visitor kiosk and picnic area.
Jepson Prairie Nature Trail

-Open Sunrise to Sunset-

Visitor Rules

- All visitors please sign-in at the box by the kiosk.
- Public may access nature trail and picnic area only, except on docent led tours.
- For research use, contact UC Natural Reserve System 530.752.6949.
- Do not collect or disturb animals or plants.
- Take only pictures and leave only foot prints.
- Leave artifacts, and or posts in-place.
- Do not climb gates or fences,
- Please ensure the gate is closed.
- To protect the Prairie Ecosystem please:
  no dogs, hunting, bikes, or wading.

For additional information about Jepson Prairie
Call the Solano Land Trust at 707-432-0150.
Self guided trail to Lake Olcott.
Lake Olcott in background.
Lasthenia fremontii (Fremont goldfields)
Lake Olcott shoreline.
Mount Diablo on horizon to the left.
Dry lakebed in foreground.