

*Provide, protect and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.*

*Mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department*



**SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS**



**Almaden Quicksilver**  
21785 Almaden Rd.  
San Jose, CA 95120

**Casa Grande/  
New Almaden Quicksilver  
Mining Museum**  
21350 Almaden Rd.  
San Jose, CA 95120

**Alviso Marina**  
Mill St.  
Alviso, CA 95002

**Anderson Lake  
(Park Office)**  
19245 Malaguerra Ave.  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**Anderson Lake**  
18390 Cochrane Rd.  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**Bernal-Gulnac-  
Joice Ranch**  
372 Manila Dr.  
San Jose, CA 95119

**Calero**  
23205 McKean Rd.  
San Jose, CA 95120

**Chitactac-Adams**  
10001 Watsonville Rd.  
Gilroy, CA 95020

**Chesbro Reservoir**  
17655 Oak Glen Ave.  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**Coyote Lake  
Harvey Bear Ranch**  
10840 Coyote Lake Rd.  
Gilroy, CA 95020

**Ed Levin**  
3100 Calaveras Rd.  
Milpitas, CA 95035

**Field Sports Park**  
9580 Malech Road  
San Jose, CA 95013

**Hellyer**  
985 Hellyer Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95111

**Joseph D. Grant**  
18405 Mt. Hamilton Rd.  
San Jose, CA 95140

**Lexington Reservoir**  
17770 Alma Bridge Rd.  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

**Los Gatos Creek**  
1250 Dell Ave.  
Campbell, CA 95008

**Motorcycle**  
300 Metcalf Rd.  
San Jose, CA 95138

**Mt. Madonna**  
7850 Pole Line Rd.  
Watsonville, CA 95076

**Penitencia Creek**  
Jackson Ave. & Maybury  
Rd. San Jose, CA 95132

**Rancho San Antonio**  
22500 Cristo Rey Dr.  
Cupertino, CA 95014

**Sanborn**  
16055 Sanborn Rd.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

**Santa Teresa**  
260 Bernal Rd.  
San Jose, CA 95119

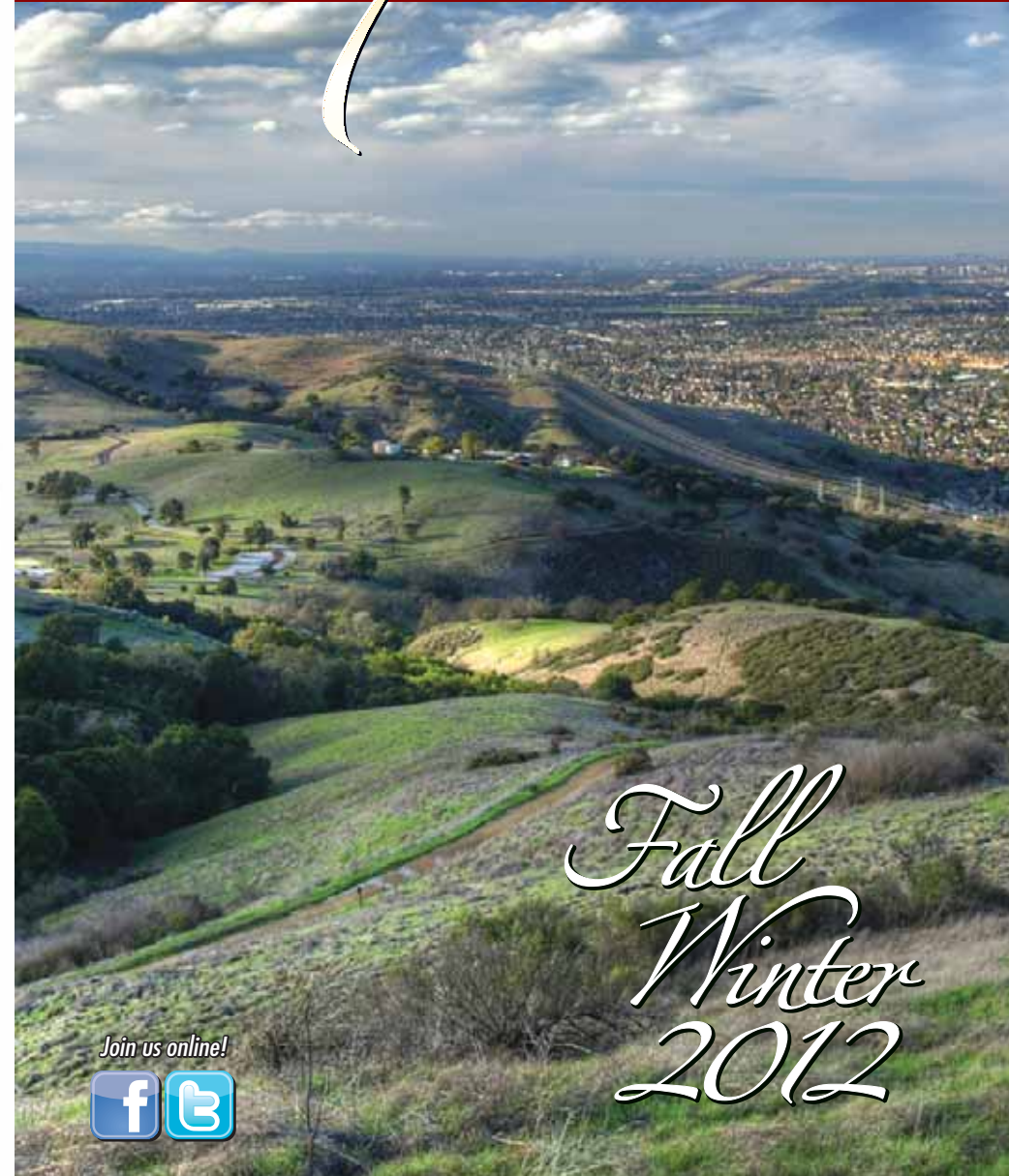
**Stevens Creek**  
11401 Stevens Canyon Rd.  
Cupertino, CA 95014

**Santa Clara County Parks Office**  
298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
Phone: (408) 355-2200 • Fax: (408) 355-2290  
Reservations: (408) 355-2201



# Play Here!

Your pocket guide to outdoor adventures and great family fun in the fabulous parks of Santa Clara County!



*Fall  
Winter  
2012*

Join us online!





# Discover

...how many great places there are to explore right here in Santa Clara County – your own big backyard! Take a look inside to discover the wide variety of natural, historical, cultural, recreational and educational opportunities for your family, friends and you.

**The Santa Clara County Park system** is composed of urban and mountain parks which have a wealth of trails, lakes, streams, and open space environments. It is one of the most diverse recreational areas in all of California. Our natural environments range from the wetlands of San Francisco Bay to the oak woodlands of the Diablo Mountain Range to the majestic redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Santa Clara County acquired its first parkland in 1924, purchasing 400 acres near Cupertino which became Stevens Creek County Park. In 1956, the Department of Parks and Recreation was formed. Currently, the regional parks system has expanded to 29 parks encompassing nearly 46,000 acres.

*parkhere.org*

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## Key to symbols



**Healthy Trails Hike.**  
See program information on page 28.



**Reservations required.**  
See program description for appropriate phone number.



Online reservations. Go to [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org), select "on-line calendar" and find program



**Easy Hike:** Flat to gently rolling pathways and trails. Leisurely pace.



**Moderate Hike:** Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Leisurely to moderate pace.



**Strenuous Hike:** Steep hills or long distances. Moderate to vigorous pace.



Bring a lunch, snack, or dinner as appropriate.



Appropriate for children accompanied by an adult.



All or mostly wheelchair accessible.



Bring a bike in good working condition. Helmets required.



Well-behaved dogs allowed. Must be controlled on a 6' max. leash.



Breast collars, lead ropes; under 18, helmets required. Experienced riders only. **No horse rentals.**



Bring own canoe/kayak, life jackets and 2 glow sticks per person; call for information and restrictions.



Feature movie shown as part of program.



\$6 vehicle fee to enter park.



Photography program.

Illustrations by Suzanne Bauer ©2005-2011  
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Design by Fortune2

# Volunteer

*Become a Volunteer and play an important role in protecting and enhancing parklands.*



The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department offers a broad range of volunteer opportunities. Sign up today! Go to [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) and follow the "Volunteer Here" link or call the Parks Volunteer Program Office at (408) 355-2254 or email at [volunteer@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:volunteer@prk.sccgov.org)

## Volunteer Benefits

- Meet new friends
- Learn rewarding new skills
- Enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done
- Receive "County Parks Volunteer" newsletter
- Receive invitations to upcoming volunteer events, training sessions, and recognition events. . .
- Become a Volunteer Leader

*Volunteers ages 15 and under must have a parent/guardian present at event.*

*Volunteers ages 16 and 17 must fill out the volunteer application, have a parent sign it, and bring it with them on the day of the event.*

## Adopt-a-Trail

Adopt-a-Trail Volunteers, after completing Department training, take care of a trail, or section of trail, within a County Park. Adopt-a-Trail volunteers conduct trail brushing/pruning, litter/debris removal, routine trail tread/ drainage clearing, and major trail problem reporting. Participants who agree to participate for one-year receive in-park signage acknowledging their commitment.

## Camp & Site Hosts

County Parks has an on-going need for Camp & Site Host volunteers. Hosts receive a full-utility campsite in exchange for 20-hours per week of volunteer service. Duties may include site security, camp/restroom maintenance and assisting park staff with educational programs. Per State law, fingerprinting for this position is required.

## Docents

Docents are needed on an on-going basis to assist Park Staff in conducting educational and recreational programs and help operate park visitor centers throughout County Parks. As a Docent, you will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Interpretive and Outdoor Recreation programs. Per State law, fingerprinting for this position is required.

## Park Volunteer Lead (new position)

Park Volunteer Leads are needed to assist Park Staff and Volunteer Program in providing lead support at volunteer events in areas related to volunteer registration, event record keeping, documentation, roll call and other assignments as directed by Park Staff. Leads would provide event instructions to volunteers to ensure safe keeping of tools and safety of volunteers and notify Park staff when volunteers are deviating from tasks. Leads can be assigned to specific Park locations or events. Per State Law, fingerprinting for this position is required. In addition, applicants will attend Park Lead Academy and CPR/First Aid training. Special uniforms will be provided for this volunteer position.

## Trail Crew Lead Volunteers

We're always looking for some good people who would like to be highly skilled trail "hot-shot" group members. Trail Crew Leads are provided with in-depth trail-building and maintenance training, then assist park staff with major trail projects. Leads also oversee adopt-a-trail groups and Trail Day events for scheduled trail projects. Per State law, fingerprinting for this position is required.

## Trail Watch

County Parks is looking for hikers, bikers and horseback riders who use, or would like to use, park trails and want to help Park Ranger staff by patrolling, providing visitor information, providing basic services in emergencies, and correcting or reporting park violations. All candidates must complete a 16-hour training academy and a training hike/ride prior to being activated. Volunteers are asked to provide a minimum of 48-hours of service annually once active. Uniforms are provided to all volunteers.

## Individual Volunteer Projects

Perfect for scout troops or Eagle Scouts, corporate volunteers, school groups, individuals, or any other group looking to help out! If our ongoing programs or annual events don't fit your schedule or aren't exactly what you are looking for, we can still find something for you! We'll see what we can do to accommodate you or your group and make the project beneficial for everyone involved. What an excellent way of promoting teambuilding... **Work Together and Play Together!**

## Monthly Volunteer Projects

To find out more information or register for one of the volunteer events below, go to [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) and follow the "Volunteer Here" link, or call the Parks Volunteer Program Office at (408) 355-2254

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Park Beautification • Alviso Marina

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

California Coastal Cleanup  
(Various Parks)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Trail Day • Villa Montalvo

South Bay Fishing in the City  
Lake Cunningham

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Day on the Bay:  
A Multicultural Festival  
Alviso Marina

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Weed Abatement • Uvas Canyon

Trail Day • Villa Montalvo

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

Trail Watch Academy • Hellyer

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Bay Area Ridge Trail Day • Sanborn

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Park Beautification • Hellyer  
Park Beautification • Mt. Madonna

### NOVEMBER 23 – DECEMBER 30

Fantasy of Lights  
Vasona Park • nightly



# Sept



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1



### Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon

Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. (408) 842-2341



### Sunset History Hike & House Tour • Grant • 7pm-10pm

Join a Park Ranger and historian for a sunset walking tour of the park and flashlight tour of the Grant Ranch House. Learn about the history of Mt. Hamilton Road, early settlers, Ohlone Indians and the Grant family. Meet at the Ranch house. Reservations required. (408) 274-6121



### In the Park After Dark Movie Night • Santa Teresa • 8pm-11pm

Enjoy a night under the stars with family and friends. Watch a short film about County Parks and then a family-friendly FREE feature movie on a giant blow-up screen. Bring a flashlight and low lawn chair or blanket. Donations for Second Harvest Food Bank gladly accepted. Food vendors available. (408) 225-0225



## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3



### Stroller Hike & Toddler Trek • Ed Levin • 9am-10:30am

Join a docent from StrollerHikes.com on a mildly rugged hike on the Tularcitos and Calera Creek Trails. Dogs welcome (6 foot leash required). Meet at the dog park. Joggers/strollers not recommended. Bring an infant carrier if your child does not walk. (408) 355-2240



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8



### So Long Summer! • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-Noon

Join a Park Docent for a Moderate 3.5-mile loop hike over Deep Gulch/Mine Hill Trails as we bid farewell to summer. Experience the sights and scents of early fall as we climb up a shady canyon and along sheltered hillside trails. Meet at the Hacienda entrance on Old Almaden Rd. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, and carry water. (408) 918-7771



### Gone Fishing 101-Beginner Tips From a Ranger Stevens Creek • 10am-Noon

Discover some beginning fishing tips that will help make you a more successful angler. This is an indoor session for ages 12 and up just getting started. Meet at the Park Office to learn about basic equipment, rules and regulations, and local "hot spots". No equipment necessary. Reservations required. (408) 867-3654



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, continued



### Animal Drawing Class • Hellyer • 11am-12:30pm

Mountain Lions! Bobcats! Snakes! Birds! Learn to draw animals from the mounted specimens at the Visitor Center. Carefully observe a variety of animals, practice new skills, and translate your observations into realistic drawings. All skill levels and ages 8 to adult are welcome. Children, please bring an adult who would like to participate. Bring a sketch pad and pencil or use ours. Register online or call (408) 355-2240.



### Starry Night Hike • Ed Levin • 7pm-9:30pm

Satisfy your curiosity about the heavens above on this 3-hour hike under the starry sky with a Park Ranger. Learn interesting facts about the constellations and gain new insights about the earth's relationship to its celestial neighbors. Meet near the Dog Park on the Sandy Wool side of the park with sturdy hiking shoes, flashlight and water. Binoculars recommended. (408) 262-6980



### Star Party • Grant • 8pm-11pm

Join the Halls Valley Astronomical Group for a night of star gazing fun. Knowledgeable volunteers will provide you with a chance to look through high-powered telescopes and ask questions about the night sky. Meet at Halley Hill, across from campsite 22. Park entrance gate closes at 10pm. (408) 274-6121

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



### Biking and Birding • Vasona • 8:30am-11:30am

Bike the entire Los Gatos Creek Trail from Los Gatos to Willow Glen (18 miles). Observe the diverse community of birds that live along the creek and take frequent stops to observe and discuss bird behavior. Bring a bike, helmet, water, snacks, camera and binoculars. Meet at the Boat Center parking lot. Reservations required. (408) 356-2729



### History Tour by Van • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1:30pm

Step back in time and experience what life was like back in the mining heyday. Ride by van to various historic sites and bring a brown-bag lunch to enjoy in the park. Children must be over 6 years and 60 lbs. Meet at the Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Reservations required. Cost is \$5 per person. (408) 918-7773



### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



**Stroller Hike and Toddler Trek • Santa Teresa • 4:30pm-6pm**  
A Strollerhikes.com docent will lead you and your little ones on a 2.5-mile hike past historical sites along the trail. Meet at the Fortini Trailhead with comfortable walking shoes and sturdy strollers or carriers. **(408) 355-2240**



### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15



**How to Survive a Day or More Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 9am-11:30am**  
Overcome potential obstacles and learn how to explore the great outdoors with confidence. A Park Ranger will teach you basic survival skills and techniques that will ensure you have safer adventures in parks and back-country areas. Meet at the Coyote Lake Ranger office with your typical daytime hiking gear, water and snacks. **(408) 842-7800**



**Riparian Habitat Hike • Anderson • 10am-11:30am**  
Take a short hike through a natural riparian area to identify animal signs such as a muskrat den, tracks, scat, nests and feathers. Look for wildlife and explore how plants and animals depend on each other and on us in this creek-side habitat. Meet at the Toyon Group Area below Anderson Dam. Reservations required. **(408) 779-3634**



**Healthy Trails Evening Sunset Hike • Sanborn • 5pm-8pm**  
Join a Park Interpreter on a moderate 3.0-mile hike. Explore the red-woods leading to scenic Lake Ranch Reservoir at sunset. Meet at the trailhead turnout off Black Rd. Parking is very limited, so please carpool if possible. Bring water, snacks, flashlight/headlamp and sturdy hiking shoes. Reservations required. **(408) 918-7774**



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16



**Monarch Butterfly Migrations • Hellyer • 1pm-2pm**  
Come explore the life of a monarch butterfly. Discover what these beautiful insects need from us and from nature to survive their long annual migrations between Canada to Mexico. Meet at the park visitor center. **(408) 225-0225**



### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22



**Fall Nature Hike • Calero/Rancho San Vicente • 9am-1:30pm**  
Join a Park Docent on a 5-mile hike to enjoy panoramic views and discover how these rolling serpentine grasslands provide critical habitat for endangered species. Meet at Calero Reservoir, then carpool to a trail nearby. Bring sun protection, water, camera, sturdy hiking shoes and layered clothing. Note: This is a guided hike in a “closed area” not yet open for public access, group travels together, some steep sections. Restrooms not available except at reservoir. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



**Healthy Trails Bilingual (Spanish) Hike • Calero • 10am-Noon**  
Join a Park Interpreter on a moderately challenging 3.5-mile hike on Los Cerritos and Pena Trails. Take in sweeping views of hills and valleys and look for diverse wildlife. Meet at the park entrance off of McKean Rd. (south of reservoir) with hiking shoes, sun protection, water and snacks. Se habla español. **(408) 918-7775**



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23



**Kayaking Basics • Stevens Creek Reservoir • 1pm-3pm**  
Come out to explore the reservoir by kayak. This will be a fun paddle open to all skill levels; some instruction will be provided. Kayaks are available on-site to rent from Outback Adventures, or you can provide your own equipment (kayaks only please). Bring water, snacks, sun protection, and if you bring your own kayak, don't forget your life vest and paddle. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**





## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29



**History Tour by Van/Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1:30pm**  
 Step back in time and experience what life was like back in the mining heyday. Ride by van to various historic sites and bring a brown-bag lunch to enjoy in the park. Tour includes an easy hike of approximately 3 miles. Children must be over 6 years and 60 lbs. Meet at the Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Reservations required. Cost is \$5 per person. (408) 918-7773



**History Walk • Grant • 1:30pm-3:30pm**  
 Join a park historian on a leisurely walk to learn about the history of Halls Valley from the Ohlone days to the more recent past. End with a tour of the Ranch House. Meet at the Ranch House with walking shoes and water. (408) 274-6121



**Walk on the Wild Side After Dark • Hellyer • 7pm-8:30pm**  
 Take an evening walk with a Park Ranger to explore nocturnal activities in the park and near the lake. Explore animal life after sunset and learn about our wild neighbor habitats, adaptations and survival needs. Meet at the park visitor center with sturdy walking shoes and a flashlight. (408) 225-0225



**Family Moonlight Hike  
 Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 7:30pm-9pm**  
 Enjoy a beautiful outing under the moon and stars on the paved Martin Murphy Trail (2-mile loop) with a Docent. Watch for wildlife, identify overhead constellations, and discover some secrets of this historic and ecological area. Meet at the Bear Ranch entrance at the end of San Martin Ave. with layered clothing, comfy shoes and a flashlight. Register online or call (408) 355-2240.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30



**Healthy Trails Evening Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 4pm-8:30pm**  
 Join a Park Interpreter on this strenuous 5.2-mile hike from Deep Gulch to Bull Run. Explore the rich history and diversity in the hills of New Almaden. Bring water, snacks, sturdy hiking shoes, and a flashlight/headlamp. Due to steep grades and low evening lighting, trekking poles are recommended. Meet at the Hacienda park entrance. Reservations required. (408) 918-7774

# Join

us to explore a Santa Clara County park's wildlife, habitats, Ohlone cultural history and resource protection.



Jr. Rangers hike, play games and do activities to nurture a budding relationship with nature. The spring and fall programs each run 4 weeks, meeting once a week for 2 hours. This free program is limited to the first 20 applicants for each participating park.

**Are you 9-11 years old?  
 Become a Junior Ranger  
 FREE!**

### At a Typical Wildlife Session:

- Meet at Park Visitor Center
- Identify local wildlife by examining animal pelts
- Explore Park to find animal signs such as tracks & scat
- Examine owl pellet contents
- Play Web of Life and other outdoor games
- Discuss how animals become endangered and extinct
- Learn about how conservation efforts succeed

### At an Overnight Campout:

- Meet Junior Rangers from other Parks
- Eat good food in the great outdoors
- Explore nature through hikes and games
- Take a night hike
- Make and eat s'mores around a campfire
- Learn how to pitch a tent
- Sleep under the stars

For registration information and placement on a mailing list call Santa Clara County Parks Interpretive Program Office, (408) 846-5632 or visit [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) and click on "For Kids"



**Can't do a scheduled Jr. Ranger Program?  
 We've got an option for you!**

Earn your official Jr. Park Ranger patch by going outside and completing activities in your local park, neighborhood or backyard. Download the Discovery Guide by going to and following links to "for kids" and "Jr. Rangers". Printed guides are available in limited quantity. Call (408) 846-5622 for information.





# Oct



## MONDAY, OCTOBER 1



### Stroller Hike and Toddler Trek • Ed Levin • 9am-10:30am

Join a Docent from StrollerHikes.com for a mildly rugged Healthy Trails hike on the Tularcitos and Calera Creek Trails. Dogs welcome (6 foot leash required). Meet at the dog park. Joggers/Strollers not recommended. Bring an infant carrier if your child does not walk. (408) 355-2240

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4



### Stroller Hike and Toddler Trek • Alviso Marina • 4:30pm-6pm

Take an easy 1-mile bayland adventure along the Alviso Slough Loop Trail with a Strollerhikes.com Docent. Enjoy the birds and bay breezes and see the train. Meet at the marina parking lot with comfortable walking shoes, snacks and a camera. (408) 355-2240

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6



### Bilingual Hike with a Ranger, Coyote Creek Parkway, 9:30am-11:30am

Take an easy 2-mile bilingual (Spanish/English) hike with a Park Ranger on the Coyote Creek Trail. Explore park history and wildlife, and take plenty of breaks to look at the beautiful scenery. Enter the Parkway at 550 Monterey Road (between Morgan Hill and South San Jose). Directional signs will be posted on day of event. (408) 779-3634



### Introduction to Photography Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal Ranch • 10am-1pm

Join a Docent for a FREE outdoor photography workshop. Learn how to choose and use a camera, how to take better outdoor pictures, photo composition, plus more! Workshop begins with an indoor slideshow, followed by demonstrations and a walk around the historic area to take pictures. Meet at the Bernal Ranch barn on Manila Drive at Camino Verde in San Jose. Reservations required. Register online or call (408) 355-2240.



### Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon

Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. (408) 842-2341



### Tools of a Miner New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum • 10am-4pm

Come on out for a 1-day special exhibit with demonstrations about tools used by miners to do their dangerous underground work. Many collectors from California will be here to share their expertise on mining in the 1880's. Educational and fun for all ages. (408) 918-7773

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7



### Kayaking Basics • Stevens Creek Reservoir • 1pm-3pm

Come out to explore the reservoir by kayak. This will be a fun paddle open to all skill levels; some instruction will be provided. Kayaks are available on-site to rent from Outback Adventures, or you can provide your own equipment (kayaks only please). Bring water, snacks, sun protection, and if you bring your own kayak, don't forget your life vest and paddle. Register online or call (408) 355-2240.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13



### Healthy Trails Bilingual (Spanish) Hike • Santa Teresa • 10am-Noon

Join a Park Interpreter on an easy 1.8-mile hike on the Joice and Norred Trails. Travel through serpentine habitat with endangered plant and animal species and spectacular views. Step back in time and visit the Historic Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch to learn how families lived and worked in the late 1800s -early 1900s. Meet at the Trailhead behind the Ranch barn with hiking shoes, sun protection, water and snacks. Se habla español. (408) 918-7775



### Coyote Creek Bilingual Trail Walk/Rastra Paseo Hellyer • 11am-Noon

Take an easy walk along the Coyote Creek to look for wildlife such as turtles, butterflies, birds and more. Learn to identify plants and trees as you walk around Cottonwood Lake. Spanish translations provided for many of the plants and animals we find. Meet at the playground. (408) 225-0225



### Star Party • Grant • 7pm-11pm

Join the Halls Valley Astronomical Group for a night of star gazing fun. Knowledgeable volunteers will provide you with a chance to look through high-powered telescopes and ask questions about the night sky. Meet at Halley Hill, across from campsite 22. Park entrance gate closes at 10pm. (408) 274-6121



### Creature Feature Movie Night (Spiders) Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal Ranch • 7:30pm-10pm

Reserve your space for this annual crowd-pleaser and learn everything you need to know about arachnids, including our local California brown tarantula. View cages and cages of creepy crawlers and handle some if you dare. Hear spider poems and folklore followed by popcorn, lemonade and the classic big-bug movie "Tarantula." Reservations required. (408) 226-5453



### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14



**Fall Nature Hike • Calero/Rancho San Vicente • 9am-1:30pm**  
Join a Park Docent on a 5-mile hike to enjoy panoramic views and discover how these rolling serpentine grasslands provide critical habitat for endangered species. Meet at Calero Reservoir, then carpool to a trail nearby. Bring sun protection, water, camera, sturdy hiking shoes and layered clothing. Note: This is a guided hike in a "closed area" not yet open for public access, group travels together, some steep sections. Restrooms not available except at reservoir. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



**Day on the Bay: A Multicultural Festival  
Alviso Marina • 10am-3pm**  
Celebrate our multicultural community with many non-profit, government, and community-based organizations. Free food, arts and crafts, and live entertainment on two stages. Free activities from face painting to kayaking in the Alviso Slough. **(408) 299-5030**



**Hula Hoop Fitness Class • Hellyer • 2pm-3pm**  
No longer just child's play, hula hoop has evolved into a fun form of fitness! Join us for a low impact yet energizing class using adult-size hoops. Learn the basics of moving the hoop around the torso as well as incorporating your feet and arms. Meet on the lawn by Cottonwood Lake. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20



**Introduction to Geocaching • Almaden Quicksilver • 8:45am-Noon**  
Join a Docent on a beginner's geocaching adventure to find 6-7 hidden caches in the park. GPS units provided. Meet at the Wood Rd. parking lot. Bring sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



**Amah Mutsun Heritage Day • Chitactac-Adams • 11am-3pm**  
The Amah Mutsun invite members of the public and their families to meet descendants of the people who occupied these lands for thousands of years. Participate in activities for families with children, hear creation stories, and learn about the rich history of this native culture. **(408) 918-7772**



**History Walk • Grant • 1:30pm-3:30pm**  
Join a park historian on a leisurely walk to learn about the history of Halls Valley from the Ohlone days to the more recent past. End with a tour of the Ranch House. Meet at the Ranch House with walking shoes and water. **(408) 274-6121**

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, continued



**Halloween Hike • Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 7pm-9pm**  
Come dressed up in your Halloween costumes for this two-hour night hike on the Martin Murphy Trail (2-mile paved loop). Learn about some of the creepy crawlies that live in the park and hear a few family-friendly ghost stories. Bring flashlights and warm clothes. Meet at the Bear Ranch entrance at the end of San Martin Ave. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21



**Healthy Trails Hike • Calero • 9am-2pm**  
Join park staff on a challenging 8.7-mile hike on multiple trails. Travel through diverse habitats and enjoy spectacular views of the valley from San Francisco to Morgan Hill. Meet at the park entrance off of McKean Rd. (south of reservoir entrance) with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, snacks and water. **(408) 355-2240**



**Fall Flutters • Alviso Marina • 10am-Noon**  
Join a park Docent for a 2-mile stroll to enjoy views of the wetlands, migratory birds and other wildlife. Observe California's smallest butterfly, the Western Pygmy Blue and learn how it thrives in a harsh, alkaline environment. Meet in the parking lot near the restrooms. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, sun protection and drinking water. **(408) 918-7771**

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26



**Halloween Haunt • Ed Levin • 5pm-8pm**  
Join park staff for a night of spooky family fun. Play ghostly games, carve a free pumpkin (limited availability), eat s'mores around a glowing campfire, and take a creepy hike around Spring Valley Pond. Meet at the park office. Costumes and all ages welcome. Food available for purchase. Bring a canned good donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank. **(408) 262-6980**



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27



**History Tour by Van • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1:30pm**  
Step back in time and experience what life was like back in the mining heyday. Ride by van to various historic sites and bring a brown-bag lunch to enjoy in the park. Children must be over 6 years and 60 lbs. Meet at the Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Reservations required. Cost is \$5 per person. **(408) 918-7773**





# History

Step back in time and explore your rich cultural history at one of these park sites!



Casa Grande

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, continued



### Of Oaks & Chaparra • Stevens Creek • 9am-1:30pm

Learn more about our valley's mixed oak woodlands and chaparral plant communities as you join a Park Docent on a Strenuous (400 ft elevation gain) 5.8-mile hike over the Tony Look Trail. Observe how oaks and chaparral play an essential role in the quality of the surrounding watershed. Meet at the main park entrance on Stevens Canyon Rd. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, and carry water. (408) 918-7771



### All-Hallows Eve Hike • Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 5pm-7pm

Join park staff for a spooky night of family fun. Explore the park on an easy hike to seek out who's in the park after dark. Meet at the RV Campground parking lot. (408) 842-7800

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28



### Living History Day

### Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum • 11am-3pm

Come visit Casa Grande, once the magnificent home of New Almaden Mine Managers. Costumed Docents & Staff will be on hand to guide you through Victorian period rooms and museum exhibits. Children will be able to participate in a Dia De Los Muertos craft activity to take home. (408) 918-7774

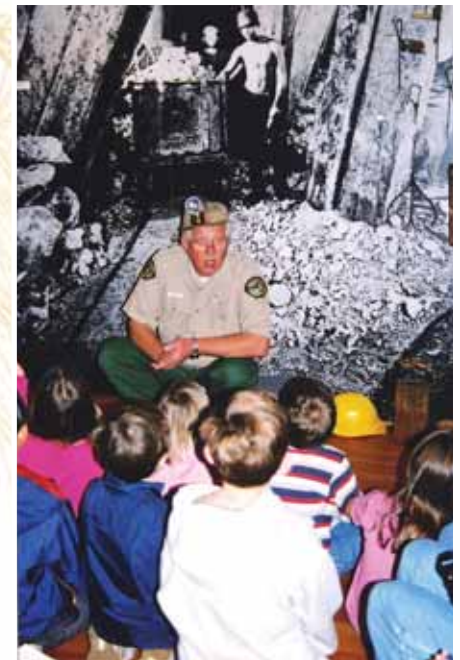
## Casa Grande and the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum

Come visit the newly renovated Casa Grande and New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum! Step back in time as you explore exhibits that illustrate how and why cinnabar, the ore of mercury, was mined at New Almaden. Discover how cinnabar and mercury were used by people, how mining technology changed over time, and how this site contributed to the success of the California Gold Rush. Visit antique furnished rooms that reflect how Casa Grande served as an exquisite home to mine managers and their families.



Casa Grande, located within Santa Clara County's only National Historic Landmark District, preserves the history of California's first and richest mine, and provides a glimpse of life in this historic community over 150 years ago. The museum is open to the public Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays year-round. Group tours are available daily by reservation. Admission and tours are free. Call (408) 323-1107 for hours and information.

To book a wedding or other special event, call (408) 355-2220.



# Dog Days

Most areas in the County Park System are open to leashed dogs.

Off-leash dog parks are conveniently located for your enjoyment at three locations – Los Gatos Creek, Ed Levin, and Hellyer County Parks. Common areas where dogs are not permitted include playgrounds, interpretive facilities, and a few designated trails. Please check park maps or our website, [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org), for more information on dog access.

Areas that are prohibited to dogs entirely will have a "no dog" sign clearly posted. If you don't see a sign, keep your dog leashed and Go Outside and Play!



Santa Teresa



Chitactac

### Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch

A visit to the Ranch immerses you in the realities of living and working on a family farm or ranch in the late 1800s-early 1900s. Explore exhibits in and around the restored ranch house and barns to discover how families lived and worked. Take a walk along the interpretive trail to the famous Santa Teresa Spring to learn how the ranch lands changed over time. House and barn exhibits are open to walk-in visitors Fridays 10:00am-4:00pm and Saturdays 11:00am-5:00pm. The park is open for self-guided exploration from 8am to sunset daily. Tours and school programs are available by reservation. Call (408) 226-5453 for information.

### Chitactac-Adams Heritage

Explore the life and ways of Santa Clara County's native Ohlone Indians at this cultural history park. View authentic petroglyphs and artifacts from thousands of years ago. Take a walk back into prehistory as you explore the interpretive trail and learn how nature sustained an Ohlone village along Uvas Creek. The site's exhibits and interpretive trail are open daily from 8am to sunset. Tours are available for groups of 10 or more by reservation. Call (408) 918-7772 for information.



Special events and family programs are scheduled year-round at these sites, so check the calendar! Admission and programs are free unless otherwise noted. School field trip programs are aligned with the content standards for California public schools.

Dogs (except service dogs) are not allowed at these County Park historic and archaeological sites.



# A Spectacular Drive-thru Holiday Lights Show!



*Early Bird Discount!  
Reindeer Express  
Bus Tours!  
Visit [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) for complete details*



**Nov. 23~Dec. 31, 2012 • 6-10pm**

*Closed November 28 for Special Event*

**Vasona Lake County Park • 333 Blossom Hill Rd. • Los Gatos**

*Drive-thru only • For more info please visit [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) or call 408.355-2201  
Please bring a donation of canned goods benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank*





# Now



## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1



### Stroller Hike & Toddler Trek • Santa Teresa • 4:30pm-6pm

A Strollerhikes.com Docent will lead you and your little ones on a 2.5-mile hike past historical sites along the trail. Meet at the Fortini Trailhead with comfortable walking shoes and sturdy strollers or carriers. (408) 355-2240



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3



### Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon

Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. (408) 842-2341

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4



### Healthy Trails Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 10am-1:30pm

Join park staff on a challenging 5.2-mile hike on the Deep Gulch/English Camp/Mine Hill/Castillero Trails to see lots of wildlife and mine operation relics. Meet at the Hacienda park entrance parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, snacks and water. (408) 355-2240



## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5



### Healthy Trails Stroller Hike & Toddler Trek Ed Levin • 9am-10:30am

Join a Docent from StrollerHikes.com for a mildly rugged hike on the Tularcitos and Calera Creek Trails. Meet at the dog park. Dogs welcome (6 foot leash required). Joggers/strollers not recommended. Bring an infant carrier if your child does not walk. (408) 355-2240



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10



### Ohlones and Acorns • Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 10am-Noon

Come discover how the Ohlone Indians used nature as their supermarket. See, taste and learn how to prepare traditional native foods, including the very important acorn meal. Meet at the Campfire Center. (408) 842-7800



### Family Hike With a Ranger • Calero • 10am-Noon

Take a moderate 2-mile hike with a Park Ranger to explore park trails and look for wildlife. Meet at the park office off of McKean Rd. (south of the reservoir) with sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing and water. (408) 268-3883

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, continued



### Star Party • Grant • 5:30pm-10:30pm

Join the Halls Valley Astronomical Group for a night of star gazing fun. Knowledgeable volunteers will provide you with a chance to look through high-powered telescopes and ask questions about the night sky. Meet at Halley Hill, across from campsite 22. Park entrance gate closes at 6:30pm. (408) 274-6121

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17



### Healthy Trails Bilingual (Spanish) Hike Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 10am-2pm

Join a Park Interpreter on a moderately challenging 5.9-mile hike winding through oak-studded canyons and rocky grassland ridges with spectacular views of south Santa Clara Valley and distant Santa Cruz mountain range. Meet at the Mendoza park entrance on Roop Rd. with hiking shoes, sun protection, water and snacks. Se habla español. (408) 918-7775



### Living History Day

**Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum • 11am-3pm**  
Come visit Casa Grande, once the magnificent home of New Almaden Mine Managers. Costumed Docents & Staff will be on hand to guide you through Victorian period rooms and museum exhibits. Children will be able to participate in a turkey craft activity to take home. (408) 918-7774

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18



### Healthy Trails Hike • Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 10am-3pm

Join a Park Interpreter for a 5.8-mile hike starting at the Harvey Bear Ranch entrance to the park. Please bring a bag lunch, plenty of water, hiking shoes, and sun or rain protection. We will explore the beautiful rolling oak woodland landscape on some of the newest trails in the County Park system. (408) 918-7774



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24



### Head for the Hills! • Mt. Madonna • 9am-1pm

Boost your energy and burn calories when you join a Park Docent for a moderate 3.6-mile hike on the trails. Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding watershed as you pass through coast hardwood and redwood forests, serpentine and mixed chaparral habitats. Meet at the Sprig Trail entrance on Hecker Pass Rd. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, and carry water. (408) 918-7771



# Dec

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1



### Ticks and Their Kin

#### Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 9am-10:30am

Discover how to identify our local arachnid neighbors (ticks and spiders), how they play a role in our natural world, and what to do when they get too close. Meet at the park office. (408) 842-7800



### Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon

Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. (408) 842-2341



### Yuletide Bazaar

#### New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum • 10am-4pm

Come visit Casa Grande in New Almaden to check out the local crafts & holiday goodies on display. You will be sure to walk away with some great gifts for family and friends! Casa Grande will also be decorated and costumed docents & staff will further enhance the holiday spirits. (408) 323-1107

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2



### Healthy Trails Hike • Santa Teresa • 10am-1pm

Join park staff on this tough but fun 3.0-mile hike on multiple ridge trails in the park. Explore serpentine habitats and enjoy sweeping views of Almaden Valley and the Bay Area from Coyote Peak (1155ft). Meet at the Hidden Springs trailhead with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, snacks and water. (408) 355-2240



### Holiday Ranch House Tours • Grant • 1pm-4pm

Take a break from the shopping and come on an historical open-house tour of the Grant Ranch House all dressed up for the holidays. Enjoy a complimentary hot beverage and pastry while you relax and recharge your spirits with history and nature. (408) 274-6121



## MONDAY, DECEMBER 3



### Healthy Trails Stroller Hike & Toddler Trek • Ed Levin • 9am-10:30am

Join a Docent from StrollerHikes.com for a mildly rugged hike on the Tularcitos and Calera Creek Trails. Meet at the dog park. Dogs welcome (6 foot leash required). Joggers/Strollers not recommended. Bring an infant carrier if your child does not walk. (408) 355-2240



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8



### Holiday Ranch House Tours • Grant • 1pm-4pm

Take a break from the shopping and come on an historical open-house tour of the Grant Ranch House all dressed up for the holidays. Enjoy a complimentary hot beverage and pastry while you relax and recharge your spirits with history and nature. (408) 274-6121

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 9



### Holiday Ranch House Tours • Grant • 1pm-4pm

Take a break from the shopping and come on an historical open-house tour of the Grant Ranch House all dressed up for the holidays. Enjoy a complimentary hot beverage and pastry while you relax and recharge your spirits with history and nature. (408) 274-6121

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13



### Healthy Trails Stroller Hike & Toddler Trek Alviso Marina • 3:45pm-5:15pm

Take an easy 1-mile bayland adventure along the Alviso Slough Loop Trail with a Strollerhikes.com Docent. Enjoy the birds and bay breezes and see the train. Meet at the marina parking lot with comfortable walking shoes, snacks and a camera. (408) 355-2240



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15



### Art and Ornaments in Nature

#### Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 9am-Noon

Take a short hike with a Park Ranger to discover art found in plants and rocks. Add to your holiday decorations by making a nature ornament from natural items provided by staff. Meet at the Visitor Center. (408) 842-7800



### Migrating Newts Find a Way • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-Noon

From mid-November to March, thousands of California newts migrate to hereditary breeding ponds. Learn how these fascinating creatures triumph over distance and danger on an easy 2.6-mile hike. Meet at the Wood Rd. park entrance (junction of Hicks and Umunhum Rds.). Wear sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, and carry water. (408) 918-7771





### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, continued



#### Animal Drawing Class • Hellyer • 11am-12:30pm

Mountain Lions! Bobcats! Snakes! Birds! Learn to draw animals from the mounted specimens. Carefully observe a variety of animals, practice new skills, and translate your observations into realistic drawings. All skill levels and ages 8 to adult welcome. Children, please bring an adult would like to participate. Bring a sketch pad and pencil or use ours. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



#### Star Party • Grant • 5:30pm-10:30pm

Join the Halls Valley Astronomical Group for a night of star gazing fun. Knowledgeable volunteers will provide you with a chance to look through high-powered telescopes and ask questions about the night sky. Meet at Halley Hill, across from campsite 22. Park entrance gate closes at 6:30pm. **(408) 274-6121**



# Camp

*It's your nature!*

**Save gas, save time** – an outdoor experience is only minutes away from your family. Visit us and camp in a redwood forest. Dine alfresco in a rolling, oak-studded grassland. Or nap away an afternoon next to a sparkling creek.

Reserve your campsite today, call (408) 355-2201 or visit [www.gooutsideandplay.org](http://www.gooutsideandplay.org).

The best part of all... the price is just right. Camping is available at:

- Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch
- Joseph D. Grant
- Mt. Madonna
- Sanborn
- Uvas Canyon



# Jan

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 5



#### Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon

Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. **(408) 842-2341**



### SATURDAY, JANUARY 19



#### Introduction to Geocaching • Almaden Quicksilver • 8:45am-Noon

Join a Docent on a beginner's geocaching adventure to find 6-7 hidden caches in the park. GPS units provided. Meet at the Wood Rd. parking lot. Bring sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**



### SATURDAY, JANUARY 26



#### Family Moonlight Hike

#### Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 5:30pm-7pm

Enjoy a beautiful outing under the moon and stars on the paved Martin Murphy Trail (2-mile loop) with a Docent. Watch for wildlife, identify overhead constellations, and discover some secrets of this historic and ecological area. Meet at the Bear Ranch entrance at the end of San Martin Ave. with layered clothing, comfy shoes and a flashlight. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**





# Feb

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5



**Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon**  
Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. (408) 842-2341

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9



**Living History Day  
Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum • 11am-3pm**  
Come visit Casa Grande, once the magnificent home of New Almaden Mine Managers. Costumed Docents & Staff will be on hand to guide you through Victorian period rooms and museum exhibits. Children will be able to participate in a valentine craft activity to take home. (408) 918-7774

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23



**Healthy Trails Hike • Montalvo • 10am-Noon**  
Join a Park Interpreter for a 2.0-mile hike in the scenic redwoods of Villa Montalvo. We will hike to Lookout Point, where on a clear day you can see out to the San Francisco Bay. Please bring hiking shoes, water, snacks, and sun/rain protection. Park in designated public parking spaces only. Hike begins at lot #4. (408) 918-7774



# Mar

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2



**Henry Miller the Cattle King • Mount Madonna • 10am-Noon**  
Take a leisurely 1.5-mile walk in the woods. Hear the success story of a German immigrant and how he became the biggest land holder in the U.S. and explore the ruins of his beloved mountain-top home away from home. Meet at the park office with water and comfortable clothing. (408) 842-2341



**Hula Hoop Fitness Class • Hellyer • 2pm-3pm**  
No longer just child's play, hula hoop has evolved into a fun form of fitness! Join us for a low impact yet energizing class using adult-size hoops. Learn the basics of moving the hoop around the torso as well as incorporating your feet and arms. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240**

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16



**Living History Day  
Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum • 11am-3pm**  
Come visit Casa Grande, once the magnificent home of New Almaden Mine Managers. Costumed Docents & Staff will be on hand to guide you through Victorian period rooms and museum exhibits. Children will be able to participate in a St. Patrick's Day craft activity to take home. (408) 918-7774

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23



**Nature Journaling Hike • Santa Teresa • 1pm-4pm**  
Come enjoy the spring wildflowers while learning the basics of keeping a nature journal. Journaling is a great way to study and remember the things you see and experience during your outdoor adventures. This is a parent-child participation class geared for families with small children. Meet at the Fortini Trailhead. Bring snacks, sketch book or paper, clipboard and a few pencils. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240.**





### SUNDAY, MARCH 24



#### Healthy Trails Hike • Calero • 9:30am-12:30pm

Join park staff on a challenging 3.5-mile hike on the Los Cerritos and Pena Trails. Enjoy sweeping views of Calero reservoir and check out the beautiful Los Cerritos Pond. Meet at the park entrance off of McKean Rd. (south of reservoir entrance) with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, snacks and water. (408) 355-2240



### SUNDAY, MARCH 31



#### History Through a Changed Landscape Almaden Quicksilver • 10am-2pm

Take a 4-mile hike and travel through time with a Park Interpreter. Learn about the mining history as well as more current events that have helped shape the landscape of this historic park. Meet at the Wood Rd. entrance off Hicks Rd. Please bring a bag lunch, water, sun/rain protection, and sturdy hiking shoes. Not recommended for children under 5. (408) 918-7774



## Field Trip @ Class Programs



County Parks offer a variety of educational programs for schools and community groups. Explore nature with park staff or take a guided tour back in time at one of our historic sites.

Call (408) 846-5622 for a brochure, or check the parks website at [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) and follow the "For Teachers" link.

# Join us!

## 3rd Edition Healthy Trails

Your path to fitness, fun and adventure



## It's healthy, fun and FREE!



Santa Clara County Parks has created this program to encourage families like yours to enjoy our wonderful parks and 22 new trails. Designed to fit anyone's lifestyle or fitness level – you choose which trails to walk, ride or roll and when and how often to do them. Take one of the many guided walks or go at your own pace to log your miles. Sign-up gifts await you! Register today at [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) to receive your detailed guidebook complete with log, maps & hiking tips.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS in partnership with



KAISER PERMANENTE in the community

For more info visit [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) or call (408) 355-2268



Escape online!

# Park News

What's happening in the Santa Clara County Parks



## Santa Clara County Parks Prescribed Burns

Santa Clara County Parks has conducted three prescribe burns this summer season in cooperation with CalFire. The burns, totaling 150 acres, took place at Joseph D. Grant County Park in an effort to manage and control medusa head grass. Medusa head grass is a highly invasive weed that aggressively outcompetes native vegetation and spreads rapidly.

The prescribe fires are not only effective management tools for managing invasive weeds, but it also provides an opportunity to train new fire fighters and park staff with live fire. Santa Clara County Parks began its prescribe burn program in 1999 and has burned over 4,000 acres since that time. The program purpose is to reintroduce fire ecology into the natural landscape as well as target invasive, non-native weed control and promote native vegetation.

The program began at Joseph D Grant County Park in an annual grassland that had 80% yellow star thistle. The Pasture was so covered in yellow star thistle CalFire and County Park staff could not start the fire. The field was then mowed and over-seeded with native grasses and sterile wheat to assist with the carrying of flames. After 4 consecutive years of prescribe fire (properly timed and under specific weather and site conditions prescriptions) the pasture was converted back into an annual grassland, with 90% of the yellow star thistle removed.

Since the early success of the prescribe burn program, Santa Clara County Parks has expanded the acreage of treatments at Grant County Park and has expanded the program into Santa Teresa, Motorcycle, and Mt. Madonna County Parks. The Prescribe Burn program as been highly successful in the promotion and regeneration of native vegetation species, as well as increasing bio-diversity and management of invasive, non-native vegetation. It has been also been an excellent tool to provide training to fire fighters in wildland areas, and expand/improve the relationship between CalFire and County Parks. It has been a highly successful partnership.

## Martial Cottle Park Phase 1

The design of the new Martial Cottle Park, Phase 1 implementation, in south San Jose is well underway. Development of the 280-acre agricultural park is a joint effort between the Santa Clara County Parks Department and California State Parks. Consistent with the Donor's vision and the Park Master Plan adopted by the County and the State last year, Phase 1 will include the creation of trails, recreational areas and educational areas as well as facilities to support agricultural farming, ranger operation and maintenance services.

Construction is expected to begin on the perimeter trails in early Summer 2013 with an opening of the remainder of the park in 2014. For more information on the project, please visit parkhere.org (click on 'Future Plans Here' then select 'Martial Cottle Park').

# Hiking Safety 101...



## Things to know before you go!

Hiking in the fall and winter can be very enjoyable, breathing the crisp cool air or viewing water features that are often dry during the summer months. There are, however, a few things to think about before you set out on a day hike. Fall and winter days are shorter, so start

your adventure earlier in the day so you have enough time to hike back before it gets dark.

The weather is cooler and chance of rain is increased, so be prepared by dressing in layers, checking the weather forecast, and having extra clothes in the car in case you get wet.



## Some other tips to help ensure you have a great time and stay safe:

- Avoid hiking alone. If you do, let someone know where you're going and when you expect to be back.
- Use a trail map and plan your route, making sure you have enough time to go the distance.
- Leave a copy of the map on your dash with your hiking route highlighted, just in case someone needs to look for you.
- Take a flashlight and extra batteries.
- Take extra water and snacks.
- Take your cell phone (for emergency help try to make calls from hill tops).
- Take a whistle in case you get lost – it is easier to blow a whistle than yell.

