



**SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS**

Play Here!



*Spring
Summer
2010*

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



**SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS**

Almaden Quicksilver
21785 Almaden Rd.
San Jose, CA 95120

**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
200 Malech Rd.
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
Jaskson 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

Uvas Canyon
8515 Croy Rd.
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Uvas Reservoir
4200 Uvas Rd.
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Vasona
333 Blossom Hill Rd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Villa Montalvo
15400 Montalvo Rd.
Saratoga, CA 95070



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.



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

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 28 parks encompassing nearly 46,000 acres.

Go outside and play



Camp. It's your nature.

Save gas, save time – a wilderness 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.

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, and Uvas Canyon County Parks. Reserve your campsite today, call (408) 355-2201 or visit www.gooutsideandplay.org.

Dogs & Pets: 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, www.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!

Key to symbols



Healthy Trails Challenge Hike.
See description under “all year” programs.



Reservations required. See program description for appropriate phone number.



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 and socialized dogs allowed, Must be controlled on a leash (6 ft. maximum).



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



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



Feature movie shown as part of program.



\$6 vehicle fee to enter park.



Photography program.

Due to extreme weather conditions and other unforeseen situations, some scheduled programs may be cancelled or changed. For those with reservations, individuals will be contacted. For non-reservation programs, you may call the number listed with questions or concerns.

Illustrations by Suzanne Bauer • Design by Fortune2

All year



Jr. Ranger Program

Jr. Rangers age 9-11 explore parks, wildlife, plants and Ohlone history. Programs run each fall and spring. Kids who successfully complete the program are invited to an overnight campout with Park Staff. For program dates, registration forms or more information call **(408) 846-5632**.

Jr. Ranger Discovery Guide available on-line!

Discover some wonderful County Parks by exploring habitats from ridge-top to bay! Earn an official Jr. Park Ranger patch by completing guide activities. Go to www.parkhere.org and follow the "For Kids" and "Jr. Ranger" links.



Fieldtrip and Classroom 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 www.parkhere.org and follow the "For Teachers" link.



Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park

Explore the lifestyle of Santa Clara County's native Ohlone Indians at this cultural history park. View authentic petroglyphs and artifacts from thousands of years ago. The site's exhibits and self-guiding interpretive trail are open daily from 8am to sunset. Tours available for groups of 10 or more by reservation. Call **(408) 323-0107** for information.



History Tours of Almaden Quicksilver County Park



Step back in time as you visit historic sites and experience what life was like back in the mining heyday. Van tours leave from the Hacienda park entrance at 9am and return after a brown-bag lunch in the park. Bring water and lunch. Tour costs \$7 per person. Reservations required. Call **(408) 323-1107** for tour dates.

Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Historic Ranch

A visit to the Ranch immerses you in the realities of living and working on a family ranch in the late 1800s-early 1900s. Visit exhibits in the restored ranch house, barn and along the interpretive trail to the famous Santa Teresa Spring. Park trails open daily from 8am to sunset. House and barn exhibits open Fridays and Saturdays, or by reservation. Call **(408) 226-5453** for hours and information.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed in County Parks! Become an official park Trailwatch member, assist with resource management projects, become a Docent at one of our historic sites, participate in creek clean-up efforts, lead outdoor recreation programs... the list goes on! Call **(408) 355-2254** or email volunteer @prk.sccgov.org for volunteer opportunities and information, or check the parks website at www.parkhere.org.



Healthy Trails – Your Path to Fitness, Fun and Adventure

Healthy Trails is a fitness challenge for people of all ages and skill levels. The program challenges people to walk,

roll, ride or run at least 5 of the 21 featured Santa Clara County Park trails contained in a trails guidebook. Healthy Trails is presented by the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and is free to the public because of the generous support of the following partners, Kaiser Permanente San Jose, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department - Nutrition and Wellness and Steps to a Healthier Santa Clara County. To register now for Healthy Trails or for more information, please visit www.parkhere.org or call **(408) 355-2201**.

Come Out & Play

Festival 2010 *where wellness meets FUN!* **in the Park**

11am~4pm
Saturday
June 26, 2010
Free admission!
Hellyer
County Park
985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose

See over 100 health, wellness, safety & recreation exhibitors!

"Heart Walk"
by American Heart Association

Teddy Bear Clinic
by Kaiser Permanente SJ

Petting Zoo
4-H Clubs

Free Kayaking
Los Gatos Saratoga Rec. Dept.

Free Fitness Demonstrations

Free Raffle Prizes

Food Court
Cash and ATM only

Free Water & Juice Bars

For more info go to parkhere.org,
call (408) 355-2240 or email
parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org.
To volunteer call (408) 355-2254



*Chitactac
Family Day*



The YURTS Are Coming!
THE YURTS ARE COMING!

What's a yurt? It's a cozy wood and fabric structure that makes camping just a bit more fun. They're coming to Mt. Madonna Park soon, watch parkhere.org for more information and availability.
Representative samples shown.

*Campfire
Program*



Jr. Rangers



Geocaching Class



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266 W. San Carlos San Jose, CA 95126 • 408.287.5994
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Excludes firearms, ammunition, boats, cartop boxes, gift certificates, licenses, rec. passes, and some brands. Discount off Mel's reg. price. Not valid with any other offer. 1 coup. per person. Valid in store only thru 8/31/10.



SATURDAY, MAY 1

A Taste of Kayaking Class

Vasona County Park • 9:00am-12:15pm

Docent Shirley Reekie will show and tell first-time kayakers all about this fun-loving sport. Choose session 9:00-10:30am or 10:45am-12:15pm. Kayaks provided, but bring sun protection, water and snacks. Must be 12 years or older and able to swim. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required. (408) 355-2240



Healthy Trails Challenge Hike

Grant County Park

10:00am-3:00pm

Join Docent Bob Cicisly on an 8.5-mile hike along the Dutch Flat, Canada de Pala and Hotel Loop trails. See spring wildflowers, wildlife and scenic overlooks from 2,457 ft above sea level. Meet at the Stockman's parking lot. Bring sun protection, water, snacks, sturdy hiking shoes and a camera. (408) 355-2240



SUNDAY, MAY 2

Healthy Trails Pre-Mother's Day Hike

Santa Teresa County Park

10:00am-3:00pm

Bring your mom and the whole family out on a 2.5-mile spring wildflower hike led by Docent Mike Boulland and the Friends of Santa Teresa County Park. Play games and explore the park's geology and history along the way. Meet at the Fortini Rd. trailhead with sun protection, water and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240



SATURDAY, MAY 8

Healthy Trails 2nd Edition Celebration and Hike

Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park

11:00am-2:00pm

Come celebrate and sign up for Healthy Trails 2nd Edition! There will be exhibitors, giveaways and lots of fun. Join partners, dignitaries and park staff on an easy 2-mile walk on the Martin Murphy Trail. Meet at the San Martin Ave. entrance. (408) 355-2240



Wildlife Walk

Ed Levin County Park

10:00am-12:00pm

Discover which wild creatures inhabit the park and be prepared for some surprises! This child-friendly 1.5-mile walk will explore the basics of the food chain, reading tracks, and interesting facts about our park inhabitants such as coyotes, bobcats, deer and wild turkeys. Meet at the Ranger Office/Visitor Center with sturdy hiking shoes, water, and snacks. (408) 262-6980



Wash Day and Old Time Games

Santa Teresa County Park's

Historic Bernal Ranch • 1:00pm-3:30pm

Come out for a fun-filled afternoon at the ranch. Experience what granny called her "weekly affliction" and play games from 100 years ago. The ranch is located at the corner of Camino Verde and Manila Dr. in San Jose. (408) 226-5453



SATURDAY, MAY 8, continued

Ohlone Ways Campfire Program

Vasona County Park • 6:30pm-8:30pm



Join park staff around an old fashioned campfire to learn about people who truly appreciated and respected nature and lived "green" long before it was popular. Explore lifestyles and traditions of the Ohlone People through games and food. Meet at the Ranger office with a lawn chair and flashlight. Reservations required. (408) 354-2608

THURSDAY, MAY 13

Healthy Trails Toddler Trek

Alviso Marina County Park

4:30pm-6:00pm



Join a Docent from Strollerhikes.com on the easy 1-mile Alviso Slough Loop Trail with your kids! Enjoy the shore birds and cool breezes as you explore the South Bay. Meet in the marina parking lot. (408) 355-2240

Intro to Dirt Biking Class

Motorcycle County Park • 9:00am-2:00pm



Learn the basic skills of dirt bike riding in this FREE 2-day class for beginners. Pre-registration begins after April 15 and final participants will be picked by lottery. Must be 18 or older. Motorcycles provided by California State Parks. (408) 355-2240



SATURDAY, MAY 15

Intro to Geocaching Class

Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park • 8:45am-12:00pm



Join Docent Sam Drake on a beginner's geocaching adventure to find 6-7 hidden caches in the park. GPS units provided. Meet at the Mendoza park entrance on Roop Rd. Bring sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. Reservations required. (408) 355-2240

Creekside Nature Hike

Anderson Lake County Park

10:00am-12:00pm



View wildlife and identify animal signs on this easy hike along Coyote Creek's natural riparian area. Discover how plants and animals depend on each other and us for survival. Meet at the Toyon Group Picnic Area at the base of Anderson Dam. Reservations required. (408) 779-3634

Healthy Trails Challenge Hike

Ed Levin County Park

10:00am-1:00pm



Join Docent Bob Cicisly on a moderately challenging 3.5-mile hike on the Tularcitos, Caleara Creek and Aqua Caliente Trails, which are also part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Meet at the first parking lot past Sandy Wool Lake. Bring sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240

History Walk

Grant County Park • 1:30pm-3:30pm



Join a park historian on this leisurely walk to explore the historical features of the park from Indian days to the recent past. Meet at the Ranch House. Due to recent earthquake damage, the house interior tours are not available at this time. (408) 274-6121



SATURDAY, MAY 15, continued

Star Party

Grant County Park • 8:00pm-11:00pm

Take a look into the night sky with members of the Halls Valley Astronomical Group (hallsvalley.org). Telescopes are provided, but you are welcome to bring one. Entrance gate closes at 10:00pm. Meet at Halley Hill. (408) 274-6121



SATURDAY, MAY 22

History Hike

Almaden Quicksilver County Park

9:00am-1:30pm

Step back in time and experience what life was like back in the mining heyday. Ride by van up into the park, hike approximately 5 miles to various historic sites and enjoy a brown-bag lunch in the park. Meet at the Hacienda parking lot. Bring water, lunch, sturdy hiking shoes and sun protection. Tour costs \$7 per person. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107



Safe Biking Adventures Ride

Hellyer County Park

10:00am-12:00pm

Make your biking adventures safe and fun by learning about proper equipment, hazards, rider courtesy and park resources. Take a 10-12 mile round-trip ride with a Park Ranger along the Coyote Creek Trail. Meet at the Hellyer Park Visitor Center with your bike, helmet, sun protection and water. (408) 225-0225



Waterfall Treasures Hike

Uvas Canyon County Park

10:00am-12:00pm

Take an easy 2-mile hike in the watershed of Uvas Canyon and explore the magnificent waterfalls as you learn about the history of the park and its natural treasures. Pack a lunch and stay to breathe the fresh mountain air. Meet at the day-use parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes and water. (408) 779-9232



Hiking Essentials

Almaden Quicksilver County Park

10:00am-12:00pm

Discover what 10 essential items all hikers should take along every time they hit the trails. Find out how to use and where to purchase these items. Meet at the Hacienda parking lot with a backpack, sun protection, water and snacks. (408) 268-3883



Poison Oak – Avoid the Rash

Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park

10:30am-11:30am

Despite what you already know about poison oak, come discover its upside – including what it has in common with cashews, mangoes and lacquer. Meet at the Mendoza parking lot on Roop Rd. Wear long pants, long-sleeved-shirts, sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 842-7800



SUNDAY, MAY 23

A Taste of Kayaking Class

Vasona County Park • 9:00am-12:15pm

Docent Shirley Reekie will show and tell first-time kayakers all about this fun-loving sport. Choose session 9:00-10:30am or 10:45am-12:15pm. Kayaks provided, but bring sun protection, water and snacks. Open to ages 12 and up, must be able to swim, reservations required. (408) 355-2240



SATURDAY, MAY 29

Mighty Redwood Walk

Mt. Madonna County Park • 3:00pm-4:30pm

Take an easy walk through the redwoods to explore our oldest forest trees and their diverse neighbors. Meet at the Giant Twins parking area on Valley View Road. (408) 842-2341



Family Friendly Moonlit Hike

Vasona County Park

8:00pm-9:30pm

Join Docent Jennifer Snedeker for an outing under the moon and stars on the paved Los Gatos Creek Trail. Watch for wildlife that comes out at dark, identify overhead constellations and discover many secrets of the night. Meet at the playground parking lot. Bring comfortable walking shoes and a flashlight. (408) 355-2240



SUNDAY, MAY 30

A Taste of Rowing Class

Lexington Reservoir County Park

8:30am-12:00pm

Docent Shirley Reekie will show and tell first-time rowers all about this fun-loving sport. Three sessions to choose from 8:30-10:00am, 9:30-11:00am and 10:30am-12pm. Limit 12 participants per session. Open to ages 12 and up, must be able to swim. Boats provided, reservations required. (408) 355-2240



*Come, celebrate & sign up
for Healthy Trails 2nd Edition!*

*Saturday, May 8, 2010 11 am – 2 pm
Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park
Bear Ranch entrance on San Martin Avenue*

parkhere.org

Click Healthy Trails for more information



EVERY SATURDAY IN JUNE

Vasona Vibrations Outdoor Music Series Vasona County Park • 5:00pm-7:00pm

Join us for the 8th year of grassroots summer music filled with good times and good tunes. Mostly acoustic music genres and exceptional local artists are featured lakeside on the lawn. Food concessions available, or bring a picnic dinner. Go to www.southbayfolks.org/vasona for scheduled artists. (408) 354-2608



FRIDAY, JUNE 4

Starry Night Hike

Ed Levin County Park • 7:00pm-10:00pm

Satisfy your curiosity about the skies above on this 3-hour, 3-mile hike with a Park Ranger. Discover interesting facts about the constellations above and gain new insights about the earth's relationship to its celestial neighbors. Meet at the Visitor Center with sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing, binoculars and flashlight. (408) 262-6980



SATURDAY, JUNE 5

Creek Habitat Hike – Anderson Lake County Park • 9:00am-11:00am

Discover what lives in and around our local creeks and streams, and why protecting these areas is important to us all. Take an easy 1-mile walk to identify the local creek plants and animals who share our parks. Meet at the Toyon Group Picnic Area just below Anderson Dam. Reservations required. (408) 779-3634



History Van Tour – Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 9:00am-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 enjoy a brown-bag lunch in the park. Meet at the Hacienda parking lot. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Tour costs \$7. Children must be over 6 years and 60lbs. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107



Raptors Over the Rancho Rancho San Vicente • 4:00pm-6:00pm

Take a hike with a Park Ranger in this future County Park. Learn to identify our local sky-hunting hawks, eagles and other raptors. Participate in an activity that demonstrates hunting practices of these magnificent birds. Meet at Calero Reservoir, then caravan to the site nearby. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. Note: This hike is in a "closed area" not yet open for public access. Restrooms not available except at meeting location. (408) 268-3883



Creepy Critters Motorcycle County Park • 1:00pm-1:45pm

Join the Motorcycle Park Rangers for an introduction to some of the creepy critters you may find while riding on the trails. Meet at the park office – no hiking or riding required. (408) 226-5223



SATURDAY, JUNE 5, continued

Take a Walk on the Fault Line Sanborn County Park • 5:00pm-7:00pm

Take a 1-mile hike along the San Andreas Fault with a Park Ranger. Learn about earthquake and tectonic plate activity as you explore history, landscapes, rocks and formations along the trail. Meet at the Park Office with sturdy hiking shoes, water and layered clothing. (408) 867-9959



Star Party Grant County Park • 8:30pm-11:00pm

Take a look into the night sky with members of the Halls Valley Astronomical Group (hallsvalley.org). Telescopes are provided, but you are welcome to bring one. Entrance gate closes at 10:00pm. Meet at Halley Hill. (408) 274-6121



Park Predators and Their Prey Mt. Madonna County Park • 8:30pm-9:30pm

Discover how park predators and their prey exist together and depend on each other to survive and thrive in nature's web of life. Join in the activities and meet a surprise guest predator. Meet at the amphitheater next to the park office. (408) 842-2341



SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Biking, Birding and Breakfast Vasona County Park • 8:00am-11:00am

Join a Park Ranger for an early morning strenuous bike ride on the Los Gatos Creek Trail to observe and identify birds. Bring something to share and stay for a breakfast social at the end of the ride. Adults only please, not suited for children. Meet at the Boat Center with a bike, helmet and water. Reservations required. (408) 354-2608



Healthy Trails Equestrian Ride Almaden Quicksilver County Park 10:00am-1:30pm

Join Docents Janice Fraizer and Kitty Monahan for a 7.5-mile, relaxed-pace ride to explore the exciting history of the old mercury mines. Meet at the Hacienda Parking lot with your horse, sun protection, water and snacks. No rentals horses available. (408) 355-2240



Healthy Trails Challenge Hike Upper Stevens Creek County Park 11:00am-1:00pm

Join Docent Bob Cicisly on a 4.7-mile strenuous hike on the Grizzly Flat Loop. Meet at parking lot on Skyline Blvd. (3 miles south of Page Mill Rd). Bring sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240



Birds of Prey Hellyer County Park 2:00pm-3:00pm

Join Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) staff to explore our local birds of prey. Meet some live wild neighbors and discover what unique daytime and nighttime adaptations allow them to survive and thrive in our parks. Meet at the Buena Vista Group Area. (408) 225-0225



SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Gone Fishing 101- Beginner Tips From a Ranger Stevens Creek County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm

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) 867-365





SATURDAY, JUNE 12, continued

Poison Oak – Avoid the Rash Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park 10:30am-11:30am



Despite what you already know about poison oak, come discover its upside – including what it has in common with cashews, mangoes and lacquer. Meet at the Mendoza parking lot on Roop Rd. Wear long pants, long-sleeved-shirts, sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 842-7800

Wash Day and Old Time Games Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch • 1:00pm-3:30pm



Come out for a fun-filled afternoon at the ranch. Experience what granny called her “weekly affliction” and play games from 100 years ago. The ranch is located at the corner of Camino Verde and Manila Dr. in San Jose. (408) 226-5453

Carnivorous Plants Night Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch • 7:30pm-10:30pm



Explore the world of carnivorous plants with experts. Meet some real meat-eating flora up close and take home your own Venus Fly Trap. End the night by munching on popcorn and watching “Little Shop of Horrors” in the historic barn. Reservations required. (408) 226-5453

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Exploring Local Wildlife Hike Rancho San Vicente • 5:30pm-8:00pm



Learn about local wildlife and tracking skills on this strenuous 2.3-mile hike in a beautiful future County Park. Meet at the Calero Reservoir parking lot to caravan to the tour location nearby. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, water, flashlight and binoculars (optional). Reservations required prior to 6/17. Note: This hike is in a “closed area” not yet open for public access. Restrooms not available except at meeting location. Pre-registration required. (408) 323-1107

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Healthy Trails Challenge Hike Ed Levin County Park 9:00am-12:00pm



Docent Cait Hutnik will lead you on a moderately challenging 2.3-mile hike on the Spring Valley and Los Coches Trails. Travel through multiple habitats, look for wildlife and see breathtaking views of the San Francisco Bay. Meet at the last Spring Valley parking lot near equestrian corrals. Bring sun protection, water, snacks, camera and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240

Healthy Trails Challenge Hike Mt. Madonna County Park 10:00am-2:00pm



Join Docent Bob Cicisly on a strenuous but gratifying 5.6-mile hike along a series of connected trails. Visit the Henry Miller Estate ruins and look for wildlife. Meet at the Sprig Day Use parking lot with sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, continued

Summer Solstice Sunset Stroll Grant County Park • 7:00pm-9:00pm



Celebrate the beginning of summer on an easy 2-mile stroll through the park. Hear about Solstice rituals around the world and participate in one of our own. Meet at the Grant Lake parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, flashlight, layered clothing and a blanket to sit on. (408) 274-6121

Wild Dogs Hike – Uvas Canyon County Park • 7:00pm-9:30pm



Take a 2-mile hike in the wilds of Uvas Canyon with a Park Ranger and her canine companion. Discover the signs and sounds of a riparian habitat at night. Meet at the Amphitheater with sturdy hiking shoes, insect repellent, flashlight and leashed dogs. Reservations required. (408) 842-2341

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Ride With a Ranger Coyote Creek Parkway 10:00am-1:00pm



Explore the fundamentals of cycling and bike maintenance, then head out for a wild ride with a Park Ranger along the paved Coyote Creek Trail to explore the great outdoors. Riders must be able to peddle 6-10 miles. Group ability will determine pace and distance. Meet at the Anderson Park office at the end of Malaguerra Ave. in Morgan Hill with your bike, helmet, sun protection, water, snacks. (408) 799-3634

Festival in the Park – Where Wellness Meets FUN! Hellyer County Park • 11:00am-4:00pm



This 4th annual event's goal is to help families take charge of their health, learn how to eat nutritiously, make healthy life choices and get physically fit. FREE admission, information, health and recreation opportunities, food, entertainment and FUN! (408) 355-2240

History Walk – Grant County Park 1:30pm-3:30pm



Join a park historian on this leisurely walk to explore the historical features of the park from Indian days to the recent past. Meet at the Ranch House. Due to recent earthquake damage, the house interior tours may not be available at this time. (408) 274-6121

Blind as a Bat?



Calero County Park • 6:00pm-9:30pm

Take a pleasant but bouncy ride out to the Calero Bat Inn – where you can visit but not stay. Participate in some batty activities and learn why these creatures are so important. Watch hundreds of bats emerge from a good day's sleep at the Inn. Blankets, bug spray, layered clothing and flashlights recommended. Reservations required and available after 8:00am on June 1st. (408) 268-3883

Family Friendly Moonlit Hike Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park • 8:00pm-9:30pm



Enjoy a beautiful outing under the moon and stars on the paved Martin Murphy Trail (2-mile loop) with Docent Jennifer Snedeker. Watch for wildlife, identify overhead constellations and discover many secrets of this historic and ecological area. Meet at the San Martin Ave. parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes and flashlight. (408) 355-2240



EVERY SATURDAY IN JULY

Vasona Vibrations Outdoor Music Series Vasona County Park • 5:00pm-7:00pm

Join us for the 8th year of grassroots summer music filled with good times and good tunes. Mostly acoustic music genres and exceptional local artists are featured lakeside on the lawn. Food concessions available, or bring a picnic dinner. Go to www.southbayfolks.org/vasona for scheduled artists. (408) 354-2608



THURSDAY, JULY 1

Healthy Trails Toddler Trek Alviso Marina County Park 4:30pm-6:00pm

Join a Docent from Strollerhikes.com on the easy 1-mile Alviso Slough Loop Trail with your kids! Enjoy the shore birds and cool breezes as you explore the South Bay. Meet in the marina parking lot. (408) 355-2240



SATURDAY, JULY 3

Dog Days of Summer Hellyer County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm

Take a moderate 1-mile stroll with a Park Ranger to learn the "tricks of the trade" for safely exploring parks with your dog. End your morning at the Hellyer Dog Park, where your canine companions can romp unleashed with their new 4-legged friends. Meet at the Ranger Office. Bring a leash, water, sturdy walking shoes and sun protection. Reservations required. (408) 225-0225



SATURDAY, JULY 10

History Hike – Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 9:00am-1:30pm

Step back in time and experience what life was like back in the mining heyday. Ride by van up into the park, hike approximately 5 miles to various historic sites, and enjoy a brown-bag lunch in the park. Meet at the Quicksilver Museum. Bring water, lunch, sturdy hiking shoes and sun protection. Tour costs \$7. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107



Healthy Trails Hike – Alviso Marina County Park • 9:00am-11:00am

Docent Cait Hutnik will lead you on an easy 1-mile bayland adventure along the Alviso Slough Loop Trail. Enjoy beautiful south bay views and bird watching. Meet at the Alviso Marina parking lot with sun protection, water, camera and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240



Chitactac Family Day – Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park • 10:00am-2:00pm

Families and friends are invited to a special day of hands-on activities, demonstrations, traditional crafts at this celebration of the native Ohlone People who once lived at this ancient village site. (408) 323-010



SATURDAY, JULY 10, continued

Living With Wildlife Hike – Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm

Take a 2.6-mile moderate-strenuous hike to explore living with wildlife. Learn about our mountain lion, bobcat and coyote neighbors, and how they depend on the park and us to survive. Small children not advised due to steep trail sections. Meet at the Hacienda parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. (408) 268-3883



Wash Day and Old Time Games Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch • 1:00pm-3:30pm

Come out for a fun-filled afternoon at the ranch. Experience what granny called her "weekly affliction" and play games from 100 years ago. The ranch is located at the corner of Camino Verde and Manila Dr. in San Jose. (408) 226-5453



History Walk – Grant County Park • 1:30-3:30pm

Join a park historian on this leisurely walk to explore the historical features of the park from Indian days to the recent past. Meet at the Ranch House. Due to recent earthquake damage, house interior tours may not be available at this time. (408) 274-6121



Paws For Thought Dog Hike Uvas Canyon County Park 7:30pm-9:00pm

Bring your canine companion on an adventure into the night with a Park Ranger. Explore the night life and discover what our dogs have in common with wild dogs and cats. Meet at the Amphitheater, then head out for a 2-mile hike. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, insect repellent, water and flashlight. Reservations required. (408) 842-2341



Bug Out Night -Ants Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch • 7:30pm-10:30pm

Explore the fascinating world of ants, try a unique chocolate covered treat and munch on popcorn while watching the classic big-bug movie "Them". Reservations required. (408) 226-5453



Star Party Grant County Park • 8:30pm-11:00pm

Take a look into the night sky with members of the Halls Valley Astronomical Group (hallsvalley.org). Telescopes are provided, but you are welcome to bring one. Entrance gate closes at 10:00pm. Meet at Halley Hill. (408) 274-6121



SUNDAY, JULY 11

Creepy Critters Motorcycle County Park • 1:00pm-1:45

Join the Motorcycle Park Rangers for an introduction to some of the creepy critters you may find while riding on the trails. Meet at the park office – no hiking or riding required. (408) 226-5223



Full Moon Hike Grant County Park • 8:00pm-10:00pm

Join a Park Ranger on this easy 2-mile hike through Halls Valley to seek out nature's nighttime neighbors. Enjoy views of Lick Observatory and the moon as it crests Mt. Hamilton. Meet at the Stockman's parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, flashlight and layered clothing. (408) 274-6121





THURSDAY, JULY 15

Healthy Trails Toddler Trek Los Gatos Creek County Park 4:30pm-6:00pm



Join a Docent from Strollerhikes.com on an easy 2-mile stretch of the Los Gatos Creek Trail to explore the percolation ponds with your toddlers. Meet at the parking lot. (408) 355-2240

SATURDAY, JULY 17

Ranger-led Hike Rancho San Vicente • 9:00am-11:00am



Take a strenuous 2-mile hike with a Park Ranger to explore this neighbor to Calero and future County Park. Learn about the history of the rancho property and explore plants and wildlife living here. Meet at Calero Reservoir to caravan to tour site nearby. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. Note: This hike is in a “closed area” not yet open for public access. Restrooms not available except at meeting location. (408) 268-3883

Raptors in the Wind Hike – Santa Teresa County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm



Join a Park Ranger on a 2-mile hike to explore our local winged hunters in the sky. Learn about a raptor’s role in the environment and how to easily identify these hawks, falcons and eagles. Bring water, sun protection and sturdy hiking shoes. Field guides and binoculars recommended. Meet at the Pueblo Group Area. (408) 225-0225

Take a Walk on the Fault Line Sanborn County Park • 5:00pm-7:00pm



Take a 1-mile hike along the San Andreas Fault with a Park Ranger. Learn about earthquake and tectonic plate activity as you explore history, landscapes, rocks and formations along the trail. Meet at the Park Office with sturdy hiking shoes, water and layered clothing. (408) 867-9959

A Walk in the Dark – Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park • 8:30pm-9:45pm



Take an easy 1.5-mile walk with a Park Ranger to explore our nocturnal neighbors and the unique skills and adaptations that allow them to successfully roam at night. Meet at the campground amphitheater with layered clothing and a flashlight. (408) 842-7800

Night Awareness Mt. Madonna County Park • 9:00pm-10:00pm



Become more aware of the night by “seeing” the wonders of nature using more than just your eyes. Through fun and challenging activities, test your 5, maybe 6, human senses and experience the dark of the night as an animal might. Meet at the amphitheater next to the park office. (408) 842-2341

Thursday, July 22

Sunset/Moonlight Hike Lexington County Park • 8:15pm-9:45pm



Join park staff on a 3-mile sunset and moonlit adventure to explore the adaptations of our nocturnal wild neighbors. Meet at the Lexington Dam parking lot. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing, water and a flashlight. Reservations required. (408) 356-2729

SATURDAY, JULY 24

History Van Tour – Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 9:00am-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 enjoy a brown-bag lunch in the park. Meet at the Quicksilver Museum. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Tour costs \$7 per person. Children must be over 6 years and 60lbs. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107

Ride With a Ranger Coyote Creek Parkway 10:00am-1:00pm



Explore the fundamentals of cycling and bike maintenance, then head out for a wild ride with a Park Ranger along the paved Coyote Creek Trail. Riders must be able to peddle 6-10 miles. Group ability will determine pace and distance. Meet at the Anderson Park office at the end of Malaguerra Ave. in Morgan Hill with a bike, helmet, sun protection, water, snacks. (408) 799-3634

Stevens Creek History Hike Stevens Creek County Park 12:00pm-2:00pm



Learn about the first people to live on this land and explore how the scenery has evolved over the years. Use historical maps and photos to help tell the stories of change. Hike about 2 miles to look at various park features. Meet at the Park Office with sun protection, sturdy hiking shoes and water. (408) 867-3654

Blind as a Bat? Calero County Park • 6:00pm-9:30pm



Take a pleasant but bouncy ride out to the Calero Bat Inn – where you can visit but not stay. Participate in some batty activities and learn why these creatures are so important. Watch hundreds of bats emerge from a good day’s sleep at the Inn. Blankets, bug spray, layered clothing and flashlights recommended. Reservations required and available after 8:00am on June 28. (408) 268-3883

Full Moon Hike Ed Levin County Park 8:00-11:00pm



Let a Park Ranger be your guide to see the sights, sniff the smells and hear the sounds of nature at night on this 3-mile hike. Appropriate for families with kids age 10 and up. Meet at the Sandy Wool Group Area with sturdy hiking shoes, water and flashlight. (408) 262-6980

Family Friendly Moonlit Hike Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear County Park • 8:30pm-10:00pm



Enjoy a beautiful outing under the moon and stars on the paved Martin Murphy Trail (2-mile loop) with Docent Jennifer Snedeker. Watch for wildlife, identify overhead constellations and discover many secrets of this historic and ecological area. Meet at the San Martin Ave. parking lot with comfortable walking shoes and a flashlight. (408) 355-2240



FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

In The Park After Dark Movie Nights Vasona County Park

8:30pm-11:00pm nightly

Bring your family and friends out for a movie under the stars. Meet on the lawn by the Ranger office with a blanket or chair. Food available for purchase or bring your own picnic dinner. Flashlight recommended for getting back to your car. Call ahead for movie titles and information. (408) 354-2608



SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

History Van Tour – Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 9:00am-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 enjoy a brown-bag lunch in the park. Meet at the Quicksilver Museum. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Tour costs \$7 per person. Children must be over 6 years and 60lbs. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107



A Natural Dog Walk

Coyote Creek Parkway • 9:00am-11:00am

Explore the nature of this creek-side trail with your dog. Learn about dog 1st aid and trail etiquette along the way. Meet at the Park office at the end of Malaguerra Ave in Morgan Hill. Bring a dog on leash and water for all. (408) 779-3634



History Walk

Grant County Park • 1:30pm-3:30pm

Join a park historian on this leisurely walk to explore the historical features of the park from Indian days to the recent past. Meet at the Ranch House. Due to recent earthquake damage, the house interior tours may not be available at this time. (408) 274-6121



Star Party

Grant County Park • 8:00pm-11:00pm

Take a look into the night sky with members of the Halls Valley Astronomical Group (hallsvally.org). Telescopes are provided, but you are welcome to bring one. Entrance gate closes at 10:00pm. Meet at Halley Hill. (408) 274-6121



SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Gone Fishing 101- Beginner Tips From a Ranger Stevens Creek County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm

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



THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

Healthy Trails Toddler Trek Alviso Marina County Park

4:30pm-6:00pm

Join a Docent from Strollerhikes.com on the easy 1-mile Alviso Slough Loop Trail with your kids! Enjoy the shore birds and cool breezes as you explore the South Bay. Meet in the marina parking lot. (408) 355-2240



Meteor Shower Talk

Ed Levin County Park • 8:30pm-11:00pm

Join us under the "falling stars" to learn about Perseid and other meteor showers. Meet at the Park Office by Spring Valley Pond. Children age 10 and up welcome. Bring layered clothing, lawn chairs and blankets. Reservations required. (408) 262-6980



The Sky is Falling!

Calero County Park • 8:30pm-11:30pm

Come spend an evening under the shooting stars and learn about a Greek hero of mythology. Sit back and watch the Perseid meteor shower. Bring a low chair or blanket to sit on, snacks, layered clothing and a flashlight with red lens cover. Meet at the Calero trailhead parking lot south of Calero Reservoir. Reservations required. (408) 268-3883



FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

Healthy Trails Toddler Trek Alviso Marina County Park

9:45am-11:00am

Join a Docent from Strollerhikes.com on the easy 1-mile Alviso Slough Loop Trail with your kids! Enjoy the shore birds and cool breezes as you explore the South Bay. Meet in the marina parking lot. (408) 355-2240



SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

Ohlone Lifestyle

Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch
County Park • 9:00am-11:00am

The Ohlone People ate meals, played games, made clothing and furnished their homes using only what nature provided. Come explore the lifestyle and skills of this native culture with a Park Ranger. Reservations required. (408) 842-7800



The Incredible, Edible Acorn

Vasona County Park
10:00am-11:00am

Ever pondered the purpose of an acorn? Come find out who needs and loves acorns in this fun program with a Park Ranger. Take a short walk to an acorn-laden tree and get treated to acorn pancakes topped with wild mint jelly. Meet at the Park Ranger office. Reservations required. (408) 365-2729



Healthy Trails Challenge Hike

Mt. Madonna County Park
10:00am-1:00pm

Join Docent Bob Cicisly on a 3.6-mile moderate hike on the Ridge, Tie Camp and Merry-Go-Round Trails. Meet at the Sprig Day Use parking lot with sun protection, water and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240



Survival in a Knapsack

Uvas Canyon County Park • 11:00am-2:00pm

Take an easy hike with a Park Ranger through the forest to discover what you should always bring along to ensure your safety and survival in the wilderness. Meet at the day use parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, water and lunch. (408) 842-2341



SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, continued

Lost in Space Night

Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch • 7:30pm-10:30pm

Join park staff and astronomers from the San Jose Astronomical Society to explore the night sky through computer-guided telescopes. Munch on popcorn while watching old TV episodes of "Lost in Space" – Danger Will Robinson, Danger! Reservations required. (408) 226-5453



SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Getting Beyond the Snapshot

Vasona County Park • 10:00am-11:30am

Bring your camera and join us on a casual walk around the park. Explore plants and animals while shooting great shots and discussing what makes a photo compelling. All ages, abilities and equipment welcome. Meet at the Ranger office with a camera. (408) 354-2608



SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

History Van Tour – Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 9:00am-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 enjoy a brown-bag lunch in the park. Meet at the Quicksilver Museum. Bring water, lunch and sun protection. Tour costs \$7 per person. Children must be over 6 years and 60lbs. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107



Healthy Trails Challenge Hike Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park • 9:00am-2:00pm

Join Docent Cait Hutnik on this 10-mile hike along the Coyote Ridge, Calaveras and Harvey Bear Trails. Enjoy spectacular views across the valleys to Mt. Madonna, El Toro, Fremont Peak and Palassou Ridge. Meet at the Mendoza park entrance on Roop. Rd. Bring sun protection, water, snacks and sturdy hiking shoes. (408) 355-2240



Family Fandango

Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch • 5:00pm-8:00pm

Come celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay, early Spanish-speaking colonists, and English-speaking ranch families who all settled in this area over time. The evening's focus is family fun through demonstrations and activities that highlight 1770-1870 California. The Ranch is located at 372 Manila Dr., San Jose. (408) 846-5632



Night Prowl

Mt. Madonna County Park • 8:00pm-9:30pm

Explore the trails by night with a Park Ranger. Find out about the elusive mountain lion, its behaviors, and the challenges nature's big cat faces when sharing parklands with people. Dogs on leash welcome. Meet at the Park Office with sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing, insect repellent and a flashlight. (408) 843-2341



THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

Healthy Trails Toddler Trek Mt. Madonna County Park 4:30pm-6:00pm

Join a Docent from Strollerhikes.com for a 1-mile toddler-friendly hike along the Miller Nature Trail. Kids will be encouraged to walk, run and explore the shaded trail through the Miller Estate Ruins. A back-pack carrier recommended for non-walkers. (408) 355-2240



FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

Tragedy of the Berryessas Hike Rancho San Vicente • 6:00pm-8:00pm

Take a hike into the past in this future County Park. Learn of the tragedies that befell the Berryessa family and their rancho. Explore historic connections to the New Almaden Mines and take in spectacular views of New Almaden and Ranchos San Vicente and Los Capintancillos. Meet at the Calero Reservoir parking lot to caravan to the nearby tour location. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, water, flashlight and binoculars (optional). Reservations required prior to 8/23. Note: This hike is in a "closed area" not yet open for public access. Restrooms not available except at meeting location. Pre-registration required, space limited. (408) 323-1107



SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

The Incredible, Edible Acorn Vasona County Park • 10:00am-11:00am

Ever pondered the purpose of an acorn? Come find out who needs and loves acorns in this fun program with a Park Ranger. Take a short walk to an acorn-laden tree and get treated to acorn pancakes topped with wild mint jelly. Meet at the Park Ranger office. Reservations required. (408) 365-2729



Safe Biking Adventures Hellyer County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm

Make your biking adventures safe and fun by learning about proper equipment, hazards, rider courtesy and park resources. Take a 10-12 mile round-trip ride with a Park Ranger along the Coyote Creek Trail. Meet at the Hellyer Park Visitor Center with a bike and helmet. (408) 225-0225.



Basic Dog Obedience Training Techniques Almaden Quicksilver County Park • 6:00pm-8:00pm

As you hike with a Park Ranger, learn some basic dog obedience techniques that will help make your park and trail experiences more enjoyable. Discover how to identify and minimize potential hazards to you and your pets. Meet at the Hacienda parking lot with leashed dog, sun protection and water. (408) 268-3883



SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

Nature Walk With a Ranger Sanborn County Park • 10:00am-12:00pm

Explore the forest plants and animals on a moderate 2-mile hike with a Park Ranger. Meet at the Park Office with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protections and water. (408) 867-9959

