

***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**  
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



*parkhere.org*



**SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY PARKS**

# *Play Here!*

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

# *Fall Winter 2011*



Join us online!



*How about a fun, FREE  
quest for the whole family!*

*See page 24!*





# 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.

Get Out and play here

parkhere.org

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Casa Grande and the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum  
 Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch  
 Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park

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 ©2005-2011  
 Cover Photo courtesy of Ronald Horii ©2011  
 Design by Fortune2

## Key to symbols



**Healthy Trails Challenge Hike.**  
 See description under "all year" programs.



**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.



# 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 10

Trail Day • Villa Montalvo • 9am-1pm

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Habitat Restoration  
Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1pm

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

California Coastal Cleanup • 9am-Noon  
Almaden Quicksilver, Anderson, Coyote/Bear, Hellyer, Los Gatos Creek, Stevens Creek and Vasona)

Day on the Bay • Alviso • 8am-4pm

Stevens Creek Lexus  
Teen Volunteer Outreach Event  
Stevens Creek Blvd., San Jose, CA

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

South Bay Fishing in the City  
Lake Cunningham • 7am-Noon

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Trail Day • Coyote/Bear • 9am-1pm  
Habitat Restoration  
Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1pm

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 & 22

Trail Watch Academy • 8am-5pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Trail Day • Santa Teresa • 9am-1pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Habitat Restoration  
Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Trail Day • Coyote/Bear • 9am-1pm

### NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 31

Fantasy of Lights  
Vasona Park • 5:30pm-9:30pm





# Sept

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1



### 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 Alviso Marina parking lot with comfortable walking shoes, snacks and a camera. (408) 355-2240

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3



### Star Party • Grant • 8pm-11pm

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. Meet at Halley Hill, across from campsite #22. Park entrance gate closes at 10pm. (408) 274-6121

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4



### Creekside Wildlife Hike • Hellyer • 1pm-3pm

Meet at the Visitor Center and take a short "mystery tour" hike with a Park Ranger to discover the animals that use and live around the creek. Feel raccoon, bobcat, coyote and rabbit furs and meet live snakes. (408) 225-0225



### Cat Reflexes Hike • Mt. Madonna • 7:30pm-9:30pm

Join a Park Ranger and her canine companion for a hike in wild cat territory. Discover behavioral attributes of mountain lions and bobcats. Learn why they are important members of our natural community and how they face challenges in our modern world. Socialized dogs on leash are welcome to accompany our exploration into the magnificent cat world. Meet at the park office. (408) 842-2341

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10



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

Explore the Calaveras Fault with a Park Ranger and discover how our geologic landscape came to be. Explore the ingredients that make up the park's "rock soup". Meet at the Ranger office. Wear long pants and sun protection. Bring snacks and water. (408) 842-7800



### The Incredible Edible Acorn • Uvas Canyon • 9am-10:30am

Ever wondered if an acorn has purpose in your world? Come find out in this fun program with a Park Ranger. After learning about local oak trees, get treated to acorn pancakes with mint jelly. Reservations required. (408) 779-9232



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, continued



### Creek Habitat Hike • Anderson Lake • 9am-10am

Discover who and what lives in and around the creek on a short hike with a Park Ranger. Explore how natural connections ensure that everything stays healthy and survives. Meet at the Toyon Group Area at the base of Anderson Dam. Reservations required. (408) 779-3634



### History and Nature Hike with a Ranger Calero-Rancho San Vicente • 9am-11am

Take a 2-mile hike with a Park Ranger to explore Rancho San Vicente's nature, history and spectacular views. Meet at Calero Reservoir; then caravan to a gated site nearby. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, snacks, and water. No dogs. Note: This is a guided hike in a "closed area" not yet open for public access; group travels together. Restrooms not available except at reservoir meeting location. (408) 268-3883



### Family Yoga in the Park • Vasona • 10am-11am

Enjoy healthy family fun through individual and group yoga poses and exercises, creative breathing and relaxing connection time. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel and meet at the parking lot by the fishing pier. Reservations required. Register online or call (408) 355-2240



### Full Moon Paddle • Lexington Reservoir • 7:30pm-10pm

Discover local history & nature on a moonlight paddle tour of Lexington Reservoir. Experienced paddlers only, no instruction or equipment provided. Meet at the reservoir launch ramp with your kayak/canoe, life jacket and 2 glow sticks per person. Reservations required. (408) 846-5632

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11



### Dog Days of Summer • Hellyer • 10am-Noon

Take a moderate 2-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 Visitor Center. Bring a leash, water, sturdy walking shoes and sun protection. Reservations required. (408) 225-0225



### Evening Mountain Bike Ride • Almaden Quicksilver • 6pm-8pm

Take a moderate 5.5-mile bike ride with a Park Ranger from the Wood Rd. staging area to the rotary furnace, up Bull Run, down through English Camp and back out to Wood Rd. Take periodic stops to see artifacts and learn about mining history along the way. Bring a well maintained mountain bike, layered clothing and water. Reservations required. (408) 268-3883





## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



### History Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-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 \$5. Reservations required. (408) 323-1107



### Family Yoga in the Park • Hellyer • 10am-11am

Enjoy healthy family fun through individual and group yoga poses and exercises, creative breathing and relaxing connection time. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel and meet on the lawn near Cottonwood Lake. Reservations required. Register online or call (408) 355-2240



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

Join staff and docents in period costumes to tour Casa Grande and learn about the rich history of mercury mining and Victorian life in New Almaden. Bring a lunch to enjoy in the newly landscaped backyard of this National Historic Landmark site. (408) 323-1107



### History Walk • Grant • 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. The walk is from 1:30-2:15, followed by a tour of the historic Grant Ranch House. (408) 274-6121



### After-Dark Fungus Festival

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

Join park staff and Morgan Hill mushroom growers for a night of mushroom madness. Learn about mushrooms, molds and other fungus that thrive in the damper regions of our parks. Afterwards munch on mushrooms (if you're not squeamish) while watching the creepy monster classic "Mantango: Attack of the Mushroom People." Reservations required. (408) 226-5453



### Night Time Adventure Hike • Grant • 6pm-8pm

Take an adventure into the night to explore Smith Creek with a Park Ranger. Through stories and images, learn about the history of Mt. Hamilton Road and the old hotel. Visit a bat colony and hope for a glimpse of the flying mammals as they emerge for a night of insect feasting. Meet at the Smith Creek Trailhead on Mt. Hamilton Road, past the park entrance. Reservations required. (408) 274-6121



## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24



### Healthy Trails Hike • Santa Teresa • 9am-11am

Join a Park Docent on a moderately challenging 2.5-mile hike on the Fortini, Mine, and Stile Ranch Trails (loop). See beautiful views of the Santa Teresa hills, Calero Reservoir and the Almaden Valley. Meet at the Stile Ranch entrance with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. (408) 355-2240



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25



### Getting Beyond the Snapshot • Vasona • 10:30am-Noon

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 photograph compelling. All ages, abilities and equipment welcome. Meet at the Ranger office with a camera. (408) 354-2608



### Raptors Hike • Sanborn • Noon-2pm

Join a Park Ranger on a 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 park office. (408) 867-9959

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30



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

Satisfy your curiosity about the heavens on this 2.5-mile hike with a Park Ranger under the starry sky. Explore the constellations above, hear about new discoveries, and gain insights about the earth's relationship to its celestial neighbors. Meet at the lawn near the Park Office and Spring Valley Pond. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing and binoculars. (408) 262-6980





# Pictures in the Park



## Photo Contest



[facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks](https://facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks)

### Enter and vote for your favorite park photos on facebook!

Amateur and professional photographers may submit digital photos of the County parks or activities to the Pictures in the Park Album on the Santa Clara County Parks Facebook Page. The winning photo will be featured in the 2012 Spring-Summer PlayHere Guide, as well as on our website and Facebook Page. The winning photographer will also receive an Annual Venture Pass to the Santa Clara County Parks.

*All photos must be submitted by Oct. 15, 2011. Voting will close on Oct. 31. Photos submitted of images other than Santa Clara County Parks or activities will not be eligible. For more information and rules visit [parkhere.org/photocontest](http://parkhere.org/photocontest).*

*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

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1



### Healthy "Tails" Dog Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-11am

Get fit and in shape with your dog! A docent from California K9 Solutions will teach you how to get outside and get healthy as you take a moderate 2.5-mile hike on the Wood Road Trail. Dogs must be controlled on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Meet at the Wood Road parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes and water for you and your dog. Reservations required.

**Register online or call (408) 355-2240**



### Introduction to Photography

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

Join a Park 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**



### Star Party • Grant • 8pm-11pm

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. Meet at Halley Hill across from campsite #22. Park entrance gate closes at 10pm. **(408) 274-6121**



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

### Stroller Hike and Toddler Trek • Penitencia Creek • 4:30pm-6pm

A docent from Strollerhikes.com will lead this easy 4.4 mile hike geared for parents with small children. Trek along the paved trail passing by playgrounds, playfields and unique native plant gardens. Park along Jackson Ave. and meet the gardens with comfortable walking shoes and strollers or carries. **(408) 355-2240**



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15



### Fall Nature Hike • Calero's Rancho San Vicente • 9am-Noon

Join a Park Docent on a 3-mile hike to enjoy the changing landscape of fall at Rancho San Vicente. Enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding foothills and discover how these rolling serpentine grasslands provide critical habitat for endangered species. Meet at Calero Reservoir, then carpool to a trail nearby. Bring water, snacks and camera. Wear sun protection and sturdy hiking shoes. No dogs. Note: This is a guided hike in a "closed area" not yet open for public access, group travels together. Restrooms not available except at reservoir meeting location. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240**



### Amah Mutsun Heritage Day • Chitactac-Adams • 11am-3pm

Join members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Coastanoan/Ohlone Indians for a special day of historical and cultural presentations, including storytelling, early tribal history, traditional land uses, and the Amah Mutsun of today. Visitors will interact with tribal members and participate in hands-on native crafts. **(408) 918-7772**



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

### Healthy Trails Hike • Stevens Creek • 9am-1pm

Join a Park Docent on a moderately challenging 5.8-mile hike on the Tony Look Trail. Explore the remnants of the historic Villa Maria Orchard and scenic views overlooking Stevens Creek Reservoir and the lush valley below. Meet at the Chestnut parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes and sun protection. Bring water, snacks and a camera. **(408) 355-2240**



### History Walk • Grant • 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. The walk is from 1:30-2:15, followed by a tour of the historic Grant Ranch House. **(408) 274-6121**



### Haunted Hike • Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 7pm-9pm

Come dressed in your Halloween costume for a two-hour Docent-led night hike on the Martin Murphy Trail (2-mile paved loop). Learn about some creepy crawlies that live in the park and hear family-friendly ghost stories. Bring flashlights and warm clothes. Meet at the Bear Ranch entrance on San Martin Ave. Reservations required. **Register online or call (408) 355-2240**







### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, continued



**Spider Night • Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal Ranch • 7:30pm-10:30pm**  
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

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27



**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

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28



**Halloween Haunt • Ed Levin • 5pm-8pm**  
Join park staff for a night of spooky family fun. Play ghostly games, carve a free pumpkin, 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. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Food available for purchase. (408) 262-6980

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29



**Owls - Stealth Birds in the Night • Hellyer • 3pm-6pm**  
Come explore the night vision and sounds of owls with park staff. Stay afterwards for the movie "Legend of the Guardians-The Owls of Gahoole". Meet in the park Visitor Center. (408) 225-0225



**All Hallows Eve Night Hike  
Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 6pm-8pm**  
Take an easy night hike to explore spooky Coyote Ridge and look for creepy critters. Discover the history of All Hallows Eve (Halloween) and hear spine-tingling local legends. Meet at the RV Campground parking lot. (408) 842-7800

# 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.





# Unwelcome Hitch-hikers



## Avoid transporting unwelcome hitch-hikers... for nature's sake!

Santa Clara County Parks encompass a variety of diverse and unique habitats. Unfortunately, most people are unaware that our parks are being impacted by non-native plants that have been introduced to the region primarily by human activities. Some non-native plants are considered invasive weeds. Invasive weeds tend to flourish, crowding out native vegetation. They have a

competitive advantage and spread rapidly because they are no longer controlled by their natural predators. Invasive species can change an entire ecosystem. Some of the most aggressive weeds are actually popular ornamental plants you can purchase at a commercial nursery, such as Tree of Heaven, Pampas Grass and Broom. You can help stop the spread of invasive plants that are blanketing hillsides, encroaching on trails and altering scenic landscapes in our parks.



*Pampas Grass*



*Broom*



*Foxtails*

Here is how...

- Remove burs and "stickers" from your shoes, shoe laces, socks and pant legs. Many stickers are actually weed seeds. Throw them in the trash instead of on the ground.
- Remove plants, seeds and mud from your car, boat and pets before leaving a park.
- Buy certified "weed-free" hay for your horses and livestock.
- Don't plant, cut or transport pampas grass or broom. Their seeds are easily distributed by wind.



*Yellow Star Thistle*

See Northern California's Largest Drive-thru Holiday Light Show!

**FANTASY OF LIGHTS**

13th ANNUAL

Take the Reindeer Express Bus Tours!  
No Waiting... Gifts & Fun!  
Visit [PARKHERE.ORG](http://PARKHERE.ORG)  
after November 1 for  
Pricing and Schedule.

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS**

November 25 thru December 31, 2011

Vasona Lake County Park • 333 Blossom Hill Rd. • Los Gatos  
6-10pm • For more info: [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) or call 408.355-2201





# Now

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5



### Healthy "Tails" Dog Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-11am

Get fit and in shape with your dog! A docent from California K9 Solutions will teach you how to get outside and get healthy as you take a moderate 2.5-mile hike on the Wood Road Trail. Dogs must be controlled on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Meet at the Wood Road parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes and water for you and your dog. Reservations required. Register online or call (408) 355-2240



### 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 your torso as well as incorporating your feet and arms. Meet by the Buena Vista Group Area. Hoops provided, no experience necessary. Reservations required. Register online or call (408) 355-2240

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12



### 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 Park 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



### Lost in Space Night

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

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



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19



### Healthy Trails Hike • Mt. Madonna • 9am-11am

Join a Park Docent on a 3.6-mile moderately challenging hike on the Ridge, Tie Camp and Merry-Go-Round Trails. Explore diverse habitats and take in the spectacular views. Meet at the Sprig Day Use parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. (408) 355-2240



### Ohlone Cuisine • 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



### Star Party • Grant • 6:30pm-10:30pm

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. Meet at Telescope Row, main parking lot. Park entrance gate closes at 8:30pm. (408) 274-6121



# 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!





# Dec



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3



### Healthy "Tails" Dog Hike

#### Vasóna/Los Gatos Creek Trail • 9am-11am

Get fit and in shape with your dog! A docent from California K9 Solutions will teach you how to get outside and get healthy as you take a moderate 2.5-mile hike on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Dogs must be controlled on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Meet at the Blossom Hill parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes and water for you and your dog. Reservations required. Register online or call (408) 355-2240



### Healthy Trails Hike • Uvas Canyon • 9am-11am

Join a Park Docent on an easy 1-mile hike along the Waterfall Loop Trail. Enjoy shaded trails with views of Swanson Creek and several seasonal waterfalls. Meet at the Day Use parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. (408) 355-2240



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4



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

Take a break from your holiday shopping and enjoy a special tour of the decorated historic Grant Ranch House. Enjoy hot drinks and pastries as you learn about the history of the mansion and the Grant family who lived here. Meet at the Cook House inside the ranch complex. (408) 274-6121

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10



### Make a Nature Ornament Hike

#### Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch • 10am-1pm

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



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

Take a break from your holiday shopping and enjoy a special tour of the decorated historic Grant Ranch House. Enjoy hot drinks and pastries as you learn about the history of the mansion and the Grant family who lived here. Meet at the Cook House inside the ranch complex. (408) 274-6121

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



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

Take a break from your holiday shopping and enjoy a special tour of the decorated historic Grant Ranch House. Enjoy hot drinks and pastries as you learn about the history of the mansion and the Grant family who lived here. Meet at the Cook House inside the ranch complex. (408) 274-6121

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17



### Santa at the Ranch

#### Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal Ranch • 1:30pm-3:30pm

For the seventh year in a row Santa Claus will bring his "Ho, Ho, Ho" to the ranch to hear holiday wishes. Join him inside the 19th century parlor decorated for an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas. Parents can get that perfect photo of their kids sitting on Santa's knee without waiting in mall lines. (408) 226-5453



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

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. Meet at Telescope Row, main parking lot. 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 7



**Family Moonlight Hike • Los Gatos Creek • 5:30pm-7pm**  
Join a Park Docent 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 some secrets of the night. Park on Dell Ave. and meet at the park entrance with sturdy walking shoes and flashlight. Reservations required.  
**Register online or call (408) 355-2240**



## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21



**Healthy Trails Hike • Calero • 9am-11:30am**  
Join a Park Docent on 3.0-mile easy hike along the Figueroa, Vallecito, Pena, and Los Cerritos Trails. Stop by the Los Cerritos Pond and view the majestic winter woodland landscape. Meet at the parking lot near the Calero Ranger Office. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and sun protection.  
**(408) 355-2240**

## 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.



# Feb

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11



**Healthy Trails Valentine Hike • Uvas Canyon • 9:30am-Noon**  
Bring your family, friends and loved ones on a 1-mile pre-Valentine's Day hike with a Park Docent on beautiful trails through Uvas Canyon. Meet at the day use parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing, water and snacks. **(408) 355-2240**



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18



**Healthy Trails Hike • Almaden Quicksilver • 9am-1pm**  
Join a Park Docent on a moderately challenging 4.5-mile hike along the Wood Road, Castillero and Mine Hill Trails. View remnants of the expansive mercury mining operation as you explore nature and history. Meet at the Wood Road parking lot on Hicks Road. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and sunscreen. Bring water, snacks and a camera. **(408) 355-2240**



**Discover Santa Clara County's 28 wild & wonderful parks**  
full of trails, lakes, streams & open space!

[facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks](https://facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks)

*Join us and stay in touch!*





## SATURDAY, MARCH 3



### 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 your torso as well as incorporating your feet and arms. Meet on the lawn by Cottonwood Lake. Hoops provided, no experience necessary. Reservations required.

**Register online or call (408) 355-2240**



## THURSDAY, MARCH 22



### Stroller Hike and Toddler Trek • Steven's Creek • 4:30pm-6pm

Join a Strollerhikes.com docent for a moderately challenging 5.8-mile hike on the Tony Look Trail and past remnant of the historic Villa Maria Orchard. The outing is geared for families with young children. Bring sturdy hiking shoes and a stroller or backpack carrier. Meet at the Chestnut parking lot. (408) 355-2240



## SATURDAY, MARCH 24



### Healthy Trails Hike • Santa Teresa • 9am-11am

A Park Docent will lead you on a moderate 2.5-mile hike along the Fortini Trail to see beautiful views of the Santa Teresa hills, Calero Lake and Almaden Valley. Meet at the Fortini Trailhead parking lot with sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, water and snacks. (408) 355-2240



### 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**



## SATURDAY, MARCH 31



### Wildflower Hike • Calero's Rancho San Vicente • 9am-1:30pm

Join a Park Docent on a 3-mile hike to enjoy the spring wildflowers and learn how the rolling serpentine grasslands provide critical habitat for endangered species. Enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding foothills along the way. Meet at Calero Reservoir, then caravan to a gated site nearby. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, snacks, and water. No dogs. Note: This is a guided hike in a "closed area" not yet open for public access; group travels together. Restrooms not available except at reservoir meeting location. Reservations required.

**Register online or call (408)355-2240**



# Healthy Trails

Are you ready?



**Your path to fitness, fun and adventure!**

Increase your physical activity, reduce stress, energize your heart

and lungs, relax and feel better while you connect with nature and enjoy the outdoors.

Healthy Trails is a FREE fitness challenge providing a fun and adventurous way to exercise, get fit and to connect with nature as you explore miles and miles of spectacular Santa Clara County park trails. The Healthy Trails 2nd Edition provides trails, health tips and access for individuals with disabilities. We have lots of guided hikes, bike rides, dog walks, stroller hikes, family-friendly hikes and our annual Festival in the Park. The whole family can participate!

### How does the Healthy Trails Challenge work?

- First, you must become a registered participant. Everyone can sign up: children, adults of all ages, those in wheelchairs, organized groups and companies, school classrooms and more! Nearly 12,000 people of all ages have already joined.



- Choose at least 5 of 22 Santa Clara County Parks Healthy Trails featured in the second edition of the Healthy Trails Guidebook. (You'll receive the printed guide-book when you register.)
- Select trails according to your ability and interest – from easy to moderate to strenuous. View the sample guidebook and trail information.
- Then walk, ride, run or roll the 5 different trails.
- Next, fill out and submit the Healthy Trails Log and Evaluation to the County Parks Department.
- Gifts await you! You'll receive a gift just for signing up and a gift for successfully completing the trails challenge. However, the best gifts are the endless benefits you'll receive from feeling better, becoming more physically fit and having explored and enjoyed miles and miles of awesome regional trails.
- Keep it going! Once you finish your first five trails, you can start right in on your second five. Those who finish five more additional trails and submit a second log and evaluation will also receive a gift. Re-registration is required, phone only 408-355-2268.
- **Sign up today!** Register online at [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) and click on Healthy Trails, and then on registration or call (408) 355-2268.



# History

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



Casa Grande

## 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.



Santa Teresa

## 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

## 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.*