



Friends of Santa Teresa Park 2026 Newsletter

Friends of Santa Teresa Park Newsletter Summer 2026

FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Cuyon Peak

2026 is the 250th Anniversary of the Anza Expedition's Arrival in the Bay Area

The story of the ownership of Rancho Santa Teresa begins 250 years ago. In 2026, we are celebrating the 250th anniversary, called the Semiquincentennial, of America. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. We recognize this as the birthday of the United States of America. However, on the west coast of the continent, another important event was happening that year. On June 27, 1776, an expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza, arrived at their destination in San Francisco. It was a landmark event because it established a land route for Spanish settlement from Mexico to San Francisco. It reinforced Spain's control over Alta California and thwarted Russian expansion into the San Francisco Bay area.

In 1773-1774, Spanish Lieutenant-colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, commander of the Tubac Presidio in Sonora (now southern Arizona), scouted a land route to Alta California. In 1775, he organized the first overland colonizing expedition to California. Over 240 colonists from Sinaloa and Continued on Page 5

Our Mission

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer and neighborhood association, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose. Our mission is to help protect, enhance, maintain, and restore Santa Teresa Park and the surrounding neighborhood through education, volunteer involvement, coordination, and communications with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department staff, the City of San Jose, and the greater community. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. We report on problems and concerns in the park and adjoining neighborhood and recommend changes and improvements. We help out with park maintenance and events. If you are interested in helping out at the park or just want to know what's going on, you are welcome to join us. See our website for more information: www.stpfriends.org. Please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/STPFriends

Meetings: 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday of each month, Zoom meetings since the pandemic shutdown.
Website: <http://www.stpfriends.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/STPFriends/>
Email: fostp@stpfriends.org (email us to request Zoom meeting link)
Officers:
• Mike Bonlland, President
• Manice Bayani, Vice President
• David Huntley, Treasurer
• Ronald Hori, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor

President's Message

By Mike Bonlland

This spring, our dedicated Friends of Santa Teresa Park members and volunteers are excited that the Pandemic is over, and we can get back to work maintaining the Bernal Historic Site garden boxes, Butterfly cage, corals, Santa Teresa Spring, and trails.

For 34 years, our goal has been "to promote the enjoyment and safe use of Santa Teresa County Park by visitors through projects and events that preserve the park's natural and cultural history."

Thanks to our volunteers' dedication and the Santa Clara County Parks Department's and BeautifySJ support, that mission has helped transform a once blighted, abandoned ranch site into a welcoming, well-loved community park. Today, families visit Santa Teresa Springs to enjoy the ducks and goldfish, while runners and seniors have a safe, beautiful place for their daily walks and exercise.

I encourage you to join us in volunteering once a month to help restore our beloved Bernal interpretive historic site. We need help restoring and interpreting the farm equipment around the barns. We also need more community help removing invasive plants like star thistle, blackberries, Bermuda grass, and other weeds.

Join us on the first Friday of every month at 9 am at the Chicken Coop to beautify our neighborhood and help keep Santa Teresa Park a wonderful place to play and enjoy nature. We welcome walk-ons for their first visit.

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See <http://www.stpfriends.org/#newsletters> for this and past newsletters.

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) have been supporting Santa Teresa County Park since 1992. We have been publishing newsletters since 2008.

Here's our 2026 newsletter:

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Scan the QR Code for our 2026 newsletter or go to:
<https://www.stpfriends.org/FOSTP-Newsletter-2026.pdf>

See all our newsletters here:
<https://www.stpfriends.org/#newsletters>

See our website: <https://www.stpfriends.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/STPFriends/>

Join our Zoom meetings, the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm, email us for the Zoom address.

Email: fostp@stpfriends.org



This newsletter is funded by the City of San Jose's Beautify San Jose Grant (formerly CAP Grant). FOSTP is a member of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC), which is the financial agent for this grant.