



Welcome

Calero County Park is one of Santa Clara County's most diverse regional parks and recreation areas. This 4,469 acre park is nestled in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and is comprised of the Pueblo lands of San Jose, the Rancho Canada de Oro, and the Rancho San Vicente land grant. Two distinct areas define this park: the reservoir, which offers a host of water-oriented recreational activities, and the adjoining "back country", which offers to the visitor California oak woodland, chaparral and riparian plant communities, including Llagas Creek, the head waters for the Pajaro River. During the months of March, April, and May, the "back country" offers a spectacular display of wildflowers. In addition, the park offers breathtaking views of southern Santa Clara County and the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountain Range.

How to Get There

The boat launch area and the park office entrance are both located off McKean Road. Traveling to the park from Central San Jose, take Almaden Expressway south to Harry Road. Turn right onto Harry Road, then left onto McKean Road. The reservoir is on the right, about three miles south of Harry Road. Traveling to the park from Highway 101, exit on Bailey Avenue and head west until you reach McKean Road. Turn right onto McKean Road to go to Calero Reservoir or the Rancho San Vicente entrance. Turn left onto McKean Road to reach the Calero Park Office and the Calero Park trailheads.

Activities

The Calero back country offers 25.7 miles of trails available to hikers and equestrians. Many of the trails are also available for dogs on leashes that are 6' or less. An additional 3.9 miles of trail belonging to the Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve is also accessible from the Bald Peaks and Longwall Canyon Trail of Calero Park. A large staging area is adjacent to the park office and may be reserved for organized events and gatherings. Call (408) 355-2201 to make a reservation.

Hours and Fees

The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. until sunset. Trail hours are from sunrise to sunset (there is no legal parking along McKean Road). Fees are collected year-round for vehicles, boat launching, and mussel inspections of all boats at Calero Reservoir. Launch and entry fees are posted at the entrance station. No fees are charged for parking at the trailheads.

Share the Trails

Be Considerate: Use particular caution when passing children, senior citizens, and people with dogs.

Use Open Trails Only: Trails may be closed due to sensitive environmental concerns.

Be Aware of Conditions: Riding (even on open trails) when conditions are poor, such as shortly after a rain, may cause trail damage.

Plan Ahead Know your equipment, your ability and where you are going. Carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions.

Accessibility

In compliance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its programs, services, or activities. The Department will make reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy our programs, services, facilities, and activities. If you need assistance with an ADA request, please contact our ADA Coordinator at: ADACoordinator@prk.sccgov.org.



Park Charter Funds at Work... Thank You!

On the Water

- No swimming or wading is allowed.
- Current registration is required for all motor driven vessels and for sail boats over 8 feet in length. Numbers and stickers must be properly displayed.
- Vessels must carry accessible safety equipment.
- Children under age 12 must wear a life jacket.
- Water skiers are required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Any person on a personal watercraft must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Maximum speed limit is 35 mph. Observe "No Wake Zones"
- Direction of travel is counter-clockwise except when picking up a downed water skier. No 360 or trick turns.
- Noise limits are strictly enforced
- Youth under 16 may not operate a vessel which is over 15 HP (unless accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older), towing a skier, or is designed to carry one person (i.e., a jet ski).
- An orange or red ski flag must be displayed when equipment and/or a skier is down in the water.
- No teak surfing.
- Personal water craft cannot jump the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of that other vessel.
- An observer at least 12 years of age must be in the vessel watching water skiers at all times.
- All vessels must be off the water as posted.
- All state and federal rules and regulations are applicable.
- A complete set of state boating laws is viewable at www.dbw.gov

Catch and Release Only!

Do not eat the fish. Mercury has been found to accumulate in Calero Reservoir at levels that make the fish from Calero Reservoir unsafe to eat. The nearby Almaden Valley area of Santa Clara County was once the site of quicksilver (mercury) mining. Sediments containing mercury have been deposited in some of the local reservoirs. Over time, the mercury in the sediment may have been converted to methyl mercury by naturally occurring bacteria. Methyl mercury is absorbed by aquatic plants and fish, and subsequently by humans who may eat the contaminated fish. If you have any questions regarding mercury and its effects, please contact the County's Environmental Health Services, (408) 918-3400.



Calero Reservoir, Mid 1960's

Photo: Fellows Family