



# Uvas and Chesbro Reservoirs



County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department
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## Chesbro Reservoir

County Park

#### Welcome

Welcome to Chesbro Reservoir County Park. This beautiful and scenic 650 acre park and reservoir is located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains west of Morgan Hill. The reservoir's rural setting is located just minutes from Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

#### Location, Hours, and Fees

17655 Oak Glen Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 The park is open year-round from 8 am until sunset. In an emergency call 911.

### Quail OAK GLEN WOODLAND County Parl (5.6 miles) CHESBRO Map Legend Parking Area Restroom Spot Elevation Road Stream GLEN AVE Minor Stream LITTLE LLAGAS Lake To Morgan Hill Parking Lot 0.5 Miles Santa Clara County Park

#### **Activities**

Activities at the park center around the reservoir. There are no designated trails within the park at this time. The reservoir is a 269 acre lake that is popular for fishing. Anglers may fish for large mouth bass, catfish and crappie and other sunfish. Picnic facilities are limited and located at the parking area only. No boating is allowed.



#### **About Chesbro Reservoir**

The Chesbro Reservoir was formed from the damming of Llagas Creek. The area was frequented by the Mutsun Ohlone Indians for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans. Today's reservoir was once part of two Mexican land grants from Mexican Governor Figueroa. The 8,927 acre Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche ("pig spring") was granted to Hernandez in 1835 and the 22,283 acre Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas (St. Francis of the wounds) was granted to C. Castro in 1834. The ranchos were eventually acquired by Martin Murphy, an early pioneer of Santa Clara County. By 1860, the lands had been patented to his grandson. The construction of Chesbro Dam in 1955 was part of a countywide effort by water officials to ensure adequate water supplies for the valley's growing population. The new reservoir was named for Elmer J. Chesbro, a local doctor who was president of the South Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District at the time of its construction. The reservoir, which capures water from the Llagas Creek watershed, is used to recharge supplies in underground aquifers. This water is then pumped from wells for residential, agricultural and industrial uses.