Welcome
This lushly wooded park of 1,147 acres is nestled in upper Uvas Canyon on the eastern side of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This mountain park offers hiking, camping and picnicking opportunities throughout most of the year. Enjoy your visit today and return often to experience the many features of Uvas Canyon County Park.

How to Get There
Uvas Canyon County Park is located at 8515 Croy Rd, Morgan Hill. Before entering the park you will pass through Sveadal, a private resort belonging to the Swedish American Patriotic League. Please respect their privacy and drive slowly as you pass through.

Activities
Uvas Canyon has 7.2 miles of hiking trails including a one-mile Waterfall Loop that travels along Swanson Creek past many of the park’s waterfalls. A pamphlet, available at the trailhead and/or ranger’s office, highlights the flora of Uvas Canyon along this self-guided interpretive trail. The park contains individual picnic sites available on a first come, first served basis. The Black Oak Group Picnic Area is available by reservation for groups up to 75 people. The Black Oak Bench Group Camping Area is reservable for up to 50 people. No showers. Reservations are highly recommended. The Upper Parking. Call 408-355-2201 or visit gooutsideandplay.org to make a reservation.

Camping
• Gate closes at sunset. No re-entry after gates are closed.
• Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Please respect your neighbors.
• Persons using a campsite are required to re-register before noon or vacate the site before 1 pm. Each campsite used must be registered for and physically occupied each night.
• Two (2) automobiles are allowed in each campsite.
• Two campsite maximum per person/household allowed.
• Persons under 18 years of age may not camp without an adult.
• Each campsite is limited to no more than eight (8) persons.
• Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Please respect your neighbors.
• Persons using a campsite are required to re-register before noon or vacate the site before 1 pm. Each campsite used must be registered for and physically occupied each night.
• Person in charge shall be present at all times.
• Campsite length of stay limit: 14 days maximum
• Remind of campsite
• Flushing toilets and running water are available. Showers are available.
• Camp in designated sites only. Do not dig or level the ground around tents or campfires.
• No more than two (2) dogs per campsite. Pets permitted in all areas but must be on a 6-foot long (or shorter) leash. Pets may not be left unattended and must be confined at night.
• Fires are permitted in designated fire rings only. Do not gather wood. Extinguish fires when unattended.
• When posted “NO FIRES,” use camp stoves only. 
• Garbage must be disposed of immediately. Keep your site clean.
• Do not pick, collect, or remove flowers, foliage, berries, wood, animals, insects, or other items from the park.
• Do not damage any park property or vegetation with nails, wire, rope, knives, saws, paint, or other objects.
• Do not feed animals or birds for your safety and their health.

Cultural History
Uvas Canyon is in the territory of the ancestors of the Amah Mutsum, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma. Evidence of historic villages have been located throughout the area. These villages were the center of daily life and for hunting and gathering. The canyon was not part of any of the Mexican ranchos. The nearby Rancho Las Uvas, which included most of Uvas and Llagas Creeks, was granted to Lorenzo Pineda in 1842 by Governor Alvarado. Rancho Uvas, Uvas Creek and Uvas Canyon were named for the once abundant wild grapes. Uva is the Spanish word for grape.

Many of the early homesteaders of Uvas Canyon sold timber, much of which was used to fuel the furnaces and build the tunnels of the nearby New Almaden Mines. Other residents during the late 19th century used the land for planting vineyards and orchards, and a summer resort named Chateau de Ring was located above Alex Creek. Kniib’s Knob, a landmark in the park, is named for Henry Knibb who homesteaded a parcel in the area in 1891.

In 1916, 110 acres of the Canyon were purchased by Edward Bosqui jr., son of a San Francisco printer. Bosqui was a State Fish and Game Commissioner and built the fish hatchery on Alec Creek. He entertained important guests, including Senator James Phelan, owner of Villa Montalvo near the Town of Saratoga. The Bosqui holding would eventually be sold to the Swedish American Patriotic League in 1926. The property would be dedicated by the Swedish Crown prince Gustav Adolph and his wife in 1926 and would be named Sveadal, roughly meaning “Swedish Valley.”

In 1961, the County Parks Department bought 380 acres of land from Mrs. Marie Burschke. This parcel was the first acquired for Uvas Canyon Park and became the park entrance, picnic ground and campgrounds. By the spring of 1962, the park opened to the public with 600 acres and limited camping. Today the public can enjoy over 1000 acres of parkland.

Natural History
Uvas Canyon County Park lies on the east side of the Santa Cruz Mountains on the Sargent Fault zone. Elevations within the park range from 1,000 feet at the entrance to 2,700 feet at the summit. Varied terrain, coupled with cool, wet winters, and warm, dry summers, contributes to the diversity of vegetation and wildlife in the park. The shady north facing and lower stretches of the canyon harbor a mixed evergreen forest of Douglas fir, redwood, madrone, and oaks. The higher, sunny southeast facing slopes are covered by dense shrubland of ceanothus and chamise. Rare knobcone pines are found here. Swanson, Alec, and Uvas Creek run year round throughout the park. Sycamore, bigleaf maple, redwood, and bay trees shade the cool creek for trout, sculpin, and three-spined stickleback swimming below. Steelhead once migrated Uvas Creek prior to the construction of the Uvas Dam. California newts can be seen crossing roads and trails after rains. The Pacific giant salamander also inhabits the park’s cooler areas. In warmer areas visitors might encounter rattlesnakes, kingsnakes, gopher, or garter snakes. Birdlife in the park includes Steller’s jay, grosbeaks, phoebes, and thrushes. Black-tailed deer are frequently seen in the park. Less commonly seen mammals include the mountain lion, bobcat, gray fox, coyote, raccoon, and skunk.