



Uvas Canyon



County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department
298 Garden Hill Dr
Los Gatos, California 95032-7699
(408) 355-2200
Reservations (408) 355-2201



Use this QR code to view your GPS location on the guide map using



www.parkhere.org



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 campground has 25 individual campsites and showers. Reservations are highly recommended. The Upper Bench Group Camping Area is reservable for up to 50 people. No swimming is permitted in any of the Santa Clara County Parks.

Hours and Fees

Due to limited space, reservations are required for day use parking. Call 408-355-2201 or visit gooutsideandplay.org to make a reservation. The park is open year round from 8:00 am to sunset. Fees are required for camping and for the use of the group picnic area. Camping fees are posted at the self service fee/information station located at the campground entrance. Reservations for day use or camping can be made by calling (408) 355-2201 or visiting the County Parks reservations website at gooutsideandplay.org.

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 environmental concerns or flooding.
Plan Ahead:	Know your equipment, your ability and where you are going. Carry supplies for changes in weather or other conditions.
Horses and bicycles:	Bicycles and horses are not permitted on trails.

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.
- Each campsite is limited to no more than eight (8) persons.
- Two campsite maximum per person/household allowed.
- Flush toilets and running water are available. Showers are available.
- 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.
- Two (2) automobiles are allowed in each campsite.
- Camping length of stay limit:
 - Memorial Day through Labor Day - 14 days maximum
 - Remainder of year - 14 days within a 45 day period
- Persons using a campsite are required to re-register before noon or vacate the site before 1:00 pm. Each campsite used must be registered for and physically occupied each night.
- Persons under 18 years of age may not camp without an adult.
- Fires are permitted in designated fire rings only. Do not gather wood. Extinguish fires when unattended.
- When posted "NO FIRES," use camp stoves only.
- Camp in designated sites only. Do not dig or level the ground around tents or campsites.
- 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.

No Smoking: Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the park.

Bugs: Bugs can be found in high numbers during the summer months. Be prepared with bug spray and/or netting to avoid irritating pests.

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.

Cultural History

Uvas Canyon was once the tribal territory of the Mutsun Ohlone Indians. Various Indian campsites have been located throughout Uvas Canyon. These sites were probably used for seasonal 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 Alec Creek. Knibb's Knob, a landmark in the park, is named for Henry Knibb who homesteaded a parcel in the area in 1891.

In 1914, 120 acres of the Canyon were purchased by Edward Bosqui, a printer from San Francisco. Bosqui was a State Fish and Game Commissioner and 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 425 acres of land from Mrs. Lois (Wallace-McPhee) Allen. This parcel of 425 acres became the first parcel acquired for Uvas Canyon Park, consisting of the land which now encompasses the park entrance, picnic grounds and campgrounds. An additional 256 acres were also purchased in 1961, and in the spring of 1962 the park was opened to the public for limited use of the camping facilities. Since 1961, over 600 acres have been added to the park.



Uvas Canyon Bridge along Waterfall Loop Trail

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 north facing and lower stretches of the canyon harbor a mixed evergreen forest including Douglas fir, redwood, madrone, California laurel, California black oak and canyon live oak. The higher south-east facing slopes are covered by dense shrubland of ceanothus and chamise. Knobcone pines and buckeye trees also inhabit the drier areas. Swanson, Alec and Uvas Creek run year round throughout the park. Sycamore, alder, bigleaf maple, coast redwood and California laurel trees dominate these riparian zones. The creeks are home to rainbow trout, sculpin and three-spined stickleback. Steelhead once migrated up 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 jays, 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.

Park Charter Funds at Work... Thank You!

