

# 2014 annual report

**parks**for life



SANTA CLARA™  
COUNTY PARKS



# the emerald web



Robb Courtney, director  
at the Coyote Peak Celebration

**Santa Clara County has world class parks** that are used by people near and far. County Parks are a key contributor to the overall health and sustainability of Santa Clara County by providing breathtaking views, quiet, contemplative trails, and diverse recreation activities. For nearly 60 years Santa Clara County residents have demonstrated their commitment to preserving the best places in our region for the enjoyment and inspiration for current and future generations. The County Parks Department is committed to providing the leadership needed to achieve The Emerald Web, a growing and diverse system of regional parks, trails and open spaces of countywide significance.

Today we are the stewards of nearly 50,000 acres of incredible landscapes that connect people with nature. In 2014 we hosted over 2.5 million visitors in our 29 parks who enjoyed walks through the shade of a redwood forest, biking the rolling hills of oak woodlands, kayaking through cool, blue waters, visiting a working farm, and learning about the Ohlone people who have lived here for thousands of years. Your county parks are yours to connect with family, friends and nature. It's your nature nearby, get out and enjoy it.

*Robb Courtney*

*Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books. —John Lubbock*

## county board of supervisors

Hon. Dave Cortese, District 3, President  
Hon. Mike Wasserman, District 1  
Hon. Cindy Chavez, District 2  
Hon. Ken Yeager, District 4  
Hon. S. Joseph Simitian, District 5  
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

## county parks & rec commission

John Gibbs, Chair  
Greg West  
Dan McCorquodale  
Steve Munzel  
Jan Hintermeister  
Ann Waltonsmith  
Caitlin Robinett-Jachimowicz

# department overview



## values

The qualities that create the foundation upon which the vision and strategies for the County's regional park system are built are characterized in five themes:

- **Quality of Life**
- **Equitable Access**
- **Optimal Park Use**
- **Partnership**
- **Demand for Recreational Opportunities**

## history

County Parks six decade legacy of providing outstanding recreational opportunities in beautiful natural locations has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in California. Since the first County parkland was acquired in 1924, the Santa Clara County park system has grown to include 29 regional parks encompassing nearly 49,000 acres of land.

Our dedicated ranger, maintenance, interpretive and natural resource staff are essential to a high quality park experience. With the assistance from over 3,000 volunteers who selflessly donate more than 90,000 hours of labor each year, we are all taking an active role in the stewardship of the County's finest natural resources and waterways.

Santa Clara County acquired its first parkland in 1924, purchasing 400 acres near Cupertino which became Stevens Creek County Park. In 1956, the Department of Parks and Recreation was formed.

County Parks are regional parks - located close to home, yet away from the pressures of the valley's urban lifestyle. The parks offer opportunities for recreation in a natural environment to all County residents.

## mission

The mission of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect, and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment, education & inspiration of this and future generations.

## vision

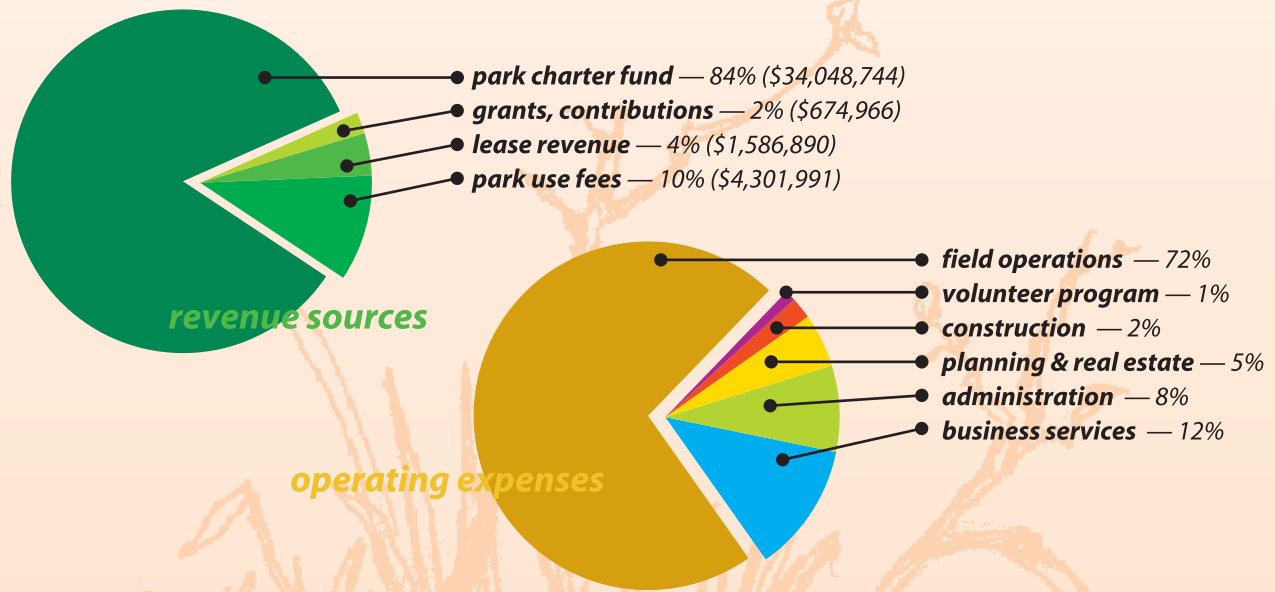
To provide a sustainable system of diverse regional parks, trails and natural areas that connects people with the natural environment, supports healthy lifestyles, offers outstanding visitor experiences that renew the human spirit, while balancing recreation opportunities with the protection of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources.

## what makes us unique

As stewards of the land we take seriously our commitment to secure open space for children to learn and explore, for families to build memories and for fresh landscapes to provide health and well-being. We protect our natural resources while balancing access with the intent that they remain in their natural state for generations to come. As part of that protection we aggressively fund and intelligently promote our natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources to the residents of Santa Clara Valley.



# 2014 financial profile



## the bottom line

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department administers the County's parks and recreation programs, operates and maintains 29 diverse parks, and works with partnering agencies to develop complementary park and recreation facilities and programs. The Department maintains more than 49,000 land acres and over 3,000 lake acres. Our other facilities include:

- 4 major interpretive facilities including the Casa Grande mining history museum
- 3 off leash dog facilities
- 10 reservoirs with 4 operating boat launches
- 12 campgrounds, including a total of 241 individual campsites, 61 RV campsites, 12 group campsites, 8 equestrian campsites, 6 amphitheatres, 3 RV dump stations, 6 shower facilities
- 44 group picnic facilities, including 16 covered
- 2 golf courses
- Unique facilities for fly-casting, off-road motorcycles, firearm shooting range and disc golf
- 75 restroom facilities
- 343 miles of trails including 56 miles of paved trails
- 29 miles of paved roads and 135 paved parking lots
- 10 water systems built and operated by Parks staff
- 32 vehicle bridges and 83 foot bridges
- 91 acres of irrigated lawns and landscaped areas

## thank you

Since 1972, residents of Santa Clara County have demonstrated a commitment to parks by voting to set aside from the County's general fund approximately 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for parklands. In June 2006 the voters were again asked to renew the Park Charter through 2021 and did so with overwhelming support. At least 15% of the funds are set aside from the county's general fund and used for acquisition and at least 5% is used for park development with the remainder for operations and maintenance.



Top: Casa Grande, below: Metcalf Motorcycle Park

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he or she finds it is attached to the rest of the world.—John Muir

# martial cottle park



Martial Cottle 1833-1909

Below: colorized ca 1887 photograph  
The Martial Cottle home is still standing



**Martial Cottle** is Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's newest urban park with an agricultural theme! This park, located in south San Jose, partially opened to the public in February 2014 with a 3 mile perimeter trail that has drawn hundreds of people to enjoy the expansiveness of the land with the remaining elements of the park opening Spring 2015.

Established by Edward Cottle in 1864 and continually maintained and farmed by his descendants until 2014, this land remained in agricultural production under one family for 150 years. Martial Cottle Park now celebrates our shared agricultural heritage and how the tradition of farming and sharing food continues to shape our landscape, people and history.

Virginia-born Edward Cottle emigrated from Missouri to Santa Clara County by wagon in 1854 and settled near Coyote Creek. Ten years later he purchased a portion of Rancho Santa Teresa from the Bernal family and began raising milk cows and cattle, and planting grain and row crops. Edward later divided the land between his two sons, Martial and Warren. Martial Cottle's approximately 350-acre parcel remained in agriculture with his descendants living and farming there until 2014, when his last living heir, Walter Cottle Lester passed away.

In order to maintain its agricultural history and preserve this land for future generations, the Cottle-Lester family withstood the pressures of urban development and turned down fortunes offered by developers. In 2003 Walter Cottle Lester, in accordance with his mother Ethel's wishes, transferred his remaining 287 acres to the State and County for development of a public park that informs and educates the public about the agricultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley.

Quote from a 2013 San Jose Mercury News interview with Walter Cottle Lester:

**"I was born here. I've spent my entire life here. It would be nice for kids in future generations to know what it was like before it all changed."**

Over the next several years Santa Clara County Parks will be working with various partners to develop the leased agriculture land and with other non-profits to provide a true agricultural experience.

Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play IS serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood. —Fred Rogers



# sanborn's john nicholas trail



John Nicholas Trail  
Sanborn

**Santa Clara County Parks Department** has completed its construction of a much anticipated 3.4 mile section of the John Nicholas Trail at Sanborn County Park, which will now connect the Skyline Trail to Black Road in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This is a very important connection for Sanborn County Park and the Bay Area Ridge Trail, whose mission is to create a continuous 550+-mile trail for hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians along the ridgelines overlooking San Francisco Bay.

And let's not forget to mention the beautiful bridge built by the Project Crew. The construction of this trail meant the introduction of a new user group (mountain bikes) to Sanborn County Park, and the completion of a gap in the Bay Area Ridge Trail. This picturesque single-track trail winds through madrone, black oak and Douglas Fir forests of Sanborn County Park and offers tremendous vistas of the valley; on a clear day you can see Oakland and San Francisco. The trail takes advantage of the natural surroundings and topography with its design features of using native rocks generated from the construction to construct vista platforms and retaining walls, as it winds on gentle slopes following the contours of the landscape.



New seated bridge over Sanborn Creek





# partners creating together



Over 4,000 volunteer hours and an overnight stay were necessary to complete the project.



**Many partnerships** and collaborations were evident with this trail project. The construction was partially funded through Park Charter Funds and a matching grant from the Coastal Conservancy (administered by the Bay Area Ridge Trail). Numerous volunteer events allowed park users and groups to get involved with the construction of this trail including the Bay Area Ridge Trail, REI, Volunteers for Outdoor California, Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers, Citrix, Google, West Valley College Park Management Program, and the general public. Volunteers performed over 4,000 hours of service to help complete this project. The trail officially opened in November 2014.



**John Nicholas was a teacher and mentor and someone who helped establish West Valley College's Park Management Program in 1970. John's impact on the thousands of students who became park professionals throughout the United States is immeasurable. John was especially fond of Sanborn County Park. Many of his former students are employees of the Santa Clara County Parks Department.**





# conserving wildlife habitats



Grant County Park  
Serpentine formation

*In 2013, Santa Clara County and other public agencies approved the establishment of a long-term coordinated Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This plan was agreed to by six major, local public entities.*

*The Habitat Plan is a 50-year regional plan to protect endangered species and natural resources while allowing for future development in Santa Clara County. The Plan covers over 500,000 acres in Santa Clara County, and helps private and public entities plan and conduct projects and activities in ways that lessen impacts on natural resources.*



Calero Reservoir

*In total, the Plan will protect 18 endangered species of animals and plants found in the Guadalupe, Coyote and Uvas watersheds in Santa Clara County. The protected animal species include the Western Burrowing Owl, Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, California Red Legged Frog and California Yellow Legged Frog, and fourteen plants associated with serpentine habitats. The Plan creates a reserve area of nearly 47,000 acres where habitat will be preserved for these species. Reserve management will restore 500 acres of habitat and ten miles of stream.*

*Funding for this plan will come from a number of different sources, including fees on private development and public infrastructure, and state and federal funding.*

*The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is a leader in this effort and will be a major contributor throughout the life of the plan. The Department will provide implementation and management together with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency. Its activities will include the enrollment of land parcels into the Plan and the administration of conservation easements. The Department's Director also sits on the Habitat Agency implementation board.*



# parks for life challenge



**The very first Parks for Life Challenge** is complete and it was so much FUN! Our purpose in conducting the game was to use social media and mobile technologies to get people outdoors and into Santa Clara County Parks. It worked! With over 700 individual registered, over 280 teams, and about 220 outdoor adventures to choose from, there have been many teams combing through all of our County Parks to capture themselves on camera doing adventures and sharing them with their friends, family and the public. Teams were made up of two to three people, often friends or family members. They created their own team names like “Kiddos in Backpacks” and “Red Hot Chili Steppers” and created their own team flag or used our Flag Maker on the Parks for Life Challenge website. Teams then went on the many adventures listed on the website and posted their adventures on their own social media pages.

Through a partnership with Sports Basement, REI and CineLux Theatres, Santa Clara County Parks was able to motivate Silicon Valley residents to complete 8,300 outdoor adventures in three months and teams competed for grand prizes of awesome camping and hiking gear from REI and weekly drawing prizes from Sports Basement and CineLux Theatres. They also won great weekly drawings of annual passes, weekend tent camping and weekend yurt camping trips. With the continued support from our partners, Santa Clara County Parks is looking forward to more successful games in the coming years to engage lots of families and friends in the County Parks system. Stay tuned for Parks for Life Challenge in spring 2015! Visit [parksforlifechallenge.org](http://parksforlifechallenge.org) for more information!



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## parks for life challenge!

the Outdoor Social Media Game



# access for all!



**The Department has taken** significant steps in the past year to evaluate ongoing compliance with the ADA. The Project Crew completed a bathroom assessment, and determined that more than 95% of our bathrooms were ADA complaint. We did discover through that assessment that some of the bathroom fixtures were mounted at incorrect heights. The maintenance division took steps to lower all fixtures to a compliant height.

We are proud to report that this past year Alviso Marina County Park was officially designated as part of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail – which requires full compliance with ADA standards. The park has ADA compliant parking, restrooms, picnic areas, trails, and an ADA boat launch ramp with access to the beautiful salt marshes on the southern portion of the San Francisco Bay.

We've revamped numerous policies related to accessibility including Service Animals, Other Power Driven Mobility Devices, and our Grievance Procedures. Those changes were rolled out to the organization through extensive training to ensure park staff had the information needed to properly assist everyone who wants to enjoy our parks.

And just recently Mobility Mark joined our Volunteer and Trails teams and is providing Trail Assessments from the perspective of a person who uses a wheelchair. These reports will be posted on the Department's Accessibility Page to help our mobility impaired visitors find suitable outdoor recreational experiences.

The Department is continually evaluating our facilities, programs and services, and is striving toward inclusivity not just accessibility. We want to ensure that all citizens of the County can enjoy Parks for Life!



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# building community



## **Partnerships make all the difference**

For 50 years, the Department of Parks and Recreation has connected the people of Santa Clara County with the natural environment, supporting healthy lifestyles, and offering outstanding visitor experiences that renew the human spirit. Our people, parks and programs enhance the quality of life in Santa Clara County. Parks and Recreation recognizes the necessity and importance of positive partnerships to continue our vision to provide a sustainable system of diverse regional parks, trails and natural areas that connects people with the natural environment. Throughout our history, we have created powerful partnerships to expand our services and make a difference in the communities we serve. Throughout this report you will see that everything we do could not be accomplished without the active support of our partners.



## **Volunteers are the heart of our parks**

They are the link to humanity, providing their blood, sweat and tears to something they feel passionate about and connected to. We at the Santa Clara County Parks Department are very fortunate to have such passionate and committed volunteers that give so much of their time to benefit the community in which we all live. From corporate work days to our many friends groups to national training programs thousands of individuals have given tens of thousands of hours to our parks.

Many companies throughout Santa Clara County make it a part of their business management to give back to the community where their employees work and live. One of the largest contributors to our volunteer program is AmeriCorps, which strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based service projects. Our partnership began in 2012 to help supplement staff in the completion of many park projects. Since that time they have served almost 21,000 hours! The department has many other active volunteers that in 2013-2014 served over 90,000 hours of their own time to Santa Clara County Parks. This equates into almost \$2.5 million in donated time!



## a diversity of projects



### hawk help

Park Rangers from Hellyer County Park received a call from the Ed Levin maintenance staff advising of a Coopers hawk stuck in a tree. Apparently, a spider web of fishing line on most of the trees surrounding Sandy Wool Lake had entrapped the hawk.

Maintenance staff provided direct support, ladders, rope and pole saws to assist with the overall rescue of the hawk. Within an hour of the call, they along with help from Santa Clara County Animal Control rescued the hawk and released it to soar free once more.

At one time, Coopers hawks were heavily hunted in persecution for preying on poultry and were called "chicken hawks". It is now known that predation by these hawks on domestic animals is negligible, and they are rarely hunted these days. Coopers hawks' breeding success was also reduced by the use of the pesticide DDT, but the ban of DDT ended that threat. Since then, the adaptable Coopers hawk has thrived. However, one threat facing Coopers hawks today is the degradation and loss of habitat.

We were honored to have been a part of this incredible rescue of such a beautiful bird.



### bach to nature: pianos in the parks

This past year we joined in partnership with two local artists Dean Mermell and Mauro Di Nucci of DC Pianos of Berkeley which donated the instruments, to bring music into our lives and parks this past year. Four beautiful and historic upright pianos were placed in locations for our visitors to discover!

The pianos were located in four county parks- Vasona, Sanborn, Alviso Marina, and Ed Levin. Each location was chosen for its accessibility to visitors and the artistic scene it created.

"Thank you for the Sunset Piano project! After finishing up a spectacular bike ride at Alviso yesterday, just as the sun was beginning to set, and we heard the most lovely music. We stopped for a few moments to just appreciate the blend of sights and sounds, and ended up visiting with the pianist, a local composer who has long been coming to Alviso for inspiration. We were so happy to hear about this project, and proud of Santa Clara County Parks for being part of it. We think this is such a nice way to bring people deeper into the experience of the place."



# exploring through a child's eyes



## **Interpretation program variety**

Part of the responsibility of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is to educate and promote its free programs to the public. These programs are hosted by the department's interpreters and park rangers, and can range from a campfire program, to a hike to kayaking under the moonlight. It is our hope to foster an awareness and appreciation of Santa Clara County's natural, cultural and historical resources through quality programs that promote a healthy lifestyle and a spirit of community pride and ownership of our County Parks.

All together there were over 23,000 people attending these combined interpretive and outdoor recreation programs and our goal is to do even better for our customers next year!



You can find our programs and classes on line at **parkhere.org** or for daily updates on coming activities, like us on Facebook **facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks** or follow us on Twitter for outdoor fun and adventures!

There's also the free **PlayHere Guide** which you can pick up at any Santa Clara County Park, Mel Cotton's Sporting Goods or download a copy at **parkhere.org/about us** under Quick Links. Select "Play Here Guide."





# junior ranger program



**In 1997** the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department implemented a free after school Jr. Ranger program at Hellyer County Park for at-risk, low-income children in the 4-5th grades. The purpose of the program is to introduce urban youth to the County Parks system, build relationships with park staff, and develop stewards of our historic, natural and cultural resources.

From that first group of 20 kids, the program has become established at 10 County Parks and has graduated almost 2,800 Jr. Rangers.

Due to the immense success of the program and the interest by many kids to repeat, a more in-depth 2nd phase Jr. Ranger program was implemented in 2004 called Jr. Ranger 2.

One participant, Dalena Bui, started the JR1 program in 2004 at the age of 9. She applied for JR2 and remained until she graduated from high school in 2013 at the age of 17. Dalena, now a college sophomore at UC Davis studying Human Development and Psychology, graciously wrote a letter for the 10th Anniversary of the Jr. Ranger 2 program detailing how the program has transformed her life.

Dalena writes, "The one thing my mom always made me do as a child was to "go out and play." She was scared that the generations of children were penned in and didn't go outside enough. When I found out about the Jr. Ranger program, she encouraged me to join so that I'd be exposed to nature instead of the computer screen. When I was nine-years old, the Jr. Ranger program meant playing in the park with my friends, running around in fresh air, chasing dragonflies, and skipping pebbles in the creeks. I wanted to continue to be a part of the program because I enjoyed the great outdoors and spending time with friends I made in the program, whom I consider my second family."

I will continue to enjoy the outdoors and carry on all the amazing benefits that the program offered me. Although I am no longer part of the program, I will always remember my life-long memories: laughing until my stomach burned, slipping into the creek while trying to jump across it, witnessing the window slam shut without an explanation at the haunted Grant house, and of course, the yummy chocolate treats that Lynda would give out. I am so thankful to have been a part of this program and words cannot even explain how grateful I am to have met my second family."

**"A part of me will always remain a Junior Ranger."**



# promoting healthy lifestyles



## **festival in the park**

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's mission has always been to provide enjoyment and education to our children and their families both now and in the future.

We do just that at Festival in the Park every year! A fun-filled health and recreation fair is held at Hellyer County Park in San Jose. Our long-standing relationship with Santa Clara County Public Health and Kaiser Permanente creates a rewarding partnership that truly heightens awareness and provides hands-on participation. We've educated festival-goers on the importance of wellness and nutrition in an up close and personal manner. Together, we've taught people hands-only CPR, explained proper eating habits and demonstrated how fun a healthy lifestyle can be.

Demonstrations, interactive adventures for kids, a popular natural play area, a healthy food court and many exhibitors create layers of educational opportunities to inspire people to live a healthier life. The best part is the event is free! This one-day event started out at approximately 5,000 people has now grown to over 8,000 people!

**This year's event will take place on June 7 from 10am to 3pm. We hope you can join us!**



*It's so nice to get flowers while you can still smell the fragrance. —Lena Horne*



# creating family traditions



## **fantasy of lights**

*Fantasy of Lights is one of the most recognized events the department holds annually. This event is a spectacular drive-thru holiday light show for the entire family.*

*Since its inception in 2000, over 4 million vehicles have come through to enjoy the show! With over 1 million twinkling lights, it has become a beloved holiday tradition for the young and old. The event draws people from all over the Bay Area and attracts visiting friends and relatives from far away places to witness a local holiday tradition at Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos. The show garners much media attention and sponsorships that greatly supplement our outreach efforts. The added walk-thru night, now in its second year, demonstrates the public's high interest level of wanting more! Over 6,000 people attended the 2014 walk-thru night, representing a 25.5% increase from our first year.*

*This event brings the community together, face-to-face, free to roam and enjoy the magical setting of animated holiday light displays.*

*It's a magical experience for the whole family!*





# your growing park system



The Melchor property  
photo courtesy Derek Neumann

**Acquisition of parkland has been an important part of the Park Charter Fund since its creation in 1972. Almost 49,000 acres have been purchased and 29 parks established.**

**Here are three of our most recent!**



## **melchor property funding agreement**

An innovative partnership between the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department came to fruition with the purchase of 285-acres of open space land in the ruggedly beautiful and water rich Southern Santa Cruz Mountains region. Permanent protection of this property will serve the public's interest by expanding outdoor recreation and education opportunities, while closing gaps in regional trail connections.

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority purchased the property from the Melchor family, with Santa Clara County Parks contributing one-half of the total purchase price. The Authority took ownership of the property and the County will hold a conservation easement which ensures the property will serve a public park purpose by providing future trail access.



# your growing park system



The Scoffone property



## **lysons property funding agreement**

A continuation of the long-term partnership between the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department was implemented when the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved funding to acquire the 60 acre Lysons property, now seamlessly connecting two County parks with four Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Preserves. In the future it will be possible to hike between Upper Stevens Creek and Stevens Creek County Parks, and the Monte Bello, Saratoga Gap, Fremont Older and Pichetti Ranch Open Space Preserves. The County and District have partnered successfully in the past to acquire four additional properties along the same corridor. The linkages between properties allow important connectivity for plants and wildlife and enhanced recreational opportunities for the public.



## **scoffone acquisition (seven oaks hill)**

The 358-acre Scoffone property is adjacent to Santa Clara Valley Water District land which is leased by the County as part of Uvas Reservoir County Park. Acquisition of this 358-acre property, completed in 2014, affords future opportunities to expand the boundary of Uvas Reservoir County Park and to implement a planned trail route envisioned within the Countywide Trails Master Plan. Ascending upward from Uvas creek, the coast live oak gives way to steep chaparral, and provides habitat for numerous wildlife species including red-tailed hawks, California whiptail, bobcat, deer, and other species.

**The County Parks and Recreation Department** has been successful in leveraging and partnering with many agencies like: California Coastal Conservancy, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and the Resources Legacy Fund as part of the Living Landscape Initiative (LLI), a collaboration of five leading conservation groups including POST, Save the Redwoods League, Sempervirens Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Stevens Creek Reservoir

Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books. —George Washington Carver



# meet your park employees



Felipe Velazquez receiving his award from Supervisor Cindy Chavez, County Parks Director Robb Courtney, and Supervisor Mike Wasserman

**County Parks employees** are committed to excellence. Some go beyond excellent to extraordinary. One such employee who achieved this status was awarded the County of Santa Clara's "Employee of the Year Excellence Award," Felipe Velazquez, Park Maintenance Worker 2 at Hellyer and Santa Teresa County Parks.

Felipe began his career with the department in April of 2002. Felipe fit right into the daily work of a maintenance worker while also taking the initiative to voluntarily work on the Coyote Creek Bike Trail—a 20-mile stretch where he planted, hand-watered and mulched trees to increase shade and provide valuable habitat to the local wildlife.

Within seven months of getting assigned to Santa Teresa County Park, he voluntarily fixed seven drinking fountains that had not been working for several years, located and cleaned out 20 plus "lost" culverts to protect the integrity of trails, repaired benches, and he is currently adding more trees to a park that is known for few trees and even less shade.

By showing his concern for and protecting our natural resources Felipe demonstrates daily his commitment to the mission of the Parks Department to "provide, protect and preserve our parklands for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations" of park visitors.

Felipe is an invaluable asset to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and very much deserved this recognition!



Hellyer County Park



# park rangers at work



*Park Rangers Sean Eaton and Sadie Webster recognized by the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Commission*

**The scope of work** of a Santa Clara County Park Ranger is by design very broad. They strive to be everything to everyone who visit our parks. In doing so they often have very diverse work days. They can go from preparing a weekly cash summary accounting for fees collected and deposited with the bank, to presenting an interpretive program to 30 third graders, to making a contact for a person driving recklessly through a campground to responding to an emergency medical aid call.

Many would say that these complex days and nights are the most rewarding and fulfilling because they are dedicated public servants and love what they're doing.

Two of Santa Clara County Park Rangers recently came upon a very chaotic scene that required their immediate attention and called upon their emergency response training.

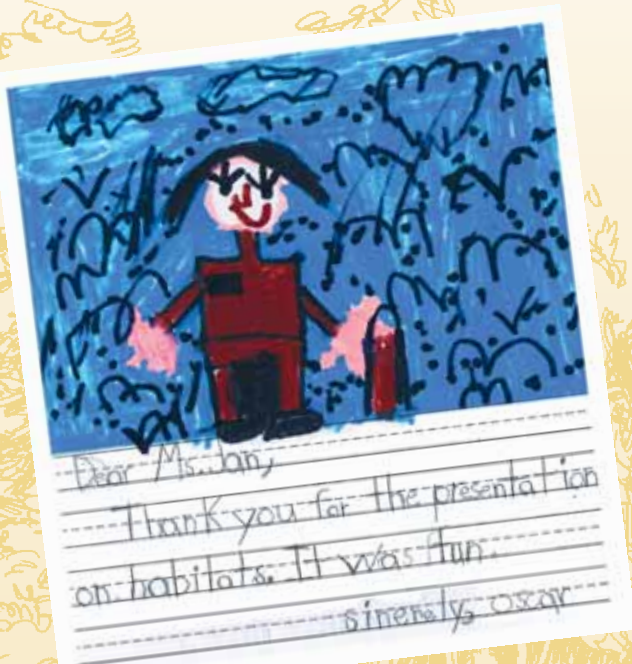
On the morning of July 10, 2014 at 7:50am Park Ranger Sean Eaton and Park Ranger Trainee Sadie Webster were making an opening patrol of Lexington Reservoir when they came upon a major vehicle accident.

They immediately reported the accident. They retrieved their emergency medical equipment and traversed the crash site conducting scene safety and initial patient assessments. Four crash victims were trapped in their vehicles, one fatality was assessed and multiple victims who were able to walk were triaged and advised to sit clear of the scene until additional first responders arrived, they administered oxygen to a person trapped in a vehicle until relieved by Santa Clara County Fire personnel. They continued to assist by providing traffic control.

They may say they were just doing their jobs and perhaps they were but their professionalism, quick action and attention to injured persons deserves recognition.



# fan mail



## we get letters too

Dear County Parks

Our family went hiking at Uvas Canyon County Park on the morning of Friday, November 28, 2014.

We would like to complement the individuals who were responsible for the clean restrooms adjacent to the parking area at the park. The restrooms were very clean and well supplied. Many thanks for a job well done.

We were not the only folks who experienced this. I heard a girl of about 12 come out of the restroom telling her mother how clean everything was.

Thanks again from someone who appreciates your efforts.

Jerry Brenny



Illustration center right: William 10Yrs  
 Illustration bottom right: Lupita 8Yrs





County Parks (Park perimeters are approximate)



Other Public Parks and Open Space of Regional Significance



Park Connector Trails



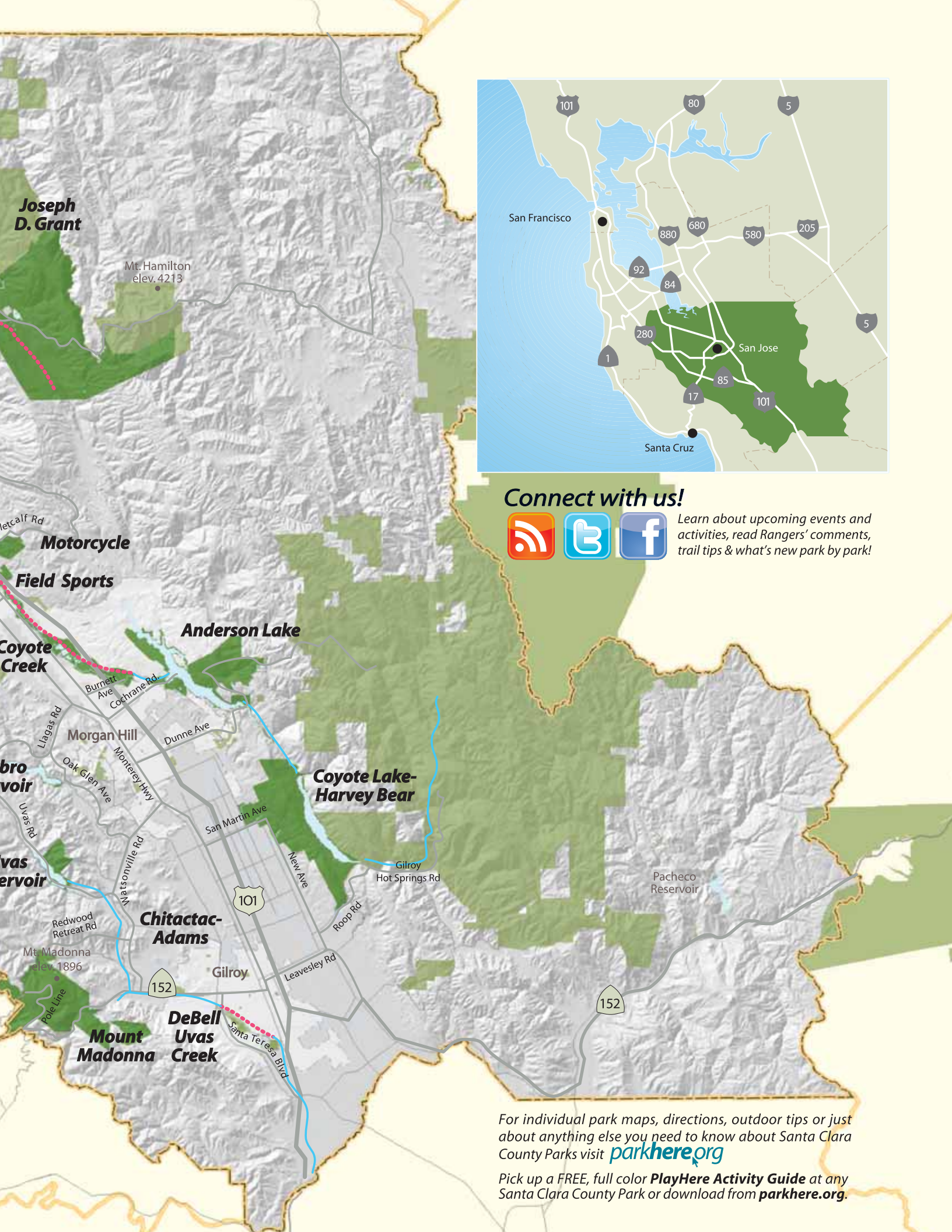
Major rivers and creeks

**parks**for life



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**Connect with us!**



*Learn about upcoming events and activities, read Rangers' comments, trail tips & what's new park by park!*

For individual park maps, directions, outdoor tips or just about anything else you need to know about Santa Clara County Parks visit [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org)

Pick up a **FREE**, full color **PlayHere Activity Guide** at any Santa Clara County Park or download from [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org).



support your county parks!



**experience and enjoy a santa clara county park!**



**fun, guided adventures**

How about biking, dog hikes, stargazing, kayaking, dirt bike riding, baby strolling, and birding just to tweet a few. There's a wide variety of both weekday and weekend activities to choose from, ranging from novice to advanced levels.. Most of them are FREE, all of them close to home.

Pick up a PlayHere Guide at any Santa Clara County Park, select area sporting goods stores or download a copy at [parkhere.org/Quick Clicks/Play Here Guide](http://parkhere.org/Quick Clicks/Play Here Guide).

**parks for life**



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298 Garden Hill Dr., Los Gatos, Ca 95032 • (408) 355-2200 Main • (408) 355-2290 Fax

Learn more at [parkhere.org](http://parkhere.org) or write [parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org)

