

PARK RULES

While visiting Alum Rock Park, please help protect our valuable park resources and wildlife, and assure an enjoyable visit for you and all of the park's visitors by complying with the following rules and any posted regulations. Once the ecological balance which provides its unique natural beauty is destroyed, it may be extremely difficult to restore.

Park rangers are here to assist you. Please contact one of them if you have any questions or need assistance at (408) 259-5477.

- Park closing time is one-half hour after sunset. When hiking, allow yourself plenty of time to return before darkness. *(S.J.M.C. 13.44.240)*
- Motorcycles, minibikes, or other motor vehicles are to be operated by a licensed driver on public road only; not on trails, service roads, hillsides or in picnic areas. *(S.J.M.C. 13.44.100)*
- Due to high fire hazard, no fireworks are allowed. *(S.J.M.C. 13.44.200)*
- Smoking is not permitted in the park. *(S.J.M.C. 9.44.030)*
- Pets are not permitted in the park. Assistance dogs are, of course, excepted. *(S.J.M.C. 13.44.110)*
- Please do not gather plants, rocks or other natural objects. Park visitors who follow you, wish to enjoy them too. Wood gathering is prohibited. *(S.J.M.C. 13.44.220)*
- Horses are not allowed in or around the picnic areas. No running of horses is allowed. *(S.J.M.C. 13.44.110)*
- All other State laws and San José municipal codes apply to this park and are strictly enforced.

ALUM ROCK PARK
San José Department of Parks,
Recreation and Neighborhood Services

15350 Penitencia Creek Road
San José, CA 95127-1348

(408) 259-5477 Alum Rock Park
(408) 277-2757 Park Reservations
www.sjparks.org

Park Hours: Open 8 a.m. until one-half hour after sunset Tuesday through Sunday.
Park is closed on Mondays.

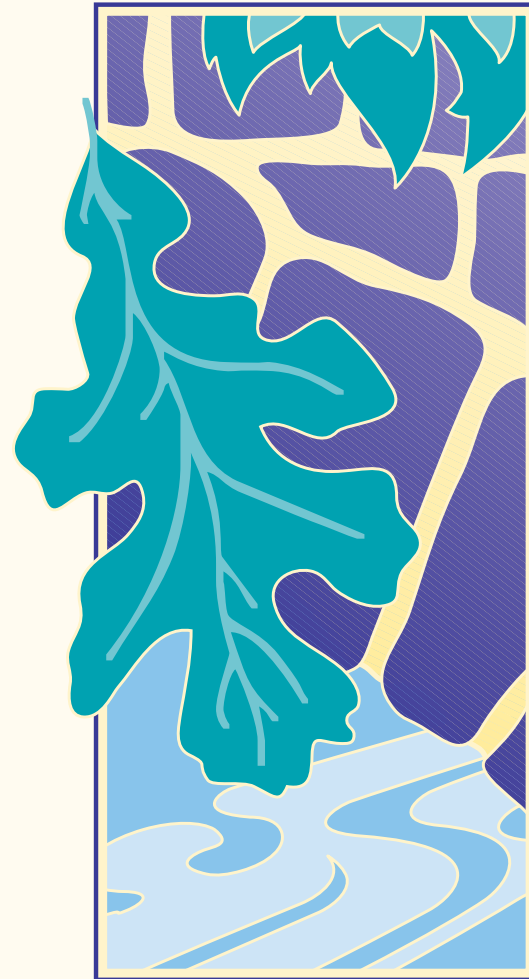
Parking fees may be charged the year round.
Discount parking fees are available for seniors, veterans and disabled persons.



Rev 10/09 FORTUNE²



ALUM ROCK



SAN JOSE
REGIONAL PARKS

WELCOME

Welcome to Alum Rock Park, one of California's oldest municipal parks. Nestled within the Alum Rock Canyon in the foothills of the Diablo Range, the park's many acres of natural, rugged beauty provide visitors with many leisure outdoor activities including hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, family and group picnicking, and of course just relaxing. Picnic tables, barbecue pits, water and restrooms are available in most picnic areas, with lawns and a children's playground in the mid-canyon area.

RICH IN NATURE

The unique east-west canyon and its steep sides contain many delicate plant and animal communities. Soils on the north canyon slopes are held in place by a variety of grasses, poison oak, holly-leaf cherry, sagebrush, and scattered live oak trees. Black-tailed deer, brush rabbits and quail can be seen by quiet, observant hikers. Red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures can frequently be seen riding the air currents overhead.

The opposite or south side of the canyon offers a totally different natural community. Trees such as the California coast live and valley oak, bay, madrone, and California buckeye are abundant, while smaller shrubs like the toyon, wild rose, and wild blackberries are found in more sunny areas. The chattering of gray squirrels and Steller's jays are common sounds. On rare occasions, a hiker might see—only for an instant—the elusive bobcat as he disappears into the dense brush.

Penitencia Creek is lined with big-leaf maple, white alder, and western sycamore. Wild honey-suckle vines, the arroyo and red willow add to its lush plant life.

Spring provides the park with color from a variety of wild flowers including the California poppy and sticky monkey flower. Ferns are prevalent during the winter and spring months. Alum Rock Park must be seen during all its seasons to be truly appreciated.

This publication can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, computer disk, audio tape or Braille. Requests can be made by calling (408) 259-5477 (voice) or (408) 294-9337 (TTY). If you have questions about accessibility in the park, please call (408) 259-5477.

RICH IN HISTORY

Alum Rock Park did not obtain its present name until about the turn of the century. The park which was founded in 1872, was simply referred to as the "reservation." The name Alum Rock was derived from a huge rock that was believed to contain a high percentage of alum.

From 1890 to 1932, the park was a nationally-known health spa with 27 mineral springs containing seven different minerals. Without a doubt, this was the park's most popular period. For a quarter, you could ride from downtown San José to the park on the Alum Rock Steam Railroad. The park charmed its visitors with mineral baths, an indoor swimming pool, a tea garden, restaurant and dance pavilion.

During the period between World War II and the early 1960s, thousands of visitors came to the park from the booming Santa Clara Valley. The park became so overcrowded that the facilities could no longer be properly maintained, and the plant and animal communities were severely endangered.

As a result of this over-use, the park underwent a change from a facility with a multitude of uses to a more natural setting emphasizing family outdoor activities that result in reduced impact on the park's natural environment.

SPECIAL FACILITIES

Reservable picnic areas accommodate up to 300. Each area includes tables, barbecue stoves, and nearby restrooms. Some of the more secluded sites require a short walk since vehicles are not allowed into the area. For reservation information, please call (408) 277-2757.

The Visitor Center/Ranger Office is located in the mid-canyon area to assist you. Information and first aid are some of the services offered. There are several educational displays in the Visitor Center that are both interesting and fun.

The Youth Science Institute (Y.S.I.) is open to all park visitors. Call (408) 258-4322 for information on programs and operating hours.

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