

Crystal Springs Regional Trail

Park Headquarters 650-589-5708

Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency 911

San Mateo County Parks

Reservations 650-363-4021

General information 650-363-4020

www.SMCoParks.org

The Department manages parks, trails, and historic sites to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation. The system's 18 parks, regional, county, and local trails, and two historic sites are located throughout the County and encompass nearly 16,000 acres.

The parks represent our region's wondrously diverse natural settings, from rugged tidepools, lush mountain forests, and remote campsites to Bayfront shoreline, sunny picnic areas, and popular playgrounds.

The Department sells annual passes, offering unlimited entrances to all County Parks for a year.

Support your parks

You can volunteer to help rangers protect and improve parklands and serve park visitors through ongoing volunteer programs, including Trail Patrol, Volunteer Horse Patrol, Trail work days, and special events.

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation raises funds to improve the quality of County Parks for our community. For information, visit www.SupportParks.org.

San Mateo County Parks

Wild places & friendly spaces

Crystal Springs

A San Mateo County Regional Trail



Tophier Simon



Wild places & friendly spaces

Crystal Springs Regional Trail

The Crystal Springs Regional Trail is comprised of three contiguous segments – San Andreas, Sawyer Camp and Crystal Springs – that begin in the City of San Bruno and continue south for more than 15 miles into the Town of Woodside and Huddart County Park.

The trail has numerous access points (see map), many of which have nearby parking.

Various trail surfaces, including paved, natural soil and gravel are used by hikers, bicyclists, skaters and equestrians. Crystal Springs Regional Trail offers views of San Andreas Lake, Crystal Springs Reservoir and the chance to travel parallel to the San Andreas Fault.



Tophier Simon

Trail segments

At the north, the 2.6-mile **San Andreas** segment begins at San Bruno Ave. and Skyline Blvd. in San Bruno, and follows the eastern edge of San Andreas Lake. To the west is a view of Sweeney Ridge. While the majority of this trail is paved, a half-mile section at the south end is unpaved. Bicyclists may take an alternate route from Larkspur Drive on the east side of Highway 35 and continuing to Hillcrest Blvd., where the Sawyer Camp segment begins.

The **Sawyer Camp** segment is the most popular, used by bicyclists, joggers, skaters, and hikers. The 6-mile segment begins at Hillcrest Blvd. in Millbrae and continues to Crystal Springs Road in San Mateo. This portion of the trail is associated with 1800s landowner Leander Sawyer, who offered food and lodging to travelers. This trail offers views of the Crystal Springs Reservoir and the Peninsula Watershed.

The **Crystal Springs** segment of the trail begins at Highway 92 and continues south on the west side of Cañada Road for 6.7 miles. This segment of the trail veers west away from the road and offers beautiful views of the southern part of the Crystal Springs Reservoir. Small trails – Ralston Bike Trail, Sheep Camp Trail, and Edgewood Trail – connect from three peninsula cities to this segment as it continues west towards Huddart County Park, parallel to Raymundo Drive in Woodside.



Topher Simon

Natural features

The variety of habitats found along the Crystal Springs Regional Trail is due to the diversity of climate, topography, geology, and soils. These include old-growth Douglas fir forests, oak woodland, serpentine grasslands, native bunchgrasses, areas of coastal scrub, and chaparral. Trailside habitats host a wide variety of plants including nine rare, threatened, and endangered species.

Wildlife

Opportunities to see wildlife along the trail are abundant. Trail users can spot several species of songbirds, ducks, and raptors – including bald eagles and golden eagles. Squirrels, rattlesnakes, coyote, and other wildlife can also be seen, including the occasional bobcat or mountain lion.

Seven rare, threatened, and endangered animals are found in the area, including three species of butterfly and the San Francisco garter snake. Springtime visitors may come across young deer separated from a parent by fencing; they generally reunite without assistance.



Peter LaTourrette

Trail hours and use

- Hours** The Trail opens at 8am. Closing time changes seasonally, and is posted.
- Pets** Pets are not allowed on the trail.
- Smoking** No smoking in County parks, on trails, or at historical sites.

Trails

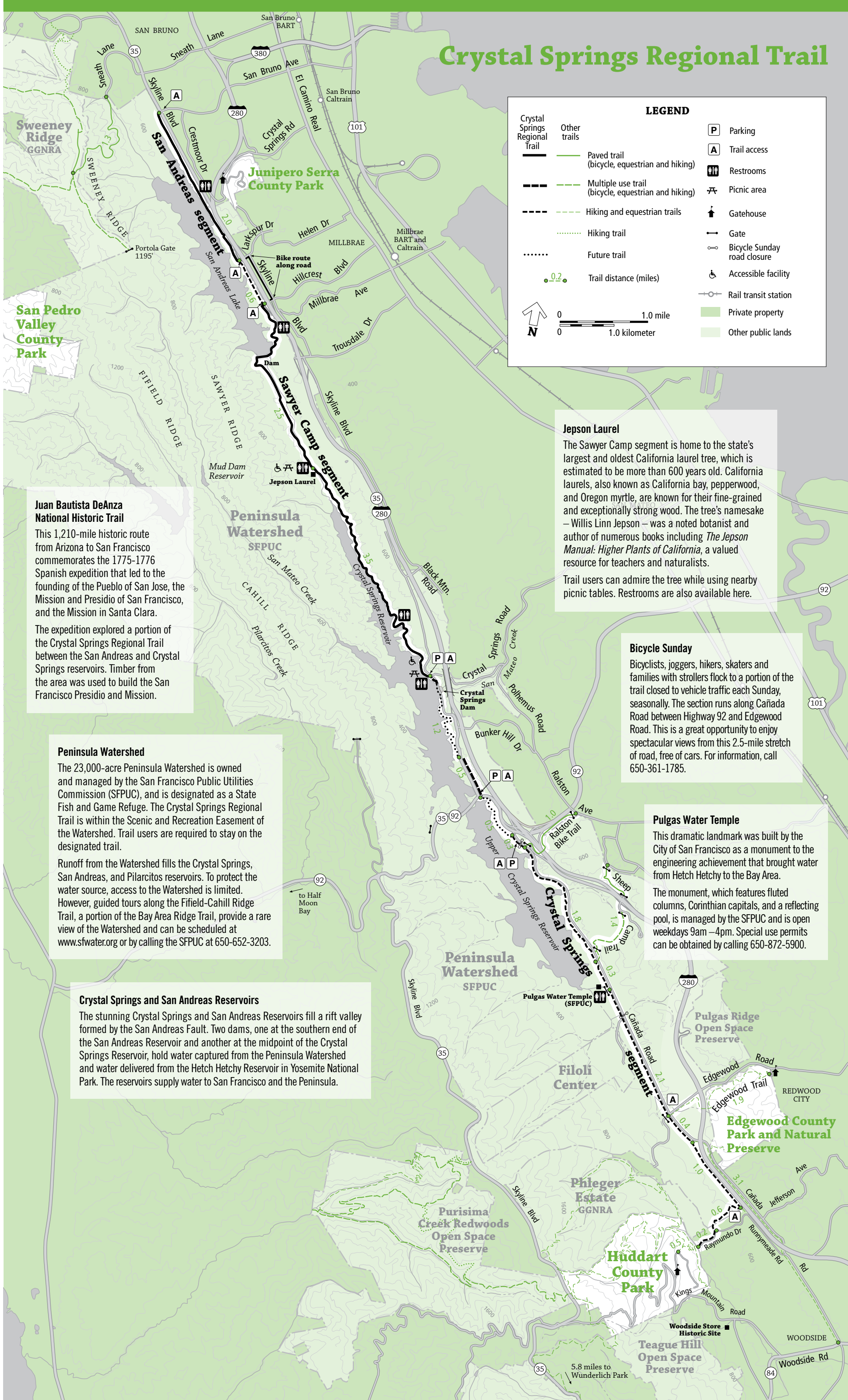
San Andreas segment	2.6 miles
Sawyer Camp segment	6.0 miles
Crystal Springs segment	6.7 miles

- Hikers, runners, bicyclists, and equestrians share these trails. Please be alert and courteous to all trail users.
- Always yield to equestrians by stepping to the edge of the path.
- Bicyclists always yield to other trail users.
- Bicyclists younger than 18 are required by law to wear helmets.
- Bicyclists should announce their presence to other trail users, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Weather conditions, fire danger, or trail maintenance may cause trail closures. Check trail signs for closure notices.



For more trail information and routes, visit www.SMCoParks.org.

Crystal Springs Regional Trail



LEGEND

Crystal Springs Regional Trail	Other trails	Parking
Paved trail (bicycle, equestrian and hiking)	Multiple use trail (bicycle, equestrian and hiking)	Trail access
Hiking and equestrian trails	Hiking trail	Restrooms
Future trail	Future trail	Picnic area
Trail distance (miles)		Gatehouse
		Gate
		Bicycle Sunday road closure
		Accessible facility
		Rail transit station
		Private property
		Other public lands

0 1.0 mile
0 1.0 kilometer

Jepson Laurel

The Sawyer Camp segment is home to the state's largest and oldest California laurel tree, which is estimated to be more than 600 years old. California laurels, also known as California bay, pepperwood, and Oregon myrtle, are known for their fine-grained and exceptionally strong wood. The tree's namesake – Willis Linn Jepson – was a noted botanist and author of numerous books including *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*, a valued resource for teachers and naturalists.

Trail users can admire the tree while using nearby picnic tables. Restrooms are also available here.

Bicycle Sunday

Bicyclists, joggers, hikers, skaters and families with strollers flock to a portion of the trail closed to vehicle traffic each Sunday, seasonally. The section runs along Cañada Road between Highway 92 and Edgewood Road. This is a great opportunity to enjoy spectacular views from this 2.5-mile stretch of road, free of cars. For information, call 650-361-1785.

Pulgas Water Temple

This dramatic landmark was built by the City of San Francisco as a monument to the engineering achievement that brought water from Hetch Hetchy to the Bay Area. The monument, which features fluted columns, Corinthian capitals, and a reflecting pool, is managed by the SFPUC and is open weekdays 9am – 4pm. Special use permits can be obtained by calling 650-872-5900.

Juan Bautista DeAnza National Historic Trail

This 1,210-mile historic route from Arizona to San Francisco commemorates the 1775-1776 Spanish expedition that led to the founding of the Pueblo of San Jose, the Mission and Presidio of San Francisco, and the Mission in Santa Clara. The expedition explored a portion of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail between the San Andreas and Crystal Springs reservoirs. Timber from the area was used to build the San Francisco Presidio and Mission.

Peninsula Watershed

The 23,000-acre Peninsula Watershed is owned and managed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and is designated as a State Fish and Game Refuge. The Crystal Springs Regional Trail is within the Scenic and Recreation Easement of the Watershed. Trail users are required to stay on the designated trail.

Runoff from the Watershed fills the Crystal Springs, San Andreas, and Pilarcitos reservoirs. To protect the water source, access to the Watershed is limited. However, guided tours along the Fifiield-Cahill Ridge Trail, a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, provide a rare view of the Watershed and can be scheduled at www.sfwater.org or by calling the SFPUC at 650-652-3203.

Crystal Springs and San Andreas Reservoirs

The stunning Crystal Springs and San Andreas Reservoirs fill a rift valley formed by the San Andreas Fault. Two dams, one at the southern end of the San Andreas Reservoir and another at the midpoint of the Crystal Springs Reservoir, hold water captured from the Peninsula Watershed and water delivered from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park. The reservoirs supply water to San Francisco and the Peninsula.