

Pescadero Creek Park Complex

9500 Pescadero Creek Road, Loma Mar, CA 94021
 Memorial Park Headquarters 650-879-0238
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.

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

The Volunteer Horse Patrol (650-368-8200) promotes protection and enjoyment of these parks.

San Mateo County Parks
 Wild places & friendly spaces

Pescadero Creek Park Complex Memorial Sam McDonald Pescadero San Mateo County Parks



Jack Yaco



Wild places & friendly spaces

Pescadero Creek Park Complex

This vast park complex of 7,086 acres includes Memorial County Park, Sam McDonald County Park, Heritage Grove, and Pescadero Creek County Park. The Memorial Park ranger station serves as headquarters for all four of these parks.

Located in southern San Mateo County, the Pescadero complex includes some of the Santa Cruz Mountain's most stunning redwood forests. The parks offer plenty of campsites and an extensive trail network, and are favorites with campers, hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.

These parks are contiguous with Portola Redwoods State Park, and easily accessible from Highways 1 or 84.



Jack Yaco

Park hours and use

- Hours** The parks open at 8am. Closing time changes seasonally, and is posted.
- Pets** Pets are not allowed in the parks.
- Fires** Barbeques are allowed only in barbeque pits using charcoal; no portable barbeques. Campers receive campfire instructions upon entering Memorial Park.
- Smoking** No smoking in County Parks, on trails, or at historical sites.

Please protect the parks' natural environment and do not disturb or remove any plants or animals.



Trails

- Mt. Ellen Nature Trail** 1.0 mile from Memorial
- Mt. Ellen Summit Trail** 1.6 miles from Memorial
- Shaw Flat Trail Camp** 2.5 miles from Hoffman trailhead
- Forest Loop Trail** 2.5 miles from McDonald
- Ridge Loop Trail** 3.0 miles from McDonald
- Pomponio Trail** 3.2 miles from Memorial
- Heritage Grove Trail** 4.0 miles round-trip from McDonald
- Pomponio Trail** 5.1 miles from Pescadero
- Tarwater Flat Trail Camp** 5.3 miles from Hoffman trailhead
- Brook Trail Loop** 8.4 miles from Sam McDonald
- Butano Ridge Trail Loop** 13.0 miles from Hoffman trailhead

- 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.
- Weather conditions may cause seasonal trail closures.



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

Memorial County Park

The old-growth redwood forests of Memorial County Park have been favorite camping grounds for generations. This popular park has trails, campsites, group camps, a visitor center, and 499 acres to explore.

Acquired by the County in 1924, this is the system's oldest park. It is dedicated to the San Mateo County servicemen who died in World War I.

Natural features

This park is primarily magnificent coast redwood forests, with a lush understory of huckleberry, ferns, redwood sorrel, horsetail, and wildflowers. A number of creeks within the Park provide riparian habitat.

Wildlife often sighted in the Park includes Steller's jays, acorn woodpeckers, western gray squirrels, raccoons, skunks, and banana slugs.

Activities and facilities

Miles of hiking **trails** lead through a diversity of habitats. The self-guided Mt. Ellen Nature Trail offers a short interpretive loop through the Park's northern area. The western loop of the Pomponio Trail provides wonderful panoramic views.

Memorial County Park is open year-round for camping, picnicking and youth group activities. Near the park entrance, a **camp store** (open seasonally) offers



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camping supplies, groceries, and firewood. Check park kiosks for current **campfire programs**, nature programs, and naturalist walks.

The Park offers many **redwood campsites** with restrooms, water, and coin-operated showers, as well as a limited number of sites that can accommodate **recreational vehicles** up to 35' in length (no hook-ups).

Memorial also includes **drop-in picnic sites**, as well as **group picnic** and **group camping sites** that are available by reservation.

To make reservations, visit www.SMCoParks.org or call 650-363-4021.

Sam McDonald County Park Heritage Grove

Sam McDonald County Park offers magnificent redwood forests and a ridge with vistas of the Pacific Ocean. The Park, some 850 acres, includes youth camps, an equestrian camp, and a hiker's hut.

Adjacent to McDonald, Heritage Grove is a stunning 37-acre preserve of old-growth redwood forest.

Natural features

Much of Sam McDonald Park is very steep. Ferns and other shade-loving plants are found in the lower elevations; the higher-elevation knolls are covered each spring with colorful wildflowers such as sticky monkeyflower, wood rose, and sun cup.

The forests, dominated by coast redwood, also include Douglas fir, madrone, California laurel, buckeye, big leaf maple, and oak trees.

Common wildlife in Sam McDonald includes black-tailed deer, raccoons, opossums, foxes, bobcats, woodpeckers, Steller's jays, garter snakes, gopher snakes, and banana slugs.

Located on Alpine Creek, Heritage Grove offers visitors an opportunity to experience the stunning beauty of old-growth coast redwoods. The grove includes what are considered to be among the Santa Cruz Mountain's largest redwoods.

Activities and facilities

Several miles of **trails** meander through Sam McDonald Park, offering a range of hikes from one hour to a full day.

The Sierra Club **Hikers' Hut** may be reserved by calling the Sierra Club at 650-390-8411 x393.

Groups may reserve any of several **youth camps** or the **Jack Brook Horse Camp** (seasonally). **To make reservations** for these camps, call 650-363-4021 or visit www.SMCoParks.org.

In **Heritage Grove**, a network of **trails** winds through the redwoods. Heritage Grove Trail, open only to hikers, connects with other trails in the complex. The Grove can also be admired from vehicles in the parking lot off of Alpine Road, accessible from Pescadero Road.

Pescadero Creek County Park

With 5,700 acres, Pescadero is by far the County's largest park. Its wilderness includes miles of trails for hikers and equestrians. Cyclists may use a service road, Old Haul Road, which crosses the Park.

This park has the County system's only trail camps. Its rugged beauty offers a true escape.

Pescadero Creek Park shares its eastern boundary and a number of trails with Portola Redwoods State Park. The trail network also connects to Big Basin Redwoods State Park, offering the opportunity for several long hikes passing through multiple parks.



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Natural features

Pescadero Creek County Park includes a diversity of trees including coast redwood, Douglas fir, Santa Cruz cypress, California wax myrtle, tanoak, madrone, California laurel, big leaf maple, canyon live oak, coast live oak, and knobcone pine.

The Park sits atop a deposit of oil and natural gas. Crude oil pools up in Tarwater Creek and seeps into Jones Gulch Creek, staining the rocks.

Pescadero and Alpine Creeks both provide spawning habitat for endangered steelhead; Pescadero Creek also has a small run of endangered Coho salmon.

The endangered marbled murrelet, a small and secretive seabird, nests in the Park. More easily seen are black-tailed deer, raccoons, western gray squirrels, and the occasional coyote and mountain lion.

Activities and facilities

This park is largely undeveloped wilderness. Hikers, cyclists, and equestrians can access an extensive **inter-park trail network** from the Sam McDonald Ranger Station, Portola Trailhead, Portola Redwoods State Park, and at the Old Haul Road and Tarwater Trailheads.

Trail camps at Shaw Flat and Tarwater Flat are available for a fee on a drop-in basis for backpackers who register with the ranger at Memorial Park. No water is available at trail camps. Backpack stoves are permitted in trail camps.

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