



# Ed R. Levin

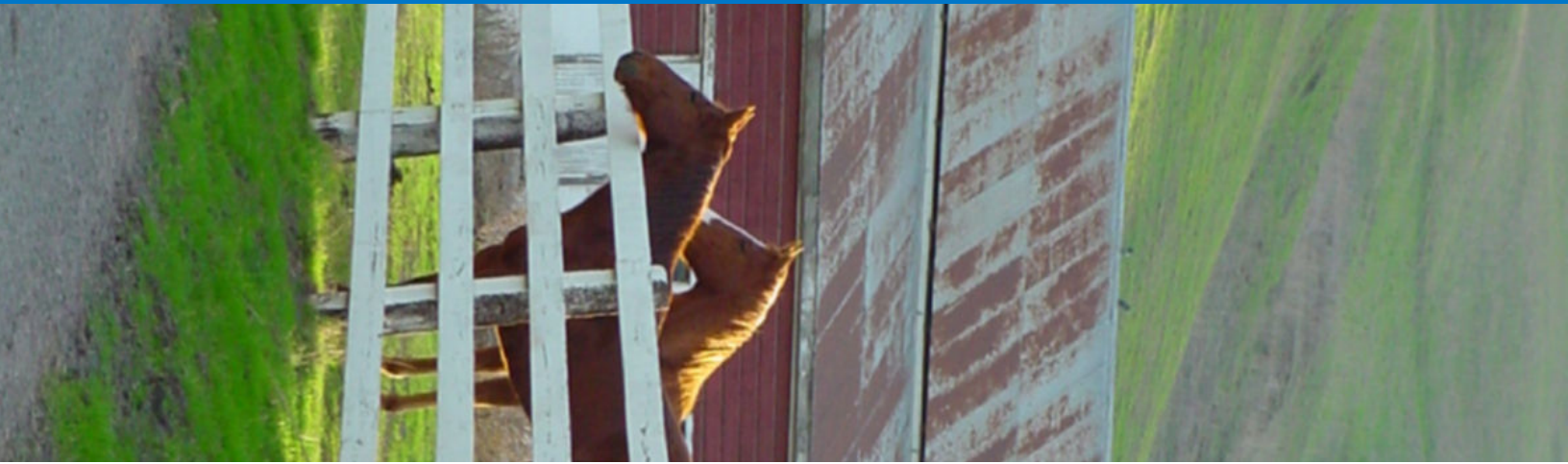


County of Santa Clara  
Parks and Recreation Department  
298 Garden Hill Dr  
Los Gatos, California 95032-7699  
(408) 355-2200  
Reservations (408) 355-2201

www.parkhere.org



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



## Location

Ed R. Levin County Park is located at 3100 Calaveras Rd, Milpitas, CA 95035. Traveling on either Interstate 680 or 880, take the Calaveras Road exit in Milpitas. Drive east along Calaveras Rd. up into the foothills. To reach the Sandy Wool side of the park, turn left onto Downing Rd. To proceed to the Spring Valley side, keep straight and the park will be to your right.

## Cultural History

Ed Levin County Park was once part of the tribal lands of the Tamyen Ohlone tribe. Today's park boundaries also encompass parts of three Mexican Ranchos. Most of today's park was part of Rancho Tularcitos, meaning "Little Tule Thickets". Tularcitos may have referred to the lagoons and tules in what would later be called Laguna Valley, which encompasses most of Ed R. Levin Park. The 4,394 acre Rancho was granted by the last Spanish Governor of Alta California, Pablo Vicente de Sola to Jose Higuera in 1821. Once California became a state, the rancho owners were required to confirm their land holdings with the state. During this time, portions of the ranchos were sold off to the newly arrived Americans. Settlers began settling in the foothill valleys. Josiah Evans, from Ohio, bought 800 acres of Rancho Tularcitos in 1853. Jacob Miller first settled in Calaveras Valley and then became the first to settle in Laguna Valley near the Spring Valley area of Levin Park.

Pioneers of the 1860's included Henry Curtner of Indiana who arrived in California in 1852. In the late 1860's he bought the first of the thousands of acres of Rancho Tularcitos including much of present day Ed Levin Park. In the 1870's Mary Miller and her two sons grew barley and wheat around the present day Spring Valley day use area.

Alex Anderson owned the golf course area and let out his land to Portuguese and Italian farmers. In 1881, William F. Downing and his family bought the Curtner lands just to the north of Laguna Valley. Benjamin Gordon settled with his family in Laguna Valley, building a home on the south side of Calaveras Road near Downing Road. Farming, cattle and dairying operations continued in the valley in the 1890's. Stone walls along the ridges are said to have been built by an Amish family named Matthews around the turn of the century. Weller Curtner recalled, "In the fall, when the crops were off, they would go out with stone boats made out of a couple of willow trees ... they cleared the land (of rock) and built the fence at the same time." Other stone walls in the area remain a mystery.

The Laguna Cemetery, a two acre historic site, is located in the southeast corner of the park (on Calaveras Road). The first burials occurred in the early 1860's, with the last burial in 1914. Most of the 44 plots had been sold by 1867. The plot map includes the names of Josiah Evans, Mary and Jacob Miller, J. Weller, Felter and Pomeroy. By the 1950's only a few headstones remained. Because so many headstones are missing, it is unclear who and how many people are buried in the cemetery. In 1993, the County Parks Department installed an interpretive plaque at the site.

## 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.

Park Charter Funds at Work... Thank You!



## Welcome

Welcome to Ed R. Levin County Park, one of Santa Clara County's most unique regional park and recreation areas. This 1,539 acre park combines the traditional features of an urban park such as picnicking, fishing and play areas, with the complex trail system of many regional wilderness parks. Ed Levin's expansive lawn areas make it an ideal spot for family outings, while the rolling grasslands and oak woodlands are available to visitors looking for a back-to-nature experience. At the northern boundary of the park, Monument Peak provides a spectacular view of the valley floor and the San Francisco Bay.

## Hours and Fees

The park is open year-round from 8 am until sunset. Vehicle entry fees are collected year-round. Entry fees are posted at the kiosk.

## Activities

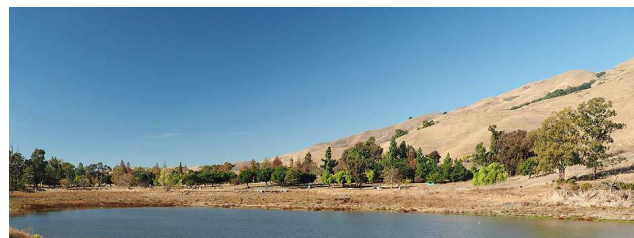
Hiking, cycling, horseback riding, picnicking and hang gliding are popular activities at Ed Levin Park. Visitors enjoy the playground, or fly kites and play frisbee on one of the three lawn areas.

**Dog Park:** Operated by the city of Milpitas, this off-leash dog park is a popular destination. Leashes are required outside of the dog park. Dogs are not permitted in the playground or on dirt trails south of Calaveras Rd.

**Fishing:** Sandy Wool Lake is stocked from November through May. Swimming is prohibited. Spring Valley Pond is a favorite first-time fishing hole for children ages 5-12.

**Trails:** Hikers, equestrians and cyclists may enjoy the park's 19 mile trail system. The Mission-to-Monument Peak Trail section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail traverses the park, and is the only trail open to cyclists. Maps of the entire Bay Area Ridge Trail System may be obtained from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

**Golf:** The 18-hole Spring Valley Golf Course is located near the park office.



## Sharing the Trails

**Be Considerate:** Keep speeds at a safe pace. Yield to slower trail users. Use particular caution when passing children and senior citizens. Respect everyone's right to use the trail.

**Use Open Trails Only:** Trails may be closed due to sensitive environmental concerns.

**Be Aware of Conditions:** Riding (even on open trails) when conditions are poor, such as shortly after a rain, may cause trail damage.

**Plan Ahead:** Know your equipment, your ability and where you are going. Carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions.

**Bicyclists:** Persons under age 18 must wear an ANSI, Snell, or other state-approved helmet for head protection on bicycle trails, pathways and promenades. All persons age 18 years and over operating a bicycle must wear a state-approved helmet for head protection on unpaved bicycle trails in County Parks.

## Picnicking

Please help make picnicking at Ed Levin enjoyable for everyone by adhering to the following rules and any posted regulations:

- Family picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A responsible adult (with picnic items) must be present in order to hold a picnic table.
- Reservations are recommended for groups larger than twenty. Please call (408) 355-2201, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday or make a reservation online at [gooutsideandplay.org](http://gooutsideandplay.org)
- Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis only. Parking stalls may not be saved. Reservations at group areas do not include reserved parking.
- Do not drive into picnic areas or onto lawns, paths, or landscaping.
- Twenty minutes is the maximum time allowed for parking in a yellow zone for unloading and loading of picnic supplies.
- Post directional signs in designated areas only.
- No tacks, nails, or staples on park signs, tables, or trees.
- Allow fires in BBQ pits to burn out. Water will damage the grill and pit.
- Amplified music is allowed at Elm Group Area only.

## Natural Diversity

Ed R. Levin Park is primarily oak woodland habitat. The park sits in a foothill valley, formed by millions of years of plate movement along the Calaveras and Hayward faults. Above the developed areas of the park are fox, bobcat, coyote, opossum and skunk habitats. The diversity of animal and plant life here presents endless opportunities for observation and appreciation. Each winter, the local Audubon Society inventories the different species of birds that inhabit the area. Visitors who watch carefully may see many of the more than sixty-four bird species that make this park their home.

The park is also fortunate to have a healthy spider and snake population. The normally shy and reclusive tarantula is rarely seen in the daylight. It rarely wanders far from its burrow, with the exception of the fall mating season. During this time males are often seen wandering across park roads and paths in search of a mate. Visitors fortunate enough to see one of the beautiful creatures should take a moment to observe, but not interfere with, these amazing but delicate creatures.