



Hay bale transport in the Santa Teresa Hills.

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.

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Welcome

Welcome to Santa Teresa County Park located in the Santa Teresa Hills ten miles south of downtown San Jose. This diverse 1,673-acre park, rich in history, offers spectacular views from its trails above the Almaden and Santa Clara Valleys. The secluded upland valleys of the park provide a quiet interlude for exploring the natural environment minutes away from the surrounding developed areas. A visit to the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch is a step back in time to life on a family farm in the late 1800s-early 1900s.

Park Location

260 Bernal Rd San Jose, CA 95119
Park Office: (408) 225-0225

Picnicking

- Picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Pueblo Group Area is available for up to 100 persons. For reservations call (408) 355-2201, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.
- Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis only. Reservation of group area does not include reserved parking. Do not drive into picnic areas or onto lawns or paths.
- 20 minutes is the maximum time allowed for parking in the yellow zone for supply unloading and loading.
- No tacks, nails, staples on park signs, tables, or trees.
- Allow barbecue fires to burn out. Water will damage the grill and pit.
- Amplified music is allowed.

Activities

- The Santa Teresa Golf Club, operated by a concessionaire, offers an 18-hole championship course, 9-hole/par three course, clubhouse, banquet facility, restaurant and pro shop. For rates, reservations and more information about the golf course, call (408)

225-2650 or visit Santa Teresa Golf Club.

- The Pueblo Day Use Area includes parking for over 170 vehicles, an equestrian staging area, reservable group picnic area with barbeque pit and tables for up to 100 people. A restroom and additional first-come picnic tables and barbeques are scattered throughout the day use area.

- The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch and Santa Teresa Spring historic area features interpretive signs and displays around restored ranch buildings. Ranch buildings are open on set days. Tours and programs are available by reservation.

- An archery range, operated and maintained by the Black Mountain Bowmen Archery Club, is open for public use except when tournaments are scheduled.

- Over 17 miles of unpaved trails for equestrian, hiking and bicycle use. Some of the trails are steep, namely around Coyote Peak. Spectacular wildflower displays may be found from March through June on the Stile Ranch Trail as well as many other park trails

Cultural History

Ancestors of the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe inhabited this area for thousands of years. Archaeological evidence suggests that a large permanent village was once located near the Santa Teresa Spring, where a reliable source of water and bountiful natural resources sustained a village community.

At age thirteen, Jose Joaquin Bernal arrived in California with his family as part of the 1776-1777 Juan Bautista de Anza expedition. Bernal grew up in the San Francisco Presidio where he became a soldier. He later moved his family to the Pueblo de San Jose and retired from the Mexican Army. In 1826, he settled his family near the Santa Teresa Spring. Here Bernal established Rancho de Santa Teresa, a 9,647 acre tract of land

formally granted to him by the Mexican government, that by 1834 included a vineyard, orchard, fields and 2,100 head of cattle. In 1837, Jose Joaquin Bernal died, leaving 78 dependents and an estate divided among his ten children and wife.

Once California became part of the United States, Mexican and Spanish land grants were rendered invalid until certified by a U.S. Court. During the land grant hearings, as with many of the ranchos of California, portions of Rancho Santa Teresa were sold to pay legal fees. By the 1870's, the family's Rancho had been reduced to 400 acres.

Bernal family descendants continued to live on the remaining Rancho property, where they initiated several business ventures in the early 1900s, including the Bernal Quicksilver Mine, Bernal Marl Fertilizer Company, Santa Teresa Springs Water Company, and maintained fruit, hay and cattle production.

One of Jose Joaquin Bernal's granddaughters married Carlos Gulnac and built a ranch house that, along with other historic buildings is still located near the Santa



Ygnacio Bernal, son of Joaquin Bernal, standing near Santa Teresa Springs, looking over Santa Clara Valley. Photo: San Jose Mercury, 1896

Teresa Spring. Their daughter married Patrick Joice, and the Joice family operated a cattle ranch here into the early 1980s .

Most of today's park was part of the San Jose Pueblo Lands Tract II, which included the Santa Teresa Hills between Los Alamitos Creek in Almaden Valley, and

Rancho Santa Teresa. In 1868, the City of San Jose resolved to sell off the Pueblo Tract lands, and number of families (Rosetto, Fortini, Bernal) acquired or expanded their ranch lands.

The County's first property purchase toward development of Santa Teresa County Park occurred in 1956 with the acquisition of today's golf course, which opened on 1962. By the early 1990s, additional properties were acquired and the park's boundaries expanded to today's 1,688 acres.

California
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Natural Diversity

Santa Teresa's varied topography supports a diversity of vegetation and wildlife habitats. A majority of the park is underlain with serpentine soils, high in magnesium and low in calcium, a limiting factor for most plant life, but represents habitat for unique plant communities adapted to those conditions. While serpentine accounts for only 1% of California's geologic base, it supports about 10% of the state's native plant biodiversity.

Other plant communities include mixed oak woodland, non-native grassland, Diablan sage scrub, riparian forest, and northern mixed chaparral. Mixed oak woodland occurs primarily on north facing hillsides, consisting of coast live oak, blue oak, valley oak, buckeye, bay, poison oak, non-native grasses, mugwort and miner's lettuce. Non-native grassland covers most of the hillsides. During warmer months this community features wildflowers including fiddleneck, poppy, yarrow, and pansy. Diablan sage scrub appears on rocky south and east facing slopes, consisting of sages, coyote brush and monkey flower.

Animals encountered in the park include coyote, bobcat, skunk, black tailed deer, golden eagle, meadowlark, western rattlesnake, garter snake, newt and salamander.