



Junipero Serra County Park Self-guided Tour

Junipero Serra Park is a 103 acre retreat nestled among surrounding urban development. It is a favored spot for neighbors to hike and for groups to picnic. Visitors are drawn to the peaceful environment and the amenities of the park. **Start your tour from the kiosk in the North corner of the Main Parking Lot.**

Self-guided Tour Routes (Approximate Time):

-  Live Oak Nature Trail – 0.4 mile (30 mins)
-  Quail Loop Trail – 2 miles (1 hour 20 mins)

Property Geology and History:

Junipero Serra Park is set in the bayside foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, just east of the San Andreas Reservoir. The park is bounded on its eastern side by the Serra Fault, a secondary fault that branches off the San Andreas Fault which lies a quarter mile to the West. The park was once part of the 15,000 acre Buri-Buri Rancho owned by Jose Sanchez. In 1860, Ansel Easton, Darius Ogden Mills, and James Lux acquired title to the Buri-Buri lands. Slowly the large estates were sold and sub-divided, and in 1956, San Mateo County purchased 103 acres for a park.



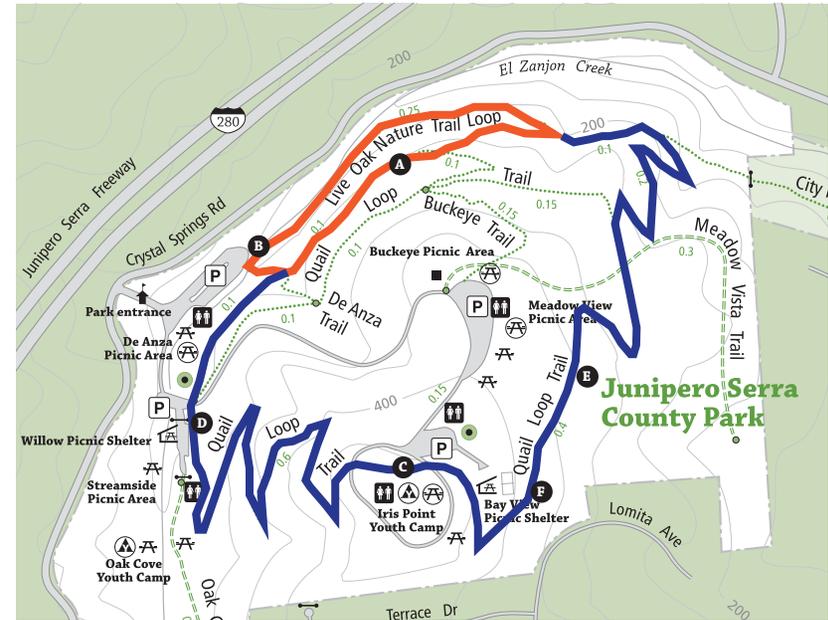
A: Oak Woodland:

Oak Woodlands are plant communities found throughout California. They are dominated by the coast live oak and the valley oak, as well as, the California buckeye, pacific madrone, and California bay trees. The coast live oak is a long-lived and slow-growing tree species that develops closed canopies and dense groves. Frequent fires are common to this habitat and clear underbrush as a result. Coast live oaks have a good rate of regeneration and they are

resistant to low-intensity ground fires. These plant communities generally occur on coastal foothills and valleys from sea level up to 5,000 feet.

B: El Zanjón Creek:

El Zanjón Creek flows year round, making it an important source of water for the wildlife of the park. Often the water quality of the creek is threatened by the carelessness of its neighbors. Oil and other chemicals are dumped down storm drains in the area by people who don't realize they flow directly into the creek. To a certain extent, natural stream beds can absorb and break down pollution. Unfortunately, much of El Zanjón Creek has been channelized and undergrounded to the Bay.



C: Iris Point Youth Camp:

Junipero Serra Park has six day use reservation picnic areas. The Iris Point Area may be used either as a picnic ground or as a day camp area for youth groups.





D: The Ohlone:

Historically, Ohlone Native Americans lived in the park's vicinity prior to the year 1800. They had a varied diet of shellfish, gathered from the bay, as well as native herbs, berries, nuts, birds and mammals, all of which could be found in the park. Evidence of their presence has been found in the park including several shell mounds and grinding stones (mortars and pestles). A shell mound, also called a shell midden, is basically a prehistoric trash pile consisting mostly of shells of edible mollusks and other evidences of human occupation.



E: Coastal Redwood:

Here is a small grove of Coast redwood trees that were planted many years ago. Redwoods are not common in this habitat, but are native to the area. Coastal Redwood trees are the California State tree and can grow to be the tallest on earth. They are evergreen trees with bark that can grow up to a foot thick. This protects them from insect and fire damage. Coastal Redwoods are specially adapted to living along the Western coast of North America and were prevalent all along the fog belt. These trees condense the water in the fog on their needles which allows it to drip to the forest floor onto their shallow roots. In the dry summer months this helps keep these giant trees hydrated.

F: Panoramic Views:

The Meadow View Playground features 54-foot-long double slides and several climbing structures. This playground area has excellent views of San Bruno Mountain to the North, and San Francisco International Airport and Mount Diablo to the East.



Chestnut-backed Chickadees are commonly seen in the park. Listen for their call: "Chicka-dee-dee-dee"

When you're done with your tour, please return this guide to the kiosk for the next visitor. If you find this guide, please return it to: Junipero Serra Park, 1801 Crystal Springs Rd. San Bruno, CA 94066

Junipero Serra Park is a part of **San Mateo County Parks**, which manages parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites throughout the county to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation.

For more information, visit www.SMCoParks.org.

San Mateo County Parks
Wild places & friendly spaces