

# Joseph D. Grant

## WELCOME

Welcome to Joseph D. Grant County Park, the largest of Santa Clara County's regional park and recreation areas. This 9,553-acre park includes some of the County's finest open space resources, as well as rich environmental, cultural and recreational assets. The landscape is characteristic of the east foothills of the Santa Clara Valley with grasslands and majestic oak trees. As part of the park's tradition and history, cattle grazing currently takes place in some areas, and is monitored under a resource management plan. Enjoy your visit today, and return often to experience the many features of Joseph D. Grant County Park.

## HOW TO GET THERE

The park is located on Mt. Hamilton Road in the Halls Valley, just east of the larger Santa Clara Valley. Travel to the park by taking Highway 101 or Highway 680 to Alum Rock Avenue eastbound in San Jose. Turn right onto Mt. Hamilton Road and travel eight miles to reach the park entrance.

## ACTIVITIES

Hikers and equestrians have access to an extensive 51-mile trail system. Mountain bikes are permitted on nearly half of the park's trails as designated. The diverse trail system at the park makes this a popular place to stage large-scale organized trail events such as equestrian endurance rides, mountain bike events and foot races.

Shaded picnic areas are available on a first-come first-served basis. Campers can choose from twenty-two (22) reservable family campsites. Hot showers are available. Group picnic and youth camping areas are available by reservation. One large lake and several smaller ponds are accessible for warm water fishing. Call (408) 355-2201 to make a reservation.

## HOURS

The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. until sunset.

## FEES

Vehicle entry fees are collected year-round. Fees are required for camping, and for use of group picnic areas. Fees are posted at the entrance kiosk.

## TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS...LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

Millions of people visit Santa Clara County's regional parks each year. Please help preserve the natural beauty of our parklands and ensure the safety of our visitors by complying with these general rules and any posted regulations.

- Vehicles:** Observe posted speed limits. Stay on paved roadways and in designated parking areas.
- Garbage:** Place in receptacles provided. Recycling is encouraged.
- Dogs/Pets:** Allowed in limited areas as posted, and controlled on a 6-foot (or less) leash at all times.
- Fires:** Permitted in designated fire and barbecue pits only. No fires on open ground. No wood gathering.
- Weapons:** Firearms, air guns, bows & arrows and paintball guns are prohibited.
- Alcohol:** Permitted in picnic areas and campgrounds. Be responsible—abusers may be asked to leave.
- Swimming:** Prohibited in all lakes, streams and reservoirs.
- Trails:** ANSI/Snell approved helmets are mandatory for all mountain bicyclists on the park's trails. Equestrian staging in designated areas only.
- Plants & Wildlife:** Collection of plant specimens and feeding of birds or animals is not permitted.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The majority of the park's facilities meet those standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act. For specific information or special accommodation contact the park office.

### LEGEND

	Ranger Station/Visitor Center Phone: (408) 274-6121		Observatory
	Park Entrance Kiosk/Information		Fire Station
	Restrooms		Two Lane Paved Road
	Public Telephone		Two Lane Park Road
	Parking		One Lane Paved Road
	Reserved Campground (youth)		Multiple Use Trails
	Campground		Equestrian/ Hiking
	Amphitheater		Footpath (hiking only)
	Picnic Area		Whole Access Trail
	Reserved Group Area		Elevation Contours (feet)
	Stables/Equestrian Staging		Trail Distance (miles)
	Equestrian Camping		Creek
	Barn		Private Property
	Fishing		Gate
	Bay Area Ridge Trail		

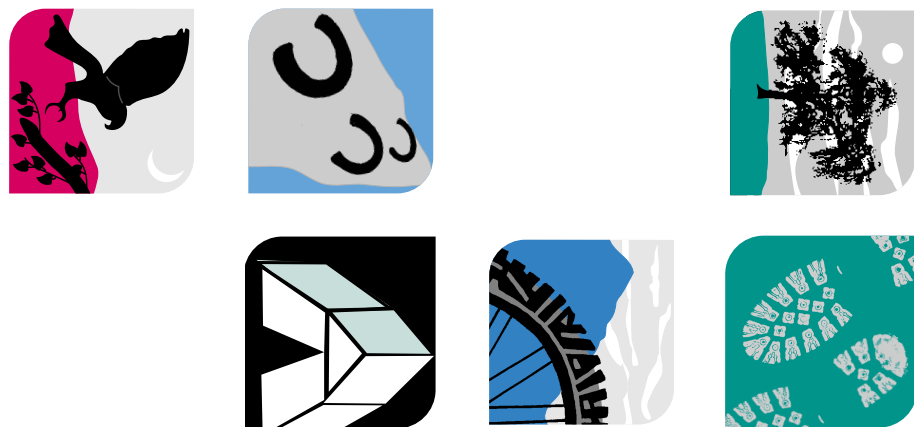
### PARK ENTRANCE AND VISITOR CENTER AREA

This detailed map shows the area around the park entrance and visitor center. Key features include:
 

- Trails:** Dutch Flat Trail, San Felipe Trail, Loop Trail, Hotel Trail, Snell Trail, and others.
- Facilities:** Maintenance Yard, Cookhouse, Ranch House, Rose Garden, Stockman's, and RV Dump Station.
- Landmarks:** Grant Lake, Mt. Hamilton Rd, and San Felipe Creek.
- Other:** A scale bar (0 to 1/8 mile) and a north arrow.

This large map shows the entire 9,553-acre park. Key features include:
 

- Trail System:** A network of 51 miles of trails, including Heron, Edwards Loop, Washburn, Canada de Pala, and many others.
- Roads:** Mt. Hamilton Rd, Quimby Rd, and Kincaid Rd.
- Geography:** Arroyo Aguague, Grant Lake, and various creeks like Smith Creek and San Felipe Creek.
- Facilities:** Ranger Station, Park Entrance, and various picnic areas.
- Other:** A scale bar (0 to 1 mile), a north arrow, and directions to Alum Rock Avenue and Lick Observatory.



[www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org)

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*Park Charter Funds at Work...Thank You!*

## CAMPING

Overnight camping is a popular activity at Grant Park. Please help make this unique back-to-nature experience worthwhile for everyone by adhering to the following rules and any posted regulations:

- Gate closes at one-half hour after sunset. No re-entry after gates are closed.
- Camp at established campsites.
- All individual sites are by reservation. Call (408) 355-2201 to make a reservation. Maximum of 8 persons and 2 vehicles per site.
- Persons under age 18 cannot camp overnight unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Maximum of two pets per campsite. Keep pets on a 6-foot (or less) leash during the day, and in confined areas overnight.
- No wood gathering.
- Park closed to non-campers from sunset to 8 a.m..
- Quiet hours: 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. No radios, musical instruments, or other loud noises during quiet hours.
- Maximum stay is 14 days in any County Park from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Remainder of year - 14 days within a 45-day period.
- Camping is available year-round.
- Campers must check in before sunset.

## SHARING THE TRAILS

Some trails within the park offer recreational opportunities for multiple users, while others are limited to specific activities. ANSI/Snell approved helmets are mandatory for all mountain bicyclists. For the safety and protection of all visitors, please adhere to the following trail etiquette guidelines:

- 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.

## CULTURAL HISTORY

The land that is now Grant Park was first inhabited by Werwersen Ohlone Indians.

In 1839, a 15,000-acre Mexican Land Grant was awarded to Jose de Jesus Bernal and was named Rancho Canada de Pala. Jose de Jesus and his two brothers built adobes around a spring-fed pond on a ridge overlooking the Santa Clara Valley. They pastured cattle and horses on this land. Bernal's uncle, Joaquin Bernal, occupied the nearby Rancho Santa Teresa.

In 1848, the southern third of the rancho was sold to Samuel Q. Broughton for \$600. Broughton was a native of Kentucky who had served under Col. John C. Fremont. Over the years, other parts of the Rancho were also sold or deeded. When the Federal Land Act of 1851 required landowners to file land claims, Jose Bernal paid his attorney, Frederic Hall, with land for processing his claims. The "Halls Valley" area which encompasses most of the present day park, represents this payment. Other early purchasers included members of the Donner Party.

Adam Grant, the father of J.D. Grant, bought his initial holding of Canada de Pala in 1880. Adam Grant was a founder of Murphy, Grant, & Company, a dry goods store which sold supplies to gold miners.

At the age of twenty-two, Joseph D. Grant acquired his first acreage along the northeastern border of the Canada de Pala. By 1890, he owned 2,619 acres. Eventually, he held all of the



*J. D. Grant at his ranch*

*"...the glory of our parklands is too precious to be sacrificed...Steps must be taken to protect our dearly won recreation lands..."*

From "Redwoods and Reminiscences" by J.D. Grant.

in the pool and horseback riding through the rambling hills.

In addition to managing his father's dry goods business, J. D. Grant founded the Columbia Steam Company, served as President of the California-Oregon Power

## NATURAL DIVERSITY

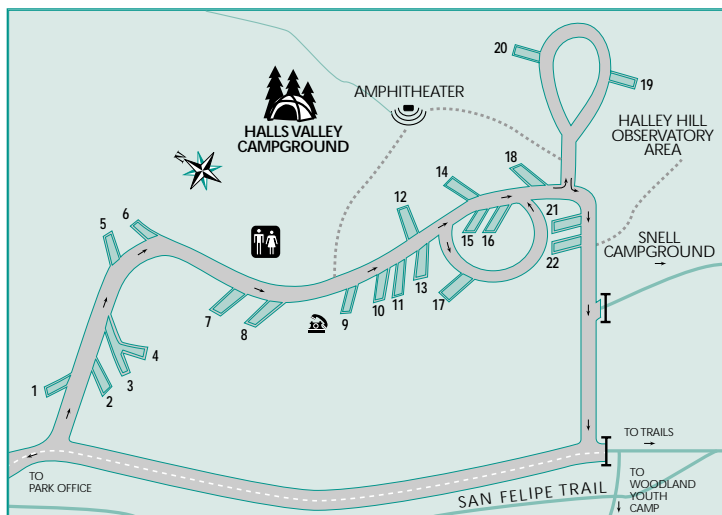
Grant Park is located at the base of Mt. Hamilton. The major feature of the park, the Halls Valley is suspended between two ridges in the Diablo Range of the Coastal Mountains. The park's terrain was formed by earth movement along the still active Calaveras Fault.

The oak-woodland community at Grant Park is typical of California. Oak trees provide breeding habitat and food for over 32 species of birds and 39 species of mammals. This habitat is so unique and important to wildlife that its protection is essential. The oak community includes such species as the Blue, Black, Live, and Valley Oaks.

At one time, Grant Park was the location of a successful wildlife management plan designed to re-establish the threatened Tule Elk population. Although most of the herds have now migrated out of the park, Grant was selected because of its wildlife sanctuary status and ideal habitat.

Visitors may see European wild pigs in some areas in the park. These pigs have cross-bred with domestic pigs. The pigs eat acorns and grass roots, therefore, they have to "root" for their food.

Spring is one of the best times to view the flora and fauna at Grant Park. The wildflowers are blooming, the water is flowing, and the grass on the hills dance in the wind.



*Joseph D. Grant*

acreage which encompasses the present day park. Grant used the land for sport and pleasure, and as a retreat from the hectic demands of business.

Grant changed the name of Bernal Lagoon to Grant Lake, built dams and diverted streams. He remodeled the original house which was built in 1882, and added a cookhouse, servants quarters, other houses and buildings, a rose garden and a large aviary to the property.

J.D. also used his influence to have Mount Hamilton Road moved one-half mile northeast of his home so it would not interfere with his privacy. Entertainments on the ranch included swimming

Company, and served on the Board of Directors of the General Petroleum Company and the Central Pacific Railroad.

Grant owned mansions in San Francisco, Burlingame, and Pebble Beach. He was a member of the Bohemian Club and was a life trustee of Stanford University. Grant also belonged to the Sierra Club, and was president of the Save-the-Redwoods League for 21 years.

When Joseph D. Grant stayed at his ranch, he entertained guests such as Leland Stanford and Herbert Hoover. Hoover stayed at the ranch for a month after his election loss to Franklin Roosevelt.

Joseph D. Grant died in 1942, and was followed in death by his wife, Edith, in 1946. After her parents' death, their daughter, Josephine, purchased shares in the ranch from her two siblings and became sole owner of the property. Josephine became a full time resident of the ranch in 1958 and remained at the ranch until her death in 1972.

Josephine Grant's will deeded half of the ranch property to the Save-the-Redwoods League and the other half to the Menninger Foundation. The property was purchased by Santa Clara County in 1975 to be preserved as a park. In 1978, Joseph D. Grant County Park, named after the man and his family who had owned the property for nearly 100 years, opened to the public.