Start the new year off right by getting out of your daily routine and become one with nature.

We have handpicked seven magnificent hiking adventures, all nearby, to get you outside and experience new terrain and spectacular vistas right here in Santa Clara County.

Tackle this year’s #PixInParks Challenge by hiking all seven listed trails pictured below and take a photo at each designated spot.

And to entice you to hike the Magnificent 7, a commemorative t-shirt or bandana awaits to those who complete the #PixInParks Challenge!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE -

Step 1: (recommended) Download the map using Avenza Maps app (or any other geolocating map app) before you head to the park.

Step 2: Take a selfie or group photo at the destination point. (The link under each park photo leads to a pdf with directions on where the exact location is for each park)

Step 3: Share your photo on social media with the hashtag #PixInParks and the hashtag at the particular location where the photo was taken (see photos below for where to take your Pix and what hashtags to use).

Step 4: After completing the #PixInParks Challenge, Click HERE to claim your t-shirt or bandana (while supplies last). Until our offices can open back up officially, we will continue to mail out prizes to participants who have completed the challenge. Be sure to email your 7 Magnificent photos to parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org if you do not have a social media account.

Deadline to complete the PixInParks Challenge and claim your T-shirt or Bandana (while supplies last) is December 15, 2021. Follow #PixInParks on Instagram to view the awesome gallery!
#CoyoteLakeHarveyBear

10840 Coyote Reservoir Rd Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 842-7800
No Parking Fee

Harvey Bear/Ed Willson/Harvey Bear Trail

Trail Length: 2.8 miles

Degree of difficulty: MODERATE
(Alternate route for ADA is Martin Murphy Trail)

Park Notes
• Features a 635-acre lake, provides the county’s only shoreline camping, boat launch facilities and trails. For boating information, visit www.parkhere.org or call (408) 355-2200.
• Abundant hiking, biking and equestrian trails winding through oak studded canyons and on top of grassy ridge lines providing spectacular views of the South Santa Clara Valley.

Trail Info & Highlights
• Great views of Coyote Valley.
• Spectacular wildflower displays in the spring.
• Wildlife found all throughout the trail, so be mindful and watch your surroundings.
• Cattle are utilized for land management. Please leave cattle gates as you find them.

#JosephDGrant

18405 Mt. Hamilton Rd, San Jose, CA 95140
(408) 274-6121
No Parking Fee

Hotel/Yerba Buena/Bass Lake/Hotel Trails

Trail Length: 2.2 miles loop

Degree of difficulty: Moderate (400’ elevation gain)
*Alternative route for ADA is Grant Trail

Park Notes
• Area first inhabited by Ohlone Indians.
• Ranching history from early 1800s. Ranch House area has interpretive displays, rose garden, ranger office, and house tours.
• Pay phones, restrooms, water fountains, picnic tables.
• Paved parking for picnicking. Group picnicking areas available.
• Campground has 40 reservable sites (408-355-2201), includes hot showers.
• Park is sometimes in use for organized trail events on weekends.
• Equestrian campsites and water trough available.

Trail Info & Highlights
• Loop trail, fire road-width, dirt surface. No significant shade cover.
• Abundant wildlife viewing opportunity includes deer, squirrels, hawks, eagles, and wild turkeys.
• Bass Lake Trail has a small lake where fishing is allowed with license.
• Some areas have cattle grazing. Be sure to leave cattle gates as you find them.
#Rancho San Antonio
22500 Cristo Rey Dr. Cupertino, CA 95014
(650) 691-2165
No Parking Fee

Permanente Creek/Lower Meadow/Wildcat Loop/
High Meadow/Wildcat Loop/Lower Meadow/
Permanente Creek Trail

Trail Length: 5.35 miles (paved, partial loop)

Degree of difficulty: MODERATE
*Alternative route for ADA is Permanente Creek to Rogue Valley Trail

Park Notes:
• Rancho San Antonio County Park is managed by Mid-Pen Open Space Preserve through an operations and management agreement with Santa Clara County Parks.
• Note: Due to the popularity of this park, we recommend to hike during the weekdays.
• Stretching bars are available at the restroom parking area.
• Bicycles are restricted to paved trails only.
• Deer Hollow Farm is operated by the City of Mountain View.
  For more info call, (408)903-6430

#MtMadonna
7850 Pole Line Rd., Watsonville, CA 95076
(408) 842-2341
No Parking Fee

Blue Springs/Meadow Trails

Trail Length: 1.0 miles (loop)

Degree of difficulty: EASY

Park Notes:
• One of the County’s most majestic parks, dominated by redwood forest characteristic of Santa Cruz Mountain Range.
• Offers views of south Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey Countries and Pacific Ocean.
• Popular attractions include camping, extensive hiking and equestrian trails, archery, historic Miller ruins.
• Park is higher in elevation, so usually cooler than valley areas; fog can be spectacular coming over ridges; dress in layers as temperatures vary.

Trail Info & Highlights:
• Dirt parking lot with water fountain, restroom, barbecue pits, first-come picnic sites and reserved group areas; equestrian staging at trailhead.
• Non-paved dirt surface with few inclines and declines; 90% shade cover
• Diverse habitats from mixed oak to coast hardwood and redwood forests
• Abundant wildlife including California quail, raptors, wild turkeys, turkey vultures, black-tailed deer, coyotes, and golden eagles
• Winter flooding may occur between Meadow and Blue Springs Trails
#LexingtonReservoir
17770 Alma Bridge Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 355-2375
No Parking Fee

Jones/St. Joseph Open Space Preserve/
St. Josephs Hill/Manzanita Trail

Trail Length: 1.8 miles

Degree of difficulty: STRENUOUS
*Alternative route for ADA is Los Gatos Creek Trail South from Main Street to the Lexington Dam and back.
Adjust length to your ability (up to 3 miles, out and back)

Park Notes:
• Beautiful and scenic 950-acre park and reservoir is just minutes from the urban centers of Santa Clara County.
• 338-acre man-made reservoir available for shoreline fishing.
• Part of a chain of parks and open spaces connected by the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Trail Info & Highlights:
• 1000-foot elevation gain. At the beginning, the trail starts off quite steep, then moderately easy hiking the ridge.
• Eventually you enter St. Joseph’s Hill Trail which is part of the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District.
• Spectacular views of Lexington Reservoir.
• Parking available at Boat Launch.
• Approximate 30% shade cover.
• Fire Width Trails
• Lots of intertwining trails at the ridge where you can also visit Hilltop Vista if time allows

#Hellyer
985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, 95111
(408) 225-0225
No Parking Fee

Coyote Creek Trail
(Silver Creek Parking Lot to Hellyer County Park)

Trail Length: 4.5 miles (loop)

Degree of difficulty: EASY

Park Notes:
• The Coyote Creek Parkway multiple use trails offer recreational opportunities for bicyclists, skaters, and hikers.
• Restrooms at Silver Creek Parking Lot and Hellyer County Park.
• Newly installed native plant garden located at the Hellyer Park Visitor Center

Trail Info & Highlights:
• Lawn and picnic areas, 80% shade cover.
• Cottonwood Lake.
• Children’s play areas.
• Coyote Creek.
• Abundant wildlife, including waterfowl, quail, migratory birds, black-tailed deer, bobcats, grey foxes, coyotes, and raptors.
#Calero

23205 McKean Rd. San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-3883
No Parking Fee

Oak Grove/Los Cerritos/Pena/Oak Grove Trail

Trail Length: 3.5 miles (loop)

Degree of difficulty: MODERATE
(430 ft. elevation change)

Park Notes:
• Defined by two distinct areas: the reservoir and back country; for boating information, call (408)355-2200 or go to parkhere.org.
• Trails offer breathtaking views of reservoir, south Santa Clara County, surrounding Santa Cruz Mountain Range.

Trail Info & Highlights:
• Dirt parking shared by horse trailers and cars; water and picnic tables near trailhead.
• Trail loop almost entirely in full sun with multiple inclines and declines.
• Los Cerritos Trail offers sweeping views of Calero Reservoir and surrounding watershed.
• Los Cerritos Pond has observation deck, benches, hitching posts for horses.
• Diverse wildlife viewing of birds, mammals, reptiles; spring wildflowers in abundance.

Complete all 7 Challenges and get a custom shirt or this commemorative bandana!

front

back

Connect with us!

Learn more at parkhere.org or write parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org