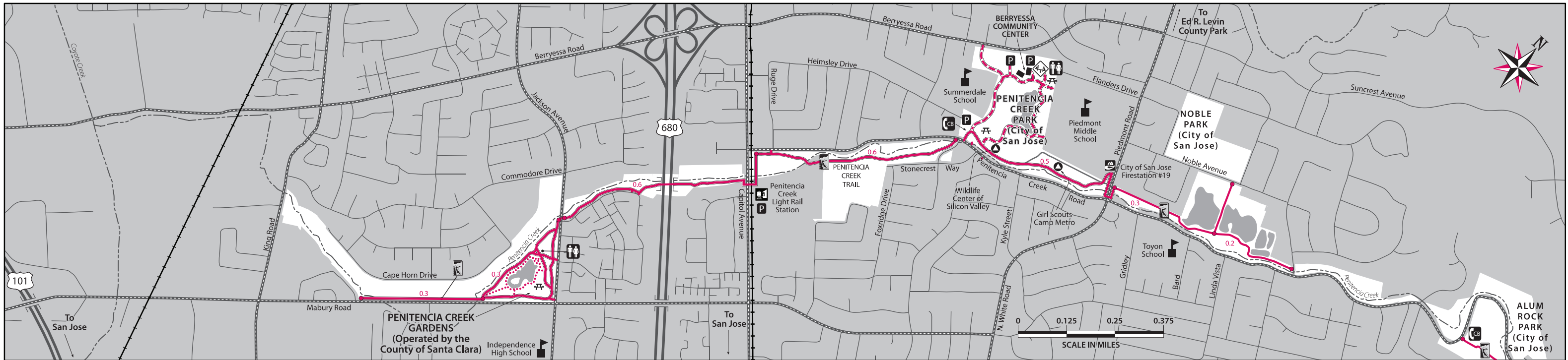




Penitencia Creek

County of Santa Clara Regional Parks and Recreation Areas



WELCOME

Welcome to the Penitencia Creek Parkway. This linear park and regional trail incorporates parklands and open space that is managed by a number of agencies including Santa Clara County, the City of San Jose, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Santa Clara County manages portions of the Penitencia Creek Trail and **Penitencia Creek Gardens**. The future vision is to expand the Penitencia Creek Trail to connect Alum Rock Park (City of San Jose) to the Coyote Creek confluence.

ABOUT PENITENCIA CREEK

The Ohlone Indians inhabited this area for centuries and named the canyon and creek "shistik" which means "place of the rabbits". King Charles III of Spain granted this land to the settlers of the Pueblo of San Jose de Guadalupe in 1778. The early Spanish pioneers called the area "Arroyo Aquaje" and used it as a place to water their stock. The creek was an important watering spot for treks between the Pueblo, Mission Santa Clara and Mission San Jose. A small adobe, located adjacent to the creek, was used by the mission padres to be penitent or hear confessions. The creek was eventually named Penitencia Creek.

In the latter part of the 19th century, the ranchos were replaced with orchards. In 1906, the Women's Outdoor Art League recognized the importance of preserving the creek. They planted Eucalyptus trees along the creek where local farmers had removed the native sycamores, willows and alders. These trees still stand today near Penitencia Creek Road and Nobel Avenue. In 1918, Supervisor Henry Ayers proposed that the county acquire and preserve the creek. After World War I, San Jose expanded towards Penitencia Creek and further poposals to create a streamside park were put forward.

Finally, in 1972, the County Board of Supervisors allocated \$3.5 million from the Parks Charter Amendment to purchase lands and develop a master plan for the creek. Other agencies involved in supporting this parkway included the City of San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Water District, East Side Union School District and Berryessa Union School District. The park at Mabury and Jackson Roads was completed in the early 1990s as part of the implementation of the goals of the 1977 master plan.

Today, numerous agencies work together to provide an aesthetic balance between flood control, natural preservation and recreational development.

HOW TO GET THERE

From U. S. 101

To reach the park chain from U. S. Highway 101, take the McKee Road exit in San Jose. Travel east on McKee 1.2 miles to Jackson Avenue. Turn left on Jackson and proceed 0.7 miles to Mabury Road. The Penitencia Creek Gardens and access point to the trail are located on the northwest corner of Jackson and Mabury. The trail crosses Jackson Avenue 0.2 miles north of Mabury on the south side of Penitencia Creek. Penitencia Creek Road parallels the trail from Capitol Avenue to Alum Rock Park. To reach the City of San Jose's Penitencia Creek Park, take the McKee Road exit east. Follow McKee Road 1.8 miles to Capitol Avenue, turn left on to Capitol. Travel north on Capitol 1.2 miles to Penitencia Creek Road. turn right and proceed east to the park's entrance to the left.

From Interstate 680

To reach the park chain from Interstate 680, take the Berryessa Road exit and proceed east 0.2 miles to Capitol Avenue. Turn right and follow Capitol Avenue south 0.4 miles to Penitencia Creek Road. You may either follow Penitencia Creek Road to the City of San Jose's Penitencia Creek Park or continue on Capitol Avenue south 0.4 miles to Mabury Road in order to reach the Penitencia Creek Gardens. Turn right on Mabury and travel west 0.5 miles to Jackson Avenue. The Penitencia Creek Gardens and access point to the trail are located on the northwest corner of Jackson and Mabury. The trail crosses Jackson Avenue 0.2 miles north of Mabury Road, on the south side of Penitencia Creek Road.

Public Transportation

Valley Transportation Authority buses serve the Penitencia Creek Parkway. In addition the Penitencia Creek Light Rail Station is just south of the park chain on Capitol Avenue.

ACTIVITIES

The 15 acre Penitencia Creek Gardens provides opportunities to stroll, explore and picnic, and the pond is a stop on the migratory flyway. The Penitencia Creek Trail offers recreational opportunities for bicyclists, hikers, skaters, dog walkers and wildlife observation.

The Penitencia Creek Trail proceeds intermittently from the start of the parkway at the City of San Jose's 700 acre Alum Rock Regional Park. Some portions of the trail are as yet undeveloped. Between Alum Rock Park and Noble Avenue, trail users must use the road shoulder. From Noble Avenue to Piedmont Road an unpaved trail is available. The paved trail from White/Piedmont Roads to the Jackson/Mabury area is continuous except for the on-street crossings of Penitencia Creek Road, Capitol Avenue and Jackson Avenue. From Penitencia Creek Gardens, the trail continues another 0.3 miles using the sidewalk along Mabury Road.

SHARING THE TRAILS

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: Using the trail when conditions are poor, such as shortly after rain, may be dangerous.

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

Bicyclists: Yield to pedestrians and equestrians. Ride cautiously and in single file. Observe speed limits as posted.

ACCESSIBILITY

The majority of the Park's facilities meet those standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act. For other specific information or special accommodations, contact the park office at Ed R. Levin County Park (408) 262-6980.

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. Visitors are responsible for the rules and regulations applicable to each jurisdiction.

LEGEND

	Ranger Station/Visitor Center Ed R. Levin County Park Phone: (408) 262-6980		Hiking/Equestrian/Bicycling
	Restrooms		Hiking
	Call Box		Paved Hiking/Bicycling
	Parking		Paved Hiking/Equestrian/Bicycling
	Gate		Trail Distance (miles)
	Picnic Area		Bay Area Ridge Trail
	Playground		Freeway
			Major Public Road
			Minor Public Road
			Creek
			Pond
			Private Property

Garbage: Place in receptacles provided. Recycling is encouraged.

Dogs/Pets: Allowed in all areas. Must be controlled on a 6-foot (or less) leash at all times. All pets must be licensed and have proof of vaccination.

Fires: Permitted in designated barbeque pits only. No fires on open ground. Charcoal fires only.

Weapons: Firearms, air guns, paintball guns, and archery equipment are prohibited.

Alcohol: Permitted in County Park designated picnic areas only.

Swimming: Prohibited in all lakes, streams and reservoirs.

Plants & Wildlife: Collection of plant specimens and feeding of birds or animals is not permitted.

Bicycles: 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 an ANSI, Snell, or other state-approved helmet for head protection on unpaved bicycle trails in County Parks.