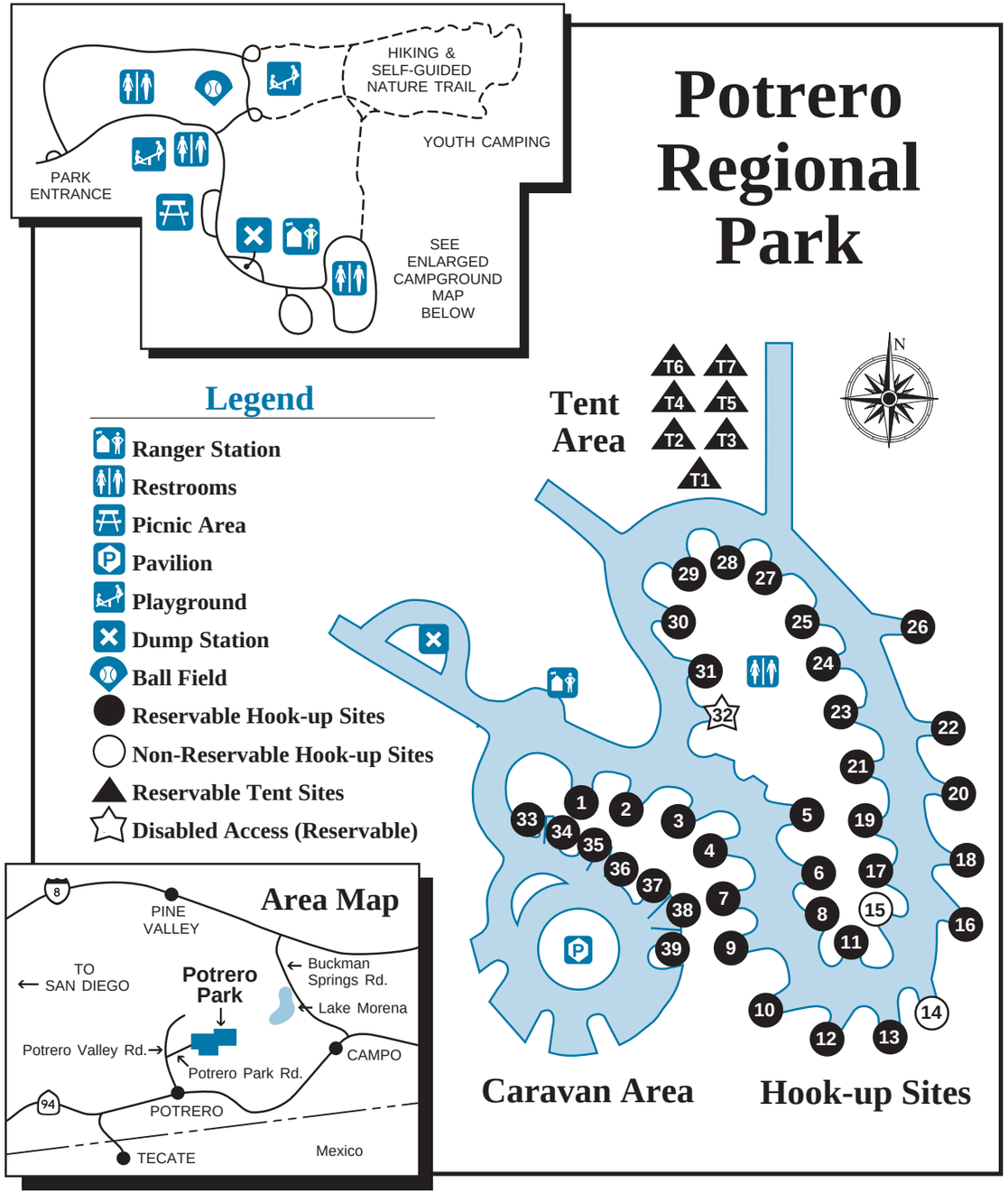

PARK REGULATIONS

Fire Hazards: Sec. 41.118 — No person shall ignite, or permit to be ignited, a fire in any location in a County park, except in a campfire or cooking area provided by the County or as specifically authorized by the Park Ranger.

Pets: Sec 41.123 — (a) Pets are permitted in County parks during the hours that such parks are open to the public. Pets are prohibited on all County trails outside camp and picnic areas and at Agua Caliente County Park. Pets are not allowed in Cabins.

Plants: Sec. 41.111— No person shall pick, dig up, cut, mutilate, destroy, injure, disturb, move, molest, burn or carry away any plant vegetation, or portion thereof, including aquatic plants.

Peace and Quiet: Sec 41.135 — No person shall disturb the peace and quiet of a County park by any loud or unusual noise, or by the sounding of automobile horns or noise-making devices, or by the use of profane, obscene or abusive language or gestures.

Sanitation: Sec. 41.149 — The Park Ranger shall control the size, type and arrangement of trailers and other private camping equipment and facilities permitted in the area in order to maintain the sanitation and orderly appearance of County park camping areas. Disposal of wastewater shall be at locations designated for the dumping of wastewater.

Youth Camping: Sec. 41.141 — No person or persons under the age of 18 years shall be issued an overnight camping permit unless accompanied by an adult. Said adult shall have either parental right or written authorization to approve medical treatment for those under the age of 18 years.

Alcohol Beverages: Sec. 41.136 — No person shall transport into a County park, or consume upon the premises of a County park, any intoxicating liquors having an alcoholic content in excess of 20% by volume.

Check-in time: 2:00 p.m. Check-out time: 1:00 p.m.

Overnight camping in County parks is contingent upon maintaining the immediate camping area in a safe and clean condition and complying with all park rules. Failure to comply with the above regulations will result in a suspension of camping privileges and a loss of all fees paid.

For more information call (858) 694-3049

Administrative offices:
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite P
San Diego, CA 92123-1699

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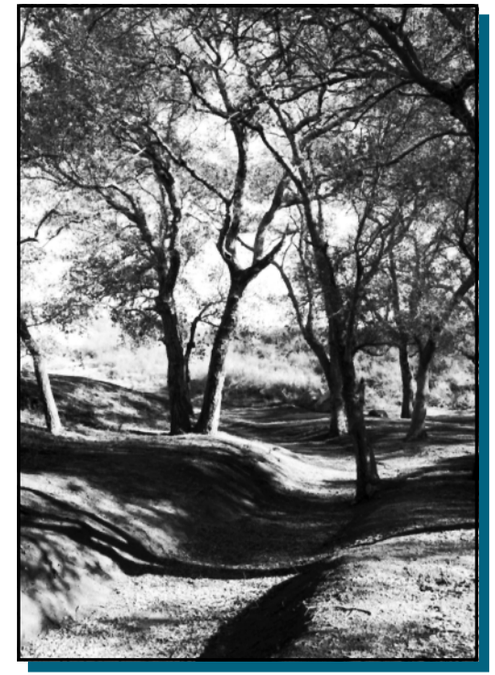
Potrero Regional Park



County of San Diego
Department of
Parks and Recreation

Reservations:

2454 Heritage Park Row
Old Town San Diego, CA 92110

San Diego County (Toll free) (877) 565-3600
Outside San Diego County (858) 565-3600
Information: (858) 694-3049
www.sdparks.org

Welcome to Potrero Regional Park

Potrero Regional Park, 45 miles east of San Diego, is in a broad valley dotted by coastal live oaks. Its grassy meadow and rocky hillsides provide quiet solitude for hikers and campers, and picnickers will enjoy the shade of hundred-year-old oak trees. The park is well suited for year round recreation. The average summer high is 90 and the average winter low is 34. At an elevation of 2300 feet, the valley can receive occasional light snowfall in the winter.

Some History

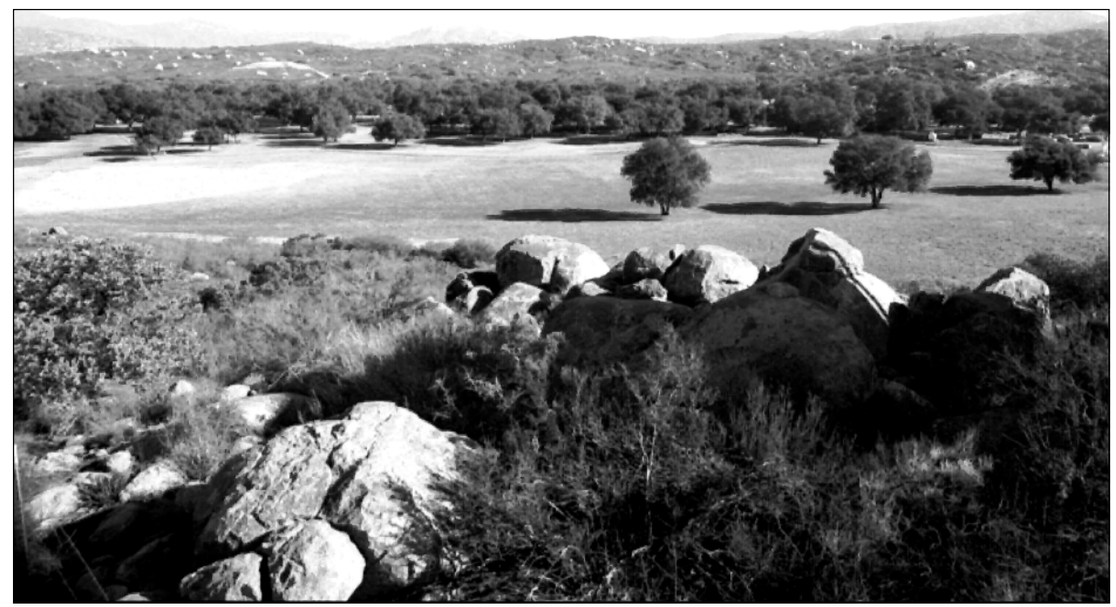
The Spanish word *potrero* means "pasturing place." Until the middle of the 19th century, the Potrero region was inhabited only by Kumeyaay Indians, who found the area rich in their main food, the acorn. Evidence of their way of life can be seen on the park's nature trail. Look for the large rock pitted with smooth holes, in which they ground the acorns into meal.

In 1868 Charlie McAlmond, a ship captain from San Diego, settled in the Potrero Valley and established a cattle ranch and farm. Others soon followed, becoming ranchers or wood cutters. The cordwood business flourished in this oak woodland, and large horse-drawn wagons hauled firewood and bark to San Diego.

What You'll See

Wagons no longer run between Potrero and San Diego, but much of the area might still seem like home to Captain McAlmond. Because the mountainous habitat has suffered relatively little disturbance, wildlife abounds here. Rare predators such as mountain lions and bobcats are seen occasionally. Some of the more conspicuous animal residents include mule deer, coyotes, raccoons, striped and spotted skunks, and brush rabbits.

Many of the bird species native to Southern California live in the oaks and surrounding chaparral. Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks, golden eagles, acorn woodpeckers, and scrub jays are just a few that you might notice. Observant visitors may also see reptiles such as the Great Basin fence lizard or the San Diego gopher snake. Rattlesnakes are occasionally reported; be cautious of these natural residents of the park and leave them undisturbed. During the spring, listen for the evening call of the Pacific tree frog.

Facilities

Potrero Regional Park offers RV, tent, and group camping. Groups, including corporate campouts, can use developed and primitive sites and can reserve a picnic area or the enclosed pavilion. Hot showers are available for campers staying at one of the 39 RV sites, which have electrical hookups and water. There is a holding tank disposal station at the campground. Much of the 115-acre park consists of picnic areas. Visitors can also enjoy ball fields, a dance pavilion, playgrounds, and hiking trails. The nearby town of Potrero offers a general store, café, post office, and library. The railroad museum and century-old historic stone store in Campo make for an interesting side trip, and the colorful Mexican community of Tecate is only minutes away.