

# Año Nuevo State Park General Plan Highlights

<p><i>Park unit Classification</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Consolidate two existing parks</b> (the coastal State Reserve and the inland State Park) into one unified state park unit</li></ul>
<p><i>Park access and development</i></p> <p><i>Provide efficient, well-designed, and safe park access. Provide environmentally compatible and sustainable park facilities.</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Continue Dickerman-Steele Ranch as the main visitor center</b> and park orientation area</li><li>■ <b>Improve coastal access</b>, trailheads, parking, facilities, and along State Highway 1 for both coastal and inland areas</li><li>■ <b>Establish inland visitor access and day use facilities</b> at Lake Elizabeth</li><li>■ <b>Consider family/group day use picnic area and/or park maintenance facility</b> south of Cascade Ranch</li><li>■ <b>Incorporate sustainable design principles</b> into park design, development, operations, and maintenance</li><li>■ <b>Make park facilities universally accessible</b></li></ul>

## *Natural Resources*

*Preserve and manage native plant and animal community ecosystems*



- **Provide a higher level of protection for coastal resources** through the designation of a Natural Preserve (800+ acres).
- **Natural Preserve requires classification** by the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and will replace the wildlife protection area (currently 434 acres).
- **Preserve the wild, natural, and rural character** of the coast and the inland backcountry area
- **Retain coastal park facilities in established buffer zone** between the Natural Preserve and State Highway 1

## *Cultural Resources*

*Identify, protect, and preserve significant archeological and historic resources*



- **Preserve the historic character and cultural resources** of the Dickerman-Steele Ranch and the Cascade Ranch
- **Ensure protection of Año Nuevo Island and coastal cultural resources**
- **Establish a Cultural Preserve for the inland Quiroste Valley** (about 225 acres). Consult with local Ohlone representatives on management of Cultural Preserve.

## Recreation

*Provide a variety of recreation and visitor opportunities*



- **Maintain and improve coastal trails** for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study, and photography
- **Provide hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail opportunities in inland areas.** Coordinate with surrounding open space agencies on connecting to regional recreation networks
- **Allow enroute camping in proposed parking lot at Lake Elizabeth.** Consider other inland appropriate overnight opportunities
- **Consider emerging forms of recreation** such as geocaching and evaluate benefits and potential impacts

## Trails

*Provide a trail system that offers a variety of experiences*



- **Retain and improve existing trails.** Improve Cascade Falls trail. Support California Coastal Trail connection to Pigeon Point Light Station SHP
- **Establish primary inland multi-use trailhead** (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian) at Lake Elizabeth.
- **Establish secondary inland trailhead near Gazos Creek Road** and Cloverdale Road
- **Use existing inland fire roads as an inland multi-use trail system.** Connect to the surrounding regional trail network.
- **Coordinate with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)** on trail connections to Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property

## Interpretation

Create a positive connection between park visitors and the diverse natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources from Año Nuevo Island and the coast to the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains



- **Expand interpretation beyond marine resources** to include the entire range of coastal and inland park natural and cultural resources.
- Research and develop opportunities to **coordinate and partner with other nearby interpretation and education providers.**
- **Key topics for natural resource interpretation** include the pinniped rookeries and coastal wildlife habitats, rare natural vegetation communities, and sensitive plant and animal species.
- **Key topics for cultural resource interpretation** include the Ohlone culture, the Portolá expedition's contact with the Ohlone, historic coastal ranching and farming, the Light Station, and maritime history.
- **Other important topics** are the park's diverse scenic and landscape features, protection of the park's resources, and recreation opportunities.

## Park operations

Provide effective and efficient park management



- **Relocate park HQ to a rehabilitated structure at Dickerman-Steele Ranch**
- **Continue research activities at Año Nuevo Island.** No public access
- **Continue existing staff residences** on coast and at Cascade Ranch
- **Consider operations and maintenance facilities south of Cascade Ranch**

