



Malibu Creek State Park

1925 Las Virgenes Road • Calabasas, CA 91302 • (818) 880-0367

Malibu Creek State Park preserves for public use more than 6,000 acres of rugged, mainly virgin land in the middle of the Santa Monica Mountains—within the largest metropolitan area on the West Coast.

Ancient Forces Made for Filming Paradise

Rapid and dramatic changes folded and uplifted the earth to create the spectacular landscape of Malibu Creek State Park. You can see evidence of the park's exciting geologic history in jagged mountains, rock outcroppings, cliff-like slopes and deep gorges. Over the past two million years, severe changes in climate, earthquakes, erosion and the collision of tectonic plates formed these rugged slopes, canyons and valleys. These forces continue to shape the landscape today in relatively rapid and dramatic ways. In the early days of the filming industry, wild, rugged terrain that could double for far locations was at a premium, especially if it was near Hollywood. This area has been transformed by filmmakers into old Mexico, outer space, an army hospital in Korea, and other exotic scenes. Movies and television shows filmed here include *M*A*S*H*, *The Planet of the Apes*, *Pleasantville* and *How Green Was My Valley*. The Angeles District Headquarters building, located on park property, was once the "dream house" in the 1948 classic, *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*.



The People Who Called It Home

The land that is now Malibu Creek State Park was bountiful for the Chumash people who lived in this area for thousands of years. Grasslands, chaparral, oak woodlands and riparian woodlands (stream areas) provided abundant sources of food, water and materials. An incredible variety of wild plants were preserved or readily available fresh. Fish, shellfish and wild game were skillfully hunted, used for materials or eaten. Archaeologists have uncovered the site of a village in the northeast section of the park. Known as *Talepop*, the village probably consisted of about 40 people.

When Spanish explorers first came into contact with the Chumash, they found a highly-developed culture of settled villages,

established class structures and extensive trade systems. The Chumash are renowned for their use of the plank canoe (*tomol*), extraordinary craftsmanship, oral traditions, music and a rich religious life. Exploration and immigration by Europeans forever changed the lives of the Chumash people. Their descendants still carry on many of their traditions today.

A few homesteaders settled here after the 1850s. The Sepulveda Adobe, at the corner of Las Virgenes Road and Mulholland Highway, housed an early homesteading family in the 1860s. Before the bulk of the property was purchased by 20th Century Fox Studios in 1946, it served as a country club in the 1920s. In fact, the main trail to the backcountry, Craggs Road, is named after the Craggs Country Club. Some portions of the park's visitor center, the nearby ruins of the Mott Adobe, and the dam at Century Lake still allow a glimpse into the life of the park in the early 1900s.

The Park Today

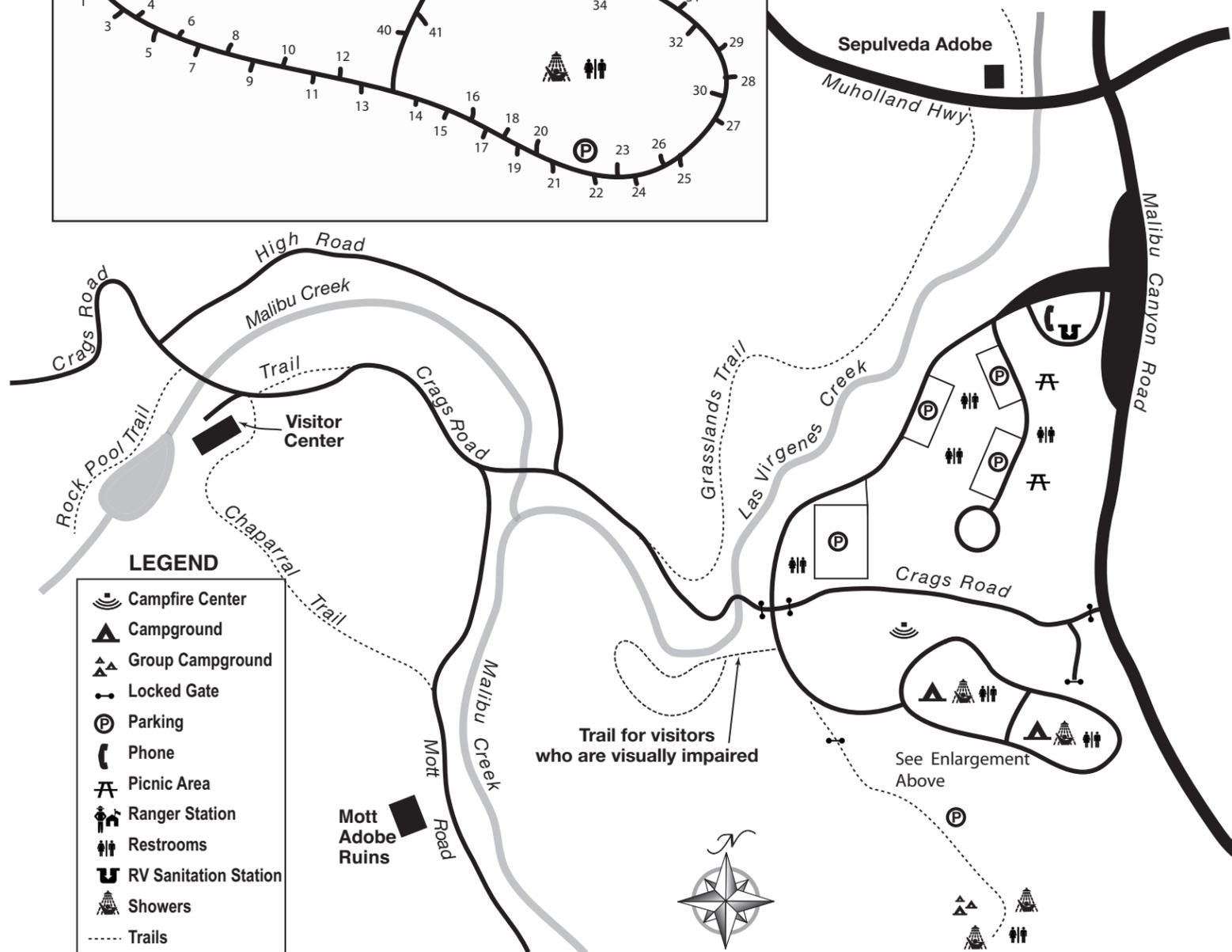
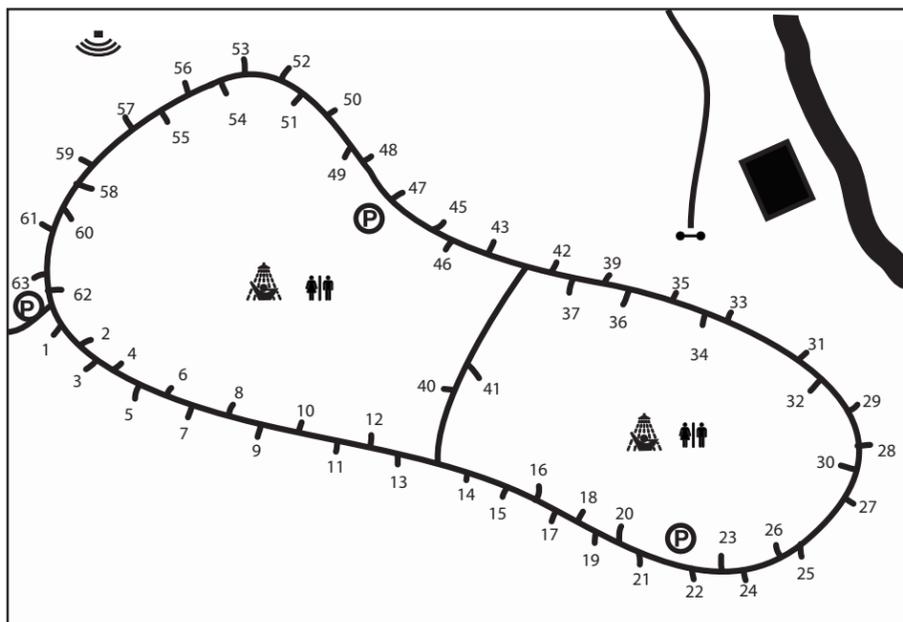
In 1974 the State of California purchased the studio's holdings in order to protect the land for future generations.

Malibu Creek meanders from west to east through the middle of the park, its elevation dropping from 700 to 500 feet. The creek was dammed in the early 1900s to form the 7-acre Century Lake. Numerous smaller creeks empty into Malibu Creek from the highlands, particularly in the winter and spring.

From the creek to the northern border of the park, much of the area is oak savannah: sloping grassland dotted with valley oak trees—some of the southernmost of the California valley oaks. Many of the slopes are covered with chaparral—a mixture of drought resistant, fire adapted shrubs. While visiting this park you may get a glimpse of the abundant wildlife enjoying the habitat we strive to keep safe. Please join us in our efforts to preserve and protect this magnificent park.



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Please Remember...

- Checkout time is noon.
- Quiet hours are 10 PM to 6 AM.
- Generators may only be operated between the hours of 10 AM and 8 PM.
- All bicycle riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.
- The maximum speed limit in the park is 15 MPH.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times and must be inside a tent or RV at night. Dogs are not permitted on trails.
- Campfires are permitted only in the metal fire rings. Wood may be used during low fire danger conditions, and coal during medium fire conditions. No fires are permitted during high fire risks.
- Please check at entrance station for conditions.
- Alcohol is permitted in the camping and picnic areas only, and only for those 21 years of age or older.
- Minors, camping or visiting alone, must have written permission from a parent or guardian, including a contact phone number, to be admitted into the park.
- Vehicles may park only in the campsite for which you have been registered. There is a 2-vehicle limit per site. All vehicles must remain on the pavement.
- Please do not occupy any campsite(s) until you have registered and paid for them.