

Pacheco State Park



Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at (209) 826-6283 or (209) 826-1197. This publication can be made available in alternate formats. Contact interp@parks.ca.gov or call (916) 654-2249.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call: (800) 777-0369

(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

711, TTY relay service

www.parks.ca.gov

Discover the many states of California.™

Pacheco State Park

38787 Dinosaur Point Road

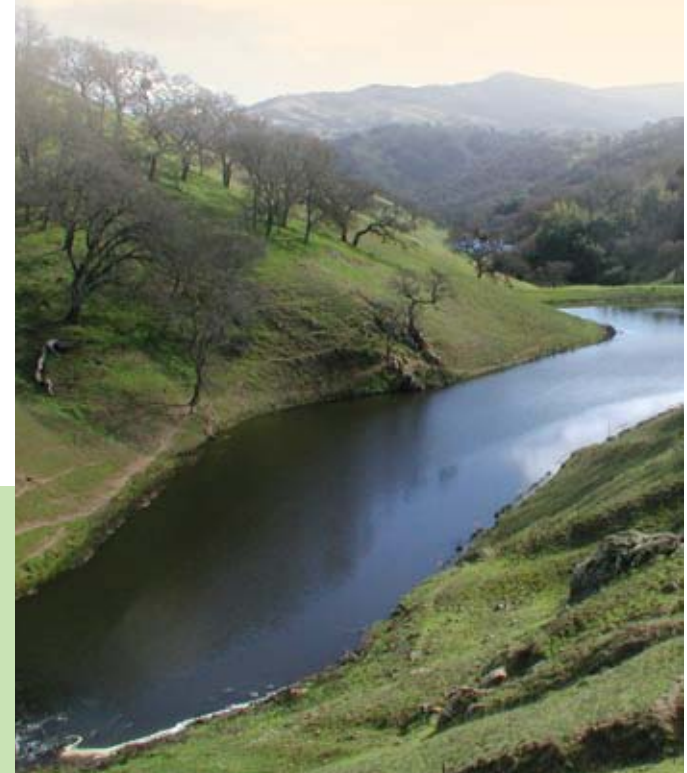
Hollister, CA 95023

(209) 826-6283

www.parks.ca.gov/pacheco

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*Pacheco's many
small lakes, ponds and
streams provide remote
and charming spots to
rest, water horses or
enjoy a picnic.*



Explosions of colorful wildflowers,

incredible vistas from rolling hills, secluded meadows—these are all part of vibrant Pacheco State Park. The last remaining portion of an old Mexican land grant, El Rancho San Luis Gonzaga, the 6,890 acres of this state park are rich with wildlife and historic features.

The Pacheco area is semiarid. Summer temperatures range from 80 to 100 degrees while winter brings a brisker 45 to 65 degrees. Evenings are cool all year due to coastal air currents moving across Pacheco Pass. Layered clothing is recommended.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

Archaeological and ethnographic evidence indicates that Pacheco Pass was a borderland primarily inhabited by the Northern Valley Yokuts tribe and the Mutsun branch of Coastal Ohlone. Small, seasonal camps were common among these groups. Larger villages, with more elaborate circular structures and semi-subterranean pit houses, could shelter about 200.

The native people experienced large population losses as a result of Mexican incursions; they were almost destroyed by early American gold prospectors and settlers. Today, the tribes have reestablished their ancient roots and continue to reside in the region. Highway 152 along the park traces an old native trail running from the Central Valley to the coast.

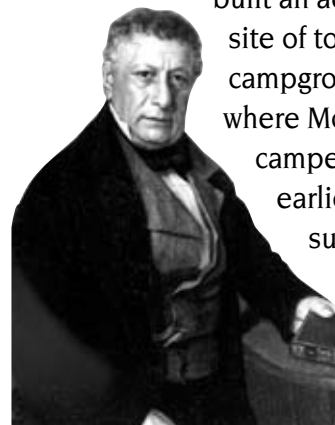


The Pacheco Family

Pacheco Pass is strategically located at the edge of the Diablo Range, providing a vital transportation link between the Pacific coast and California's Central Valley.

In 1806 Gabriel Moraga and Father Pedro Muñoz traversed the pass during the first documented European expedition. They camped at a former Yokuts village site.

Soldier and wagon maker Francisco Perez Pacheco came to California from Mexico in 1820. The Mexican governor granted a 48,000-acre parcel, El Rancho San Luis Gonzaga, to Francisco Pacheco in 1843.



The following year, his son Juan Perez Pacheco built an adobe outpost on the site of today's San Luis Reservoir campground, near the location where Moraga and Muñoz had camped nearly 40 years earlier. The adobe house subsequently served as a stage stop, telegraph station, gambling hall and even a gas station

Francisco Pacheco

and roadside cafe for travelers. Many roads have since been built through the tranquil hills, including the original Pacheco Pass toll road, engineered by Andrew Firebaugh in 1856.

The Pacheco family continued to flourish, increasing their land holdings until they were among the wealthiest landowners in California. Pacheco descendants maintained title to this property for five generations.

The park came into existence through the dream of Paula Fatjo, the great-great granddaughter of Francisco Pacheco. After inheriting the land, Fatjo wanted her ranch to be safeguarded for those who shared her love for the animals and the beautiful, unspoiled land found here. In 1992, she bequeathed the remaining 6,890 acres of her ranch to the State.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Features

Pacheco State Park is famed for its sweeping panoramas of mostly undeveloped grasslands and oak woodlands. Its location atop the Diablo Mountain Range provides impressive vistas in all directions. The 1,927-foot Spike's Peak offers a 360-degree view of San Luis Reservoir, the Central Valley, and the Coast Mountain Range. Grasslands, woodlands, ponds and natural springs provide seasonal interest. Summer and autumn grasses turn gold, while spring rains bring bursts of wildflower colors. Frequent strong winds have sculpted the old blue and live oaks into striking windswept forms.

Plants and Animals

The park's native perennial grasses include one-sided bluegrass, purple needlegrass, and wild rye grasses. Carpeting the hills in spring are such wildflowers as butter-n-eggs, yellow violets, shooting star, popcorn flower, larkspur and California poppy.

A variety of wild animals calls the park home. Tule elk, deer, bobcats, coyotes and foxes roam the slopes while golden eagles and several species of hawks soar above the treetops. Cattle graze on the historic ranch in winter and spring, as they have for more than 100 years.

WIND TURBINE FARM

Silent, three-armed sentinels dot the hills of Pacheco State Park, providing clean energy for homes across the state. The eastern portion of the park is leased to a commercial venture that operates wind power plants



School groups learn about wind energy.

and maintains turbines that generate enough electrical power for 3,500 homes. Call the park for tour information.

ACTIVITIES

Trails

Twenty-eight miles of trails offer several varied loop choices for visitors.

Hiking—Visitors are encouraged to hike the trails once traversed by many historical figures—including the Yokuts and Mutsun people, Spanish

missionaries and soldiers, Mexican vaqueros, gold seekers and bandits.

Biking—All park trails currently allow bicycles and offer beginners and skilled riders a challenging and enjoyable ride over gentle slopes and steep hills.

Equestrians—Paula Fatjo donated the property to promote a love of horses and of undisturbed land. Scenic equestrian trails wind throughout the park, and several small lakes provide drinking water for the horses. Primitive horse camping is available at the day-use area. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (209) 826-1197.

Special Events/Programs

Springtime guided walks highlight the park's fascinating history, and wildflower displays showcase its natural features. Kite Day and Wildflower Day are held annually. Call for dates and times.



ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Accessibility is continually improving; however, there are currently no wheelchair-accessible activities at this park. For updates, check <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Henry W. Coe State Park
9000 East Dunne Avenue
Morgan Hill 95037
(408) 779-2728
- San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, 7 miles west of I-5 on Highway

152. 31426 Gonzaga Road, Gustine 95322
(209) 826-1197

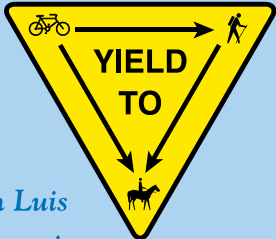
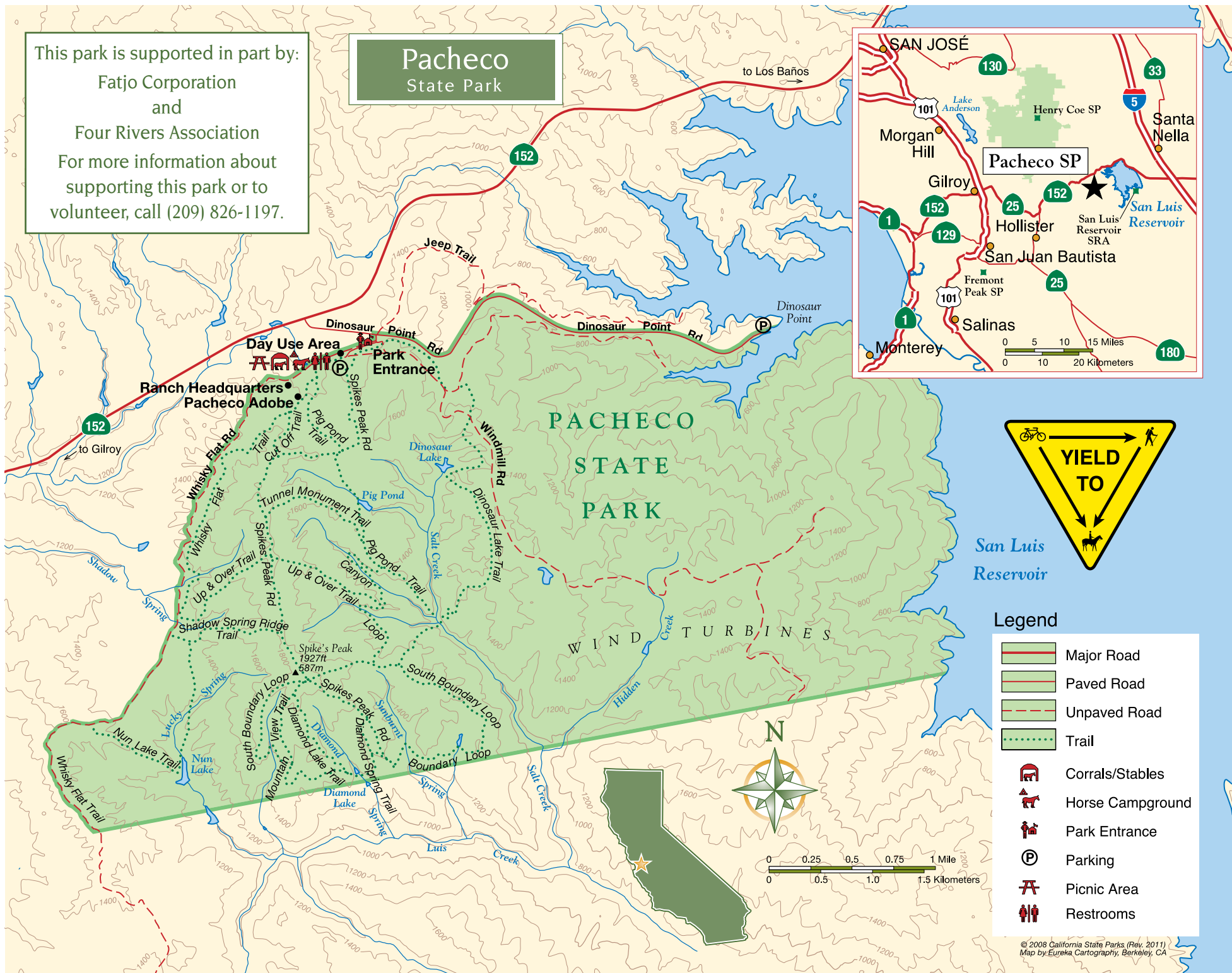
PLEASE REMEMBER

- The park's natural and cultural resources are protected by state law, and may not be removed or disturbed.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited in state parks.
- Dogs are not allowed on the trails or in the backcountry of the park.
- Drinking water is not available in the park.

WARNING: The western black-legged tick is common throughout California and is often found on the tips of grasses and shrubs. Rattlesnakes and poison oak are also present. Help preserve natural features and stay safe. Keep on marked trails and avoid contact with vegetation.

This park is supported in part by:
 Fatjo Corporation
 and
 Four Rivers Association
 For more information about
 supporting this park or to
 volunteer, call (209) 826-1197.

Pacheco
 State Park



San Luis Reservoir

Legend

- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Trail
- Corrals/Stables
- Horse Campground
- Park Entrance
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Mile
 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 Kilometers