



# San Mateo County Parks Foundation

inspiring people to care for,  
learn about and enjoy our parks

Spring 2017



Lots of groups enjoy Sanchez Adobe year round, but especially during Rancho Day Fiesta.

## Be a Part of History at Sanchez Adobe in Pacifica

It is a gorgeous spring day in Pacifica. Fourth-graders from Roy Cloud Elementary School in Redwood City are having fun making adobe bricks in a mud pit. For their field trip, they are experiencing life on a Californio Rancho, learning to rope a “cow”, grind corn and make candles, with Sanchez Adobe as the backdrop.

Sanchez Adobe is the second-oldest building in San Mateo County, but the oldest that is open to the public. A county park since 1947, Sanchez Adobe and its field trip programs are run by the San Mateo County Historical Association. “It is unusual to encounter a place where the first three periods of California history are represented so well,” says Mitch Postel, president of SMCHA. “Sanchez Adobe is something to be proud of and it is right in our backyard.”

### A history worth knowing

Those three significant periods start with the Native American period. The Ohlone village of Pruristac was located at this site and archaeological evidence indicates the existence of a shell midden (where they would dump their food waste and other garbage). The local Native Americans met Gaspar de Portolá before he discovered San Francisco Bay.

“For anyone interested in Western history, this is a pivotal moment,” remarks Postel. “Before this time, the Spanish didn’t have a sense of the geography of Alta California. Then in 1769 they discovered the Golden Gate and the waterways and geography of California were laid out before them.” This was a huge development for the Spanish. And so begins the second major period of California history.

Spanish missionaries had arrived in California and set up a system of missions, outposts and presidios along the coast. Mission Dolores (formerly Mission San Francisco de Asís) established a mission outpost, or asistencia at the site that is now Sanchez Adobe. It was a support farm, growing corn, peas, asparagus and other food for the mission. Archaeological remains of the mission outpost buildings have been identified at the northeastern corner of the site.

Soon, though, the Native American population serving the outpost declined and the land was used for raising cattle. The mission system was secularized by the Mexican government in 1834 and land was granted to Mexican settlers, known as Californios. This is the third major period of California history. Don Francisco Sanchez was granted Rancho San Pedro (what is present day Pacifica) in 1839 and he started building his adobe house in 1842.

A notable figure in California history, Francisco Sanchez served as alcalde (mayor) of Yerba Buena, later San Francisco, and commandant of the Presidio. In January 1847, Sanchez led the Californios against American Marines at the Battle of Santa Clara.

While California was claimed by the United States in 1848, Sanchez and his wife continued to own the land until 1871. General Edward Kirkpatrick was the next major owner, and during his time, the adobe saw many interesting uses, including speakeasy during Prohibition and then as storage for artichokes.

### Sanchez Adobe is getting its day in the sun

With the exception of a new roof and other minor improvements, Sanchez Adobe has not seen any significant reno-

Continued on page 7

## Come visit us

Come find us at the Captain's House in Coyote Point.

**San Mateo County Parks Foundation**

**1701 Coyote Point Drive,  
San Mateo, CA 94401**

### San Mateo County Parks

Coyote Point Recreation Area

Crystal Springs Trails  
San Andreas Trail  
Sawyer Camp Trail

Edgewood Park & Preserve

Devil's Slide Trail

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Pillar Point Bluffs  
Pillar Point Marsh

Flood Park

Friendship Park

Junipero Serra Park

Huddart Park

Memorial Park

Pescadero Creek Park

Sam McDonald Park

Heritage Grove

Mirada Surf

Moss Beach Park

San Bruno Mountain Park

Sanchez Adobe

San Pedro Valley Park

Quarry Park

Woodside Store

Wunderlich Park

### Contact information

**San Mateo County Parks Foundation**

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## Updated Trail Signs Put You on the Map!

Thanks to our awesome partners at REI as well as you, our amazing donors, new trail signs are being installed in more parks. The goal is to have attractive, informative and uniform signs in all 20 parks, so visitors can enjoy a safe and fun park outing. The newest trails signs went up in Huddart and Wunderlich county parks at the end of 2016.

The signs let you know where you are going, how long it will take you to get there, and a particular trail's level of difficulty. Each sign is numbered, which corresponds to numbers on new park maps, so you can easily spot where you are in the park, relative to other trails and amenities.



*Trudi, Michael and 170 other park lovers attended the first Take A Hike of 2017 at Huddart Park on April 1. The trail sign was a good place to rest and assess next steps.*

# Take A Hike San Mateo County

*Explore the natural beauty of San Mateo County. Learn about the history of our local parks as staff and volunteers guide you along picturesque trails.*



**HEALTHY  
PARKS  
HEALTHY  
PEOPLE  
BAY AREA**

### 2017 Schedule

Walks begin at 9 a.m. in main parking lot of park.

**April 1  
Huddart Park**

**May 6  
Sawyer Camp Trail**

**June 3  
San Bruno Mountain Park**

**July 1  
Quarry Park**

**August 5  
Edgewood Park**

**September 2  
San Pedro Valley Park**

**October 7  
Pescadero Creek Park**

**November 5  
Pick a Park, Take a Hike**



For more information, find us on Facebook or visit [www.SMCoParks.org/TakeAHike](http://www.SMCoParks.org/TakeAHike)

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# Digging in the dirt is good for your soul

The benefits of being outside in nature have been studied and discussed a lot. Taking a walk in the forest or enjoying a beautiful vista can provide numerous physical and mental rewards. These include improving focus, easing depression and reducing ADHD symptoms in kids. We also combat obesity, diabetes and our risk for heart disease when we get outdoors and move around more in nature.

As many gardeners know, digging in the dirt is good for our health and can make us happier. **This might explain why there are so many happy people participating in the San Mateo County Parks Stewardship Corps.** Volunteers and park staff work together at a different location each week to weed out invasive plants, re-introduce native plants and help with seed collection.

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation, with help from you, our amazing supporters, supplies these volunteers with the tools and refreshments they need to do excellent work. These photographs depict happy volunteers working hard to re-introduce native plants adjacent to the parking lot at San Bruno Mountain.

This is a great team-building activity for your team at work, so if you need a day out of the office, let us know and we can arrange a volunteer event for you.



*Volunteers work hard and have fun while weeding and planting at San Bruno Mountain.*

# Thank you to our generous supporters!

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*Every effort was made to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. The Foundation regrets any errors or omissions. Please contact us so we may make the proper correction.*

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# Kiwanis Club Volunteers care for Coyote Point

## Sanchez Adobe

(Continued from page 1)



Park Ranger Kevin O'Brien shows volunteers how to use a weed wrench. We love park volunteers!

vations since the 1950s. That is now changing. Sanchez Adobe is getting its day in the sun and the goal is to make it even more of an educational center that gives visitors a robust idea of all the people who lived there over the centuries and what their daily lives were like.

In addition to water, sewer and electrical system upgrades, the site will boast a new interpretive center that will house exhibits, including archaeological remains found on site over the years. The adobe will be re-furnished to authentically replicate its heyday in the 1850s. An ADA-accessible pathway will take people around the entire property to various points of interest. Along it, interpretive panels and activities will demonstrate how the site was

used; from the role of San Pedro Creek in the Native Americans' lives to the exposed foundation of the old mission outpost. New native landscaping will shield out signs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The San Mateo County Parks Foundation is proud to partner with the parks department and the historical association in fundraising for these improvements. In particular, the foundation is raising money for the ADA-pathway and new landscaping. This project will be completed in 2018.

You can donate to this important project online at [supportparks.org](http://supportparks.org) or by mailing your donation to the San Mateo County Parks Foundation at 1701 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo, CA 94401.



The Kiwanis Club of Greater San Mateo has adopted Coyote Point Recreation Area. They come out quarterly to remove invasive plants.

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## San Mateo County Parks Foundation

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Thanks to thousands of individual donors like you, the Foundation has provided millions of dollars to support our San Mateo County Parks.

### **Every gift counts – join us today!**

You can support the Foundation and our parks by making your donation today. Your gift will help us fund priority programs and projects that benefit park visitors and the parks' natural resources.

Gifts can be mailed to  
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### **Leave a Legacy Gift to the San Mateo County Parks Foundation**

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For more information, please contact Michele Beasley, Executive Director, at [Michele@SupportParks.org](mailto:Michele@SupportParks.org) or (650) 321-5812.

### **Our commitment**

**The San Mateo County Parks Foundation is committed to providing funding to improve the quality of County Parks for our community.**

**To get this newsletter by email,  
send an email to [Michele@supportparks.org](mailto:Michele@supportparks.org)**