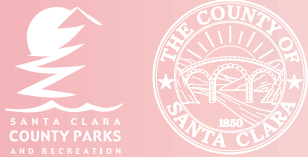


# Ed R. Levin



### WELCOME

Welcome to Ed R. Levin County Park, one of Santa Clara County's most unique regional park and recreation areas. This 1,539 acre park combines the traditional features of an urban park such as picnicking, fishing and play areas, with the complex trail system of many regional wilderness parks. Ed Levin's expansive lawn areas make it an ideal spot for family outings, while the rolling grasslands and Oak woodlands are available to visitors looking for a back-to-nature experience. The park's Monument Peak provides a spectacular view of the valley floor and the San Francisco Bay. Enjoy your visit today, and return often to enjoy the many unique aspects of Ed R. Levin County Park.

### HOW TO GET THERE

Traveling on either Interstate 680 or 880, take the Calaveras Road exit in Milpitas. Drive east towards the foothills along Calaveras Road. Calaveras Road passes through the southern portion of Ed R. Levin Park. There are two main use areas in the park. The Sandy Wool Lake area is located north of Calaveras Road and the Spring Valley Pond area is located south of Calaveras Road. To reach the Sandy Wool Lake area, take a left turn off Calaveras Road onto Downing Road. Travel north along Downing Road to reach Sandy Wool Lake, the hang gliding area and the main trail use areas. To reach the Spring Valley Pond area, continue along Calaveras Road, past Downing Road and turn right into the parking area to reach the Ranger Station, Visitor Center and Spring Valley Pond. Spring Valley Golf Course parking and Club House is located across Calaveras Road from the park visitor center.

### ACTIVITIES

Hiking, cycling, horseback riding, picnicking and hang gliding are popular activities at Ed Levin Park. Visitors may rent horses at a local stable, enjoy the playground, or fly kites and play frisbee on one of the three lawn areas. The park is also the home of the Wings of Rogallo hang gliding club. It is a unique experience to watch these beautiful gliders and paragliders soar in the skies above the park.

Fishing is another favorite activity at Ed R. Levin Park. Sandy Wool Lake is stocked from November through May and is also the site for occasional model sailboat races. Swimming is prohibited, but many visitors enjoy paddling around the lake on inflatable rafts and other non-powered boats.

Hikers, equestrians and cyclists may enjoy the park's 19 mile trail system. The Mission-to-Monument Peak Trail section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail traverses the park, and is the only trail open to cyclists. Maps of the entire Bay Area Ridge Trail System may be obtained from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Some of the East Bay Regional Park District's trails also connect to Ed Levin Park.

The southern portion of the park, known as the Spring Valley Area, is named for the many springs that flow freely in this area. Spring Valley Pond is a favorite first-time fishing hole for children ages 5-12. The 18-hole Spring Valley Golf Course is also located in this area.

The Laguna Cemetery is also located on the Spring Valley Area. This pioneer cemetery was used from 1863 to 1912. Destroyed by vandals and neglected for years, it has recently been renovated. Stop by the cemetery gates and enjoy the fascinating memorial which provides a glimpse into the lives of the people buried there.

### TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS... LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

Millions of people visit Santa Clara County's regional parks each year. Please help preserve the natural beauty of our parklands and ensure the safety of our visitors by complying with these general rules and any posted regulations.

- Vehicles:** Observe posted speed limits. Stay on paved roadways and in designated parking areas.
- Garbage:** Place in receptacles provided. Recycling is encouraged.
- Dogs/Pets:** Allowed in limited areas as posted, and controlled on a 6-foot (or less) leash at all times. Restricted to confined areas (tent, camper, etc.) after dark.
- Fires:** Permitted in designated barbecue pits only. No fires on open ground. No wood fires.
- Weapons:** Firearms, air guns, and paintball guns are prohibited.
- Alcohol:** Permitted in picnic areas and campgrounds. Be responsible. Abusers may be asked to leave.
- Swimming:** Prohibited in all lakes, streams and reservoirs.
- Trails:** Trails may be closed due to poor conditions or environmental concerns. Please stay off those trails when so posted.
- Plants & Wildlife:** Collection of plant specimens is not permitted.

LEGEND

Ranger Station/Visitor Center  
Phone: (408) 262-6980

Park Entrance Kiosk/Information

Restrooms

Public Telephone

Parking

Bay Area Ridge Trail

Picnic Area

Reserved Group Area

Reserved Campground

Children's Playground

Horseshoe Pits

Volleyball

Water Trough

Equestrian Staging Area

Gate

Fishing

Two Lane Paved Road

Two Lane Park Road

Unpaved Road (restricted use)

Multiple Use Trail

Hiking/Equestrian Trail

Footpath

Paved Footpath

Trail Distance (miles)

Elevation Contours (feet)

Creek

Private Property

Other Public Lands

Golf Course

Turf Areas

Hang Gliding Take-off Point

Hang Gliding Landing Point

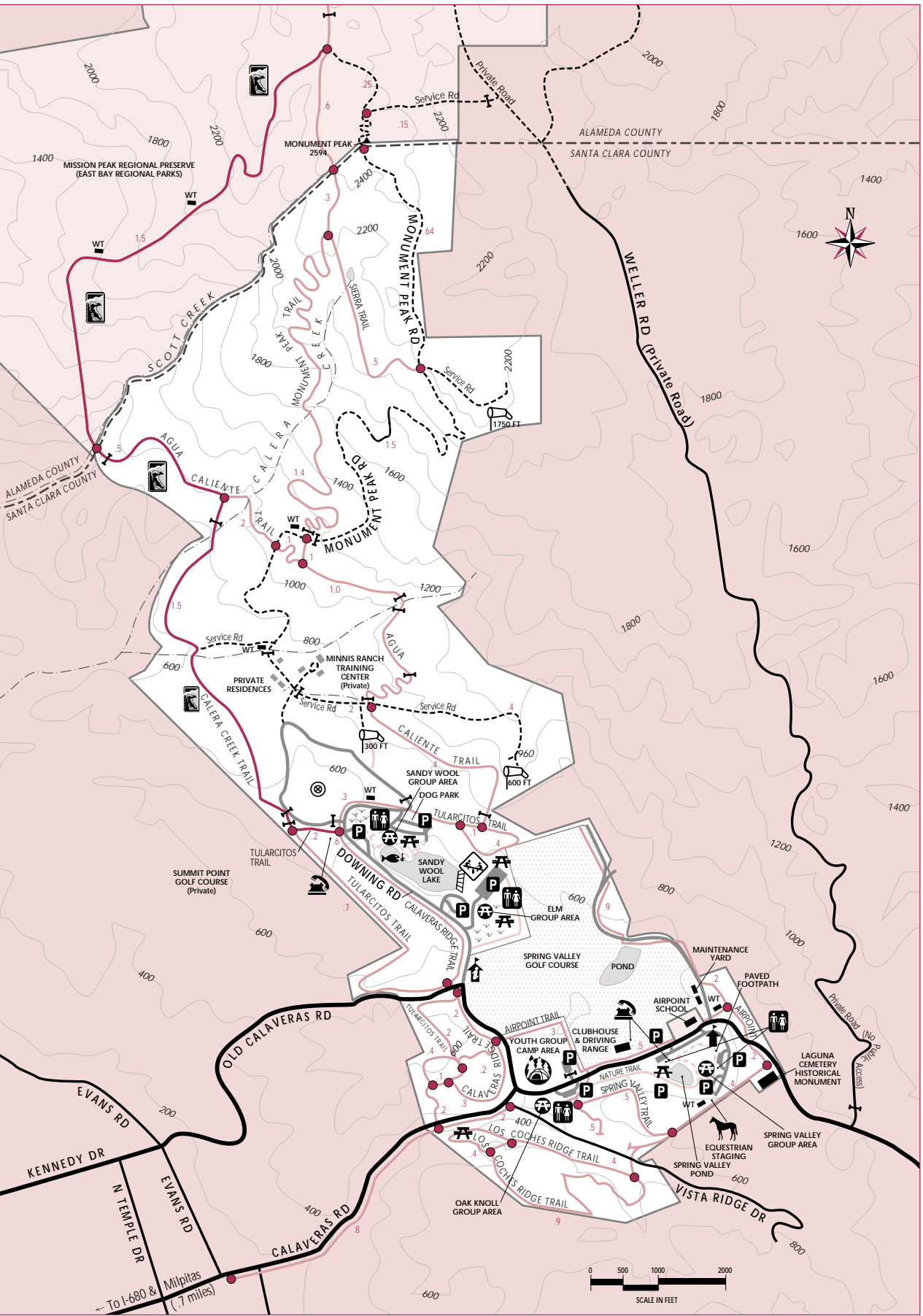
### HOURS & FEES

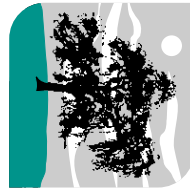
The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. until sunset. Vehicle entry fees are collected year-round.

RESERVABLE GROUP AREAS	CAPACITY
Sandy Wool Lake	75
Elm	200
Spring Valley	100
Oak Knoll	75

### ACCESSIBILITY

The majority of the park's facilities meet those standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act. For other specific information or special accommodations, contact the park office.



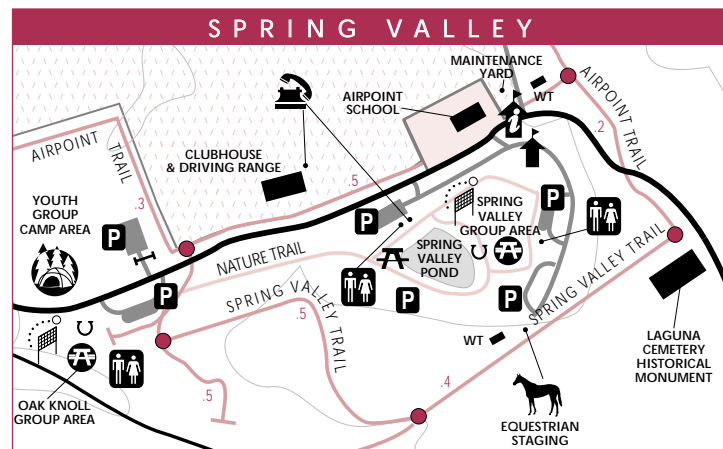


[www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org)

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## Park Charter Funds at Work...Thank You!



### PICNICKING

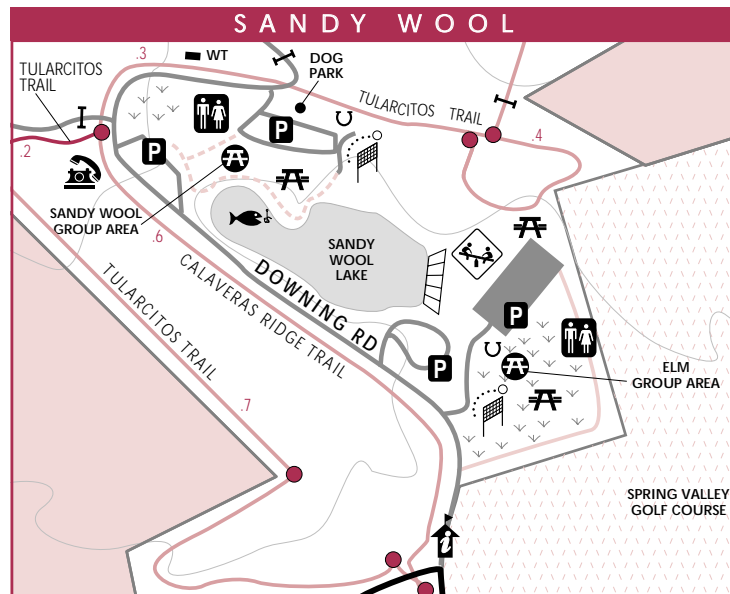
Picnicking by families and groups is one of the most popular activities at Ed R. Levin County Park. Please help make this experience enjoyable for everyone by adhering to the following rules and any posted regulations:

- Family picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A responsible adult (with picnic items) must be present in order to hold a picnic table.
- Reservations are recommended for groups larger than twenty. Please call (408) 355-2201, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis only. Parking stalls may not be saved. Reservations at group areas do not include reserved parking.
- Do not drive into picnic areas or onto lawns, paths, or landscaping.
- Twenty minutes is the maximum time allowed for parking in a yellow zone for unloading and loading of picnic supplies.
- Post directional signs in designated areas only.
- No tacks, nails, or staples on park signs, tables, or trees.
- Allow fires in barbecue pits to burn out. Water will damage the grill and pit.
- Amplified music is allowed at Elm group area only.

### SHARING THE TRAILS

Some trails within the park offer recreational opportunities for multiple users, while others are limited to specific activities. ANSI/Snell approved helmets are mandatory for all mountain bicyclists. For the safety and protection of all visitors, please adhere to the following trail etiquette guidelines:

- Be Considerate: Keep speeds at a safe pace. Yield to faster trail users. Use particular caution when passing children and senior citizens. Respect everyone's right to use the trail.
- Use Open Trails Only: Trails may be closed due to sensitive environmental concerns.
- Be Aware of Conditions: Riding (even on open trails) when conditions are poor, such as shortly after a rain, may cause trail damage.
- Plan Ahead: Know your equipment, your ability and where you are going. Carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions.



### NATURAL DIVERSITY

Ed R. Levin Park is primarily an Oak Woodland habitat. The park sits in a foothill valley, formed by millions of years of plate movement along the Calaveras and Hayward faults. Above the developed areas of the park are Fox, Bobcat, Coyote, Opossum and Skunk habitats. The diversity of animal and plant life here present endless opportunities for observation and appreciation. Each winter, the local Audubon Society inventories the different species of birds that inhabit the area. Visitors who watch carefully may see many of the more than sixty-four bird species that make this park their home.

The park is also fortunate to have a healthy spider and snake population. The normally shy and reclusive Tarantula is rarely seen in the daylight. It rarely wanders far from its burrow, with the exception of the fall mating season. During this time males are often seen wandering across park roads and paths in search of a mate. Visitors fortunate enough to see one of the beautiful creatures should take a moment to watch their delicate walk and study the symmetry of their bodies.

### CULTURAL HISTORY

Ed Levin County Park was once part of the tribal lands of the Tamyen Ohlone tribe. Today's park boundaries also encompass parts of three Mexican Ranchos. Most of today's park was part of Rancho Tularcitos, meaning "Little Tule Thickets". Tularcitos may have referred to the lagoons and tules in what would later be called Laguna Valley, which encompasses most of Ed R. Levin Park. The 4,394 acre Rancho was granted by the last Spanish Governor of Alta California, Pablo Vicente de Sola to Jose Higuera in 1821. Once California became a state, the rancho owners were required to confirm their land holdings with the state. During this time, portions of the ranchos were sold off to the newly arrived Americans. Settlers began settling in the foothill valleys. Josiah Evans, from Ohio, bought 800 acres of Rancho Tularcitos in 1853. Jacob Miller first settled in Calaveras Valley and then became the first to settle in Laguna Valley near the Spring Valley Area of Levin Park.

Pioneers of the 1860's included Henry Curtner of Indiana who arrived in California in 1852. In the late 1860's he bought the first of the thousands of acres of Rancho Tularcitos including much of present day Levin Park. In the 1870's Mary Miller and her two sons grew barley and wheat around present day Spring Valley day use area. Alex Anderson owned the golf course area and let out his land to Portuguese and Italian farmers. In 1881, William F. Downing and his family bought the Curtner lands just to the north of Laguna Valley. Benjamin Gordon settled with his family in Laguna Valley, building a home on the south side of Calaveras Road near Downing Road. Farming, cattle and dairying operations continued in the valley in the 1890's. Stone walls along the ridges are said to have been built by an Amish family named Matthews around the turn of the century. Weller Curtner recalled, "In the fall, when the crops were off, they would go out with stone boats made out of a couple of willow trees...they cleared the land (of rock) and built the fence at the same time." Other stone walls in the area remain a mystery.

The Laguna Cemetery, a two acre historic site, is located in the southeast corner of the park (on Calaveras Road). The first burials occurred in the early 1860's, with the last burial in 1914. Most of the 44 plots had been sold by 1867. The plot map includes the names of Josiah Evans, Mary and Jacob Miller, J. Weller, Felter and Pomeroy. By the 1950's only a few headstones remained. Because so many headstones are missing, the names and number of those buried in the cemetery is unclear. In 1993, the County Parks Department installed an interpretive plaque at the site.

Around the turn of the century, E.O. (Sandy) Wool acquired property near Mission Peak and on the north side of Calaveras Road, raising sheep and growing fruit trees. He would later become a County Supervisor for the area from 1937 to 1953, and Sandy Wool Lake would be named in his honor in 1968. The acreage that now includes the Spring Valley Golf Course was purchased by Al Wool and John Pyle in 1948. Wool and Pyle, and a man named Joe Soto built the golf course, which opened in 1956 and operated the course until 1967.



Mr. and Mrs. E.O. (Sandy) Wool 1915, shortly after their marriage. Wool family photo

In 1943, the 2,585 acre Downing Ranch was bought by Vance B. Minnis. The State of California had bought several hundred acres in Laguna Valley in hopes of building a reservoir; however, studies showed that the land was not suitable for a reservoir and the idea was abandoned. In the early 1960's, County Supervisor Ed R. Levin led a campaign to acquire the property from the state. After a special referendum, the 488 acres were purchased from the state in 1965. Levin died in 1966 and Airpoint Park, renamed Ed Levin Park, was opened in September 1969. In 1979, the County Parks Department acquired part of the Minnis Ranch which is still partially in operation.