

# Annadel 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 (707) 539-3911. This publication can be made available in alternate formats. Contact [interp@parks.ca.gov](mailto:interp@parks.ca.gov) or call (916) 654-2249.

### CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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**This park is operated in partnership  
with Sonoma County Regional Parks.**

### Annadel State Park

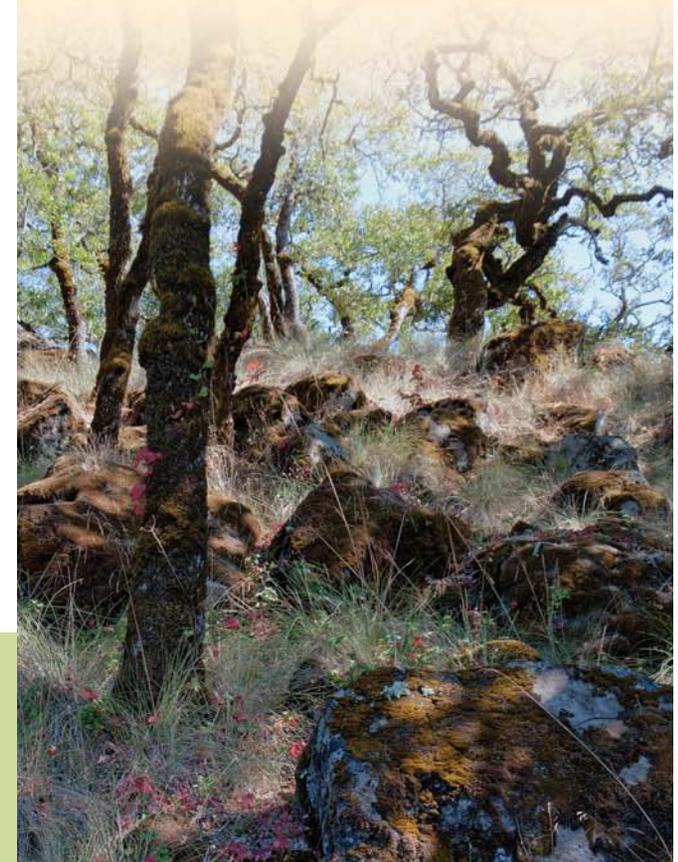
6201 Channel Drive

Santa Rosa, CA 95409

(707) 539-3911

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*Start in a cool, shaded  
forest—move through  
mixed oak to expansive  
open meadows and around  
a refreshing 26-acre lake  
through tangled chaparral—  
then return to the deep  
forest coolness.*



**A**nnadel State Park sits in the historic Valley of the Moon, an area popularized by author Jack London. This largely undeveloped park is 60 miles north of San Francisco on the eastern edge of Santa Rosa. The park has more than 5,500 acres of rolling hills, seasonal streams, meadows and woodlands free from modern intrusions.

Summers are hot and dry, with temperatures often in the 90s and evening lows near 50 degrees. At times during the summer, coastal fog penetrates inland, providing cool evenings. Most of the area's 30 inches of rain occur from November to April. Wintertime low temperatures can drop to the mid-20s with daytime highs in the 50s or 60s.

#### **PARK HISTORY**

For thousands of years, the Southern Pomo lived near what is now the park. No permanent village sites have been found in the park, but these lands were important as trading grounds and as a source of obsidian, a volcanic rock that was traded with other tribes, who would work it into scrapers, knives, arrow points and spearheads.

In the early 1800s, Russian and Aleutian fur trappers arrived in the area to establish Fort Ross, now a state historic park. They found the Pomo willing traders and hard workers. The Fort Ross settlers may have been the Pomo's first contact with non-native people. By the mid-1800s, many native people had been drawn into nearby Mission San Francisco Solano. Gold rush miners and settlers who wanted the Pomo

lands forced the Pomo into indentured servitude (despite California's prohibition against slavery) or moved them onto reservations. Though the Pomo resisted these drastic changes to their way of life, many succumbed to overwork and to European diseases to which they had no resistance.

With the arrival of Europeans, cattle ranching and farming gradually replaced the native pattern of hunting and gathering. By 1837 this area had become part of Los Guilicos Rancho, a Mexican land grant covering about 19,000 acres. Eleven years later, the property was acquired by William Hood, who came here from his native Scotland.

In the late 1800s, sheep and cattle grazing gave way to the quarrying of cobblestones. This was the major source of income for the Wymore and Hutchinson families, the area's principal landowners, until the early 1900s. Cobblestones were used in the building of San Francisco and other west coast cities,

as well as in their reconstruction after the 1906 earthquake. However, cobblestone roads were not suitable for motor vehicles, and by the 1920s demand for them had significantly declined.

In the 1930s, entrepreneur Joe Coney bought 3,200 acres of oak woodlands near Santa Rosa from Irish immigrant Samuel Hutchinson. Hutchinson had named his ranch by combining the name of his daughter, Annie, with dell (a small, secluded, wooded valley). Under the Coneys' ownership, it became known as "the Annadel Farm." Coney built a hunting and fishing retreat for his friends. He stocked the property with game birds and filled his man-made lake, Lake Ilsanjo (built in the mid-1950s and named for the Coney couple, Ilse and Joe), with black bass and other fish. When his fortunes began to diminish in the 1960s, Joe Coney decided to sell the ranch. California State Parks acquired Annadel in 1971, and it became a state park in 1974.



*Ledson Marsh*

## NATURAL HISTORY

Annadel's terrain consists of a diverse range of plant communities, including meadows, grasslands, forests and chaparral areas. Environmental conditions favor the development of these varied habitats, making it possible to view a wide variety of birds and animals during a visit. Deer are commonly seen around sunset, and coyotes are among the many species of wildlife here.

## RECREATION

Hikers, equestrians, mountain bicyclists, runners and nature-lovers can choose among more than 40 miles of trails. Elevation gains and degree of difficulty vary with each trail.



Warren Richardson Trail

## TRAILS

### Warren Richardson Trail (fire road)—

This trail, commemorating a prominent cattle rancher and hop grower, begins at the parking lot at the end of Channel Drive and goes uphill through a forest of Douglas-fir, bay and redwood trees. Parts of the trail are home to pileated woodpeckers and pygmy owls. In the spring, keep an eye out for calypso (fairy slipper) orchids between the Two Quarry and Steve's "S" Trail junction. At the 900-foot elevation, the forest gives way to open meadows and mixed oak woodlands, and you will get your first glimpse of Lake Ilsanjo when you intersect the North Burma Trail. The walk generally takes an hour to cover the 2½ miles to the lake.

Picnic tables are scattered along the shoreline. Circle the lake and return via Steve's "S" Trail to make a 6-mile loop.

**Cobblestone Trail**—This narrow, 2-mile trail beginning at the auxiliary parking area on Channel Drive is rocky on the bottom third, then flattens as it nears the boundary of the park. Farther along this route is the Wymore Quarry. At one time, a gravity-powered, narrow-gauge tramway transported the cobblestones produced at the quarry to a small-gauge railroad line, which is now Channel Drive. The stones were then transported to San Francisco and Sacramento, where some of the oldest streets are still paved in cobblestones. The trail ends at Rough-Go Trail.

**Spring Creek Trail**—There are two access points to this trail; one is the service road from Spring Lake's horse-trailer parking area,

and the other is from Santa Rosa's Viet Nam Veterans' Trail. This trail is completely shaded by alders, redwoods and arching bay trees that grow along the creek canyon, making this one of the most pleasant trails in the park on a hot summer day. The trail begins with an increase in elevation and ends at the lake.

**Canyon Trail (fire road)**—This 2-mile trail begins at the intersection of Spring Creek Trail near a wooden bridge. The trail's elevation increases steadily. At the top, discover a panoramic view of Santa Rosa, the Mayacamas Mountain Range with the Geysers, and Mount Saint Helena. Colorful "Indian warriors" bloom from March through May at the Marsh Trail intersection. Canyon Trail ends at the lake after passing by Hunter Spring, where a horse-watering trough is located.

**Marsh Trail**—This trail climbs steadily from its beginning at the intersection with Canyon Trail. Marsh Trail skirts the northern flank of Bennett Mountain. Higher elevations provide views of Lake Ilsanjo and the Mayacamas Mountain Range. The trail runs through prime oak woodlands, grasslands and cool islands of coastal redwoods. Threatened California red-legged frogs, popularized by Mark Twain's *Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, live at Ledson Marsh, where the trail terminates. (Please step with care.) The structures attached to various trees surrounding the marsh are nesting boxes for wood ducks.



California red-legged frog



*Mayacamas Range in the distance*

**North Burma Trail**—This route begins a third of a mile beyond the visitor center on Channel Drive. Follow a seasonal creek that receives its water from False Lake Meadow, a highland vernal pool, before passing through areas of chaparral and mixed forests. In the vernal pool near the Live Oak Trail area, look for tiny, very rare, white fritillary flowers blooming from March through May. The trail borders several meadows and ends at the Warren Richardson Trail, where there is a wonderful view of Lake Ilsanjo.

**Rough-Go Trail**—Try it to see how this steep, rough path earned its name. The trail has full southwestern exposure as it switchbacks past rocks, boulders and grassland meadows on the way to the lake.

the ranch; the “S” is for secret. Hikers will walk over a large area of obsidian chips, which was an important resource for the native Pomo. (Please do not collect any minerals or other finds.)

**Channel Trail**—This trail starts just past the visitor center on Channel Drive and ends at the main parking lot. About three-fourths of the way on the trail, hikers must exit the trail and go along the asphalt Channel

**Lawndale Trail**—The trail begins at the eastern end of the park off Lawndale Road from Highway 12 near Kenwood.

**Steve’s “S” Trail**—Restricted to hikers only, the route begins and ends at the Warren Richardson Trail. This steep path is shaded by firs and bay trees. The trail is named for Steve Hutchinson, the Hutchinsons’ grandson, who had his own secret pathways throughout

Drive for a very short distance before returning to the dirt trail. This area was one of many quarry sites that are located in Annadel.

### OTHER FEATURES

**Lake Ilsanjo**—This man-made, 26-acre lake is not stocked, but bluegill and largemouth bass live here. All anglers 16 years of age or older must carry a valid California fishing license. Visit the site at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov) for fishing regulations.

**Ledson Marsh**—First built as a reservoir to water eucalyptus trees, the marsh is now mostly overgrown with cattails, tules and native grasses. During the winter months, water collects here and overflows into Schultz Canyon. The bridge at this spillway helps to protect the rare California red-legged frog.

### ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Two accessible picnic tables sit on a firm surface under a tree off the main parking lot at the end of Channel Drive. An accessible portable restroom is nearby, and the parking lot has designated accessible parking. The packed dirt lot and the paths to the restroom and tables are generally accessible.

Accessibility is continually improving. For updates, visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.



*Warren Richardson horse trough*

## PLEASE REMEMBER

- Annadel State Park is a day-use park only, open from sunrise to sunset.
- Payment of a fee is required to park beyond the visitor center.
- Motorized vehicles are allowed only on Channel Drive, the park's entrance road, and the parking lot.
- Except for service animals, dogs are not allowed in the park.
- Drinkable water is located near the visitor center and in the main parking lot at the east end of Channel Drive. No other water in the park is potable.
- By law, bicycle riders and passengers younger than 18 years of age must wear approved helmets.
- Open fires, camp stoves and barbecues are not allowed.
- Camping is not permitted. Camping may be available at Spring Lake County Park, which adjoins Annadel State Park to the west, and at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, about 6 miles east, up Adobe Canyon Road.
- A fishing license is required.
- No lifeguards are on duty.
- All natural and cultural features are protected by law and may not be disturbed nor removed.



## BICYCLES AND HORSES

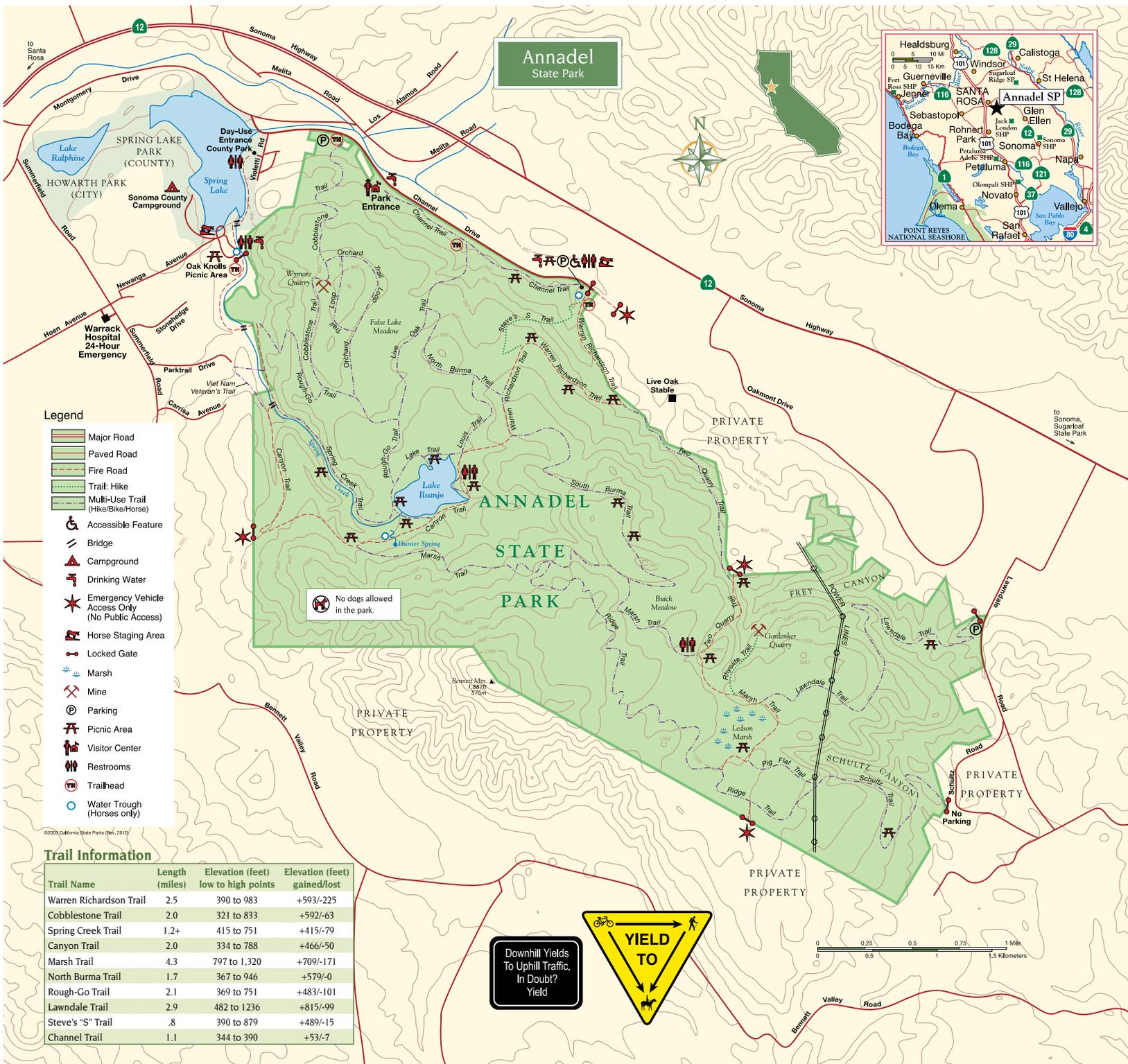
Please observe these rules:

- Horses and bicycles are restricted to designated, named trails only. No riding off trails, on "short cuts," on unnamed trails or trailblazing.
- All trail users must yield to horses.
- Some named trails may be posted for "no use" by horses and/or bicycles.
- Maximum speed is 15 mph.
- Alert trail users ahead of you of your approach.

## NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Sugarloaf Ridge State Park  
2605 Adobe Canyon Road,  
Kenwood 95452. Camping is available.  
(707) 833-5712
- Jack London State Historic Park  
2400 London Ranch Road  
Glen Ellen 92345  
(707) 938-5216
- Sonoma State Historic Park  
363 Third St. West, Sonoma 95476  
(707) 938-9560
- Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park  
3325 Adobe Road, Petaluma 94954  
(707) 762-4871

This park is supported in part  
through the nonprofit:  
Valley of the Moon Natural History Assn.  
c/o Jack London State Historic Park  
2400 London Ranch Road  
Glen Ellen, CA 95442  
[www.jacklondonpark.com](http://www.jacklondonpark.com)



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