

# MENDOCINO COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM

There are seven parks located throughout the county—each with its own “personality”, showcasing a different facet of Mendocino County’s wealth of natural resources. This catalog will introduce you to each park’s features and attractions, and guide you in getting the most out of your parks system.

## **Caretaking**

The County Parks system is operated and maintained by the Facilities and Fleet Division of the General Services Department. In addition, several of the parks have on-site caretakers to provide daily patrols and cleanup.

## **Operations and Reservations**

The Mendocino County Parks system is operated and maintained by the Facilities and Fleet Division of the General Services Agency. The Parks system includes seven parks and two public access areas, all of which are maintained by County maintenance and groundskeeping staff. In addition, several parks have on-site caretakers that assist in park maintenance and, in some cases, coordination of park activities.

General Services’ Agency staff manages reservations for parks in the Ukiah area: Low Gap, Mill Creek, and Redwood Valley Lions Club parks. The caretaker at Bower Park takes reservations directly.

For general information, you may contact the General Services Agency office at (707) 234-6056.

Our staff will be happy to help you learn more about our County parks!

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# BOWER PARK

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38040 Old Stage Road, Gualala  
Established January 1976



Bower Park is a 50-acre semi-urban community park located northeast of the small coastal town of Gualala. It is situated on gently sloping ground, covered with pine and other evergreen trees, including a small grove of redwoods.

The park offers a variety of recreation facilities, including a multi-purpose community services room, which is used regularly for yoga classes, aerobics, and other local recreation programs. However, its main feature is a large duck pond, which was originally created as a holding pond for a golf course!

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Public restrooms	Tennis courts
Group picnic area	Basketball court
Baseball field	Gazebo
Play area	Community Services Room
Nature trail and fitness course	Outdoor theater

To contact the caretaker, or to make reservations, please call: (707) 884-1136

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# FAULKNER PARK

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20400 Mountain View Road (two miles west of Boonville)

Established 1930



Faulkner Park was granted to the County of Mendocino in October, 1930. This 40-acre parcel sits on both sides of Mountain View Road, winding through the hills west of Boonville in Anderson Valley.

While developments to the park began in the late 1960's, the area remains, for the most part, in its natural state. The Azalea Discovery Trail, built in 1975, passes through the heart of the western portion of the park, leading visitors to large native azalea shrubs growing in the canopy of second-growth redwoods.

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Public restrooms  
Picnic area  
Play area

West End Trail  
Azalea Nature Trail  
Ridge Top Trail

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# INDIAN CREEK PARK

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Highway 128 (1/2-mile southeast of Philo)



Indian Creek Park is beautifully situated in a grove of large redwood trees on the south bank of Indian Creek, near its junction with the Navarro River. In this natural setting, it is no wonder that Indian Creek Park is a very popular day-use and overnight camping area in Anderson Valley.

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Campground  
Public restrooms  
10-acre redwood grove

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# LOW GAP REGIONAL PARK

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Low Gap Road, Ukiah (across from Ukiah High School)

Established 1973



This 80-acre park rests on the south side of Low Gap Road, west of Ukiah. Despite the extensive recreational development, the park's primary attraction is its location along Orr Creek. Orr Creek is an important tributary of the Russian River, and is also one of the three major streams which run through the city of Ukiah. Because public access to any of these streams is severely limited, the access to Orr Creek is one of the principal public benefits of the park. The upper reaches of the park serve as a "woodland preserve"; the many nature trails allow visitors to enjoy the beauty of the area in its natural state.

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Public restrooms	Fitness course	Archery range
Tennis courts	Volleyball courts	Harrison Grove (picnic shelter)
Playgrounds	Basketball courts	Disc golf course
Softball field	Amphitheater	
Horseshoe pits	Nature/hiking trails	Dog Park

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# McKEE PARKWAY

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Along East Side Potter Valley Road, Potter Valley  
Established 1970



McKee Parkway runs adjacent to East Side Potter Valley Road for a distance of approximately two miles and includes several turn-outs, allowing relatively easy public access to the east fork of the Russian River. The riverside in this area is thickly shaded with a variety of native oaks and bay trees. Wading, swimming, and fishing are popular activities; however, as the posted signs warn, the waters are dangerous and there are no attendants on site. However, when enjoyed with respect for its environment, McKee Parkway provides County residents and visitors with rare access to a lovely stretch of the Russian River.

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Portage trail  
Russian River access

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# MILL CREEK PARK

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Mill Creek Road (east of Talmage)

Established 1973



400-acre Mill Creek Park is situated in a narrow canyon at the foot of Cow Mountain on the eastern side of the Ukiah valley. The park contains three dams – the third, furthest upstream, is a popular local swimming and fishing hole (until recently, the dam as stocked with trout by the State Fish and Game Department).

Mill Creek runs through the center of the park, and there are several nature trails that lead guests throughout the park's wooded hills, treating them to wildflowers in the spring and spectacular views of the Ukiah valley year-round.

A small playground and group picnic facility occupy the east end of the park, in a grove of large old shade trees.

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Picnic area  
Public restrooms  
Volleyball court  
Nature trails

Swimming/fishing access  
Playground  
Horseshoe pits  
Barbeque pit

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# REDWOOD VALLEY LIONS CLUB PARK

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8920 East Road, Redwood Valley

Established 1961



Redwood Valley Lions Club Park was originally created by the Lake Mendocino Lions Recreation Corporation in 1961. Due to financial constraints, the park was closed in 1989, but local residents successfully petitioned the County to assume operation of the park. The park was purchased by the County in 1990.

This park is utilized regularly by many local groups, including the Ukiah Little League. The covered picnic area, barbeque pit, playground, and ball fields make the park a popular family recreation spot.

## **PARK FACILITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:**

Basketball court  
Volleyball court  
Baseball field

Picnic area/barbeque pit  
Playground  
Public restrooms



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## MISCELLANEOUS AREAS

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### **MARIPOSA SWIMMING HOLE**

Tomki Road, Redwood Valley  
Established: February 4, 1975

In February of 1974, a dentist named Neal Wells offered to donate the pool of water on Mariposa Creek to the County for recreation purposes. This land was part of the Mountain River Subdivision (located on Fisher Lake Road). The hole had been used for years for swimming by local residents since the County had improved the road over Mariposa Creek, which allowed the hole to develop.

The County ownership includes only the swimming hole and the immediate land surrounding it. In order to deter unsafe diving, the County erected a fence along the road and posted signs. Parking for the area is along Tomki Road, from which a narrow footpath leads down to the swimming hole.

### **VICHY SPRINGS BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS**

End of Perkins Street, Ukiah  
Established: 1991

This 2.7-acre parcel, known popularly as the “Vichy Triangle”, is located directly under the Perkins Street overpass bridging the Russian River, and allows access to the west bank of the river. The area is not maintained except for trash pick-up – in fact, the County is prohibited from providing any restroom or recreational facilities – and is intended for day use fishing access only.

The property was acquired in a settlement agreement between the County and the Thomas family in 1991, following negotiations over rights-of-way for a new bridge and approach routes on East Perkins Street at the Russian River crossing. The settlement terms allowed the County to own and maintain limited access to the area, but prohibited any recreational development.