



# Memorial Park Self-guided Tour

Memorial Park is nestled within tall groves of Coast Redwoods and provides ample opportunity for exploring among them. With both short and long trails available, it is an ideal park for people of all ages and backgrounds. **Start your tour at the Visitor Center.**

- Self-guided Tour Routes (Approximate Time):**
- Tan Oak Nature Trail: 0.75 miles (20 minutes)
  - Trillium Nature Trail: 1 mile (30 minutes)
  - Pomponio Canyon/Mt. Ellen Trails: 2.8 miles (1.5 hours)



**Crumb Clean Campaign**  
Remember to Clean up your crumbs if you choose to take a picnic in the park. The Marbled Murrelet (left) is an endangered bird that can be threatened by scavenger birds like ravens and jays. Work to reduce scavenger populations by picking up after yourself. The Murrelets thank you!

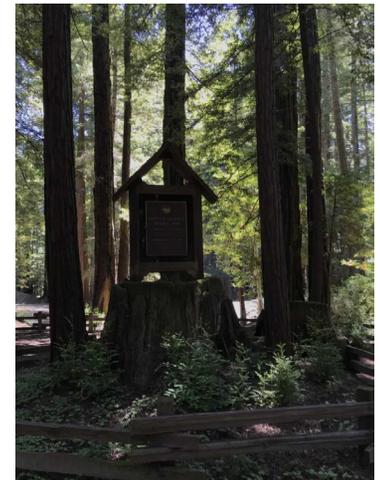
## A. Nature Center

The Nature Center, located adjacent to the park office, is equipped with natural and historic exhibits for visitor enjoyment. Stop by to learn about anything from the logging operations of the 19th and 20th centuries to the critters that call Memorial Park home. Make sure to stop by and do the Scavenger Hunt located to the right when you walk in! The museum surely has something for everyone.



## B. Memorial Plaque and Our Namesake

Memorial Park was established in 1924 and was dedicated to the soldiers of San Mateo County who lost their lives in World War I. The park then served as a Project Camp for the Works Progress Administration who built a lot of the current park infrastructure. The Memorial Plaque sits within a grove of towering redwoods and is accompanied by benches, making it the perfect place to take a nice break in the shade while learning about park history.





### C. Pescadero Creek and the Old Swimming Hole

Memorial Park used to have a swimming hole created by a dam (left). That dam was taken out in 1999 to allow for steelhead trout to migrate to and from the ocean as they please. Pescadero Creek serves as an essential migratory corridor for steelhead as well as a valuable recreation area for park visitors. Although the Old Swimming Hole no longer exists, Pescadero Creek is still a great place to wade and look for little invertebrate creatures in the water!



**Banana slugs roam the forest floor in shady, cool spots. Keep an eye out for their slimy trails!**

### D. Our Largest Tree and Old Growth Redwoods

The largest tree in Memorial Park reaches an astonishing 225 feet in height and is over 1600 years old. That means that this tree was around when the Roman Empire ruled in Europe! Old growth redwoods have been almost entirely wiped out from California via logging operations, but San Mateo County Parks and other regional and state park systems work hard to protect the redwoods that we do have left. As you stroll through the park, make sure you look up to see just how magical these enormous trees are. See if you can spot any groups of trees growing in a ring formation! These clusters of trees are called "fairy rings" and they are all clones of a single tree that once lived in the center of their ring.



### E. Valley Formation in the Santa Cruz Mountains

The Pomponio Canyon Trail provides a picturesque view of one of the many valleys within the Santa Cruz Mountains. This mountain range was formed as a result of the faults fracturing along the Earth's surface. These fractures caused large blocks of crust to be heaved upward which in turn created the mountain range we have today. The rocks in the area are mostly sedimentary like sandstones and shales because the coast was once underwater!



**When you're done with your tour, please return this guide to the kiosk for the next visitor.** If you find this guide, please return it to: Memorial Park, 9500 Pescadero Creek Road, Loma Mar, CA 94021

Memorial Park is a part of **San Mateo County Parks**, which manages parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites throughout the county to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation.

For more information, visit [www.SMCoParks.org](http://www.SMCoParks.org).

**San Mateo County Parks**  
Wild places & friendly spaces