

# Castle Rock State Park

Newsletter #1

General Plan Newsletter

September 1996

## Planning Workshop

Please join us in planning the future of Castle Rock State Park. Our first planning workshop is scheduled for:

October 10, 1996

7:00 pm - Multipurpose Room

Fisher Middle School

17000 Roberts Road, Los Gatos, CA

(located near Blossom Hill Road and Los Gatos Blvd.)



*Castle Rock Interpretive shelter*

State park planners will explain the general plan process and the role of public involvement in developing the plan. A presentation will be made highlighting the significant resources of the park, followed by a workshop to discuss issues and public concerns for the future of Castle Rock State Park.

held during the next year. **How can this park be improved to meet your needs?** At our first workshop we need your help in identifying issues and concerns: what recreation opportunities are needed, what facilities you would like developed, what lands should remain in their natural condition, and which natural, historical and cultural values should be enhanced or interpreted.

## General Plan Underway

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is developing a long-range general plan to guide the future of Castle Rock State Park.

The purpose of this plan is to provide general guidelines for management of the resources and development of park facilities. The plan will:

- identify the significant cultural, natural, recreational, and esthetic resource values of the park,
- determine land use, park development, and visitor activities which are compatible with the park and surrounding areas,
- determine the potential environmental impacts of the land uses and visitor activities,
- establish guidelines for operations, protection and preservation of the resources, development of facilities and interpretation of resource values.

Throughout the general plan process, the public is a vital member of the planning team. Your participation is requested at the public workshops and meetings to be

### Planning Process:

- Data Gathering
- Issues & Concerns
- Alternatives
- Draft Single Plan
- Public Review & Comment (CEQA)
- Park Commission Approval

## Advisory Committee Established

The Castle Rock Advisory Committee was formed in January 1995 and meets monthly to discuss park issues and make recommendations to the park management and the planning team. The purpose of this advisory committee is to assist the Santa Cruz State Parks District and the planning team in gathering and evaluating

resource information, and also promoting public participation and cooperation. This is a ten-member advisory committee represented by the Sempervirons Fund, Volunteers In Portola, South Skyline Association, South Skyline (Saratoga Gap) Equestrian Association, rock climbers group, resource and planning specialists, and representatives in attendance from the Los Altos Gun Club, R.O.M.P., and State Parks staff.

If you wish to contact a member of this committee, please address your letters to Castle Rock Advisory Committee, attention Stu Langdoc, 17680 Bruce Ave., Monte Sereno, CA 95030, or you may contact Jan Anderson, Park Superintendent at (408) 429-2850

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## Visitor Survey

Many of you are aware that the California Department of Parks and Recreation is conducting a survey of visitors to Castle Rock State Park to better understand who visits this park and what activities visitors most enjoy doing. Most importantly, we want to know what services, facilities, or programs visitors feel are needed to protect resources and also provide an enjoyable recreational experience.

Between January and August of this year, 1000 surveys were handed out at the park. To date, we received 300 completed survey questionnaires. We plan to continue with this survey through this year and will include a summary of survey results in our next newsletter.

During your next visit to the park, pick up a survey from the ranger and fill it out, if you haven't already done so.

*We would like to hear from you!*



## The park as it is today ....

Castle Rock State Park encompasses over 3,600 acres of semi-wilderness on the highest ridge of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The park offers over 30 miles of trail that lead through a wide variety of plant and animal communities, interesting rock formations, a waterfall and sweeping views of the San Lorenzo Valley and Pacific Ocean. A few of the many available activities are hiking, camping, horseback riding and rock climbing. Good weather conditions and the close proximity to the Santa Clara Valley makes this a popular park and a enjoyable place to visit year-around.

The main entrance to the park is the parking lot off State Highway 35, 2.5 miles southeast of Saratoga Gap. Hikers can reach the park on trails from the Santa Clara Valley via either Sanborn-Skyline County Park or Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserves, and from the San Lorenzo Valley via the Saratoga Toll Road Trail.

### Mission Statement

*The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's most extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.*

*For park information,  
please call (408) 867-2952*

If you are not currently on our mailing list, and would like to receive the newsletter and notice about future planning actions, please give us a call, or write to the address below:



**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

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