



Irvine Regional Park

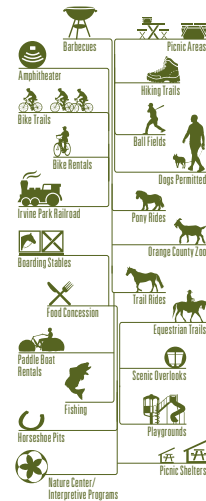
1 Irvine Park Road
Orange, CA 92869
714-973-6835

REGIONAL
PARK

HOURS OF OPERATION: SPRING/SUMMER: 6:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. | FALL/WINTER: 6:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Surrounded by the rolling foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains lies Irvine Regional Park. Founded on land donated by James Irvine II in 1897, this 477-acre park is the oldest regional park in California. Trees and shaded turf areas provide a serene setting for leisure activities, while Santiago Creek bisects the park. A lake with a stonework waterfall and footbridge is located in the center of the park, and wildlife abounds. History has a place in the park, with a Spanish American War Memorial that features a tablet cast in metal that was recovered from the USS Maine. With fishing, plenty of picnicking areas, the Irvine Park Railroad and the OC Zoo, Irvine Regional Park truly has something for every visitor.

WHAT THERE IS AT IRVINE REGIONAL PARK.



CALIFORNIA'S FIRST REGIONAL PARK.

The land that comprises Irvine Regional Park today was part of Rancho Lomas de Santiago, a Mexican land grant of the 1840s. In the 1860s, the property was sold to Orange County ranchers. An oak grove on the property became a mecca as the "Picnic Grounds" for residents of the growing nearby communities. In 1876, the grove and the surrounding ranch became the sole property of James Irvine. In 1897, Irvine's son, James Jr., decided to give the County its first park. Franklin Nickey, then Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, accepted what was described as the "Gift Munificent," 160 acres of land that included the "Picnic Grounds." Named "Orange County Park," it became the first County Park in the State of California.

Through the early part of the 20th century, improvements were made to the park, including the excavation of the lake in 1913. A boat house was built the following year; it is now the oldest building in the park and is still used to house rental boats. Following the park's renaming as "Irvine Park" in 1928, a dance pavilion and an exhibition hall were added. The park was closed during World War II, when it served as an Army base, "Camp Rathke." A significant expansion of the park occurred in the late 1960s, with almost 300 acres added to the west.

Over the years, Irvine Park was a popular location for movies, including "Topper" and "Lassie Come Home." It was also a location for housing animals. In the 1960s, Park superintendent William A. Kinsley built up a compound of birds and animals as the "Irvine Park Zoo." The current zoo, with its children's barnyard area and native animal exhibits, was established during the park's major redevelopment in 1982-83. In 1996, the Irvine Park Railroad opened for business.

HIKE, PEDAL, THROW, SPIKE, GALLOP.

Irvine Regional Park offers so many different ways to exercise. Paved walkways meander through the park, providing easy access to playgrounds, ball fields, horseshoe pits and a lake. A 4-mile equestrian trail skirts the perimeter of the park, providing scenic views. And, of course, tables, barbecues and plenty of shade trees are located throughout the park.



PEACOCK HAVEN.

Numerous peacocks roam the center of the park. Please be careful of them when driving on the park roads.



NATURE CENTER.

Get more out of your visit to Irvine Regional Park. A Nature Center in the historic exhibit hall features displays highlighting the park's natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources, and also includes an audio/visual theater for nature films.



RANGER'S RECOMMENDATION.

"Be sure to hike, ride your bike or ride your horse along the Horseshoe Loop Trail. It has a great view of the park and the surrounding area."



A BIT OF CIVIL WAR HISTORY.

The cannon in Irvine Regional Park was cast in 1853 by the Ames Co. Foundry of Chicopee, Mass., and assigned to the garrison of California Volunteers at Drum Barracks, Wilmington, California during the Civil War. In 1908, it was brought from the State Armory in Los Angeles and displayed on the Old Orange County Courthouse lawn. In 1925, the Civil War cannon was replaced by a captured World War I field cannon, and moved to its new home in Irvine Regional Park.

A DAY AT THE PARK IS ALSO A DAY AT THE ZOO.

You don't typically see a black bear or mountain lion when you visit a park. But this isn't your typical park. Irvine Regional Park is also home to the Orange County Zoo, which features animals known to inhabit OC Parks.



TRAINS. PONY RIDES. BIKE & BOAT RENTALS. FOOD. IT'S THE PERFECT PARK FOR KIDS.

Irvine Regional Park has many great attractions. The Irvine Park Railroad offers a train ride into the past along a route through the heart of the park. The Railroad has popular special events that celebrate the Christmas, Easter and Halloween seasons and offers a California History Education Program for elementary schoolers. Pony rides are available next to the train station. And across from the entrance to the Orange County Zoo are bike and paddle boat rentals and a snack bar.



DOGS AND HORSES WELCOME.

Dogs and horses enjoy the great outdoors, too. Just remember to keep your dogs on a maximum 6-ft. leash at all times, and your horses on approved equestrian trails.



OFFICE HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
866-OC PARKS | irvinepark@ocparks.com • www.ocparks.com/irvinepark

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OC Parks has been entrusted with the care and protection of this park. Help us preserve our county's natural and cultural resources for you and your fellow guests' future enjoyment. Please check with your Park Ranger for this park's specific rules, or see them online at www.ocparks.com.