

What is the strangest thing you've ever found in the park? Have any famous people ever come to the park?

There are many things in the park that are unusual or maybe odd: oak galls for instance; there are a plain old oak galls, spiny oak galls and spiny turban galls (not to mention all the galls that grow on other plants (even poison oak has a gall)).

However, by far the strangest thing that I have ever found in the park is a type of mushroom called a Jack O' Lantern mushroom (*Omphalotus olearis*). It is a dark brownish orange mushroom that comes up in the fall. It looks a little like an oyster mushroom you might buy in the supermarket, except for the color. The coolest thing about it is that it is bioluminescent, after a few minutes in the dark with one you can see it glowing a pale bluish green.

Many local dignitaries have been to Foothills Park, more than one Palo Alto Mayor has been here, city managers also, most council members visit here, and many news reporters have stopped by.

The most "known" person to have visited Foothills Park was Kurt Russell. He was met at the entrance station by one of our seasonal employees and was turned away because he was not a resident of Palo Alto (or the guest of a resident). He was given information on some alternative places to hike, some maps and left happy.