

Foothills Park General Information

Welcome to Foothills Park, one of Palo Alto's Open Space nature preserves. To ensure that you and your party have a safe and enjoyable time, please note the rules and regulations described below. For more information please call the rangers at 650-329-2423 or visit <http://cityofpaloalto.org/openspace>.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Foothills Park is open to Palo Alto residents and their accompanied guests only. Proof of residency is required.
- Each Palo Alto resident may accompany up to 15 non-resident guests. However, your total group size may not exceed 24 adults and children without a reservation made in advance.

GROUPS AND GUEST LISTS

- Groups of 25 or more residents, non-residents and children must obtain a written permit in advance or reserve Oak Grove Picnic Area in advance.
- Groups of up to 24 are permitted at any time. The total number of your party, including residents and non-residents, adults and children, may not exceed 24.
- There must be one (1) resident per 15 non-residents, children included.
- Small groups of 24 or fewer may submit guest lists to the rangers at the entrance station on the day of your gathering. The small group guest list may not be submitted in advance, and must be given to a ranger in person. The total number of your party, including residents and non-residents, adults and children, may not exceed 24.
- Guest lists for reserved areas (Oak Grove picnic area, Interpretive Center meeting room) must be submitted one week in advance of the reservation. A guest list form is available on our website. The guest list must include all members of your party expected to attend: you and your family, other resident guests, non-resident guests, and all children.

TRAILS AND ROADS

- Stay on lawns, roads and marked trails only. Marked trails appear on our trail maps.
- Please stay off unmarked trails made by animals.

FIRES, BARBECUES, AND GRILLS

- Only charcoal may be used in the provided barbecues.
- Burning wood is prohibited. Collecting wood is prohibited.
- Personal and portable grills, whether gas or charcoal, are not permitted.

DOGS

- Dogs are allowed in Foothills Park on weekdays only. They must be leashed and under physical control at all times.
- Dogs may not enter the park on weekends and city holidays. They may not be left in a car. Visitors arriving at the park with dogs on weekends or city holidays will be turned around at the entrance. See below for a list of city holidays.

FISHING AND BOATING ON BORONDA LAKE

- Fishing is permitted with a valid California fishing license. All California State Fish and Game rules apply.
- Non-motorized, hand-launched watercraft are permitted. Inner tubes and inflatable rafts are not permitted. Per state law, there must be a flotation device for each person in the watercraft.
- No swimming or wading.
- The lake closes one half hour before park closing.

PARKING

- Park only in designated areas or off the roadway. Two vehicles, including emergency vehicles such as fire trucks, must be able to pass side-by-side where you park.

OTHER

- No smoking anywhere in Open Space.
- Do not feed the wildlife, including the ducks on Boronda Lake.
- Remote-controlled devices are not permitted in Open Space.
- Generators and items requiring generators are not allowed.
- Amplified music is allowed but is not to be heard outside your immediate area so others using the park are not disturbed.
- Bicycles are permitted on paved roads only, and not on trails. All riders must wear helmets.
- Coasting devices such as hoverboards, skateboards and scooters are not permitted.
- Please remember that Foothills Park is a nature preserve. If you are considering a non-typical park use, please call park staff in advance to inquire if it is allowed or appropriate.

PARK HOURS

- Foothills Park is open every day at 8:00 a.m. and closes at a specific time based on sunset. See our website or call the rangers for closing times.
- Last entry to the park is one half hour before closing.
- All visitors must exit the park before park closing.

DOGS AND CITY HOLIDAYS

Dogs may not enter Foothills Park on weekends or city holidays.

New Year's Day, January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 3rd Monday in January

President's Day, 3rd Monday in February

Memorial Day, last Monday in May

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day, first Monday in September

Columbus Day, 2nd Monday in October

Veteran's Day, November 11

Thanksgiving, 4th Thursday and Friday in November

Christmas, December 25