

## Parks and Trails FAQ

**Q: What are the park hours?**

A: See appendix A for details.

**Q: Which parks and trails have bathrooms?**

A: See appendix A for details.

**Q: Where can I get a parks and trails map?**

A: Most parks have a kiosk that includes the trails map, but they can also be picked up at the Community Center.

**Q: Are there any camping facilities available?**

A: No, camping is not allowed in the parks except for by special event permit and the annual Family Camp-Out event hosted by the City. Information about the Family Camp-Out can be found on the city website.

**Q: Is alcohol allowed in the parks? On the trails?**

A: No. Only at approved events that get a special event permit through the City and proper alcohol permitting from the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control.

**Q: Are dogs and other animals allowed in the parks? On the trails?**

A: Yes, dogs are allowed at designated dog parks and on City trails. Dog parks are located at Hollandia Park (west), Sunset Park, Montiel Park, & San Elijo Park (upper). All City trails permit dogs as long as they are leashed.

**Q: What should I do if I see someone with a dog (or other animal) in a “no animal” area or off leash?**

A: Please kindly remind them of the leash rules. If there is a persistent issue, please call the Community Center.

**Q: Do you offer guided hikes? If so, when, where and length of hikes and how do I register?**

A: Registration is not required. Hikes are offered every 1st Saturday of the month, 3 mile & 6+ mile hikes are offered. Visit <http://www.san-marcos.net/play> for details.



**Q: Are monthly hikes ever cancelled?**

A: Hikes are sometimes cancelled due to inclement weather. Visit <http://www.san-marcos.net/play> or follow us @SanMarcosCity (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) for updates.

**Q: Where can I ride my horse or mountain bike?**

A: Please see the trail map for specific information regarding trail use.

**Q: Am I allowed to hike or bike off trail?**

A: No, please stay on designated trails. Violators are subject to citation.

**Q: Can I fish in the lakes? Are they stocked?**

A: Yes, with a valid California fishing license: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales>; License only required for individuals over 16 years of age. The lakes are not artificially stocked.

**Q: Is swimming allowed in the lakes (Discovery, Southlake, etc.)?**

A: Swimming is not allowed in any city lakes.

**Q: Is boating or personal watercraft allowed in the lakes?**

A: No, watercraft are prohibited by City code.

**Q: Am I allowed to fly my drone in San Marcos? If so, where exactly?**

A: The City does not have an official policy or ordinance relating to the flying of drones. However, there is a federal prohibition for drone flying if it is within 5-miles of an airport. The western part of the City is covered by that prohibition due to its proximity to Palomar Airport. Most drones over 0.55 pounds must also be registered with the FAA. While portions of San Marcos are outside the 5-mile airport radius, the City is also near an FAA-designated heliport at the Sheriff's station and Palomar Hospital. Depending on how high you plan to go and how long you are in the air, you may want to contact the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to make sure there aren't any planned flights from that station (San Marcos Station – phone: 760-510-5200). If your drone flying is impacting the City's right of way, traffic flow or public areas, it would require a special event permit.

**Q: Do you have a park where I can launch my model rocket?**

A: No, engine powered models and toys are prohibited by City code.



**Q: Can I use fireworks in the parks?**

A: No, use of fireworks is prohibited by City code. However, the city hosts an annual spectacular fireworks on July 4th. Please join us. More details can be found at our website.

**Q: Is geocaching permitted in the parks or on the trails?**

A: Yes, but only within areas that are designated recreation areas. Entering landscape areas and environmentally sensitive areas is strictly prohibited.

**Q: Are metal detectors allowed in the parks or on the trails?**

A: Yes, but only within areas that are designated recreation areas. Entering landscape areas and environmentally sensitive areas is strictly prohibited.

**Q: Do you have disc (Frisbee) golf?**

A: Yes, both Montiel Park and Sunset Park have disc golf amenities.

**Q: What do I have to do to have a picnic/party/wedding in a park?**

A: Call (760-744-9000) or visit the Community Center for more information. You can also visit our parks and facility reservation webpage: <http://www.san-marcos.net/departments/parks-recreation/parks-recreation-facilities>.

**Q: Do I need permission or a permit to film or do photography at a park or on a trail?**

A: Please contact the Community Center (760-744-9000) for information regarding commercial use of the parks and trails.

**Q: The tree in the parkway in front of my house needs trimming. Who should I call?**

A: The public works department is responsible for right-of-way trees. Please contact them at (760-752-7550) for more information. You can also go to <http://www.san-marcos.net/> and click the “Report a Concern” button to log a request for services.

**Q: I’m a vendor and want to sell stuff/food in the parks. What are the rules? Fees?**

A: Please contact the Community Center (760-744-9000) for information regarding commercial use of the parks and trails.



**Q: What should I do if I see a rattlesnake or mountain lion or other dangerous species in the parks/trails?**

A: Rattlesnakes are sometimes present on the trails & protect themselves if cornered or threatened. Please do not disturb or attempt to capture them. If you see a rattlesnake, be sure to give it space, stay calm and respect the snake. If you feel threatened or believe it is a problem, please call 9-1-1. Also be sure to check bathrooms before walking in as snakes like to rest in cool places.

While sightings/encounters are extremely rare, if you do see a mountain lion, do not run away; back up slowly and give them their space. When using the trails, do not walk or ride alone and keep children close.

**Q: How do I become a volunteer for parks and trails?**

A: Park & Trail Volunteers have an opportunity to make improvements to the community by assisting staff Rangers with the patrol and protection of our park and trail system. The program offers a variety of opportunities to gain new skills and knowledge including Volunteer Rangers, Bike and Mounted Trail Patrol, and program/event support. Volunteers are empowered to help ensure the safety of park and trail visitors by promoting responsible use and resource preservation; explaining rules and regulations; providing information; and observing and reporting issues, incidents and emergencies. Volunteers are a valued and necessary part of the proper management of our environmental resources and programs.

Please visit <http://www.san-marcos.net/departments/parks-recreation/volunteer-opportunities> for more information regarding volunteer ranger opportunities and the application process.



## Appendix A: Park Hours, Restroom and Lighting Information

City of San Marcos Parks	Opening	Closing	Restrooms	Lighted Sports
Alder Glen Tot Lot	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Amigo Park - SFH	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Buelow Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	N
Cerro de Las Posas Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	Y
Civic Center / Civic Center Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	Y
Connors Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	Y
Creek View Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Discover Hills Children's Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Double Peak Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Foothills Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Helen Bougher Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Hollandia Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	Y
Innovation Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Jacks Pond Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Knob Hill Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Portable	N
Lake View Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Laurels Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Mission Sports Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	Y
Montiel Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Portable	N
Mulberry Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Optimist Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Pebblestone Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Quail Valley Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Regency Hills Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Richmar Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	N	N
Ridgeline Trailhead Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Sage Point Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
San Elijo Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	Y
Santa Fe Hills Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Senior Center Tot Lot	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Simmons Family Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
Summerhill Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Sunset Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	Y
Valley View Park	Sunrise	Sunset	N	N
Walnut Grove Park	Sunrise	Sunset	Y	N
William Bradley	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	Y
Woodland Park	Sunrise	10:00 PM	Y	N

Note: All parks close at Sunset unless City scheduled sports require them to remain open. Events may remain past 10 p.m. to conclude play, but all participants shall vacate the park no later than 10:45 p.m.