THE REDWOODS  This parkland is a popular stop for tourists visiting the Bay Area because the park’s entrance and parking area are set in a lush grove of fragrant, second-growth redwoods, making it the best access to redwoods for visitors who cannot hike a long distance or have failed to pack their favorite hiking shoes. The original grove was logged between 1840 and 1860 to support the needs of a growing Bay Area community.

Roberts is the location of the famous “landmark trees” noted in British Royal Navy Captain F. Beechey’s 1826 logbook. Two giant redwoods were used by sailors as navigational aids to avoid the treacherous Blossom Rock submerged in the bay between Alcatraz Island and San Francisco. Captain Beechey wrote that in order to miss the rock, one should line up the northern tip of Yerba Buena Island with “two trees . . . south of Palos Colorados . . . too conspicuous to be overlooked.” The distance from the sailors’ ships to these trees was 16 miles, which attests to their size. Today, the “landmark trees” location is marked by state historic plaque #962 near the Manor Picnic Area.

Old Growth Redwood Heritage Viewing Deck and Interpretive Exhibit: Visit the viewing platform and exhibit to learn about the history of the Redwood trees and their contribution towards climate resilience by cooling the atmosphere and sinking in carbon. View the remaining 18-foot diameter of an old growth footpath.

PARK FEATURES  Roberts Regional Recreation Area is a popular place for picnicking for families and large groups. The park also features a baseball field, sand volleyball court, playgrounds, and a children's all-accessible play area—all available on a first-come, first-served basis. Trail connections from the Roberts area to other sections of Redwood Regional Park make Roberts popular for bicyclists, joggers, runners, and hikers.

SWIMMING  The Roberts Pool complex features a 25-yard, heated swimming pool with a depth ranging from 3 feet to 8.5 feet (no diving board). The pool and bathhouse are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. Accessible features include a pool lift capable of lifting up to 300 pounds into the pool.

The pool is open to the public from April through October with varying days and times of operation. For current operating hours, see www.ebparks.org or call (510) 544-3157. Programs offered at the pool include group and private swim lessons, recreational swimming, and a special time set aside for swimmers with disabilities (Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon). The pool is also available for swim parties or other group functions. For information on how to register for swim programs, or to rent the pool, call 1-888-327-2757, option 2. Swim fees: $3 ages 16-61; $2 ages 1-15, ages 62 and above, and the disabled; under 1 year free. SWIM FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; see www.ebparks.org or call 1-888-327-2757, and press option 1, 2, then 2, for fee information and lifeguard hours.

PICNICKING  The 10 reservable picnic areas, ranging in capacity from 35 to 300 persons, include Huckleberry, Bay Vista, Manzanita, Diablo Vista, Syca-more, Madrone, Oak, Anna Costa, Redwood Bowl, and Roberts Grove. Madrone is popular for weddings. Make your reservations online at least 14 days in advance by calling 1-888-327-2757, option 2. ADOPT A PARK  Early in 1979 Roberts became the first park in the two-county Regional Park District to be “adopted” by a local industry. An ongoing partnership was formed with Oakland-based Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation to assure the continued operation of this popular urban parkland.

• Smoking is prohibited.
• Drones are prohibited.
In order to reduce or prevent the risk of serious head injury or death, state law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. The District also strongly recommends that all bicyclists and equestrians wear helmets at all times.

MEMBERSHIPS
The Regional Parks Foundation offers Memberships to park users. www.regionalparksfoundation.org (510) 544-2220.