

# The Clear Blue Waters...

*Year opened:* 1969      *Acres:* 101  
*Highlights:* Swim lagoon, picnicking, hiking, stop along the Chabot-to-Garin Regional Trail.  
*Did you know?* Don Castro's swim lagoon was the second successful lagoon (after Cull Canyon) to utilize a new concept – building a swim lagoon separate from a larger reservoir to provide silt-free swimming.  
*Fees:* Parking – \$5 weekends & holidays. \$4/trailer. \$25/bus. Dogs: \$2/dog; guide/service dogs free.  
*Beach Access:* Adults \$3, Children & Seniors \$2.

**HISTORY** For many generations, the area's lush streamside canyons and verdant hills were home to the Jalquin Ohlone tribe (also known as the Yrgin). To ensure the health and wellbeing of the plants and animals, they used specialized horticultural techniques to tend the landscape. Despite the changes of history, today's Jalquin continue to keep ancestral cultural traditions alive while living in modern America.

The lagoon and adjacent lake were created in 1964 when the Alameda Flood Control and Water Conservation District dammed San Lorenzo Creek. Today, the swim lagoon is a favorite with central Alameda County residents. It is supplied with water from the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and a large, shallow area is roped off especially for children. The adjacent lake is closed to boating and swimming, but hikers along the shore will discover a surprising wilderness in miniature, where turtles and frogs splash in the water, ducks rest in the reeds, and raccoons, deer, and other wildlife come down to drink at sunset.

**SWIMMING** Lagoon swimming is the park's main attraction from the end of May through the end of September (dates subject to change). Swim hours are usually 11am to 6pm; swimming is allowed only when lifeguards are on duty; see [www.ebparks.org/activities/swimming/facilities](http://www.ebparks.org/activities/swimming/facilities) for the lifeguard schedule. A bathhouse with showers is available for swimmers, and a sandy beach and large lawn areas provide space for

relaxation and play. Three reservable picnic areas are located inside the swim complex (a beach access fee is charged to enter swim area, and dogs are not allowed).

**HIKING** Don Castro offers 3.5 miles of trails connecting to the Chabot-to-Garin Trail (a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail) and the extensive trail system of the neighboring Five Canyons Open Space.

**PICNICKING** Picnicking sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, three reservable group sites are available inside the swim area, ranging in capacity from 35 to 50 people, and three sites are reservable outside the swim area, ranging in capacity from 50 to 100. There is a fee for reservable picnic sites.

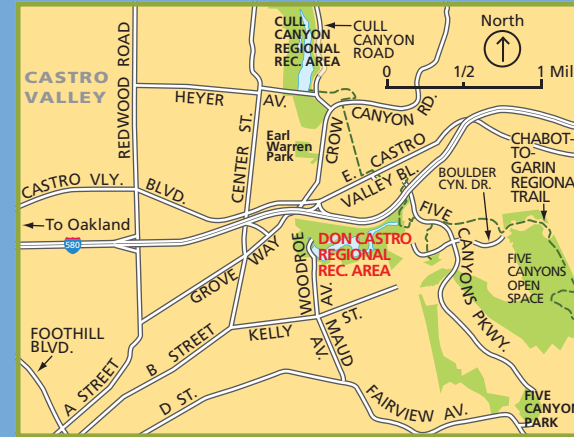
**FISHING** Anglers along the lake may catch trout, bass, catfish, and bluegill. The lake is stocked regularly with trout and catfish. A California State fishing license is required for anglers age 16 or older. In addition, a Park District daily fishing permit is required (\$5/day, fee subject to change) and may be purchased from a machine located at the swim complex gate. State fish and game regulations apply. For general fishing activity and current fishing information, see [www.ebparks.org/anglersedge](http://www.ebparks.org/anglersedge).

**PLEASE RECYCLE** your bottles and cans while you are at Don Castro. Recycling containers are located throughout the park.



*Don Castro's lifeguarded swim lagoon is a favorite summertime recreation spot. The park is a great place for picnicking, hiking, bike riding, birdwatching, and other recreational activities. Don Castro lies on the route of the Chabot-to-Garin Regional Trail, a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.*

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY .....9-1-1  
 EBRPD HEADQUARTERS..... 1-888-327-2757  
 PICNIC RESERVATIONS..... 1-888-327-2757, option 2  
 PARK OFFICE.....1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4527



22400 Woodroe Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541

**To Reach Don Castro Regional Recreation Area:**

**From I-580 eastbound** from Oakland, take the Grove Way exit in Castro Valley; turn right at the exit onto Grove Way; left on Center Street; left on Kelly; and left on Woodroe to the park entrance.

**From I-580 westbound**, take the Castro Valley exit and continue west on E. Castro Valley Blvd. to Grove Way; left on Grove; left on Center; left on Kelly; and left on Woodroe to the park entrance.

**Public Transit:** From Hayward BART, take AC Transit Bus #95 to Kelly Street and Woodroe Avenue (10-minute walk along Woodroe to the park). Buses run hourly on weekdays (every half hour during commute hours) and hourly on weekends. Call AC Transit to confirm bus schedule information. Public transit information: 817-1717 or 511 or see [www.transit.511.org](http://www.transit.511.org). TRS Relay for the Hearing Impaired: 711.

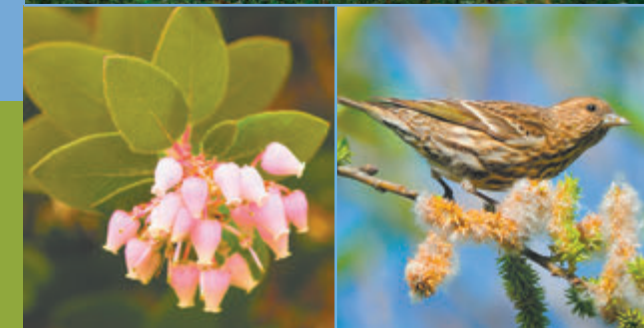


East Bay Regional Park District  
 2950 Peralta Oaks Court,  
 Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
 1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS) (TRS 711)  
[www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)      Rev. 3/19

# Don Castro Regional Recreation Area

Castro Valley, Hayward

East Bay Regional Park District



## WELCOME!

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help us protect and preserve parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

## SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

## RULES

- Pets must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or park entrance. Pets must be leashed in parking lots, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, and on some trails. They must be under voice control at all times.
- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED** from April 1-October 31 except in reserved picnic sites with a permit. Alcohol is not permitted in the swim area. This includes reservation picnic sites Green Heron, Red Oak, and Vista Hermosa. Call 1-888-327-2757, option 2, for information.
- **FEES**—Fees for parking and dogs are enforced on weekends and holidays. A daily Beach Access Fee is charged to enter the swim lagoon.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. All bicyclists are strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See [www.ebparcs.org/rules](http://www.ebparcs.org/rules).

