

# De Laveaga

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

DeLaveaga Park is named for the park's generous benefactor, Jose Vicente DeLaveaga. Born in Mexico and schooled in Europe, DeLaveaga settled in San Francisco with his parents in 1868. A successful businessman, he acquired numerous landholdings. In 1892, his love of nature led him to purchase over 500 acres on the eastern edge of Santa Cruz, building a hacienda in what is now known as DeLaveaga Park.



DeLaveaga was also an avid horseman and bridal trails were established throughout the property. Trails led to La Corona, the highest peak, which offered dramatic views. Today, the overlook is known as Top of the World.

Exotic plants were imported by DeLaveaga to create a botanical garden. Vineyards, citrus and nut groves were also planted. The non-native eucalyptus groves along the southern portion of DeLaveaga Park are remnants of the imported plantings. Early photos of DeLaveaga Park from the southern bluffs reveal open grassland meadows with expansive views of Monterey Bay.

Nearly totally deaf, Jose DeLaveaga had special empathy for the poor and disabled. When he died in 1894, DeLaveaga left his

estate to various charities. The estate in Santa Cruz was left to the City and County as a public park. Today, DeLaveaga Park is a city-owned parkland.

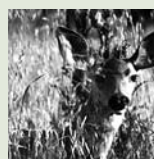
Over the past century, the property featured many different activities, including a military armory and tank practice areas, gun range, movie studios, and even a zoo, home to elk and black bears.

As you enjoy DeLaveaga's trails, look closely, and you may discover clues to the Park's unique history.

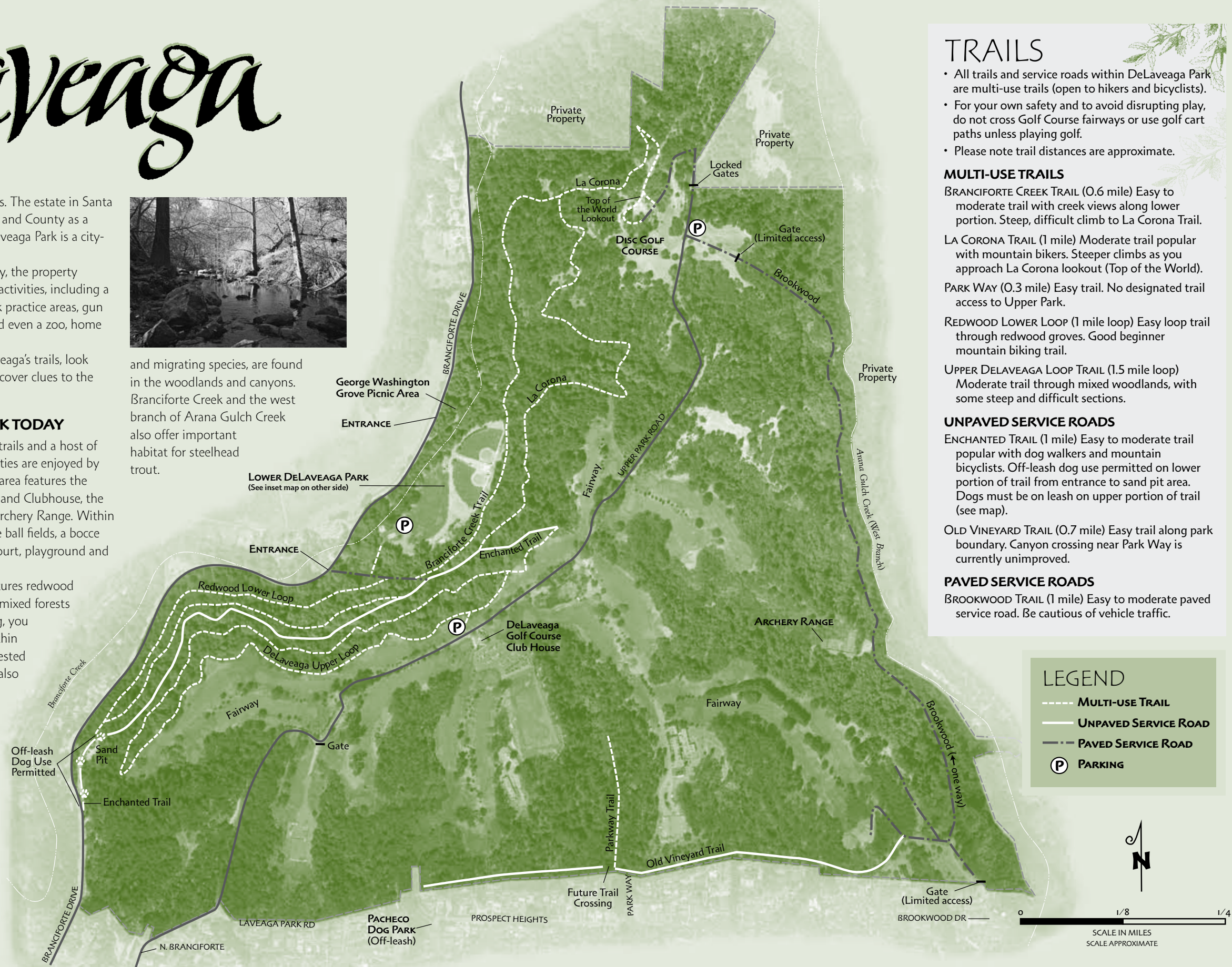
## DELAVEAGA PARK TODAY

Today, a network of trails and a host of newer recreational activities are enjoyed by visitors. The upper park area features the DeLaveaga Golf Course and Clubhouse, the Disc Golf Course, and Archery Range. Within the lower park, there are ball fields, a bocce ball court, a volleyball court, playground and picnic areas.

DeLaveaga Park features redwood groves, oak woodlands, mixed forests and grasslands. In spring, you may see wildflowers within meadows and along forested trails. The natural areas also offer valuable habitat for wildlife, including deer, coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion. Numerous birds, both resident



and migrating species, are found in the woodlands and canyons. Branciforte Creek and the west branch of Arana Gulch Creek also offer important habitat for steelhead trout.



## TRAILS

- All trails and service roads within DeLaveaga Park are multi-use trails (open to hikers and bicyclists).
- For your own safety and to avoid disrupting play, do not cross Golf Course fairways or use golf cart paths unless playing golf.
- Please note trail distances are approximate.

### MULTI-USE TRAILS

**BRANCIORTE CREEK TRAIL** (0.6 mile) Easy to moderate trail with creek views along lower portion. Steep, difficult climb to La Corona Trail.

**LA CORONA TRAIL** (1 mile) Moderate trail popular with mountain bikers. Steeper climbs as you approach La Corona lookout (Top of the World).

**PARK WAY** (0.3 mile) Easy trail. No designated trail access to Upper Park.

**REDWOOD LOWER LOOP** (1 mile loop) Easy loop trail through redwood groves. Good beginner mountain biking trail.

**UPPER DELAVEAGA LOOP TRAIL** (1.5 mile loop) Moderate trail through mixed woodlands, with some steep and difficult sections.

### UNPAVED SERVICE ROADS

**ENCHANTED TRAIL** (1 mile) Easy to moderate trail popular with dog walkers and mountain bicyclists. Off-leash dog use permitted on lower portion of trail from entrance to sand pit area. Dogs must be on leash on upper portion of trail (see map).

**OLD VINEYARD TRAIL** (0.7 mile) Easy trail along park boundary. Canyon crossing near Park Way is currently unimproved.

### PAVED SERVICE ROADS

**BROOKWOOD TRAIL** (1 mile) Easy to moderate paved service road. Be cautious of vehicle traffic.

## THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ WELCOMES YOU TO DELAVEAGA PARK

Visitors are responsible to know and comply with all park regulations. Please stay on designated trails and obey all trail signs.

- Dogs must be on a leash at all times except in designated off-leash areas.
- Please be courteous and clean up after your pet.
- Bicyclists must ride responsibly and at a safe speed.

## THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED:

- |         |         |                                 |
|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Alcohol | Camping | Wood gathering                  |
| Smoking | Fires   | Collection of plants or animals |

## TRAIL HOURS

Sunrise to sunset