Special Events

Large enough for company picnics, special events such as birthday parties, weddings, or family reunions, Louis A. Stelzer Park offers three areas to accommodate your needs including a wedding or youth area, Picnic Area 1 and an amphitheater. The 200-year-old Wedding Tree provides a romantic location for a ceremony, while the amphitheater will create a more formal setting. Receptions and special events can be held in the picnic area, which will accommodate up to 50 people.

Outdoor Education

Stelzer is one of eight County parks involved in the Discovery Program – educational curriculum that immerses students and teachers in nature-related activities that educate them about nature, science and local history.

Stelzer is also home to a 1.5-mile TRACK Trail. TRACK Trails is a program that rewards kids for spending time outdoors. They can pick up a nature guide at the trailhead to complete a scavenger hunt that teaches them about plants, animals and insects. Back home, they can register their newfound knowledge on the Kids in Parks website to win cool, nature-themed prizes.

The Legacy of Louis A. Stelzer

Louis Alexander Stelzer was born on Jan. 3, 1881 in Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany and died in San Diego on Aug. 2, 1972 at the age of 91.

Mr. Stelzer spent his adult life in San Diego and Los Angeles as a building contractor and architect. He acquired the park property in the 1940s as a weekend retreat. Shadow Mountain Ranch, as he called it, brought him much happiness through the years.

Upon his death in 1972, he deeded the land to the County so children of San Diego could enjoy a place for outdoor education and recreation. The park is named in his honor.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Alcoholic beverages are permitted providing the alcohol content does not exceed 20%.

DRONES: Remotely piloted aircraft and drones are prohibited.

FIREARMS & WEAPONS: Firearms and weapons are not permitted in any County Park.

FIREWORKS: Fireworks are not permitted in any County Park.

LITTER: Littering is prohibited. Please place litter and recyclable materials in the containers provided by the park.

NATURAL & CULTURAL FEATURES: All plants, animals, natural and cultural features are fully protected and may not be harmed or removed.

PETS: Pets are permitted in the park during park hours. Pets must be kept on a maximum 6 ft. leash, and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pet.

SMOKING: Smoking, including the use of vaporizing products, is not permitted.

TRAILS: Please stay on designated trails. Please share the trail.

TREES: Do not tie or hang anything to trees, including piñatas, hammocks, ropes, wires, or tents. Do not drive nails, screws, or staples into trees.

VEHICLES: Vehicles are not allowed beyond the designated parking lot.

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Louis A. Stelzer County Park is tucked in the rocky foothills along Wildcat Canyon Creek. Dedicated in 1982, this 420-acre park is designed to accommodate visitors of all ages and abilities.

The tree-filled, shady park is an adventurer’s dream offering barbecues, playgrounds, camping, fitness stations, and miles of hiking through the “V” shaped Wildcat Canyon, which is as tall as 1,150 feet above sea level along the ridge line.

**Group Camping Area**

Louis A. Stelzer County Park offers one large campsite for sanctioned Youth Group camping. Persons using this site must belong to a recognized youth organization. For additional information, call 877-565-3600.

**Riparian Trail**

Parallel to the creek and following the western bank, you will find the 0.7-mile Riparian Trail that wanders through fresh water habitat and is home to a variety of native plants and wildlife including deer, raccoons and bobcats.

**Stelzer Ridge Trail**

The 0.6-mile Stelzer Ridge Trail begins past the western playground just south of the giant live oak tree found within the youth group camping area. Beautiful vistas of mountains to the east and valleys below await you if you journey the trail. At the trail’s end, veer right to visit the Kumeyaay Promontory. Take the left fork and enjoy a vigorous climb up Stelzer Summit.

**Wooten Loop Trail**

The 0.28-mile Wooten Loop Trail connects the Riparian and Stelzer Ridge Trails. In the spring, you will encounter the vibrant colors of wildflowers in surrounding meadows. Enjoy the refreshing breeze at the observation deck while searching for a Red-tail Hawk in the sky above the canyon.