

# Parks

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- Facebook buttons seem to be broken.
- “Rent Park” buttons seem to be broken.
- Consider setting headings as h2 instead of manually styled p tags.
- Consider setting the text-transform property of each heading to uppercase to automatically capitalize each letter.

## Central Downtown Parks

These parks in the central business district are frequently used for community events, including festivals, stage shows, concerts, and outdoor movies.

**Anisq’Oyo Park** - Originally constructed by volunteers in the heart of town, Anisq’Oyo Park was the first community-instituted park in Isla Vista and was maintained by the District after its formation. The park features a rustic windmill (a historic landmark), grassy areas with picnic benches, children’s play equipment, and a large freshwater pond that provides habitat for ducks, egrets, herons, frogs, turtles, fish, and other wildlife. The historic Anisq’Oyo Amphitheater is ideal for large public functions, containing restrooms, electrical outlets, and a stage, and is available to rent by community members and student organizations.

**Estero Park** - One of the largest parks in Isla Vista, Estero Park is a large complex that runs between Camino del Sur and Camino Corto. It provides multiple opportunities for active recreation, with outdoor basketball courts, a playing field, a disc golf course, and children’s play equipment. [St. George Youth Center](#), which offers tutoring, youth activities, and a meeting place for local teens, is located in the park at the corner of Estero Road and Camino del Sur. Estero Park also houses our all-organic Community Gardens project, where gardeners can use their plots to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers for their own use. The iconic Red Barn, set among the Estero Oaks, an old grove preserve, harkens back to Isla Vista’s ranch days.

**Little Acorn Park** - On the corner of Embarcadero del Mar and El Embarcadero Road, Little Acorn Park is only two blocks from the ocean. With a large grassy open area, benches, and a bocce ball court, it is the perfect place for weekend relaxation and recreation.

**People's Park** - Just to the south of Anisq'Oyo Park and alongside Embarcadero Hall, the open lawn and picnic benches of People's Park provide an ideal place to relax between classes. Additionally, the park is home to the Isla Vista Peace Course, where visitors can perfect their disc golf skills with a practice basket.

**Perfect Park** - Completed in 1995 at the base of the Embarcadero Loop, Perfect Park was designed and built by community volunteers. Beautifully landscaped with solid paths and native coastal plants, the park functions as an urban getaway for nature lovers, ideal for bird watching, contemplation, outdoor reading, and picnics. In 2003, the Perfect Park Peace Monument was built to commemorate peace activism in Isla Vista from the 1970s to the present.

## Neighborhood Parks

These small parks serve as yards and playgrounds for people who live in this high-density community.

**Children's Park** - Built in an area of Isla Vista with many families, Children's Park contains sandy play equipment, benches, a gazebo, a handball court, a small lawn area, and barbecue grills. The park is the weekday-afternoon meeting place for the [Children's Park Recreation Program](#) for at-risk youth and is the departure location for over three hundred field trips per year.

**Greek Park** - Located on the corner of Embarcadero del Norte and Segovia Road, this small park includes picnic tables, basketball courts, and volleyball courts. Many of the fraternities and sororities in Isla Vista use this park for fundraising and volleyball tournaments.

**Kids' Trail** - Running from the back of Isla Vista Elementary School, alongside the nature preserve, past the stables, through Tierra De Fortuna Park, and over to Pasado Road, Kids' Trail gives children and teachers a convenient car-free pathway to and from school and the beach.

**Pardall Gardens** - Located on Pardall Road, the most heavily traveled pedestrian and bicycle route to UC Santa Barbara, this tiny park is surrounded by restaurants and businesses. This small oasis in a busy world contains picnic tables and a grassy area with trees—perfect for lunch or study breaks.

**Sueño Orchard** - Developed by IVRPD in the 1980s as a demonstration project, at one time the orchard contained over thirty kinds of trees, cultivated organically. Most of these trees bore fruit and were available to the public for consumption. Today, although some trees no longer produce fruit, the orchard still contains a lush collection of flowers and greenery. The Isla Vista Peace Course begins here, with the first two disc golf holes winding around the center orchard area. See [Tree Identification](#).

**Sueño Park** - This park was funded by the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 and was upgraded in 2002. The playground equipment and the picnic tables come from recycled materials and are accessible to mobility-impaired children.

**Tierra De Fortuna Park** - Located at the end of Fortuna Road on the far west end of Isla Vista, Tierra De Fortuna Park features a beautiful view of the mountains and trees, a vine-covered gazebo, picnic tables, and a water fountain. Play options include swings, a slide, a sand pit with a digger, a merry-go-round, a springy seesaw, and a large dinosaur to climb on. This is one of the most rented parks for birthday parties! The park also connects to Kids' Trail.

**Tipi Village** - This park is landscaped with natural plants and is located next to Estero Park's Red Barn and Community Gardens project. Political and social debate embroiled Tipi Village when it became the site of an experiment in living sustainably: Isla Vistans formed a compound of tepees, or conical tents, in an effort to lead self-sufficient lives. Today, the small park houses disc golf Holes 3 and 4 of the Isla Vista Peace Course.

**Trigo-Pasado Park** - A pathway between Trigo and Pasado Roads, this long stretch of lawn is perfect for a game of catch or sunbathing. The park's best feature, however, is an eleven-foot-tall climbing boulder. The picnic table and the water fountain are great for rest and refreshment between climbing sessions.

## Bluff-Top Parks

Bluff-top parks provide residents and visitors with spectacular views of the surf and the Channel Islands. Marine wildlife—pelicans, gulls, seabirds, dolphins, whales, and sea lions—can be observed from the bluffs. Intended for passive recreational uses, these parks are fenced at the bluff's edge for safety and do not include restrooms, playfields, or play equipment.

**Beach Accesses** - Beach accesses are owned by Santa Barbara County and connect the sidewalk to the Isla Vista coastline. For a map of accesses to El Embarcadero, Camino Pescadero, Sueño, Escondido Pass, and Camino Majorca, [click here](#).

**Camino Pescadero Park** - Camino Pescadero Park, an excellent oceanic vantage point, features walkways and native plants that wind around park benches, picnic tables, a water fountain, and a recreational lawn. Signs inform park users of the historical use of the Santa Barbara Channel by the Chumash people, and the outdoor shower is a favorite with surfers and beachgoers.

**Gaffney Park** - A natural open area adjacent to Sea Lookout Park, Gaffney Park forms a transition between busy green space and housing.

**Pelican Park** - Owned by Santa Barbara County. Designed to educate visitors about the Channel Islands, Pelican Park has colorful signs that describe the marine wildlife that can be observed from the bluffs, such as gray whales and pelicans. Stone couches invite visitors to sit back and enjoy the view among plants native to the Channel Islands. Art features, such as the seashells and beach stones that inlay the water fountain and the seaweed design that adorns the terrazzo ping-pong table, further enhance the Channel Islands theme.

**Rottappel Park** - This narrow open space provides another look at the ocean for residents and passersby. An adjacent county-owned lot broadens the Rottappel view.

**Sea Lookout Park** - Owned by Santa Barbara County. The largest oceanside park in Isla Vista, this wide grassy stretch on Del Playa Drive serves as a picnic spot and a play area for hundreds of people a day. The volleyball court is popular for large and small groups alike, and the wooden structures provide a nice place to look out over the ocean. Sea Lookout Park was developed by landscape artist Lloyd Hamrol and was once home to the Isla Vista Tree, a huge cypress hanging over the ocean that became a symbol of Isla Vista's quest for self-governance. When the tree fell into the ocean, residents fought to install a plaque to commemorate the tree and to honor its importance to the people.

**Walter Capps Park** - This county-owned park was dedicated as "Walter Capps Park" on April 23, 2006, in tribute to the former congressman who took a special interest in Isla Vista affairs. Santa Barbara County has approved plans to develop the park (pending secured funding).

**Window to the Sea** - Located in a densely populated area of Isla Vista, Window to the Sea is a small gem of a park, with lush plantings and a two-seater swing on a knoll that overlooks the ocean.

## Natural Open Spaces

The District maintains approximately 37 acres of protected natural open spaces and vernal pools, which provide Isla Vista residents, students, and visitors with opportunities to observe and learn about native flora and fauna. Canada geese, white-tailed kites, great horned owls, hawks, falcons, black-crowned night herons, great blue herons, egrets, and various species of songbirds are frequently seen in the open spaces. And during the rainy season, water gathers in the vernal pools and attracts a variety of migratory birds. These properties play an important role as a semicontiguous string of riparian and freshwater open space preserves that run along the coastal mesa, providing a vital wildlife corridor.

**Camino Corto Open Space** - At 20.5 acres, this preserve borders El Colegio Road, Camino Corto, Isla Vista Elementary School, UC Santa Barbara Stables, Tierra De Fortuna Park, and residential areas on Fortuna Road and Fortuna Lane. It contains restored native plants, vernal pools, Camino Corto Creek, nature trails, a bridge, and educational signs.

**Del Playa Open Space** - This 8.21-acre space is made up of both county- and District-owned properties. Originally purchased to preserve open space along the densely populated bluffs, it was later discovered to contain a vernal pool area, and thus Del Playa Open Space became part of the natural and educational vernal pool projects.

**Del Sol Vernal Pool Reserve** - Bordering the El Colegio and Camino Corto roads and running along the back of residences on Abrego Road, Del Sol Vernal Pool Reserve is approximately 12 acres big and contains native plants, vernal pools, nature trails, and educational signs.