



Trees of Quail Hollow Ranch

Nestled deep in the Santa Cruz Mountains, this 300-acre park is home to a wide variety of trees. This document contains 41 trees (some are also considered large shrubs). Most are observable from trails, and we note the ones which are not.



Jim Bahn, author

Acknowledgments

Anne Williams

Lee Summers

Al Keuter

Ken Kellman

Richard James

And countless county maintenance personnel and volunteers who work to rid the park of invasive plants and who look out for the health and well-being of park flora and fauna

ReadMeFirst

Dated October 2021 (with small updates on November 2022 and June 2023). This version is at least the 3rd major revision of the first document, originally generated by Anne Williams in 2009, based on data from Ken Kellman and Al Keuter, who should all be given the majority of the credit for this work. From previous versions, we have added a few trees and large shrubs, some of which are barely seen from trails, but deserve to be documented.

To accommodate the hiker, we have sorted the list by trail, or area of the park. When a species is found in multiple areas, we try to note it. No attempt has been made to list every tree on every trail, but simply to list areas which provide the best or most convenient view of the species. For instance, we list only 4 trees on the Woodrat and Sunset trails section, but because they are listed elsewhere, closer to the visitor center, we did not include California live oak, coast redwood, Santa Cruz Mountain pine, Douglas fir, madrone, California hazelnut, California laurel, tanoak, and toyon.

Finally, when the tree is not viewable at all from an official QHR trail, we note it, but all visitors are encouraged to stay on official trails.

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Around the visitor center, caretaker's house, and the old orchard

Not surprisingly, you will find the greatest variety of trees near the visitor center, where ranchers and farmers planted many different species, many for ornamental value (e.g. giant sequoia), and some for commercial value (e.g. apple).

Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all park trees in this area; and some of these trees exist in other areas, but this represents a good area for finding these specimens. Other trees you'll easily find in this area include:

Coast redwood	32
Santa Cruz Mountain pine	39
Douglas fir	31
Madrone	33
California hazelnut	29
Tanoak	30
Shining willow	25
Arroyo willow	26

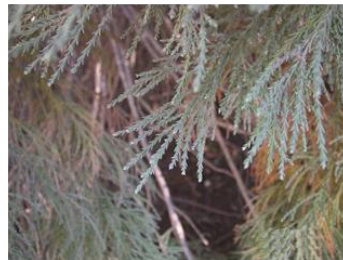
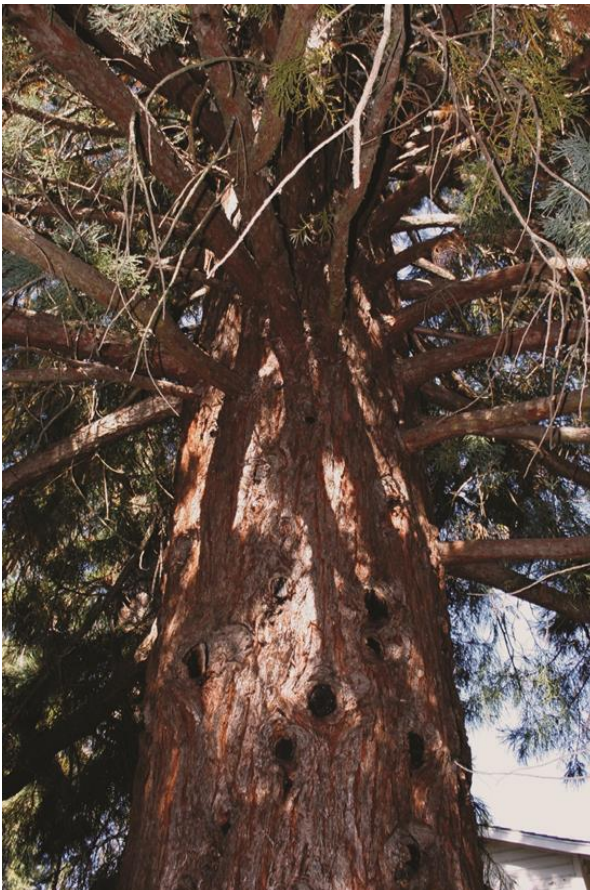
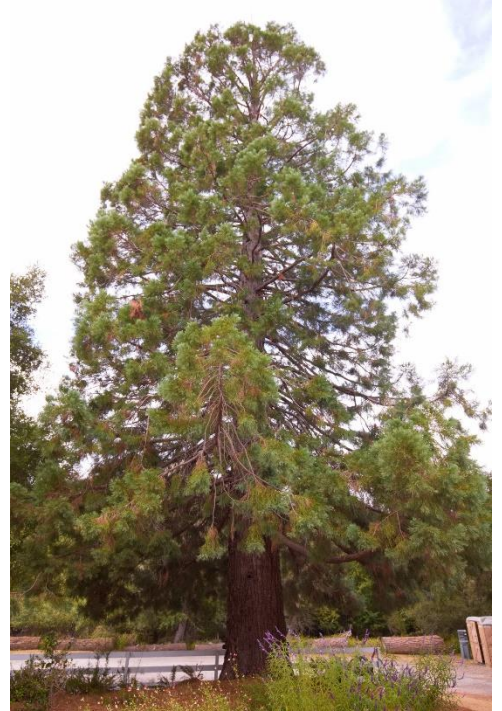
giant sequoia

Sequoiadendron giganteum

A tall tree, 150-300' high with a huge trunk 10-35' in diameter, the giant sequoia or California bigtree is the oldest and mightiest of living things, sometimes called the "King of Trees." Its deeply furrowed thick bark is reddish brown. Scale-like blue-green leaves are arranged spirally on the twig. Egg-shaped cones, 2-3" long, ripen the second year. The Giant Sequoia is native on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, occurring in 32 groves. When first discovered, these giant trees were extensively logged until the creation of National Parks to preserve the remaining virgin stands. The General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, is 272' tall, 30' in diameter, and is estimated to be 3800 years old. Giant sequoia is also planted as an ornamental in parks and gardens.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, a giant sequoia is growing next to the ranch house; we think it was planted after the Lanes bought QHR in 1937.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



coral bark Japanese maple

Acer palmatum 'Sangu Kaku'

A very attractive small to medium size deciduous broadleaf tree, coral bark maple is grown as a colorful ornamental. It grows, vase-like to 20' tall with branches spreading 6-12'. The delicate leaves are light green during the growing season and turn a bright yellow in autumn. Its coral-red bark darkens with cold and is especially striking after the leaves have fallen from the tree.

Location: At Quail Hollow, two coral bark Japanese maples are planted right next to the ranch house porch.



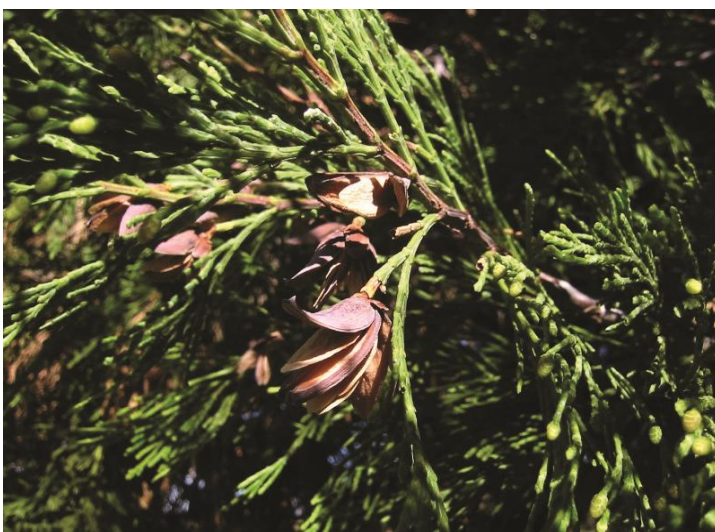
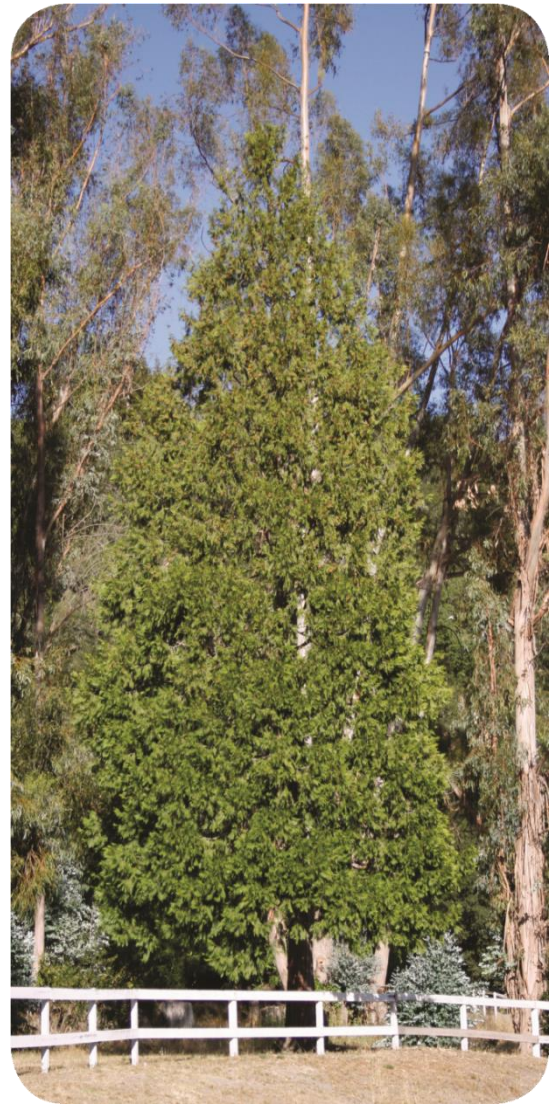
incense-cedar

Calocedrus decurrens

An aromatic evergreen forest tree, 50-150' high, it has a tapering trunk from a broad base, thick cinnamon-brown deeply ridged bark, branchlets which look as if they've been ironed flat. Branchlets are covered with overlapping dark green scale-like leaves which have a spicy fragrance. Oblong cones, 3/4-1 1/2" long, are at first bright green, turning brown and opening wide when mature. They hang from the tips of the branchlets. Young trees have a dense conical crown; in older trees crown becomes rounded. Native to the Sierras, this tree is one of the hardiest and most widely planted conifers throughout California. Its wood has been cut for cedar chests on account of its odor, for door and window frames because of its lightness, for shingles and railroad ties because of its great durability. It's also good for making pencils because the wood doesn't split and is soft enough to be sharpened easily.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, an incense-cedar is planted next to the old orchard, as seen in the picture here. There are several more across the street from the park entrance.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



plum

Prunus cerasifera

Popular in landscaping due to its ornamental nature. It's a relatively small tree that has a rounded, spreading growth habit almost like a shrub. Native to Southeast Europe and Western Asia; it produces fragrant, five-petaled pale pink to white flowers in the spring that are roughly an inch across, which then turn to small edible fruits. The leaves can range in color from purple to green. This tree has a moderate growth rate and gains about 1 to 2 feet per year. Fruits are usually of medium size, between 0.79–2.76 inch in diameter, globose to oval. The flesh is firm and juicy. The fruit's peel is smooth, with a natural waxy surface that adheres to the flesh. The plum is a drupe, meaning its fleshy fruit surrounds a single hard fruitstone which encloses the fruit's seed. Plums generally benefit from cross pollination.

Location: there are two trees right next to the parking lot, and a lone tree on the Lower Chaparral trail, where it turns from an east/west trail to a north/south trail, 3' on the west side of the trail

Source: the Spruce, Wikipedia



One of the plums right off the parking lot



Single tree on Lower Chaparral trail; does not bear fruit

California live oak

Quercus agrifolia var. *agrifolia*

A native evergreen tree 30-75' tall, California, aka coast live oak has spreading branches from a trunk which divides a few feet above the ground, forming a broad round crown. Leaves are convex on top and have tufts of hair where the veins join on the undersides. They are stiff and leathery, 3/4-2" wide and dark green above, paler beneath, margins spine-tipped. Flowers are inconspicuous, both sexes on the same tree (monoecious). The staminate (male) flowers are in drooping catkins; the pistillate (female) flowers are solitary in new leaf axils. Acorns mature the first year and are 1-1 1/2" long. These impressive trees give distinctive beauty to the coast ranges and are the most common native trees throughout the bay region. Extensive groves of this oak once grew where the city of Oakland now is and gave Oakland its name. Human population and building construction are increasing more rapidly in the range of the coast Live than in any other part of the U.S. Oaks are now beginning to be appreciated as precious assets but were formerly cut down for firewood or to make way for the housing boom.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, live oaks can be found throughout the park, including the large tree in front of the visitor center. Some beautiful old specimens can be found between the Lower and Upper Chaparral trails.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



eucalyptus, blue gum

Eucalyptus globules

Introduced to California from Australia, this tall tree grows 70 – 140' and has constantly shedding outer bark and smooth gray or whitish inner bar.

This tree has thin gray-green leaves, which have a penetrating odor when crushed, large white sticky flowers and abundant warty, angular fruit capsules which cover the ground beneath the tree. The oily duff from these trees impedes the growth of nearby plants, so they can't compete with the eucalyptus for water and nutrients. Eucalyptus trees drop leaves and branches that are highly flammable, making them hazardous in fire prone areas such as the Santa Cruz mountains.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, there are several groves of eucalyptus throughout the park.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts



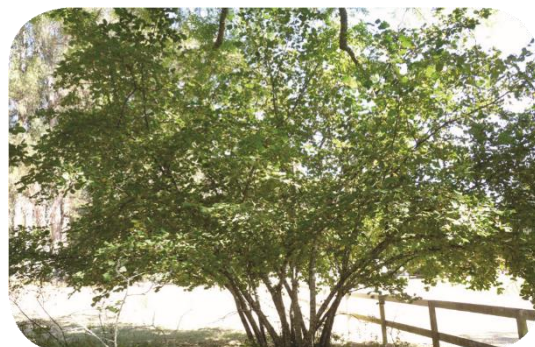
common filbert

Corylus avellana

Widely grown commercially for nut production, imported Filberts are nicely structured trees, growing 10-18' tall. Their soft leaves are roundish and ruffle-edged. Nuts ripen inside frilled husks in late summer and drop in early fall. Squirrels and jays often pick nuts before they fall. Showy catkins (male flowers) hang long and full-on bare branches in winter.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, two mature Filberts are south of the orchard near the ranch house; one is pictured bottom right.

Sunset Western Garden Book 2007



pecan

Carya illinoensis

The pecan is a species of hickory native to the southern United States and northern Mexico in the region of the Mississippi River. The seed is an edible nut used as a snack and in various recipes, such as praline candy and pecan pie. The pecan, in various aspects, is included in state symbols of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Oklahoma, and Texas. Without another tree with which to cross-pollinate, this pecan does not produce fruit.

Location: the large pecan tree at QHR can be found right behind the propane tank behind/next to the visitor center, photo below left.

Source: Wikipedia



Chinese elm

Ulmus parviflora

Chinese Elms are fast growing, hardy ornamental trees which may be evergreen in warm regions, but which drop most of their leaves here in the Santa Cruz mountains. Their form is variable but generally spreading, with long, arching, eventually weeping branchlets. They grow 20-60' tall with leathery, evenly-toothed leaves and round fruits produced in the fall. They are popular shade trees, grown all across the U.S.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, a large Chinese Elm is planted in the caretaker's yard.

Sunset Western Garden Book, 2007; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Guide to Trees and Shrubs, G. Petrides



red maple

Acer rubrum

Red maples are famous throughout the country for their brilliant red fall foliage. They grow rapidly to 40-60' tall and 1-2' in diameter. The leaves are 3-6 inches across, with 3 to 5 lobes. Flowers are small and red, appearing in dense clusters from March-May, before the tree leafs out. Reddish winged seeds, called *samaras* ripen in early summer. This tree also has reddish stems and twigs. The smooth, light-gray bark of young trees develops narrow, scaly plates with age. The wood is sometimes used for furniture. In the fall the foliage turns a spectacular crimson-orange, which remains on the tree for a long time. Commonly planted as ornamentals along streets and in parks, red maples are native to Southeastern U.S.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, you can find a red maple next to the horse barn and an even larger one in the caretaker's yard.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, G. Pertrides; Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino.



black locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

A tall deciduous tree, 40 to 80' high with spreading, usually prickly branches, the Black Locust is native to central and eastern U.S. and can be invasive in California. It has long, pinnately compound leaves, fragrant white flowers in drooping clusters, flat dark seed pods 2-4" long. These trees can form thick groves shading out smaller native plants.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, black locusts are near the spring behind the orchard, and along the bottom of the Lower Chaparral trail.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino



Locust at beginning of Lower Chaparral trail

chase oak

Quercus xchasei

Chase Oak is a cross between California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*). This is the only known specimen at Quail Hollow Ranch. Unlike the tiny seedling you see here at QHR, when mature, this oak is nearly as wide as it is tall with multiple thick branches and a broad trunk. The bark is gray and shallowly grooved. With characteristics intermediate between its parents, the leaves of Chase Oak may range from deciduous to evergreen to tardily deciduous, depending on the severity of the winter. Leaves are shallowly lobed with sharp teeth, glossy above, and somewhat hairy beneath. The acorns mature in two seasons.

Location: Next to visitor center next to swampy area, currently protected by a wire fence

Source: Al Keuter



western azalea (shrub)

Rhododendron occidentale

The western azalea shrub is one of only two species of rhododendron native to the West Coast of North America. It can grow to as high as 16 feet, so we're including it in this listing. It is a plant of great beauty and captivating fragrance. The large floral trusses are visually compelling by any standard: five to fifteen, sparkling white or pink, flaring trumpet-shaped flowers, marked with a bright yellow to orange spot. The flowers emerge before the leaves, bestowing maximal effect. Good addition to butterfly gardens.

Location: Next to visitor center next to swampy area

Source: Pacifichorticulture.org, Calscape.org



Western azalea next to visitor center

black cottonwood

Populus balsamifera subsp. *trithocarpa*

A tall deciduous tree, 40-100' high with spreading branches forming a broad crown, black cottonwood is native to the Pacific coast in riparian and valley habitats. 3-5" alternate heart-shaped leaves, dark green above and silvery beneath, have long stems which allow the leaves to flutter in the breeze. Staminate (male) and pistillate (female) flowers are in catkins on separate trees. Ripe seeds are attached to a tuft of cottony hairs and are blown by the wind. Resinous buds are sticky and fragrant in early spring and very attractive to migratory songbirds. Bark on old trees is dark to black and deeply furrowed; smooth and greenish gray on branches and on young trees.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, look for black cottonwood along the creek below the Eucalyptus, a single specimen in the willow swamp just north of the pond, and many specimens, young and old, in the swampy area just north of the visitor center parking lot.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf



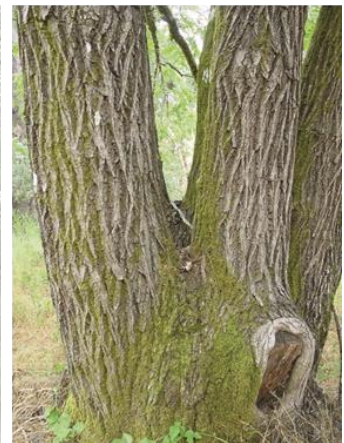
California black walnut

Juglans californica var. *hindsii*

California black walnuts are large and stately deciduous native trees, growing up to 75' tall and 4' in diameter with furrowed gray-brown bark and round-topped crowns. Pinnately compound leaves are 9-12" long and have 15-19 leaflets, often slightly curved toward the ends. Staminate (male) and pistillate (female) flowers are in different places on the same tree (monoecious); the male flowers in tassel-like catkins, the female flowers in erect, terminal spikes. Round fruits 1-2" in diameter have dark brown, slightly hairy husks enclosing nuts. Black Walnuts prefer moist soils and are often associated with the sites of old Indian villages. Their forest origins have not yet been found. They were originally discovered in 3 places: the valley of Walnut Creek in Contra Costa County, the banks of the Sacramento River and Wooden Valley east of Napa. Thick shells and the stains caused by the hulls have caused a decline in this delicious wild nut's popularity. Ground squirrels feed readily on them. 95% of California's commercial English Walnut trees are now grafted on Black Walnuts because of their resistance to drought, gophers and the Oak root-rot, a serious fungus pest.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, look for black walnuts in the orchard and just past the main trailhead.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie; Edible and Useful Plants of California by Charlotte Bringle Clarke



red osier dogwood

Cornus sericea

Red osier or red-twig dogwood is a loose, spreading, multi-stemmed shrub, 6-12 ft. tall, with conspicuous red twigs. Dense, flat-topped clusters of creamy-white blossoms are followed by umbrella-shaped clusters of pea-sized white berries. Autumn foliage is colorful. Red osier is deciduous.

Location: Swampy area right next to the visitor center; photo is of actual tree.

Source: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?ItemID=834>



pear

Pyrus communis

A well-known naturalized fruit tree, the pear has white flowers in early spring and edible pears in late summer to fall. It is a native of Europe and Western Asia. The pear is similar to the apple but its leaves are shiny green, with elongate fleshy fruits and the tree usually has several strong upright, sometimes thorny branches, making a narrow-topped tree.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, there is one pear in the last remaining orchard, behind the ranch house.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, Peterson Field Guide Series by George A. Petrides; National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Tree



This is one of the two remaining pear trees at QHR

apple

Malus sylvestris

This familiar fruit tree, naturalized locally, has a short trunk, spreading rounded crown, showy pink-tinged blossoms and delicious red fruit. Numerous varieties of apples have been developed from *Malus pumila*, the common native apple of Southeastern Europe and Central Asia. This species was introduced into North America by early settlers and is now naturalized in many parts of the U.S. and Canada. Leaves are oval or heart-shaped, usually somewhat white or gray-wooly beneath. Apple blossoms, usually fragrant, are white to pink and bloom from April to June. The fruit (a pome) is widely variable in size and color and ripens September to November. Apples are members of the rose family, which also includes cherries, plums, peaches, pears and blackberries. The apple has been cultivated since ancient times. Numerous improved varieties have been developed. For nearly 50 years Jonathan Chapman (1774-1845), traveling mostly on foot, distributed apple seeds to everybody he met. With seeds from cider presses, “Johnny Appleseed” helped to establish orchards from Pennsylvania to Illinois. Wildlife consumes quantities of fallen fruit after harvest. At one time, probably 100 years ago, there were 500 apple trees at Quail Hollow Ranch.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, there are very old apple trees in the orchard and on the lower Chaparral Trail, and new trees planted in 2021.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, Peterson Field Guide Series by George A. Petrides; National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees



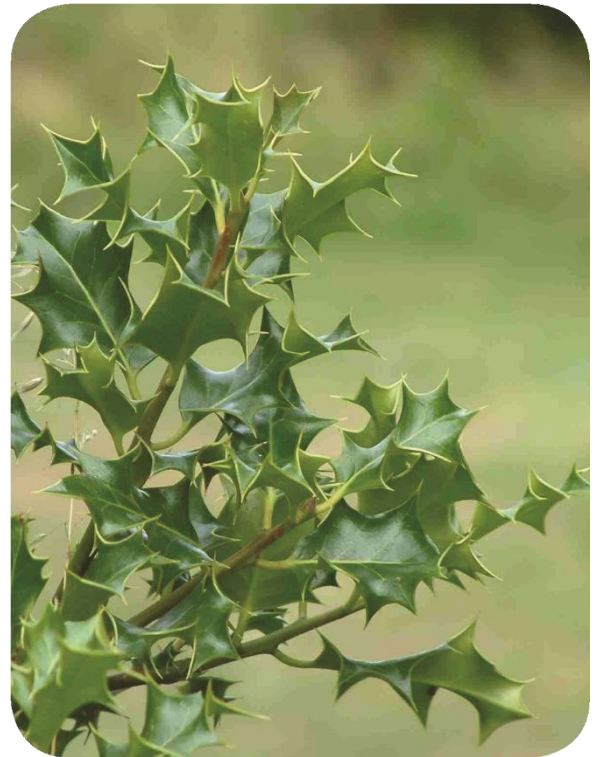
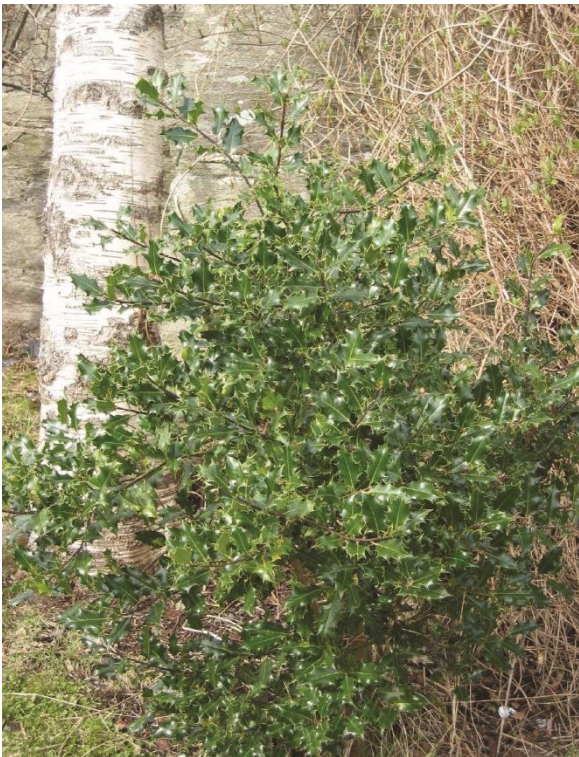
English holly

Ilex aquifolium

Native of Europe and Asia, evergreen English holly is widely planted as an ornamental for its dark green glossy foliage and clusters of dark red fruits persisting through the winter. Leaves are 1 1/2-3" long; leaf margins are wavy with large triangular spiny teeth. Flowers are white and fragrant. Ornamental trees rarely grow taller than 25' but grow to 70' in their native habitat.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, English holly trees are growing near the ranch house and creek.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino



Around the pond

Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all park trees in this area; and some of these trees exist in other areas, but this represents a good area for finding these specimens. Other trees you'll easily find around the pond, especially on the south side, include:

Coast redwood	32
Santa Cruz Mountain pine	39
Douglas fir	31
California live oak	10

shining willow

Salix lucida subsp. *lasiandra*

Fast-growing trees 15-50' tall, 12-14" in diameter, shining willows have irregular crowns of ascending, spreading branches. Leaves are dark green above, gray-green on the underside with wart-like glands at the junction of leaf and stem. The sexes occur on separate plants, in elongated catkins. The fruit is a small capsule containing numerous downy winged seeds which are blown in the wind. Sometimes called Yellow Willows, they are attractive, native, streamside trees.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, shining willows are found around the pond and in other marshy areas. The one in the photo is the first willow to your left when facing the tall red willow, facing the pond. It's right on the trail.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



arroyo willow

Salix lasiolepis

The arroyo willow has clustered stems and grows rapidly as a thicket shrub or small tree, 10-30' tall with narrow oblong leaves 3-6" long and 1/2-1" wide, dark green above and somewhat hairy and whitish below, with margins slightly curled under. Often called white willow, native to California and the west, arroyo willow grows near streams and arroyos, or gullies, in valleys, foothills and mountains where the soil is moist. All willows are dioecious - that is, staminate (male) and pistillate (female) flowers, both in catkins, are produced on separate plants. Bees gather nectar from blossoms in early spring and the flexible twigs can be used in basketry.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, arroyo willows are in areas of moist soil throughout the park, including MOST of the willows you'll see in the area next to the parking lot and the pond.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf



red willow

Salix laevigata

Red willow is one of the most common riparian trees in California, usually growing in or very near creeks, at elevations from 0-5000 feet. It is an extremely fast-growing tree - growing up to about 50 feet in height, though our red willow in front of the pond is taller. The bark is ridged and grayish, though it sometimes turns reddish with age. Its form is variable, but it will often grow from multiple winding trunks, some more or less straight up, and some growing out far away from the base, even horizontally, and laying along the creek bottom before growing upwards again. Twigs are reddish and flexible when young. Leaves are 3-4 inches long, lanceolate and shiny green on top, dull whitish green underneath. This tree is mostly deciduous during the winter, but can start growing back leaves early during warm snaps in the winter. Yellow flowers grow in drooping catkins. In female red willows, the catkins turn into tufts of cottony seeds, which are wind-born, often in large quantities, for 2-3 weeks in the spring.

Location: [Largest red willow](#) in the U.S. is in front of the pond, near the bench, pictured below.

Source: Calscape



Italian Trail

Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all park trees in this area; and some of these trees exist in other areas, but this represents a good area for finding these specimens. Other trees you'll easily find on the Italian trail include:

Santa Cruz Mountain pine	39
California live oak	10
Eucalyptus, blue gum	11
Knobcone pine	45

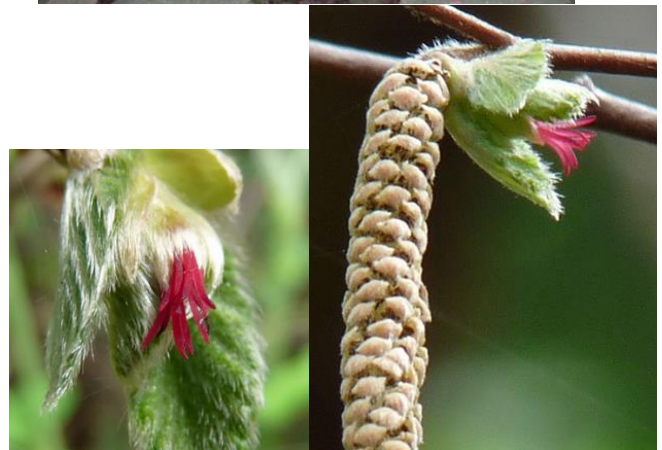
California hazelnut

Corylus cornata var. *californica*

California Hazelnuts are native shrubs and small trees with soft, hairy, roundish leaves 3-5" long and 2-4" wide. Catkins resemble those of birches. The fruits are nuts enclosed in bristly husks, which are prolonged to form a beak, August to September. Note the beautiful red color displayed by the female flowers. Hazelnuts are found in thickets and woods borders on damp slopes in many plant communities of northern California. Hazelnuts were eaten by Native Americans of California and are favored by squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents. Rabbits and deer browse the entire plant.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, hazelnuts are found along the Italian trail and elsewhere in the shady understory of the park.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Guide to Trees and Shrubs, G. Petrides; Edible and Useful Plants of California, C.B. Clarke



tanbark oak, tanoak

Notholithocarpus densiflorus

California natives. Not true oaks, tanoaks are in a genus intermediate between Chestnuts and Oaks. Their flowers resemble those of the Chestnuts, while the fruits are like those of the oaks. Formerly the bark was used for tanning and because the tree was once thought to be oaks, they were named Tanoaks. Tanoaks grow 60-100' tall and 1-3' in diameter. Evergreen leaves are leathery and oblong. Veins run straight to leaf margins, resembling parallel parking spaces. Catkins are 3-4" long. The 3/4-1" acorns are bitter and require 2 years to mature. The home of the tanoak is in the redwood belt of the northern California coast, wherever the sea fogs reach. Important food trees for birds and squirrels, tanoaks have been heavily damaged by Sudden Oak Death (SOD).

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, tanoaks are on the Italian Trail, near the gate, on the Sunset trail (pictured below left), and in the creek bed off Discovery trail.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie; Jepson eFlora



Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Not a true fir, Douglas-fir is a large, fast-growing evergreen forest tree, 70-250' tall, 2-3' in diameter with a long clear trunk. Needles are not bundled; 1-1 1/2" long, they stick out in all directions, bottle-brush-like, from the branches. Bark on mature trees is dark brown, thick and furrowed. The hanging, oval cones have distinctive 3-pointed bracts that look like forked tongues. The compact, conical crown has drooping side branches. Important lumber trees, their strong durable wood has many uses. Also used as Christmas trees and for reforestation. They are fertile, vigorous and fast-growing. In the bay region they are constant associates of coast redwoods and are among the most common trees in all coastal counties from Santa Cruz north. These trees may live 500-1000 years. Their small winged seeds are eaten by tree squirrels in our area. Tea high in vitamin C can be made from the fresh needles or the young twigs.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, find Douglas-Firs of all sizes on the Italian trail and along the creek.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie; Edible and Useful Plants of California by Charlotte Bringle Clarke



coast redwood

Sequoia sempervirens

During prehistoric times many species of the redwood family formed extensive forests in various parts of the world. Many are now extinct. Species in 3 genera of the redwood family are indigenous to North America: the giant sequoia and bald cypress of the southern U.S. and Mexico. Others occur largely in Asia. The coast redwood is a rapid-growing tree 100-340' tall, trunk 2-12' in diameter, with fibrous reddish-brown bark 3-10" thick. Needles are flat, 1/2-1" long; seeds do not germinate well but the tree reproduces readily by sprouts from the stump, often forming circles of younger trees around the old stump. Shallow roots soak up moisture from fog and the trees thrive best in cool, moist areas. They are notable for their resistance to fire and rot as well as for the majestic beauty of the virgin forest stands, examples of which are found at Big Basin and Henry Cowell State Parks.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, find coast redwoods in stands of 5 – 10 trees, on the Italian trail and the Sunset trail. There is a stand of dwarf redwoods at the top of the Sunset trail behind the bench (not a separate species).

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf



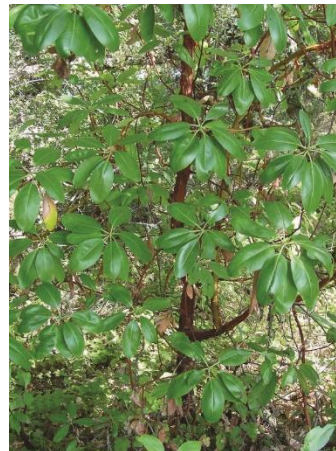
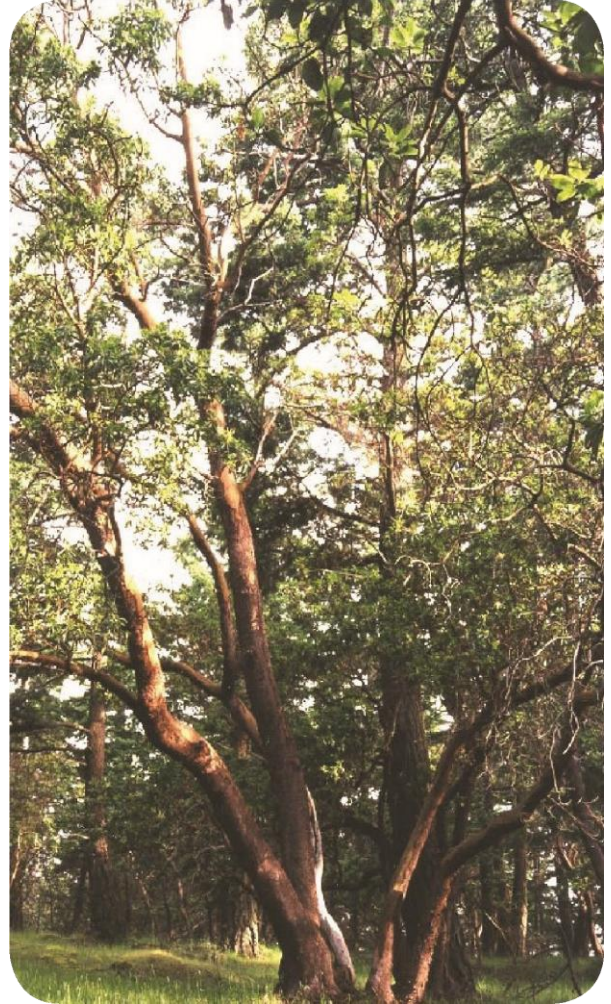
madrone

Arbutus menziesii

Pacific madrones can grow to 100' tall and 4' in diameter, with varied form. They are strikingly handsome trees with broad shining evergreen foliage and red-brown bark which peels into thin, irregular sections exposing greenish-brown inner bark. The exposed wood sometimes feels cool to the touch. Large trees appear scaly at the base. Madrone is a member of the Heath family. Its small white, waxy bell-shaped flowers hang in dense clusters and ripen into orange-red mealy berries which are eagerly sought by birds and mammals, including American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, quail, deer and raccoons. Its peeling bark can be brewed into a pleasant-tasting richly colored tea. Fire suppression throughout most of its range has resulted in a decline of the madrone, which depends on intermittent naturally occurring fires to reduce competition from conifers. Mature Madrones survive fires and also produce large numbers of seeds which sprout following fire.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, look for madrones along the Italian and Sunset.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf



Christmas berry / toyon

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Toyon is a beautiful perennial shrub native throughout the western part of California and the Sierra foothills. It is a prominent component of the coastal sage scrub plant community, and is a part of drought-adapted chaparral and mixed oak woodland habitats. It is also known by the common names Christmas berry and California Holly from the bright red berries it produces. The city of Hollywood was named for this plant.

It often grows to about 8 feet tall, but there are some spectacular specimens in the Los Padres National Forest that are over 30 feet tall. Its leaves are evergreen, alternate, sharply toothed, and are 5 cm in length and 2 cm wide. In the early summer it produces small white flowers 6mm diameter in dense bunches, The five petals are rounded. The fruit is small, bright red and berry-like, produced in large quantities, maturing in the fall and persisting well into the winter. The flowers are visited by butterflies and other insects, and have a mild, hawthorn-like scent. The berries are consumed by birds, including mockingbirds, American robins, and cedar waxwings. Mammals including coyotes also eat and disperse the berries.

Location: Along the Italian, Sunset and Discovery trails

Source: Calscape



big-leaf maple

Acer aquifolium

Maples are among the most distinctive trees and shrubs in North America; big-leaf maples are native on the Pacific coast from Alaska to California. Their deciduous leaves are palmately lobed and may be 12" in diameter, largest of any maple. In autumn, the leaves turn a bright golden color, making a fine contrast among the dark conifers of the coastal forests. Big-leaf Maples grow 30-100' tall with spreading branches forming a broad crown. Their flowers are yellowish green in drooping clusters 4-6" long, appearing in late April or early May. They light up the tree with brilliant bright yellow and droop gracefully in long, heavy clusters. The winged seeds are in pairs.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, big-leaf maples are growing at the headwater of the east fork of Bonnetti Creek, but may be visible from the upper Woodrat Trail in the fall when the leaf color gives it (them) away. There's a short specimen on the north side of the Italian trail Italian trail, 110 paces east of the #6 marker, pictured below, left. 37 05 243 N, -122 03 887 W

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



olive

Olea europaea

The olive tree is an evergreen tree or shrub native to Mediterranean Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is short and squat, and rarely exceeds 26–49 ft in height. The silvery green leaves are oblong, measuring 1.6–3.9 in long and .4–1.18 in wide. The trunk is typically gnarled and twisted. The small, white, feathery flowers, with ten-cleft calyx and corolla, two stamens, and bifid stigma, are borne generally on the previous year's wood, in racemes springing from the axils of the leaves.

The fruit is a small drupe 0.39–0.98 in long when ripe, thinner-fleshed and smaller in wild plants than in orchard cultivars. Olives are harvested in the green to purple stage. *Olea europaea* contains a pyrene commonly referred to in American English as a "pit", and in British English as a "stone". The tree at Quail Hollow is a historical waif; no apparent offspring. Undoubtedly planted by the Bonnetti brothers, who lived in this spot and for whom the Italian trail and creek, are named.

Location: Not easily viewable from trail. Above Bonnetti Creek, about ~67 yards north of the trail, through poison oak. It's quite a tall specimen, probably near or at the maximum height for this species. Photo of the actual tree shows the trunk on the right, with leaves up and to the left.

Source: Wikipedia



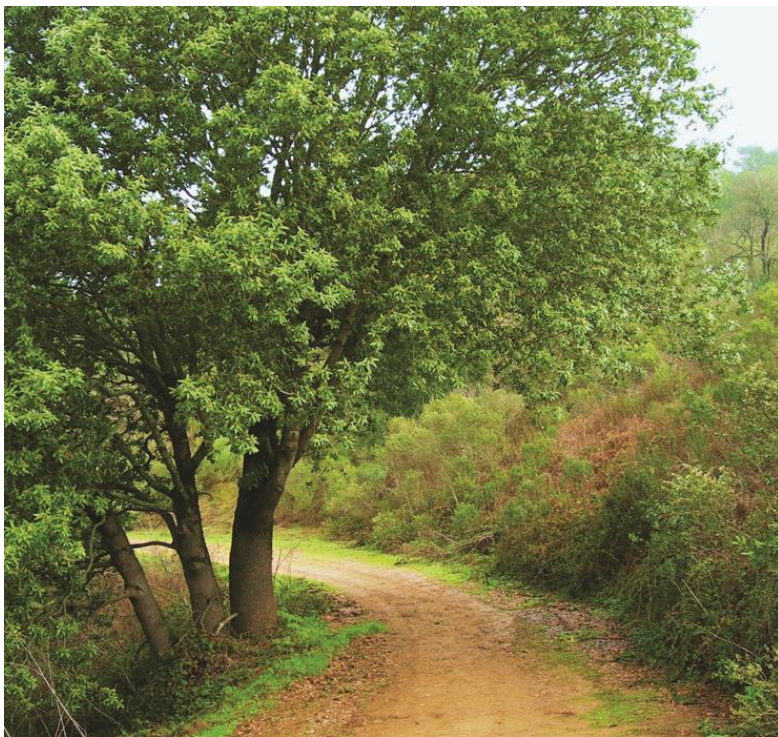
California laurel, bay tree

Umbellularia californica

An evergreen tree native on canyon slopes and along streams of the coast ranges, California Bay, also known as Pepperwood, grows up to 75' tall on in moist soils or is shrub-like in open dry habitats. It has aromatic dark green foliage. Leaf blades are 3-5" long, thick, leathery and lanceolate with a strong, penetrating odor when crushed. The leaf is sometimes used in cooking but is much stronger than the more commercially available "Old World" Bay Laurel leaf. The leaf was used by Native Americans as a cure for headache, toothache and earache, though the volatile oils in the leaves may also cause headaches when used in excess. Small yellowish green flowers appear in winter or early spring. Fruit is a greenish drupe, becoming purplish when mature. It consists of a fleshy covering over a single hard, thin-shelled seed. The wood is very hard and fine, and is made into bowls, spoons and other small items sold as "Myrtlewood." The California Laurel is the primary foliar host for Sudden Oak Death. (SOD)

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, Bay trees can be found throughout the park, especially on the Italian trail, and plenty on the Sunset trail.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts



Discovery trail

Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all park trees in this area; and some of these trees exist in other areas, but this represents a good area for finding these specimens. Other trees you'll easily find on the Discovery trail include:

California live oak	10
coast redwood	32
Douglas fir	31
Madrone	33

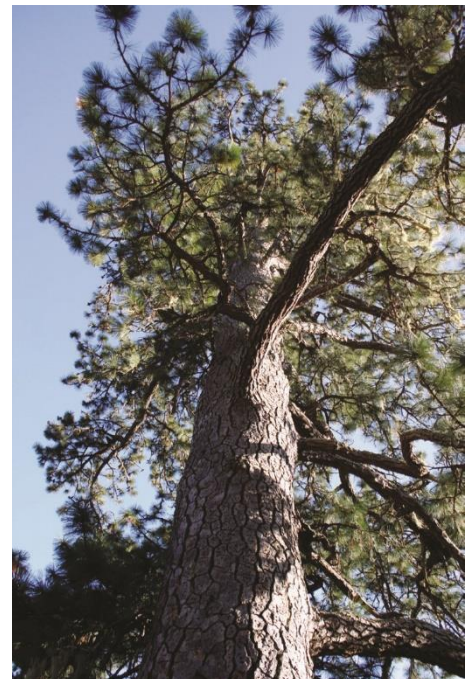
Santa Cruz Mountain pine

Pinus ponderosa var. *benthamiana*

Also known as a Santa Cruz sandhills pine. A large evergreen forest tree, a variety of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), 60-200' tall, 3-4' in diameter, with spreading branches forming a broad open crown. Bark is yellowish brown to red-orange, fissured into broad irregular scaly plates which fit together like jigsaw puzzle pieces. Dark yellow-green needles are in threes, 5-10" long. Cones are oval, reddish brown, the scales tipped with a stiff prickle. Are usually found in mountain forests. In the bay region, they are on slopes and valleys away from the coast and in a limited area of deep sandy soil in Santa Cruz County. Their seeds are a favorite with quail, squirrels and chipmunks. They begin to bear cones in abundance their 50th year. Much of the "knotty pine" used in houses comes from this tree or ponderosas, which is the foremost lumber pine of the west. Insects such as Western Pine Beetle and overgrazing of seedlings by cattle have been very damaging to these stately trees.

Location: Many Santa Cruz Mountain pines, formerly called ponderosas, are found ALL around the park, especially the Discovery trail, and various ages are plentiful along the Lower Chaparral trail

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



Italian stone pine

Pinus pinea

This European pine is widely planted in North America, in gardens as an ornamental evergreen and for use as a Christmas tree. It grows to 50' tall and to 1 1/2' in diameter. Needles are in bundles of 2, 1 1/2-3" long. Cones are 2.5" long; scales are tipped with a slender prickle. Bark is scaly, orange-red, darker on older trees.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, a stone pine is on the Discovery trail, behind the corrals. This is a picture of the actual tree, on the left.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides.



valley oak

Quercus lobata

A graceful deciduous tree, valley oak is the largest of the western oaks, 40-125' tall, 3-5' in diameter with a short trunk, long hanging branches and a broad crown. The trunk bark is deeply checkered into squarish plates. Leaves are 2-4" long and 1-2" wide with 7-11 rounded lobes. Acorns are slim, conical and long, from 1-2 1/2". This oak is the most characteristic native tree of California's central valley, but is also native to the coast range. In contrast to the grand stature of the valley oak is the uselessness of its wood. In their disgust the early pioneers called it "Mush Oak." The acorns, however, meant a great deal to the California Indians and to many animals, including the Gray Squirrel and the Acorn Woodpecker, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie and Band-tailed Pigeon. Housing developments have replaced Valley Oak Groves all over California.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, find valley oaks on the far end of the Discovery Trail (photo), a small one on the creek-side of the Discovery trail near the big eucalyptus, and on the Chaparral Trail, and near the Italian Trail junction (across from the Catalpa).

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



catalpa

Catalpa bignonioides

Native to the southern U.S., planted as an ornamental in California, deciduous Catalpas can grow to 60' tall and 3' in diameter and have large heart-shaped leaves. Tubular white flowers with yellow and purple markings bloom in dense showy clusters and ripen to 6-12" long slender brown seed pods which are very noticeable and contain many small seeds. Flowers are poisonous to bees.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, a catalpa in poor shape is growing near the Discovery trail across the trail from a utility pole, and on the Lower Chaparral trail, a healthier specimen near the redwood water tank covered by a corrugated roof; tree pictured below, left

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, Peterson Field Guide Series by George A. Petrides; National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees



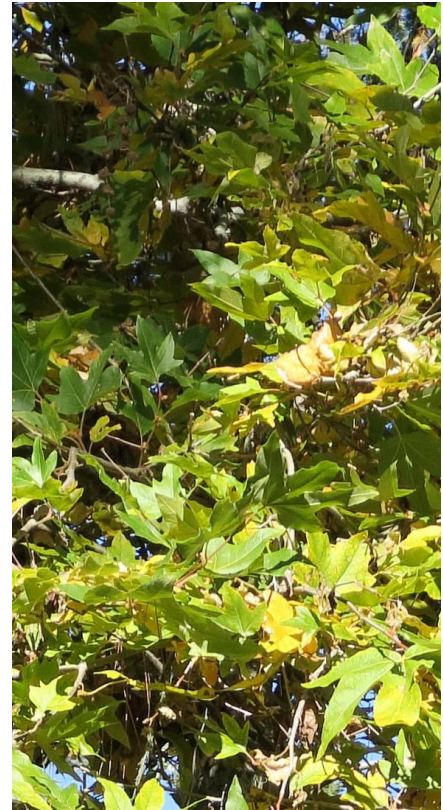
California sycamore

Platanus racemosa

It is native to California and Baja California, where it grows in canyons, floodplains, and along streams in several types of habitat. It is also planted as a landscape tree in its native range. This large tree grows to 115 feet in height, but is more commonly 65 – 80 feet, with a trunk diameter of up to three feet but can be larger. The trunk generally divides into two or more large trunks splitting into many branches. The has areas of white, pinkish gray and pale tan, with older bark becoming darker and peeling away. The leaves can be extremely large, up to 10 in. wide. The plant is deciduous, with leaves turning an attractive yellow and orangish brown in the fall. The rather plain-looking flowers are 1 in. spheres that becomes seed balls. Needs a lot of water.

Location: At Quail Hollow Ranch, a California (western) sycamore is growing at the far south end of the park, off any trails, most easily seen from the park's most southerly field. It's on the bank of the creek, pictured below.

Trees of North America by Alan Mitchell, Calscape.



Woodrat and Sunset trails

It's worth noting that there is a stand of coast redwoods near the top of the Sunset trail. They are often referred to as "dwarf redwoods" but in fact are simply stunted due to poor growing conditions on that part of the trail. The reference to coast redwoods is found in the Italian trail section.

Also note that this is not an exhaustive list of all park trees in this area; and some of these trees exist in other areas, but this represents a good area for finding these specimens. Other trees you'll easily find on the Woodrat and Sunset trails include:

California live oak	10
Coast redwood	32
Santa Cruz Mountain pine	39
Douglas fir	31
Madrone	33
California hazelnut	29
California laurel	37
Tanoak	30
Toyon	34

knobcone pine

Pinus attenuata

A slender evergreen pine tree, 10 to 40' tall, rarely to 80', 1-2' in diameter, with yellow-green foliage and a sparse, irregular crown. Grows on dry foothill slopes. Thin, twisted needles are in threes, 3-5" long. Narrow, oblong 4-5" long cones have scales tipped with a prickle and knob-like basal scales. Instead of being borne at the end of the branches and far out on the twigs, like those of most pines, they are pegged in clusters by a short stalk to the wood of the main trunk and branches. There they cling unopened for many years, sometimes imbedded in the growing wood, waiting for fire to destroy the parent tree, open them and free their seeds. It's therefore a very important tree for reforestation after fire. The hardy seeds germinate readily and the Knobcone begins to be fertile at a very early age; trees only 5 or 6 years old will soon be covered with cones.

Location: There are at least 3 large knobcones at the beginning of the Sunset trail, across from the Ben Lomond transfer station. Pictured below left, just 30 – 40' south on the Italian trail, 20' east of the post #4.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; A Natural History of Western Trees by Donald Culross Peattie



coast silk tassel

Garrya elliptica

Coast silk-tassel is a common evergreen shrub native to the coastal ranges of California and southern Oregon, south to Los Angeles County. It reaches a height of two to five meters. It is one of a small biological family of approximately twenty known species in the family Garryaceae, most of which are *Garrya*. Female and male sexual organs of all the *Garrya* are found on separate plants. This is an example of a native plant that is sufficiently attractive and neat of growing habit to be appealing as a landscape species. The dioecious flowers are concentrated in flower clusters which cascade downward as aments of approximately four to six centimeters in length. While the Coast silk-tassel manifests separate male and female plants, the pendant male catkins are much showier and are grey-green and up to 30 centimeters long; the female ones are shorter and silver-grey. Although the flowers bloom in January and February, dried leaves remain on the tree well into summer as light gray decorations. The plant has smooth dark bark, dark-greenish when young, but with age the bark roughens.

Location: On the woodrat trail at the junction with the second MayMac trail, shaded by surrounding young oaks, directly across from the sign attached to the oldish oak. Photo of tree below left.

Source: Calscape



Photo above of tassels taken in the fall of 2021



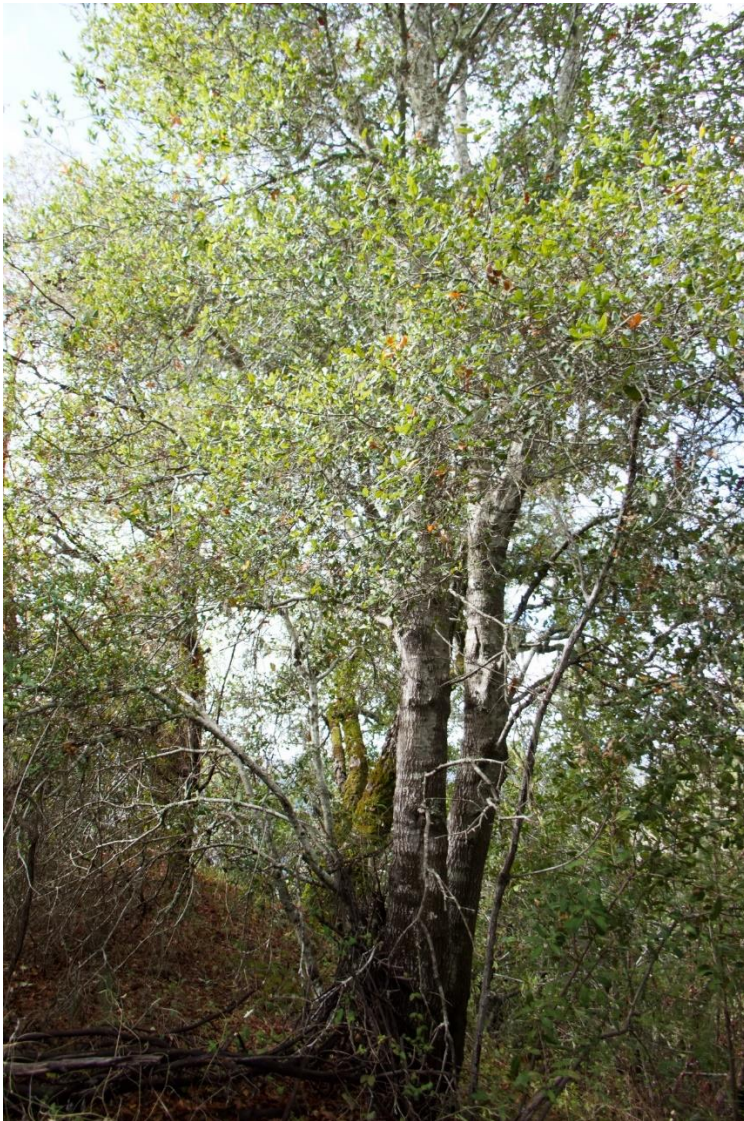
Shreve oak

Quercus parvula var. *shrevei*

Shreve oak, is an evergreen red oak found in the California Coast Ranges from Santa Barbara County north to Mendocino County. This Shreve is likely a hybrid. Shreves generally occurs in foothills where it is common in the low elevations. It is a large shrub or tree growing to 73 feet tall, although it seldom exceeds 33 feet. The dark-green leaves -appearing grayish from a distance. Leaves are usually small, (0.8-2.0 inches) long, thick, and often spiny-toothed at higher elevations. All California red oaks show evidence of introgression and/or hybridization with one another.

Location: The end of the waterbar just below the first lookout bench along the Sunset trail (photo below). Shreve has leaves with a lot more secondary veins than with coast live oak.

Source: Calscape



Shreve oak leaf on the left, with greater number of veins than coast live oak on the right



Leaves from a purer strain of the Shreve, found on the Woodrat trail

Across Quail Hollow Road

The palm and pine we list in this section are not near any established trails, but may be viewable from a short walk through poison oak.

Note that this is not an exhaustive list of all park trees in this area; and some of these trees exist in other areas, but you are advised to find these in areas with established trails. But other trees you'll easily find in this area include:

Incense cedar	08
Santa Cruz Mountain pine	39
Douglas fir	31
Madrone	33

Monterey cypress

Cupressus macrocarpa

This picturesque evergreen tree occurs on rocky headlands where it is misshapen by the buffeting of high winds. It has been widely planted as an ornamental or for a windbreak throughout the bay region. It grows 20 – 70' tall and 3 – 4' in diameter with a dark-green scale-line foliage and roundish wood cones 1 – 1.5" in diameter.

Location: Not viewable from a trail. Across Quail Hollow Road, if you walk towards the old cabin across the street from the park entrance, enter next to the old chain gate. It's only about a minute to the area where you'll find the tree to the right.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino; Trees of North America, Golden Gate Field Guides; Native Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region, Woodbridge Metcalf



windmill palm

Trachycarpus fortunei

This slender fan palm, 10-30' tall, is native to China and Japan. It is extensively planted along streets, in parks and in gardens throughout California. It is the hardiest of all palms planted along the Pacific coast, but it does not stand prolonged freezing.

Location: Not viewable from a trail. At Quail Hollow Ranch, there is a Windmill Palm across the road near the old cabin, so it's not generally accessible unless you walk across the road from the park entrance. Go past the chain and steel posts, take the use path and the tree in the picture will be in front of you in about 20 seconds. Note that there is poison oak on the trail.

Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino



acacia, silver wattle

Acacia dealbata

Native in Australia, invasive in California, fast growing acacias are often found near roadways and sometime i rapidly. Easy to identify, they have soft, feathery, gray-green leaves and paly, yellow flowers, blooming early small black seeds that blanket the surrounding area. Considered an invasive species at the park.

Location: Not viewable from a trail, but easy to spot across Quail Hollow Rd, several trees from across from the entrance and further north.

Trees of North America, Golden Gate Guides, Pacific Coast Trees, McMinn & Maino



Specimen across the street; near the park entrance

