

A Brief History

In 1908, San Vicente Lumber Company flooded a seven-acre area of Moore Creek to create a logging pond. The Ocean Shore tracks to the north of the property facilitated delivery of redwood to the site, and lumbermen walked across floating logs to nudge them into the mill (see picture below).

Since that time, the property has hosted a great many other colorful ventures. It's been a mushroom factory, begonia farm, moonshine distillery, and the backdrop to ten silent films! (See reverse side for more history and our future vision for the pond!)



The Antonelli family and Santa Cruz Properties, Inc. donated the 19-acre property to the Land Trust in four parts between 1982 and 1984. The Land Trust owns and manages Antonelli Pond as a publicly accessible neighborhood park.



The Vision

A century ago, this area was a small wetland. Today, the pond and surrounding riparian habitat are foraging/breeding grounds for many species, including raptors, egrets, great blue heron, deer, racoon, and coyote. It is also an important migration stopover for birds.

In 2009, with help from more than 150 volunteers, we improved trails, removed invasive non-native plants, and planted natives, including California sage and elderberry.

In 2023, with a grant from the Coastal Conservancy and California State Parks, we created a fully accessible trail with interpretive panels, a pond overlook, and accessible picnic benches.

Interested in volunteering at Antonelli?
Visit www.landtrustsantacruz.org

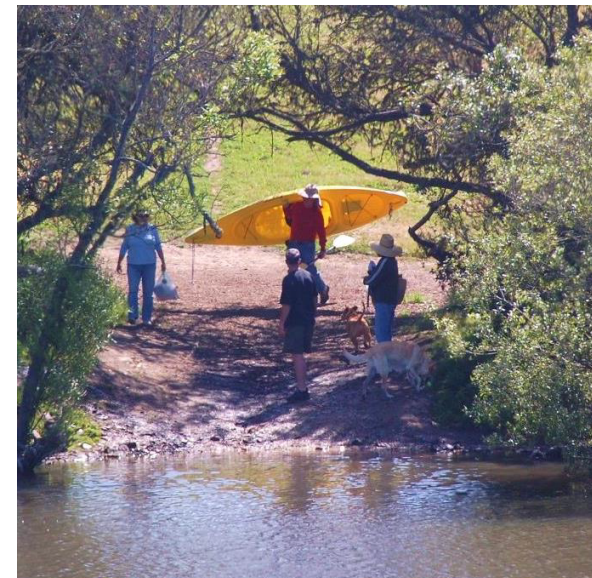
Trail Use and Safety

- Antonelli Pond trails are our gift to the community.
- The preserve is open year-round from dawn to dusk.
- Hiking, bicycling, dog walking, picnicking, and non-motorized boating are permitted.
- Fishing is allowed with license.
- Horseback riding, motorized vehicles, hunting, fires, camping, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted. No overnight storage of water craft.

Please contact SCPD to report suspicious activity: 831-471-1131. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

Welcome to

Antonelli Pond



The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County invites you to enjoy your neighborhood park. Antonelli Pond is a lovely place to fish, kayak, walk dogs, and birdwatch. In fact, this open space gem is considered a birding hotspot with several rare species. Visit our pollinator gardens and enjoy a picnic at one of the picnic areas.

Use of the pond and its trails is a benefit provided by Land Trust members and donors. Antonelli Pond is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk.

Join us by making a donation today!
www.landtrustsantacruz.org

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
617 Water Street
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060
831.429.6116



Antonelli Pond

Text in black refers to history facts at various locations around the pond. Text in white refers to future visions for the pond.

Southern Pacific

was one of 2 railway companies that dominated the coastline - the other being Ocean Shore Railroad, which was eventually bought out by the San Vicente Lumber Company.

Orby Station, run by the San Vicente Lumber Company, was the site of the former lumber mill. The lumber company was founded in 1908.

Hyde Grove is the spot where the earliest known

occupant, George

Hyde, built his home in 1850. Hyde was a Santa Cruz Alcalde.

Pondhopper Crossing refers to the area of the pond where lumbermen from San Vicente Lumber Company would walk across floating logs to nudge them into the mill.

Boardwalk across the pond

Picnic Area

Volcano Commons was the site for the San Vicente sawmill burn pile, which commonly used a volcano shaped incinerator.

The Postpiles represent a refuse wharf that used to extend out over the pond. A few postpiles remain littered across this section of the pond.

Dwight Younglove owned the property in the early 1880's. He enjoyed racing horse trolleys and hoped to develop a trolley loop around part of the pond. To his disappointment, the plan was never approved.

Forested Walkway

The Antonelli brothers started a **begonia farm** which eventually made possible the Begonia Festival and Parade in Capitola Village. This annual event still happens every September. They used the former mill pond as an irrigation source and fishing hole - and sometime around 1950, the lake became permanently known as Antonelli Pond.

Amphitheater

The Young brothers leased part of the former Lake Moore in the mid-1920's and converted the old San Vicente Lumber Company's boiler house into a **mushroom factory**. This served as a great spot because it was naturally cool and moist - just the type of climate mushrooms grow well in.

Kiosk and Visitor Area

The first artichoke crops were grown on Thistle Hill in the mid 1920's. The area from Half Moon Bay to Antonelli Pond was one of the west's original artichoke capitals. Brussel sprouts were also grown in the area.

El Moore purchased land for a dairy ranch in the early 1800's which was named **Moore's Dairy**.

Fishing Dock

In the late 1910's and early 1920's Hollywood starting using the San Vicente mill for authentic sawmill backdrops for movies. **Moviola Vista** was the most common site used, and over 10 silent films were made here!

Observation Deck

Around 1930, the San Vicente Lumber Company's boiler house was used as a distillery for making **moonshine**, and a **speakeasy** was built. This was also the location for a boathouse and rowboat concession for Mazzoni's hotel, located across Delaware Ave.

Dammed 1908 - 1910

Rapetti Station served as the **town center for San Vicente employees**. The station was built with big ornate features, and housed a US Post Office, bank, general store and dance hall.

