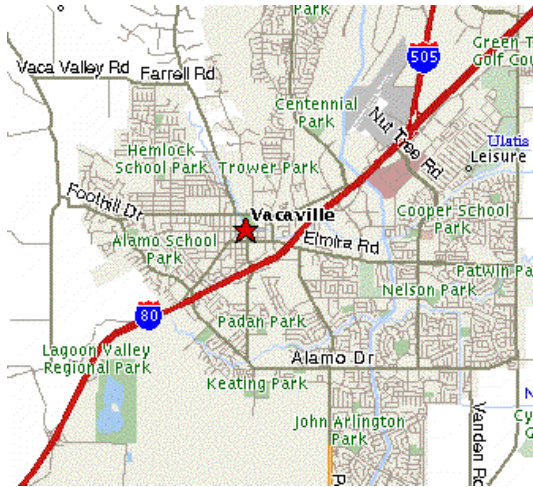


SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND HISTORY

Lagoon Valley Regional Park is located in southwest Vacaville, and is comprised of approximately 350 acres within the Lower Lagoon Valley. On the west Interstate 80 bounds the park, while on the north and east the park adjoins over 400 acres of hillside/open space. The lake, at approximately 106 acres, has been host to a variety of activities such as fishing, swimming, boating, and as a habitat for wildlife. The lake also acts as a temporary storm water detention and filtration basin.



In the past, referred to as Laguna Valley, Lagoon Valley is part of a larger regional setting that includes the surrounding Vaca Mountains, the more fertile Vaca Valley, which is bisected by Laguna Creek. One of the first settlements in Solano County development of the Valley is closely linked to the settlement of nearby Vacaville and Vaca Valley. The families of Pena and Vaca set up residence in the Valley around 1842, grazing cattle, horses and growing fruit and vegetables. Following much land division and the establishment of Vacaville, Solano County became a leading area for wheat production. By the 1880s, wheat and cattle had declined and land was converted to orchards or subdivided and sold off. Most of the land in Lagoon Valley resulted in the latter.

Up until the turn of the century the boom of fruit crops remained outside of Lagoon

Valley that continued to focus on grain and grazing. Lagoon Valley along with the rest of the Vacaville region produced fruit in large quantities up until the start of the twentieth century. By 1920, overuse of soil, droughts and flooding all resulted in the decline of orchards and fruit production. Following World War I, fruit production further declined, exacerbated by drought and competition from other growing regions. Growers turned to plums and prunes, and by the 1920s, 75% of orchards were planted in these crops. 1935 to 1945 saw principal crops of peaches and prunes, and a continuing decline in cherry production.

World War II brought new industry and housing developments doubling Vacaville's population. The valley's main venture remained farming, and by 1952, while the northern valley still retained a majority of its fruit orchards, the southern valley reverted to pastureland.

Pena Adobe was donated to the City of Vacaville in 1961 (a one and a half acre site) and over the next fifteen years, 400 acres was acquired by Solano County for the preservation of Lagoon Valley. The natural, albeit, intermittent lagoon was replaced by a constructed 60-acre lake in 1980. Annexation of Lagoon Valley to Vacaville occurred in 1991.



Better historical image?

HISTORY OF PLANNING

City of Vacaville General Plan 1990

The City adopted an updated General Plan in 1990. The purpose of the Plan was to provide a framework for the continued development and proper management of land use, circulation, community facilities and environmental resources.

City of Vacaville Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan 1990

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey completed the City of Vacaville's Comprehensive Park Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The purpose of the document was to guide the orderly development of parks, recreation facilities, open space areas, and recreation programs in order to meet existing and projected needs and to assure an equitable distribution of parks throughout the City.¹

Lake Management Plan (1999)

The Lake Management Plan was adopted by the City of Vacaville in 1999 to evaluate the lake's environmental conditions in Lagoon Valley Park, and addresses many issues such as water quality, erosion, and the impact of the large domestic goose population in the park

¹ *City of Vacaville Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, 1990, p. 1*