



**July 2019**

**Volume 28 | Issue 7**

Dear Nature Lovers,

Thank you for your feedback about our new format for *Valley Wilds*. We heard from many readers that it was convenient to view the entire newsletter on their mobile device. We also heard from some readers who missed having a pdf to print or archive. Good news for all our readers, we plan to continue having the entire newsletter in the email but will also provide a link to a pdf on LARPD's website {[click here](#)}. We welcome your continued feedback by emailing [valleywilds@larpd.org](mailto:valleywilds@larpd.org).

We hope you will enjoy this issue of the *Valley Wilds* and your open space parks this month!

Sincerely,

The *Valley Wilds* and LARPD Open Space Staff

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## **Park News**

We are excited to announce that [Tri-Valley Conservancy's](#) bridge construction project in Sycamore Grove is moving forward! The project's goal is to install a permanent bridge in place of a seasonal foot bridge that will allow crossing of the Arroyo del Valle just upstream of the Arroyo Road Entrance, even during periods of high water flow. Pre-construction work and tree trimming may start as early as the week of July 1, and bridge construction may start as early as the week of July 8! When pre-construction activities are underway, and during the approximately 60-day construction period, the ARROYO ROAD ENTRANCE TO SYCAMORE GROVE PARK will be CLOSED. Park visitors may enter the park at the Wetmore Entrance but will need to turn around at Cliff Swallow Bridge (hikers may return via Sycamore Trail). The trail from the "Camp Arroyo"

turnaround to the footbridge will also be closed during pruning and construction.

Watch our social media pages for updates!



TVC Rendering of new bridge

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## The Dog Days of Summer

by Ranger Dawn Soles



With summer here, we are in for some hot days. It is not unusual for summer temperatures to be over 100 degrees in the shade in our area. On these hot days, most of us know to take it easy, drink lots of water, and stay cool, either by spending time in the shade or in a nice air-conditioned building.

What many folks forget is that our four-legged friends also have heat-related concerns. Here are some things to keep in mind for visiting the park with your family pets during the summer heat.

Though it seems like common sense, and something that everyone already knows, there are still many calls throughout Livermore, and usually one or two a summer at Sycamore Grove, regarding a pet that has been left in a car. Leaving a pet in a car in the summer can become deadly within minutes. Even when temperatures don't seem excessively high, temperatures inside a vehicle can soar quickly -

even with the windows cracked or rolled down. Please do not ever leave your pet in a car unattended.

Don't take your dogs for long walks or have them do heavy exercise such as playing fetch on hot sunny days. Save these fun times for early morning or in the evenings as the sun is going down. Avoid the middle of the day. Dogs do not regulate their temperatures the same way we do. We can sweat over our entire body to help with cooling. Dogs can only regulate their body temperature by panting and by a tiny amount of evaporation of sweat through the pads of their feet. If you do take your pet out on a hot day, make sure to take frequent rest stops in shaded areas, and offer water to help your pet avoid dehydration and heat stroke.

If your dog is exposed to high temperatures too long, heatstroke can occur, and it may lead to brain damage or death. Early symptoms of heat stroke in dogs include excessive panting, drooling, rapid pulse, fever, and bright red gums and tongue. Advanced heat stroke symptoms include white or blue gums, lethargy or unwillingness to move, uncontrollable urination or defecation, and labored, noisy breathing. If you think your pet may be suffering from heat stroke, move them to a shaded location, run cool (not ice cold) water over them, and transport them to a veterinarian as quickly as possible.

Dogs can also get sunburn, especially short-haired dogs. Limit your pet's exposure to direct sun. If you must take your animal out when it is sunny, think about using sunscreen. There are many types of sunscreen for pets on the market. Ask your veterinarian for recommendations.



A frequently overlooked heat hazard is the potential harm to a dog's feet. Canine foot pads are tough, but they are also sensitive.

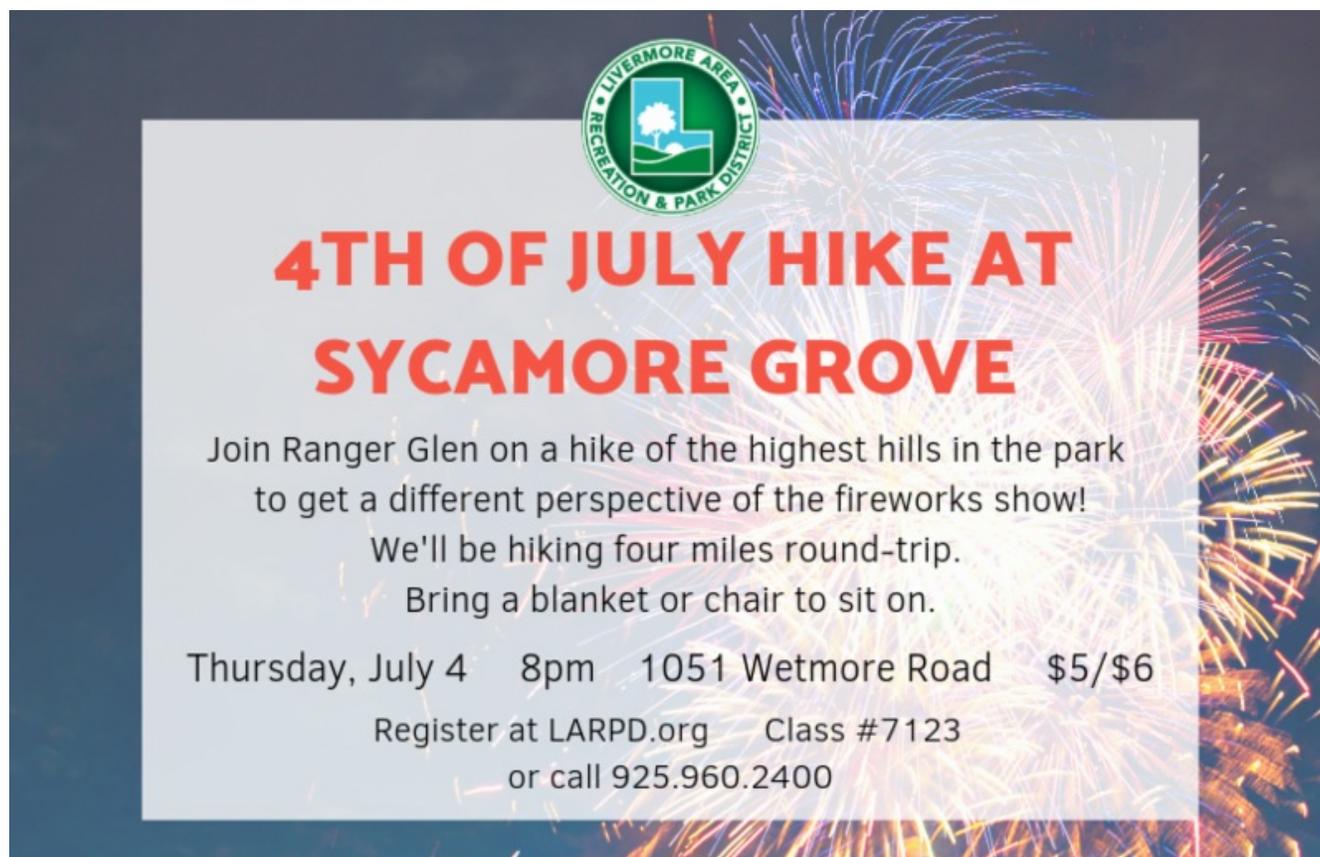
If a surface is too hot for your hands or feet it is too hot for your pet's feet too. We have seen a few dogs with burned foot pads from being walked on the asphalt trail through the park. On hot days, keep your pets off the asphalt. If you bring your dog here in a truck, put a lining down in the truck bed to keep their feet safe from the hot metal. Don't forget that on really hot days, even the dirt may be too warm for your dog to walk on comfortably or safely.

In warm weather, park snakes are on the move. Make sure to keep your pet leashed at all times. It is best not to let your pet out on a long leash - keep them on a six-foot lead. Many dogs do not recognize a snake as a danger. Though most of our snakes are harmless, Sycamore Grove Park is home to rattlesnakes. If you keep your pet close to you there is significantly less chance

for an unfortunate encounter with a park snake.

If the worst happens and your pet needs help, make sure you are prepared. Keep your emergency information with you at all times. When an emergency situation occurs, you don't want to be unprepared. If you have your veterinarian's phone number and the address of the nearest emergency clinic readily available, you will be able to get your pet help quickly.

If you or your pet encounter any problems in the park, please contact the rangers at (925) 960-2400.

A promotional poster for a 4th of July hike. The background is a dark blue sky with colorful fireworks exploding. At the top center is the Livermore Area Recreation & Park District logo, which is a green circle containing a white silhouette of a tree and a building. Below the logo, the title "4TH OF JULY HIKE AT SYCAMORE GROVE" is written in large, bold, red capital letters. Underneath the title, the text reads: "Join Ranger Glen on a hike of the highest hills in the park to get a different perspective of the fireworks show! We'll be hiking four miles round-trip. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on." The date and time are listed as "Thursday, July 4 8pm" and the location as "1051 Wetmore Road". The fee is "\$5/\$6". Registration information is provided: "Register at LARPD.org Class #7123 or call 925.960.2400".

**4TH OF JULY HIKE AT SYCAMORE GROVE**

Join Ranger Glen on a hike of the highest hills in the park to get a different perspective of the fireworks show!  
We'll be hiking four miles round-trip.  
Bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Thursday, July 4 8pm 1051 Wetmore Road \$5/\$6

Register at LARPD.org Class #7123  
or call 925.960.2400

Please register [online](#) for this special program!

## Changes to Ranger-led Programs: RSVP by phone or email; pay fees at the program



Thanks to feedback from our program participants and staff, we are revising the process for registration and payment for ranger-led programs. For most programs, you will no longer need to register through the LARPD website. We will request that you RSVP in advance, so we know how many people plan to attend. This also allows us to let people know when a program is cancelled. All payment will now be collected at the start of the program. Payment may be made by cash (exact change is

appreciated), credit card, or check. If you have already registered for a program, you do not need to RSVP. We will have records of your registration at the program.

## July Programs - Please RSVP!

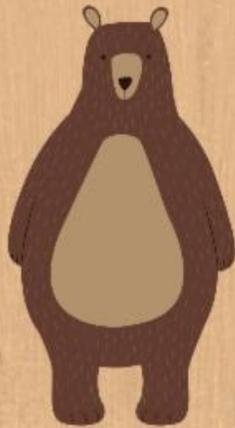
<p><b>CREEK CRAWL</b>  <b>Sunday, July 14 2 pm</b>  <u><a href="#">Sycamore Grove, 1051 Wetmore Road</a></u>          Let's cool off in the creek! Fun exploration for all ages with Ranger Amy. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.</p>	<p>Fee:          Adults \$5          Ages 2-17 \$1  <u><a href="#">RSVP*</a></u></p>
<p><b>THE WAY OF THE OHLONE</b>  <b>Saturday, July 20 10 am</b>  <u><a href="#">Sycamore Grove, Reservable Picnic Area</a></u>          What was it like to live in the Livermore Valley before the Europeans arrived? Join Ranger Darren to catch a glimpse into the daily life of the original inhabitants of the area. We will start with a slow-paced walk to look at some of the plants and animals that were important to them, and then look at some replicas of their tools and baskets.</p>	<p>Fee:          Adults \$5          Ages 5-17 \$1  <u><a href="#">RSVP*</a></u></p>
<p><b>TURTLES</b>  <b>Sunday, July 21 2 pm</b>  <u><a href="#">Sycamore Grove, Reservable Picnic Area</a></u>          They come in different shapes and sizes. They live in different environments, from the ocean to the desert, and everywhere in between. Some are small and some are the size of a small car. Join Ranger Dawn to learn about that charming group of reptiles - the turtles. There will be live specimens for us to look at.</p>	<p>Fee:          Adults \$5          Ages 2-17 \$1  <u><a href="#">RSVP*</a></u></p>
<p><b>NATURE STORYTIME (see flyer below)</b>  <b>Saturday, July 27 10:30 am</b>  <u><a href="#">Sycamore Grove, Reservable Picnic Area</a></u>          Learn about local aquatic wildlife at a special storytime in the park with a Livermore librarian. After storytime, explore the pond with an LARPD naturalist! Wear closed-toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting wet. Please call the library at (925) 373-5504 for directions to our tricky-to-find meeting location (or click on location name to open in google maps).</p>	<p>Free program,          no RSVP          needed.</p>

\* RSVP by clicking on the RSVP link, emailing [valleywilds@larpd.org](mailto:valleywilds@larpd.org), or calling the ranger office at (925) 960 2400

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We are offering one FREE family-oriented program in July,  
 no registration or RSVP needed!

# NATURE STORYTIME



SATURDAY, 7/27/19, 10:30 AM  
RESERVABLE PICNIC AREA  
5035 ARROYO ROAD



**Learn about local aquatic wildlife! Enjoy storytime with a Livermore librarian, then explore the creek with an LARPD Ranger!**

This program takes place in a part of the park that is usually only available with reservations. Registration is not required for this free event. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. Please wear clothing and sturdy shoes that can get wet. No sandals, please. Questions? Please call the library at (925) 373-5504 or the LARPD rangers at (925) 960-2400.

**Directions from Downtown Livermore:** Drive south on L Street. L Street turns into Arroyo Road. Continue on Arroyo Road for approximately 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Veterans Road. Take the first left past the bridge, following signs for the Sycamore Grove Park Reservable Picnic Area and the Ranger Office. Park in the free parking lot.

## August Program Preview

### AUGUST ASTRONOMY

Saturday, August 10 8 pm  
*Sycamore Grove, 1051 Wetmore Road*

Fee:

<p>The first quarter moon is high in the sky, Jupiter is shining bright, and with some luck we may catch some early Perseid meteors! Join Ranger Glen for an evening walk to enjoy the setting sun and awakening nighttime creatures before a stop at our telescope to check out the moons of Jupiter and crazy crater shadows on the moon.</p>	<p>Adults \$5 Ages 5-17 \$1 <a href="#">RSVP*</a></p>
<p><b>PONDING USA</b> Saturday, August 17      10:00 am <a href="#">Sycamore Grove, Reservable Picnic Area</a> Forget surfing - everybody's going ponding with Ranger Darren today! Let's beat the August heat and explore the pond. After a brief introduction, we will take nets and go hunting for the elusive critters (water bugs) hiding in the pond. Afterwards, we will take a look at what we caught. Good for ages 5 and up. All ponders must wear closed-toed shoes like water shoes or old tennis shoes.</p>	<p>Fee: Adults \$5 Ages 5-17 \$1 <a href="#">RSVP*</a></p>
<p><b>LEAPING LIZARDS</b> Sunday, August 18      2:00 pm <a href="#">Sycamore Grove, Reservable Picnic Area</a> Summertime is reptile time! Some of our most easily seen reptiles are the lizards. Join Ranger Dawn to learn about the lizards found in our area and around the world. There will be live specimens to see.</p>	<p>Fee: Adults \$5 Ages 2-17 \$1 <a href="#">RSVP*</a></p>
<p><b>INTERMEDIATE MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE</b> Saturday August 24      9:30 am <a href="#">Sycamore Grove, 1051 Wetmore Road</a> Join Ranger Heather for a fun 8-mile climb into the hills for beginner to intermediate riders on fat-tire bikes with gears and hand brakes. This is not a technically challenging ride, but it will include about 800 feet of climbing at a slow-but-steady pace. Ages 8 to adult. Tough mountain-biking adults with a younger child on a trail-a-bike are welcome, but the trail is not suitable for bike trailers. Helmets are required. Excessive heat will cancel.</p>	<p>Fee: Adults \$5 Ages 8-17 \$1 <a href="#">RSVP*</a></p>
<p><b>APPLEFEST!</b> Sunday, August 25      12:00 pm - 4:00 pm <a href="#">Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road</a> Come to Ravenswood Historic Site to explore the apple orchard and taste antique apple varieties you can't find in stores. Drop in any time between 12 - 4 pm, Ongoing activities include cider making (and drinking!), "apple slinkie" making, face painting, old-fashioned games, and docent-led tours of the historic buildings. Special apple tasting and apple history talk with Ranger "Apple" Amy begins at 2 pm.</p>	<p>Fee: Adults \$5 Ages 2-17 \$1 No RSVP needed.</p>

\* RSVP by clicking on the RSVP link, emailing [valleywilds@larpd.org](mailto:valleywilds@larpd.org), or calling the ranger office at (925) 960 2400

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