



# PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Summer Shuttle Service Returns to Big Basin Redwoods State Park for Upcoming Weekends and Holidays**

*Free shuttle program and ongoing METRO bus expand park access in summer 2025*

**BOULDER CREEK** — California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks are pleased to announce the return of the free shuttle program at [Big Basin Redwoods State Park](#) for summer weekends and holidays in 2025. Building on the success of the shuttle service pilot program during summer 2024, the program offers increased access to the park while the long-term facilities are redeveloped following the devastating 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

The free State Parks shuttle will operate in a loop from the interim overflow parking area at Saddle Mountain (located at the intersection of Highway 236 and Little Basin Road) to the main day-use area near the park's historic core. This shuttle service supplements the limited reservation-based parking at the main day-use area.

The 14-passenger, ADA-accessible shuttle includes a bike rack for two bicycles and will operate from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. When parking in the main day-use area reaches capacity, visitors will be directed to the Saddle Mountain parking lot, which is available on a first-come, first-served basis for a \$10 fee ([State Parks passes](#) are accepted).

To guarantee parking in the main day-use area, visitors are encouraged to make reservations in advance online. Reservations cost \$8 (including \$6 for the entrance fee and \$2 reservation fee). All California State Parks day-use passes and entry programs are honored, though the \$2 reservation fee still applies. All fees support the park.

Learn more and plan a visit: [thatsmypark.org/bigbasin](https://thatsmypark.org/bigbasin).

In addition to the shuttle, public transit access to the park is available through Santa Cruz METRO's Route 35. The route has five daily scheduled stops that also operate on weekends and holidays. Riders can park for free at the Scotts Valley METRO Station and take the bus directly to the park. Bus fares are \$2 per ride or \$6 for a day pass, and K-12 students ride free.

with a valid student ID. Visitors arriving by METRO bus receive free entry and guaranteed access to the park.

### Background on CZU Lightning Complex Fire

The CZU Lightning Complex Fire devastated Big Basin in 2020, burning more than 97% of the park and destroying nearly every structure, including the Park Headquarters, campgrounds and housing for park employees. [View the short documentary](#) Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks created in 2021 to mark the one-year anniversary of the CZU Fire.

### Reimagining Big Basin

The park reopened in July 2022 through a [limited access day-use reservation system](#) created and operated by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. More than 170,000 people have visited in the nearly three years since reopening. An interim visitor center is now open, and 17 miles of trails have been restored, including a segment of The Skyline to the Sea Trail from the main day-use area to Castle Rock State Park. Camping has also returned to the coastal side of the park through an interim walk-in and bike-in campground at Rancho del Oso.

Learn more and plan a visit: [thatmypark.org/bigbasin](https://thatmypark.org/bigbasin). To make a reservation for camping at Rancho del Oso, on the coastal side of Big Basin, visit [thatmypark.org/rancho-del-oso-unit](https://thatmypark.org/rancho-del-oso-unit).

California State Parks is developing a Facilities Management Plan to guide the phased design and construction of permanent facilities at Big Basin, including trails, campgrounds and utilities. Full reopening will take several years, but planning is underway. For more information or to get involved, visit [reimaginingbigbasin.org](https://reimaginingbigbasin.org).

### History of Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Big Basin is the oldest state park in California, acquired in 1902. The lands known today as Big Basin Redwoods State Park were originally the homelands of the Quiroste and Cotoni tribes, ancestral relatives of today's Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe.



Left: Map of State Park shuttle route from the interim Saddle Mountain shuttle parking to the park's main day-use area. Right: State Park shuttle at the main day-use shuttle drop-off. Map and photos from California State Parks.

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### **Reimagining Big Basin**

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**The California Department of Parks and Recreation**, popularly known as State Parks, and the programs supported by its Office of Historic Preservation and divisions of Boating and Waterways and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provides for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Learn more at [parks.ca.gov](https://parks.ca.gov).

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### **About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks**

Established in 1976, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) is a vital partner with California State Parks, creatively working to ensure our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all. Friends' innovative and collaborative community partnership provides support and investment for education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation and cultural events. Friends currently operates a robust online ParkStore offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. Friends also operates ParkStores at Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff and Wilder Ranch. Learn more at [www.ThatsMyPark.org](http://www.ThatsMyPark.org) or via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).