

————— SAN JOSE —————
**PARKS, RECREATION &
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

The Lariat Fire

On Tuesday, July 11 2017 a wildland fire started near the intersection of Claitor Way and Boulder Drive. The fire spread quickly through the residential neighborhood destroying one home and damaging another. The fire continued to spread onto the surrounding hills making its way to the north rim of Alum Rock Park and the adjacent Sierra Vista Open Space lands. Firefighters from San Jose and Cal Fire aggressively fought the Lariat Fire from the air with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft as well as on the ground using engines, hand crews and dozers. Their diligent efforts limited spread of the fire in the park.

The fire has now been fully suppressed and the park is open to the public.

What's Next

Alum Rock Park is part of a fire-adapted ecosystem where natural burns clear the area allowing new grasses, herbs, and shrubs to grow. The ash also returns vital nutrients into the soil benefiting the plants. As time progresses, regular visitors to the park will have the opportunity to watch the park recover from this fire.

Visitors walking along the trails through the burned area will come across areas where dozers or hand crews cut fire breaks to stop the spread of the fire. These breaks are not cut with the intent of being permanent trails.

Over the next few months, the Fire Department will be conducting damage assessments and begin rehabilitation of the burned areas. Visitors can expect to see an increase in vehicle activity on the North Rim Trail, Eagle Rock Trail, Todd Quick Trail and the Weather Loop. Some vehicles may be from contractors and not readily recognizable as a government vehicle.

What Can You Do to Help

While visiting please be aware of a few simple rules to help you stay safe and protect the park:

- Stay alert for crews working in the area
- Remain on the parks designated trails. Free maps are available to help you determine if you are on a designated trail.
- Stay off dozer lines and fire breaks. These areas will need to be repaired and new plants placed to stabilize the soil.
- Please do not walk through the charred areas. There are few, if any, plants left to stabilize the soil. Even minimal foot travel can create soil stabilization issues.
- Please respect trail closures. Sections of trail may be closed for safety or for rehabilitation.