

No Place Like Home: Atascadero Lake Park

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Summertime is when most families like to pack up the car and get away for the weekend. When things heat up it's always nice to head to a nice body of water and take in a little summertime activity before back to school season takes over the dog days of summer. But if a long road trip isn't in the cards for awhile, all you have to do it head to Atascadero, and a little vacation Oasis awaits, where you'll find more proof There's No Place Like Home.

Summertime can be as busy as any other time for families, and with back to school season fast approaching, we're all longing get the most out of every lazy hazy day of summertime left. Well nestled within one of Atascadero's neighborhoods you'll find a perfect place to do just that. "They like ducks." says Stephen Shea of Paso Robles about his dogs. "I like the birds. They have night herons here, lots of night heron. And I like turtles. There's a station over here where all the turtles pull out.

Walkers, runners and nature lovers seem to love the 1.2 mile loop around the lake to either work the kinks out from their work-a-day worlds or just sit a spell and let the sights and sounds of nature, sink in to their psyches. Sid Abma of Atascadero loves hanging out here now and then. Of course we've got the ducks in the lake, the fish that are jumping, and the birds oh some days the birds can be so noisy it's just glorious." he says.

There's enough greenery and shade to make summer gatherings delightful, and it's the center of community gatherings year-round. And those who crave a more quiet commune with nature find it a perfect place for that too. "I come out here five days a week, right around 3 o'clock I get out of the office and I pound off five, six miles and just because it's a beautiful place to walk." says Shea.

It's a beautiful place to do just about anything outdoors but does make getting exercise a little less about the mileage and more about the all you come across along the way.