



Celebrate San Ramon's History

SOUYEN PARK

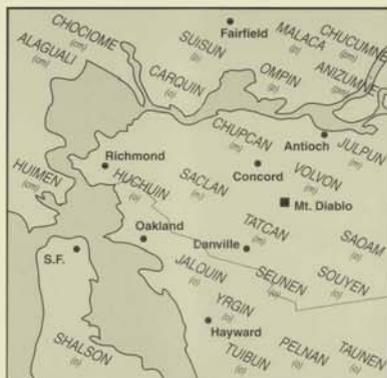
Souyen (Soo yen) Park was named in honor of the Ohlone Indian tribes that lived in the San Ramon Valley in natural areas, close to water supplies, prior to the arrival of the Spanish explorers in the late 1700's. The Souyen tribe is believed to have lived in the center of what is now known as the Dougherty Valley in areas much like this park setting.

Winter storms caused creeks such as the Main Branch of the Alamo Creek to become filled with steelhead trout and silver salmon and winter also brought huge flocks of ducks, geese and herds of elk to this area. In the spring the grasslands were covered with wildflowers and mice, rabbits and quail were plenty. As spring faded, the summer sun dried the grasses and produced seeds which were a prime food source.



The Souyen lived in houses thatched with native grasses built to accommodate six to twenty-four people. Women spent a great deal of their time weaving baskets for gathering, storing, and preparing food. The men spent their time hunting game with bows, arrows and traps.

As you enjoy this beautiful park setting, envision yourself back in the 1700's and what life must have been like for a Souyen Native American. The City of San Ramon encourages all residents to enjoy this beautiful park named in celebration of our continuing rich and diverse cultural history.



A map of the tribal locations of Indians in the Bay Area. Courtesy of James Rosehoff.