

# Petanque in Public Parks

## What is petanque?

Petanque is an old, traditional game related to American bowling, English lawn bowls, and Italian bocce. It evolved from a bocce-like game in the south of France in 1910. In French, the word "pétanque" means "feet on the ground". It is pronounced "pay-TONK".

The game is played with hollow metal balls called *boules* and a small wooden target ball called *the jack*. The object of the game is to throw or roll the boules as close as possible to the jack. It is a lot like playing horseshoes, but with balls!



Traditionally, petanque is played in public parks. Paths and walkways in parks often have the ideal surface for petanque – flat, level, hard-packed dirt with a thin layer of pea gravel or fine decomposed granite. Petanque players, like other park visitors, appreciate the convenient parking, public restrooms, benches or picnic tables, and shade trees. If there is a wooden border around the area, to keep the gravel out of the grass and flower beds, that is a nice bonus – it helps to corral the boules.

## Online information

Federation of Petanque USA – <http://www.usapetanque.org>

All About Petanque – <http://petanque.wordpress.com>

Petanque Portal USA – <http://petanqueportal.wordpress.com>

American Petanque Directory – <http://american-petanque-directory.wikia.com>

# Petanque in public parks in the USA

Petanque is played in open spaces in public parks – and sometimes in *boulodromes*, facilities designed specifically for playing petanque – in many European countries, especially England, France, Spain, and Germany. It is also played in the United States.

Jameson Square, Portland, Oregon



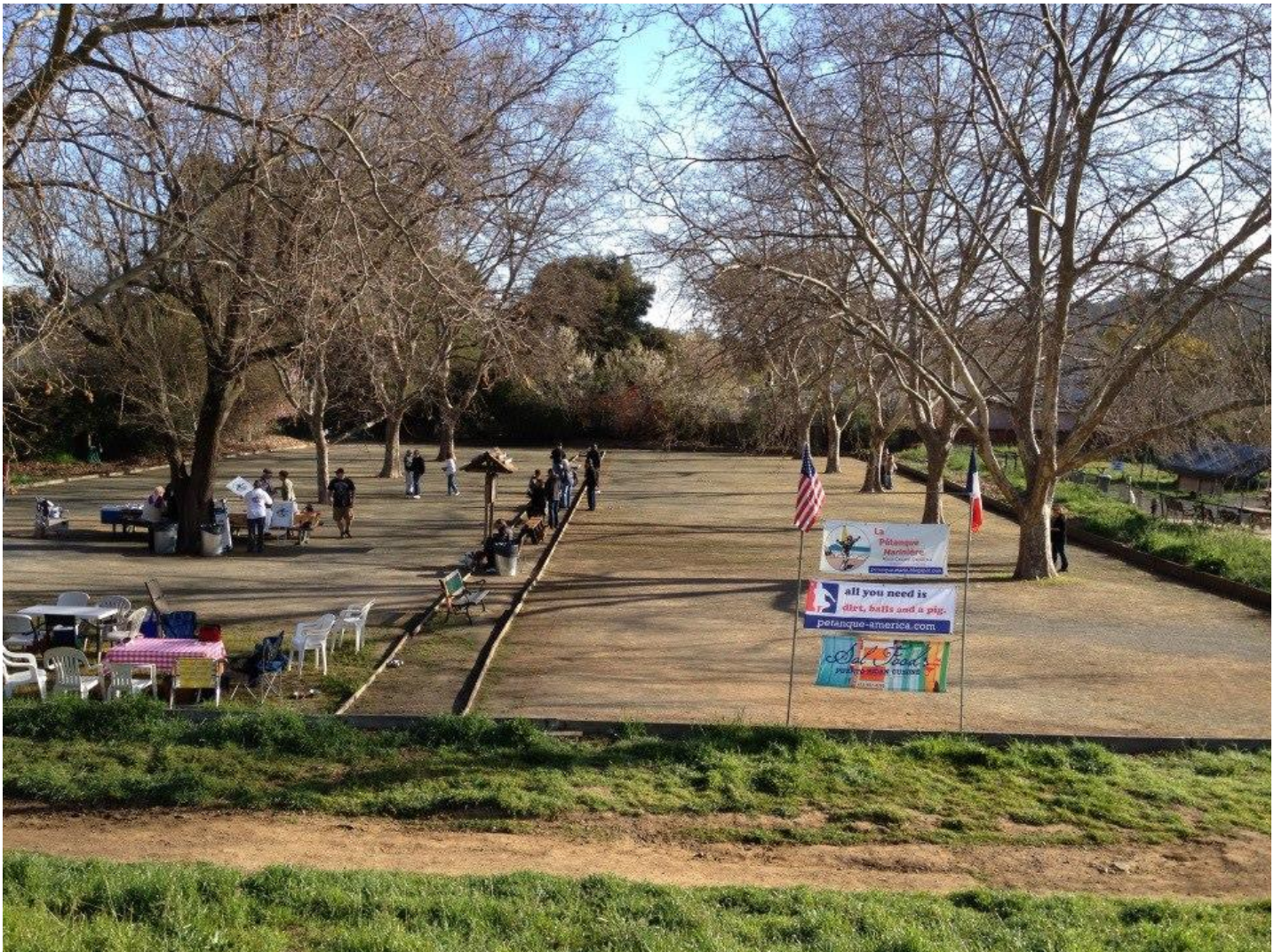
Paggi Square, Austin, Texas



C.V. Starr Community Center, Fort Bragg, California



Pierre Joske Boulodrome Park, San Rafael, California



Virginia Highlands Park, Arlington, Virginia (Washington, DC)



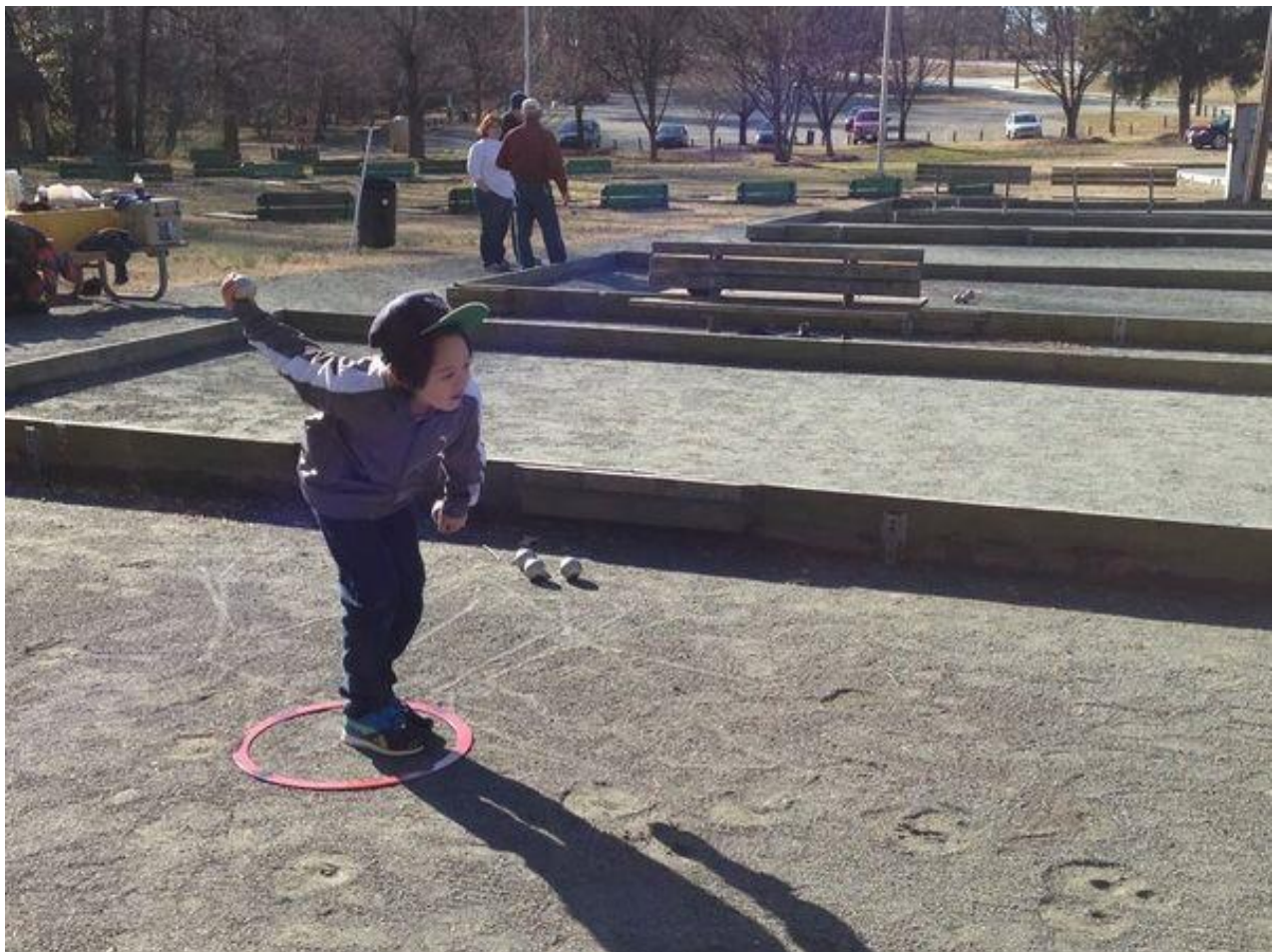
Clark Park North, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Foothills Park, Lake Oswego, Oregon



Miller Park, Winston-Salem, North Carolina



Eastlake Boulodrome Park, Seattle, Washington



Mill Park, Augusta, Maine

