

Angel's

*Be Alive!*Angel Gomez,  
Director of  
Member  
Services

# WILDWOOD

## Hello again, everybody!

This month, we visit Wildwood Canyon Park in Burbank. Located off Harvard Road, Wildwood Canyon Park offers a variety of outdoor activities. There is a two mile trail system for solely hiking, which traverses the Burbank side of the Verdugo Mountains. The well-maintained park offers areas off of Wildwood Canyon Road that provide picnic and open grass areas. The moderately strenuous Link Trail, which connects to the Verdugo Mountain way, starts from Wildwood Canyon. Many of the Burbank Nature Programs hikes and activities are conducted in Wildwood Canyon.

### The History

In May 1962, Wildwood Canyon Park summer campsites and overnight camping was made available for families. On July 18, 1963 the City of Burbank dedicated Wildwood Canyon Park. It was named for the canyon in which the park is located. In 1965, a brush fire burned all the chaparral and natural growth from the slopes of Wildwood Canyon Park. Later, heavy rains washed tons of soil and rock through the area. The picnic tables, dinking fountains and many trees were lost. Campsites were filled with debris, and sections of the parking lot had eight feet of mud. In 1992, the City of Burbank rededicated Wildwood Canyon Park. The

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy awarded the city a \$1 million grant to renovate the 500-acre park in the Verdugo Mountains, including trail access, signage, restrooms, trail head trellises and a gate house.

### The Hike

Attention, hikers: You should bring plenty of water and a leash if you bring your dog. Lone hikers or walkers should also bring a cell phone for emergencies.

Wildwood Canyon Park exists on two levels: the parking and picnic area with benches and fountains, and the trails the lead up to the top of the hill and beyond.

The small hike near the yoke of the entrance is considered a beginners' hike by most. The track is sandy, and it can be fairly narrow in places. The view is spectacular, and picture-taking is common. As you move up the hill, the road fork goes down and comes steeply back to the Wildwood green level park space.

Wildwood Canyon is composed of several tiny canyons that make up the hike to the top of hill. The

radio tower at the top of the mountain is where hikers can turn left and take the fire road down to the Stough Nature Center, or continue hiking to the right along the crest of the trail south to the Glendale Verdugo Hills hike path. Half way up the first trail you will see the Burbank Police Shooting Range.

This is a very difficult hill to climb; I say this because it looks easy, but the continuous climbing gets you pretty tired very quickly. I was out of breath because of the continuous upward climb.

Remember, if you bring your dog, there is a leash law.

I would also recommend being there early because the sun will add another layer of difficulty to the hike. Early morning is the best time; the trail is open at dawn. Bring plenty of water, a snack lunch and a small backpack, too.

If you're cold at first, don't worry, you will begin to sweat in just a few minutes. I plan to return to this site because of the challenge; it's actually a short hike, but, again, the elevation climb makes it worth your time.

The hike is right next to the Castaways golf course in Burbank, so it is not too far from the city. I would recommend this trail to everyone looking for a real Stairmaster experience; you won't need your gym membership on this day.

Bring plenty of water and snacks, and maybe have a picnic at the waterfall.

**As always,  
be safe and Be Alive!  
— Angel**

### Details

The park features:

- hiking trails
- parking areas
- rest rooms
- picnic and grass areas
- water fountains, and
- plenty of running space for dogs.

**HIKE DISTANCE:** the park contains a trail system of about two miles

**HIKE TIME:** two hours

**DIFFICULTY:** Hikes of various difficulties and distances are possible at Wildwood.



Dakota and I at the entrance to Wildwood Park.



Burbank, CA

# CANYON PARK



We made it half way up the trail, with Burbank in the background.

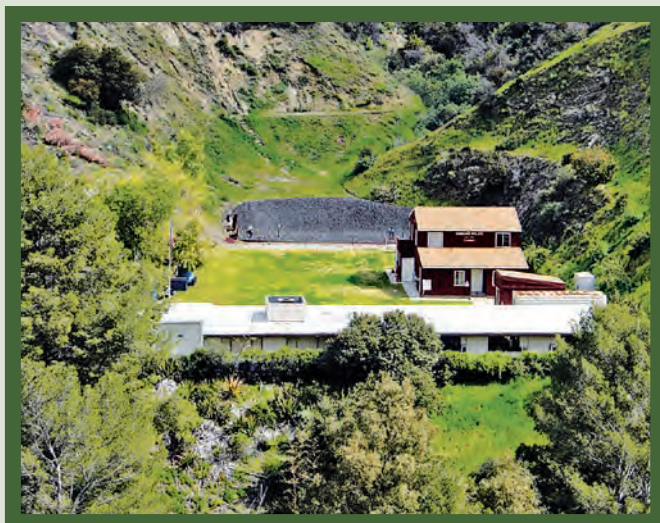
**Send me your pictures!**  
If you go, I would love to see your pictures! Send them to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com)



Dakota and I take a short break.



Dakota and I start our climb up the first trail nearest to the entrance.



This is a very difficult hill to climb; I say this because it looks easy, but the continuous climbing gets you pretty tired very quickly. I was out of breath because of the continuous upward climb.



Looking back the way I came, you can see there are many trails.



Sign with Trail Rules



A trail safety sign.

### Directions

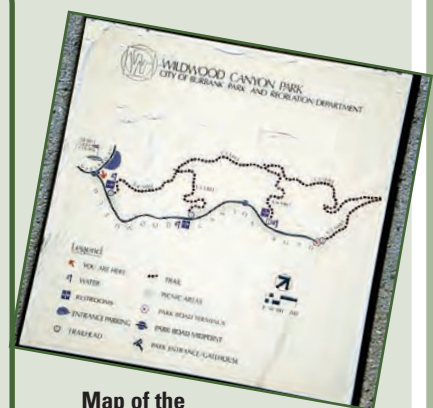
- From Glenoaks Boulevard, take Olive Avenue north towards the mountains.
- Turn left onto Sunset Canyon Drive. Turn right onto Harvard Road.
- The entrance to Wildwood Canyon Park is on the right.

### ADDRESS:

Wildwood Canyon Park,  
1701 Wildwood Canyon Drive,  
Burbank, CA 91501  
PHONE: (818) 238-5440



Hillside Recreation Area Sign



Map of the Wildwood Canyon Trail layout.