



Angel Gomez,
Director of
Member
Services

Oak Canyon

Hello everybody!

This month, I wanted to stay south of Los Angeles, so I found this shady paradise right off the 91 Freeway. I liked the fact that the entire trail was covered with lots and lots of trees (Oak Forest). My youngest son, Aden, kept asking what would happen if he touched the poison oak along the trail. There are warnings posted everywhere, but don't worry -- just stay on the path, and you will be fine.

The restrooms are available right at the entrance and there are also many picnic tables for your lunch. Let's begin.

History

The Oak Canyon Nature Center is a 58-acre natural park nestled in the Anaheim Hills. A year-round stream meanders through the park, which consists of three adjoining canyons and four miles of hiking trails that traverse one of the few remaining areas of oak woodland and coastal sage scrub in the region. Native wildlife makes the canyon their home and is just waiting to be discovered. Also located on site is the John J. Collier Interpretive Center, a small museum with live animal and regional natural history exhibits.

The nature center is the perfect place for you to learn about the wonders of the natural world in a tranquil setting. The trails are ideal for those who are just stepping into the wilderness for the first time or for those more experienced trekkers who are seeking a short hike.

The trail also provides many small extensions to higher-level trails, which allow you to see flowers and cactus plants along the way.

The Trails

Here are descriptions of the trails to be found at the Oak Canyon Nature Center:

- The main road bisects the center of the canyon, offering hikers an open view. The road is level and accessible to both strollers and wheelchairs. Distance: 0.7 mi. Walk Time: 28 min.
- The Stream Trail meanders along the banks of the stream in dense oak woodland. The trail is mostly level and has plenty of shade. Distance: 0.3 mi. Walk Time: 12 min.
- The Heritage Trail is a paved self-guided trail, which identifies many of the native plants. Distance: 0.2 mi. Walk Time: 8 min.
- Tranquility Trail rises from the canyon bottom to the coastal sage scrub and oak woodland communities on the western hillsides of the park. The trail is hilly with intermittent shade. Distance: 0.3 mi. Walk Time: 15 min.
- Wren Way links the Tranquility Trail with Bluebird Lane. The trail follows the contour of the hillside along the southwestern corner of the canyon and receives full sun. It has a moderate grade in some areas. Distance: 0.2 mi. Walk Time: 10 min.
- Bluebird Lane and Loop follows the south rim

Highlights

Shrouded oak forest, serenaded by small stream, mostly shaded trail offers an escape on a sunny day.

HIKE DISTANCE: Two miles

HIKE TIME: One hour

DIFFICULTY: Easy

TRAIL SURFACE: Packed dirt and paved

SPECIAL NOTES: No pets, horses, or bicycles are allowed in the park, Watch out for poison oak!

through the dense oak woodland. The trail is mostly flat with partial shade, making it a pleasant hike for those who enjoy a longer excursion. Lane Distance: 0.3 mi. Loop Distance: 0.6 mi. Walk Time: 15-30 min.

- Quail Trail links Roadrunner Ridge with Stream Trail. The short path takes the visitor from the coastal sage scrub community down to the dense oak woodland along the stream. Distance: 0.1 mi. Walk Time: 5-8 min.
- Roadrunner Ridge follows the northern boundary of Oak Canyon in a coastal sage scrub habitat. The trail begins at the top of Heritage Trail and climbs along the northern canyon. The path is challenging and receives full sun. Heritage Trail link Distance: 0.4 mi. Walk Time: 18 min. Back Canyon link Distance: 0.3 mi. Walk Time: 14 min.

The Hike

Let me tell you, I loved this short and sweet little trail. Almost every area was covered with trees along the way. If you travel up some of the trails, you will be overlooking all the oak trees that gave you shade along the path; you will see flowers and cacti, too. Your family will love it. Along the many trails, there are plenty of themed spots to stop and visit. The Silverado Canyon Mining spot was one stop we really liked. There is a sign with lots of history, so enjoy.

The self-guided plaques along Heritage Trail will help familiarize you with many of the local plants and animals. Visit the new Heritage Butterfly Garden – the butterfly sculptures in this garden are an outcome of the Butterfly Initiative. This garden is maintained to attract and benefit native butterflies by the ongoing support of numerous scouts and volunteers.

Children will enjoy the large scaled interpretive exhibits along the Heritage Trail just opposite the Interpretive Center. You can experience nature by crawling through a web and peer back out as though through the eyes of a funnel-web spider. Crawl through a fallen log to experience the protective space a log shelter can provide. Climb into an



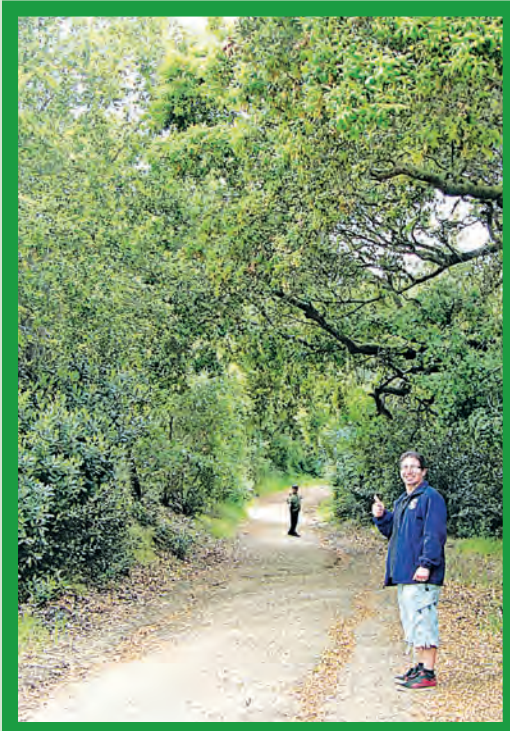
Park Rules

Anaheim Hills

Nature Center



Angel Jr. and I inside a very empty eggshell.



Angel Jr. and I walk through the forest-rich trail. The shade makes it really nice.



Aden takes a break next to the beautiful plant life along the way.



Angel Jr. got into the mining sprit.



The butterfly garden sculptures.



Angel Jr. and I stop in the middle of an area full of cactus along the path.

Send me your photos!
I would love to see your pictures! Send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com

empty eggshell to see where chicks spend the first part of their lives. Then, climb in and make yourself "at home" in a tortoise shell.

Stay on the trails! Trails keep you focused and allow the surrounding area to remain free of disturbance. Venturing off the trails can result in destruction of vulnerable habitat by trampling and soil erosion. Also, contact with poison oak may cause an unpleasant rash – another reason to stay on the trail.

If you should come in direct contact on your skin or indirect contact on your clothing, cleanse affected areas with soap and water as soon as possible. Rattlesnakes may be found in this area. They are important members of the natural community. If disturbed or cornered, they will defend themselves. Give them distance and respect.

Bring plenty of water and snacks, and maybe spend a little time going up different trails.

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

Directions

- From downtown Los Angeles, take the Golden State Freeway (I-5) south to the 91 Freeway east toward Riverside. Exit at Imperial Highway (CA-90) and head south to E. Nohl Ranch Road. Turn left, drive 1.7 miles and make a left onto Walnut Canyon Road. The park entrance is a half-mile ahead.

ADDRESS: 6700 E. Walnut Canyon Rd., Anaheim
PHONE: (714) 998-8380

Hours:

- Individuals and families are welcome seven days a week.
April – May: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June – August: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sept. – Oct.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Nov. – March: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and President's Day.
- Note: Collecting, smoking, bicycles, and pets are not allowed. Group picnic tables are in the parking lot area, and picnicking is restricted within the park grounds.



**Do not touch this!
It's poison oak.**



Trail Sign



A bulletin board depicting some of the wildlife you may find on your hike.