



Arroyo Pescadero Sign.

Arroyo Pescadero

— in Whittier Loop Trail

Hello again, everybody!

This month, let's take a short, easy hike of three to four miles at the Arroyo Pescadero Park in Whittier.

The Trail: The Arroyo Pescadero trail is about two miles long and continues in a loop. It has an optional extra loop called Deer Loop that adds about a mile onto the hike.

We chose to hike Deer Loop and agreed it was a good walk as well as easy enough for first timers. Special note: Be aware! You will see a stake with a sign that reads, "Arroyo Pescadero Left, and Arroyo San Miguel keeps going straight." Make sure you turn left!

The trail has plenty of ups and downs, but they are

proportionate to each other so that it's easy to continue without having to stop.

The trail road is mostly asphalt, although there are some parts that were dirt. The signs were also pretty easy to follow.

There are tons of cool plants and trees to keep a person entertained while walking the trail. You will come across a concrete circle, which I was told is used by schools and church retreats to have discussions or meetings.

We did hear a little bit of water trickling, so I assumed that in rainier weather, there might be a little creek. We probably walked past only about two other people, so the

tranquility and peacefulness is a plus.

I really enjoyed this short but sweet trail. My wife was kind of nervous because there were mountain lion warning signs posted along the trail. I read a few hiker reviews, though, which prompted me to tell you that you that most of what you will see are rabbits, roadrunners and a few lizards. My wife was okay until about 50 feet into the hike, where someone had written into the dirt road, "mountain lion" with an arrow pointing at a paw print in the dirt. She became a "Nervous Nellie" after that, and every time we heard a small animal walking in the bushes, my arm was squeezed and its blood flow stopped. I felt safe, but I would recommend that everyone bring a small bottle of mace just in case.

Also, at the top of the trail there is a new kiosk with lots of habitat information about birds and other animals that live in the area.

Overall, it was a nice walk that had a beautiful view of the city at the top near where we parked. I would rate this trail as "easy" and give it a 7 or 8 for what it is.

History: A project of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, this two-acre park is part of the Preservation Authority's plan for a nature preserve in the Whittier Hills between Whittier and Hacienda Heights. Arroyo Pescadero serves as a wildlife corridor that connects lands that reach from the Whittier Narrows Recreation area to the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County. The park's features include an ADA accessible interpretive trail, and decorative gates designed by local high school students and steel artist Brett Goldstone.

Send pictures of your hike to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. Don't forget to always bring plenty of water and snacks on your hikes. Life is too short to never set some time to hike and enjoy the beautiful nature and scenery.

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



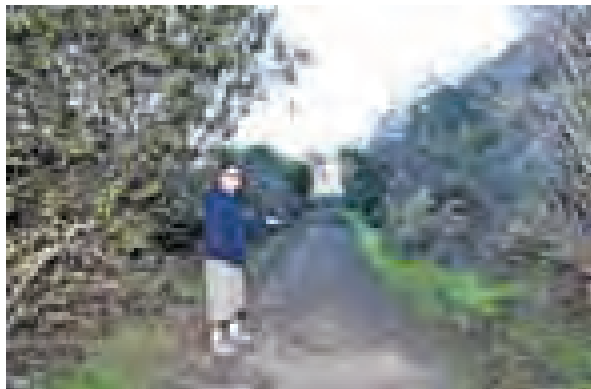
The discussion circle, with city views in the background.



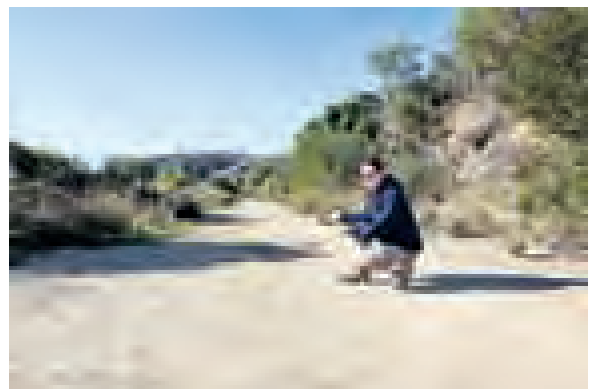
You can add an extra mile by turning to your right, Deer Loop, at this sign.



Angel Gomez, Director of Member Services



The trail was a little wet but not too bad.



The dirt road you can hike easily.



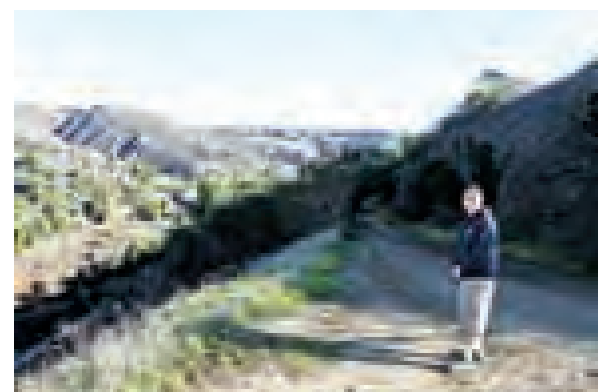
This is the beginning of your short hike. Enjoy!



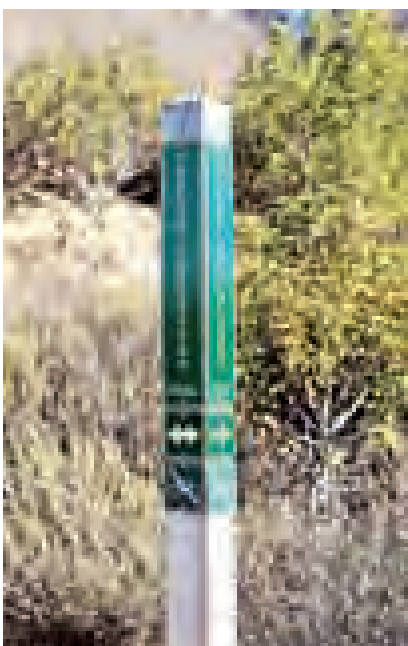
The kiosk with wildlife and habitat info.



Parking lot spaces and the informational kiosk.



The trail heads down to a turn and loops you around; look closely at left side of photo.



Obey this sign!



Arroyo Pescadero Loop Trail

7531 South Colima Rd., Whittier

- HIGHLIGHTS:** City views, wide trails, dog-friendly
- HIKE DISTANCE:** 3.5 miles (round trip)
- ELEVATION:** 341 feet
- APPROXIMATE TIME:** 1.5 hours (depending on your pace)
- DIFFICULTY:** Easy

Parking:

A large parking lot is available at the trailhead. Parking is free but limited. Note: If you are driving north on Colima, you need to pass Mar Vista and make a U-turn at your first opportunity; the entrance is right across from Murphy's Ranch Baseball Diamond.

Directions:

Take State Highway 72 and exit at Colima Road. Head north. Access is on the west side of Colima across from Murphy Ranch Little League fields.