

# Peters Canyon Regional Park

— Orange, CA



Angel Jr., Aden, Angel and Dakota by the Peters Canyon trail sign.



Dakota, Kathy, Aden, and Angel pose under a tree.

**H**ello again!

This month we travel to Peters Canyon Regional Park in Orange. We hiked the entire park, from the parking lot all the way to Lower Peters Canyon Reservoir (the far end of the park). We took this hike on Mother's Day, and we all went for a brisk walk, including our baby girl, Dakota (our family dog). The length – 5.5 miles – was amazing. I really should give more credit to my two little guys – Angel, 10, and Aden, 8 – for being such troopers. They helped with the dog, running along the way, and basically having a great time.

The trail has a few steep areas but they are short and not too bad. The hike and the people were all very friendly; I would recommend this hike to all ages.

*Special note:* Please be aware of the bikers. Some of them are considerate, but I found a few who should go and take a class on safety. Going down a hill at more than 25 mph leaves little time for warning. Accidents are sure to happen if these riders are not more considerate and careful. Be proactive and look out for bikers!

## History

Peters Canyon Regional Park was originally part of Rancho Lomas de Santiago. During those Spanish days, Peters Canyon was called Canon de las Ranas or Canyon of the Frogs. This was attributed to the canyon's drainage into the Cienega de las Ranas or Marsh of the Frogs, known today as Upper Newport Bay.

In 1897, the rancho was purchased by James Irvine, who leased the canyon to several farmers. Beginning in 1891 and continuing after the Irvine purchase, James Peters, for whom the canyon is named, dry-farmed barley and beans in the upper part of the canyon. Peters built his home and planted a eucalyptus grove near Lower Peters Canyon Retarding Basin.

In 1899, sportsmen from Orange and Santa Ana introduced golf to Orange County. A nine-hole course was laid out by the Santiago Golf Club. Greens were made of oil-soaked sand and fairways of native soil. A red clubhouse was built on the ridge that now extends into Upper Peters Canyon Reservoir. The conspicuous building was seen by those who crossed the canyon between the El Modena Grade and Irvine Regional Park, hence the name Golf Canyon came into use.

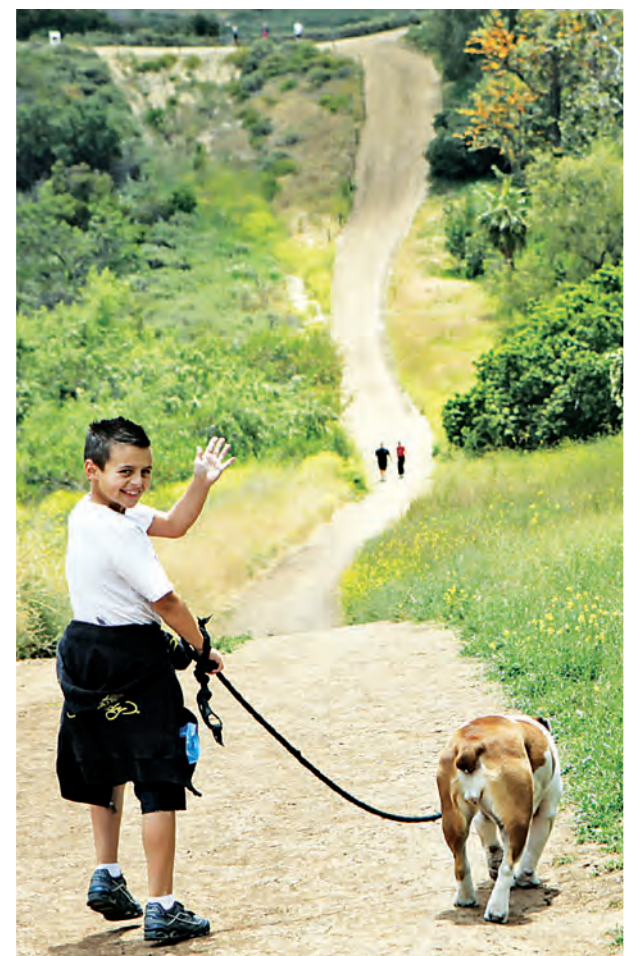
During World War II, Peters Canyon was used as a training area for the U.S. Army. Camp Commander, as it was known, was established in the eucalyptus groves near Little Peters Lake, or what is known today as Lower Peters Canyon Retarding Basin. Mock battles were staged between Camp Commander and Camp Rathke, an Army post two miles away in Irvine Regional Park.

On March 3, 1992, the Irvine Company donated 354 acres of Peters Canyon to the County of Orange to be preserved as open space.

## The Hike

The park offers a variety of trails, providing opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. The East Ridge View Trail provides a panoramic view of Peters Canyon and the surrounding area. Visitors can enjoy the beauty of Upper Peters Canyon reservoir while traversing the Lake View Trail. Peters Canyon Creek Nature Trail guides hikers through lush groves of willows and rare black cottonwoods supported by a running creek. Visitors will encounter the park's grassland, coastal sage scrub and riparian habitats as well as eucalyptus groves on the Lower Canyon Trail. Most of the trail is very well kept.

I loved this place for all the different things to see and the continuous changes in the landscape. This is



Angel Jr. and Dakota begin the long path with a very steep climb.





Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

Send your photos to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com).  
I would love to see them!



Aden, Angel Jr. and Dakota with the park reservoir in the background.



Be careful of bikers along the trail.



Angel, Dakota, Aden, and Angel Jr. looking back.



One of the many snakes you may be lucky to see.



Special park posting.

one of the most relaxing trails I have been on in a few months. You simply follow the trail and find yourself enjoying the great outdoors, looking all around and losing track of time. Everything about the hike is wonderful except for the few bikers with no consideration for safety. I would recommend this hike to all my Club Members and their families.

We took our time taking photos, taking short stops for snacks and admiring all the beauty surrounding us. The Lake View Loop is just that, a loop around the lake and a big steep climb getting up to a nice viewing spot of the lake. There will be a point where you can take Peters Canyon Trail, and that will send you all the way to the Lower Reservoir; then your 2.5-mile hike turns into a 5.5-mile adventure. This is very nice and interesting trail with lots of side trails along the way. We were lucky enough to see another snake. So, go out and find a trail. I am sure you will have lots of fun and, for only \$3, you can't go wrong.

You can be the big adventure person for your family and in the same breath help keep everyone fit and healthy, too.

I want to send out a very special Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in the world, especially the ones in our Club family.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take plenty of photos. Send them to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com). Bring water, snacks and maybe some sunscreen.

Until next month,  
be safe and  
**Be Alive!**  
Angel

## Peters Canyon Regional Park

8548 E Canyon View Ave.  
Orange, CA 92869  
(714) 973-6611

### TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

- DISTANCE:** 5.5 miles
- ELEVATION GAIN:** 518 feet
- DIFFICULTY:** Moderate
- HIKE TIME:** 2 hours
- TRAIL CONDITION:** Mostly dirt roads

### TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Mountain biking, walking, jogging, bird watching, lake.

### PARKING

- Dirt parking area.
- Fee:** \$3 per day.
- Hours:** 7 a.m. to sunset daily.
- There are portable toilets in the parking lot and at the end of the canyon.



Aden and Angel Jr. pay \$3 for parking.

### DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 5, take the Jamboree Road exit. Head northeast on Jamboree for approximately five miles to Canyon View Avenue. Turn left. The park entrance is about a quarter mile down the road on your left.