



Angel Jr., Aden, Dakota, and I begin the shaded part of the trail.

The lake and a bench for some needed rest.



— Buena Park, Calif.

RALPH B. CLARK REGIONAL PARK

Hello again, everybody!

This month, we traveled to the Ralph B. Clark Regional Park at the foot of the Coyote Hills in Buena Park. The 105-acre property extends north and south of Rosecrans Avenue. The parklands range from large open grass areas, to gently rolling hills of native plants, to sheer sandstone cliffs to the north. I really like the area, and the view from the highest point is amazing. The walk itself is very well shaded, and there is a lot to see. As easy as this hike/walk is, you will enjoy the scenery and get fit while doing so. Let's begin!

History

This site, due to its varied distribution of vertebrates, has potential for investigation comparable to the La Brea Tar Pits. These rich fossil beds were originally revealed when the California Division of Highways (now CalTrans) excavated sand and gravel from the site for use in construction of the Santa Ana and Riverside Freeways from 1956 to 1970. At that time the park site was known as the Emery Borrow Pit.

The significance of the site led to public demand that it be preserved. As a result, the Orange County acquired the property in 1974. Added to the County's regional park system in 1981 as Los Coyotes Regional Park, the facility was renamed in 1987 in honor of then-retiring County Supervisor Ralph B. Clark, who was instrumental in the acquisition, planning, and development of the 105-acre site during his 16 years in office. Today, unique Ralph B. Clark Regional Park not only preserves prehistoric fossil beds, but also provides a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

Trail Activities

The park provides many ball fields and a lake stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, and catfish.

Hikers have a perimeter trail, which winds halfway around the park. Some areas feature dirt paths around Camel Hill or cement walkways that lead to the lake and picnic grounds. No bikes are allowed on the perimeter trail.

The Hike

This trail is more like an easy walk; I would not consider this a difficult trail at all. If you want to just get out and walk around a beautiful park, I recommend this trail. The path starts along the inside of the fence on Rosecrans Avenue. After a few yards you will come to a sign, and then the trail begins to turn. Pine trees hide the trail; you are actually walking between the trees, and they provide wonderful shade. You travel around the entire park and will see lots of beautiful rest areas along the way. In the middle of the park, you can see

the lake along with the interpretive center. The center is very small, however; it has lots to see and very nice exhibits, too. I would have never thought of a prehistoric animal living right under my feet while we were hiking. When you are done, you can sit and enjoy all the activities around the park.

I really like this little park. There is much more here than I ever thought. I recommend this little gem of a park for an exciting and fun outing. Please bring a few dollars and a big smile, and you will be in paradise.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take plenty of photos and send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. Bring water, snacks and maybe some sunscreen.

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



There are lots of activities, with beautiful cliffs in the background.



The lake.



Picnic areas are next to the trail.

Angel's

Be Alive!



Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

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



Angel and Aden climbing.



A nice view of the park playground.

Our friend the turtle sunbathing.



Ralph B. Clark Regional Park

8800 Rosecrans Ave. • Buena Park, CA 90621

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

- DISTANCE:** 1.5 miles
- ELEVATION GAIN:** 100 feet
- DIFFICULTY:** Easy
- HIKE TIME:** 1 hour
- TRAIL CONDITION:** Mostly dirt roads, except around the lake

DIRECTIONS

From the Santa Ana Freeway (5) in Buena Park, exit on Beach Boulevard and drive 2.2 miles north to Rosecrans Ave. (Or from the Artesia Freeway (91), exit on Beach Boulevard and drive 3 miles north to Rosecrans.) Turn right (east) and head 0.5 mile to the entrance of Ralph P. Clark Regional Park on the right. Turn right on the park road, then right again just past the tennis courts.

PARKING

Park in the lot by the tennis courts or curbside along the park road. The perimeter trail extends along the top of an embankment, where the park borders a neighborhood. *Fee:* \$3 during the week and \$5 on weekends.



Enjoy the gorgeous view.



Dakota, Aden and me by the pond, with lots of lilies.



Angel Jr. and Aden in front of the Interpretive Center.



Aden points to lots of fossils.



Angel Jr. and American mastodon molars in Jaw Bone.



Aden and Angel Jr. in front of the prehistoric saber-toothed cat exhibit.