

Hacienda Hills Trailhead

Seventh and Orange Grove Avenues, Hacienda Heights

HIGHLIGHTS: City views, hiking, biking, steep trails, dog-friendly, lots of shade

DISTANCE: 3.5 miles (round trip)

ELEVATION: 650 feet

APPROXIMATE TIME: 2.5 hours (depending on your pace)

DIFFICULTY: Moderate to difficult

DIRECTIONS: The trailhead (start) is at the west end of Orange Grove in Hacienda Heights. From the 605 Freeway, take the 60 Freeway east for about two miles. Get off on Seventh Avenue (second offramp from the 605) and turn right. Go to

the end of Seventh Avenue and turn right on Orange Grove.

PARKING: A very small parking lot is available at the trailhead. Parking here is free.



— Hacienda Heights, Calif.

Hacienda Hills Trailhead

Lookout Point along the trail.

Hello again!

This month, we went back to the Habitat Preservation Authority in the Puente Hills Landfill. Within the Habitat Authority, there are multiple trails and other park sections. The Hacienda Hills Trailhead brings you up to the Schabarum Skyline Trail, where you can connect to most all of the many Habitat Authority sections.

The Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

To date, the Habitat Authority manages approximately 3,860 acres of preserved public open space, of which 1,878 is owned by the Habitat Authority. The remaining lands are owned either by the City of Whittier or the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Ultimately the Authority hopes to preserve more than 4,000 acres.

The Hike:

We hiked up the canyon on the Ahwingna Trail, and let me tell you, it is steep! You will get a really nice workout on this trail. Once you reach a level path, you will have to choose which way to continue, to the Schabarum Skyline Trail, the Native Oak Trail, or you can stay on the Ahwingna Trail.

Dakota and I stayed on the Ahwingna Trail. We were on a mission. There are lots of hills on this trail, but that's what a good hike is all about. When you reach the skyline, you will notice a fence and a path. Turn right, and in the far distance you can see the famous water tank. Be careful of bikers along the route; most are considerate, but I have found a few that should get a ticket for reckless driving, if you know what I mean. Try and keep next to the fence line and out of the way of any bikers.

Once you get to the end of the fence (line) path, you will see the Native Oak sign. This is another steep incline but it's very short, no worries. It is all downhill.

Special Note: When you are at the skyline, you have some of the most wonderful views all around you. Take a break and look around before you go on to Native Oak Trail.

After your short break, you will find lots of shade and plenty of switchbacks. I found this to be the easiest part of the trail, mostly because for me going downhill is a lot easier. After about 45 minutes, you will find the trail post for Puma Trail. Just keep going on Native Oak Trail. You will begin to see city streets, so at this point you have two choices – continue on Native Oak Trail back up to Ahwingna Trail (another mile), or walk down to the street and along the school. That's Orange Grove; follow it until you get back to a stop sign, and that is where you parked, at Orange Grove and Seventh Avenue.

If you continue back up on Native Oak, after a mile you will hit Ahwingna Trail again. Make a left and continue down the path until you reach the parking lot.



Aden, Dakota, and I in front of the Hacienda Hills trailhead.

Bring plenty of water snacks, and maybe spend a little time just walking and enjoying the scenery.

I really liked this short but steep hiking trail. Dakota liked it, too.

Thank you to my family and the Club for giving me these opportunities to travel and go on all these wonderful hikes and outdoor activities.

Send me photos of your day hikes and other outdoor activities! Send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com.

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

Angel's *Be Alive!*

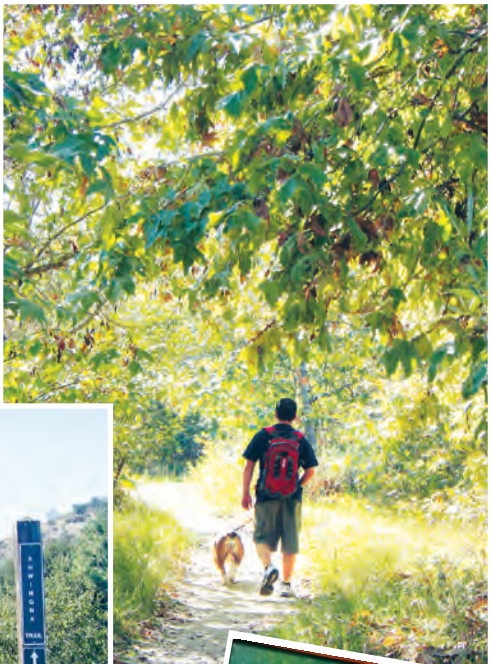
Send your photos to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com
I would love to see them!

Angel Gomez,
Club Director of Sales



Looking over the trail map.

Dakota and I begin.



Dakota and I at the Ahwingna Trail post.



"Living with Wildlife" poster board.

On the Trail



Trail leading to Skyline Trail, with the water tank in the distance.



Skyline Trail along the fence line (toward Native Oak Trail).



The beginning of Native Oak Trail.



Puma Trail connects with Native Oak Trail.

CLUB STORE

Here Come the Refund Checks!

The Club's Life Insurance refund for 2011 is approximately \$250,000. Are you eligible?

Here come the refund checks... to your mailbox!

The Board of Directors has approved a Club Life Insurance refund of approximately \$250,000 to be distributed back to the eligible Club members.

The Club continues its tradition of rewarding Club Life Insurance policyholders with a return of unused premiums (total premiums collected less paid claims and expenses). The 2011 refund will be the Club's 80th refund in its 83 years of existence.

The refund checks will be distributed via the U.S. Mail. Expect the checks to begin arriving in December.

"Club Life Insurance is all about being there when our Members are in need," said Brian Trent, the Club's Chief Financial Officer. "That's our first priority. And, when we can, we are happy to return that portion of the premiums that are not needed. And we've been able to do that in all

but three years of the Association's existence."

Who is eligible? Anyone who had Life, Spouse Life, Dependent Life, Retiree Life or Retiree Spouse Life Insurance in force for the month of July 2011 is eligible for a refund.

The actual amount Members receive is determined as a percentage of the total premiums paid by an individual for the period of August 2010 through July 2011. However, those who dropped their insurance coverage prior to July 31, 2011, are not eligible for any refund.

Do you want to be eligible for next year's refund (if any)? It's simple. Purchase any Life product from the Club, and you're eligible for next year. Insure your family's future and receive a little reward each year for living!

Talk to your Club Counselor, or call the Club at (800) 464-0452.

Brian, your Club CFO says...

Life is good with another **Refund Check**



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