

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

Angel's *Be Alive!*

Arriving at Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park.



Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park — Lake Forest

Limestone Canyon and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

Portola Parkway and Market Place
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678
(949) 923-2245

Area: 4,300 acres

Hiking distance: various

Hiking difficulty: easy

Biking time: one to two hours or more

Trail condition: dirt paths

Bike path activities: walking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding

Directions: From Interstate 5, take the Lake Forest exit and proceed to Portola Parkway (approximately 5 miles). Turn left on Portola Parkway, then continue one-half mile to Market, then make a right. The parking lot and entrance are to your immediate left. To reach the Glenn Ranch Road entrance, turn right on Portola Parkway, left on Glenn Ranch Road, then left into parking lot.

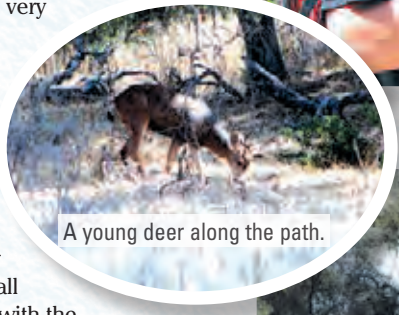
Parking: \$3 (weekdays)

Hours: 7 a.m. to sunset daily

Hello again, everybody!

Last month, we ventured a long way to Bryce Canyon in Utah. This month, we will again travel away from Los Angeles, but this time only to Orange County, to Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park in Lake Forest.

The park has many trails and lots of different paths you can enjoy. These paths are also shared with mountain bikers, so be very careful! Along the path you will see deer, squirrels, rabbits, birds and let's not forget mountain lions. I am an outdoor person, as you can probably assume; I read ahead of time about the mountain lions, but still I wanted to see the park, as crazy as that may seem. I was very comfortable in the area. My wife and I saw at least four or five deer and lots of other wildlife, at about the one-mile mark. This reminded me of Yosemite National Park and Bryce Canyon all over again.



A young deer along the path.

At the Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park, there are many things to see and lots of wildlife all around you. Just be very careful with the area's wildlife and speedy mountain bikers along the path. Let's begin!

The park is 4,300 acres of riparian and oak woodland canyons, rolling grassland hills and steep slopes of coastal sage scrub and chaparral. The park has many trees and lots of up-and-down slopes along the paths. There is abundant wildlife all around you. There are three intermittent streams: Borrego, Serrano and Aliso Creek meandering through the park.

Remnants of the former cattle ranching days can be seen throughout the park. In 2007, 90 percent of the park was burned in the Santiago fire. Most of the land is in the recovery process, so please respect of that process by staying on marked trails and following park rules.

Limestone Canyon is available for guided access only. Visit irlandmarks.org and select from the many free activities offered. In addition to passive recreational programs, there are opportunities to participate in scientific research, stewardship and other volunteer activities.

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

As always, *Be Alive!*,
Angel



This Live Oak trail sign shows the way.



Look closely and notice the mountain biker tire prints.



There are multiple paths to choose from.



The front gate at Whiting Ranch.



Mountain lion warnings in the area.



A rest area, the parking meter kiosk, and area information.

