



The entrance to Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.



Aden and I walk back to the car.



Hikers on Burbank Mountain trail.

## Johnson's Pasture Trail

### Hello everyone!

This month we are going northeast of Los Angeles to Claremont. The area is very nice with lots to see and many trails, thanks in part to the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy, a nonprofit land conservancy of local residents who are deeply concerned about preserving wild lands and the plants and animals they sustain.

I really like Johnson's Pasture Trail; it is clean and wide enough for a regular pickup truck to drive through. There are many intersections; whatever path you take, you will see a gorgeous view.

### History

The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park opened in 1996 with 1,440 acres. The 2008 incorporation of Johnson's Pasture increased the park to 1,620 acres. The park was dedicated as a City Nature Park in 1997.

The earliest known inhabitants of the area were the Serrano (highlander) Indians. A nomadic people, they lived where they found water. The Serrano Indians belonged to the Shoshonean division of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic family, a group that includes diverse peoples including the Aztecs of Mexico; the Hopi, Papago and Pima of Arizona; the Ute of Colorado and Utah; as well as the neighboring tribes of the Cahuilla, the Luseno, and the Copeno.



Lots of people enjoy the trail.

The best-documented evidence of their presence is on Indian Hill, a mesa near what is now the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. The Claremont area became part of Mission San Gabriel, founded in 1771. The Native Americans who lived here at that time became known as the Gabrielenos, also known as the Tongva. They are small bands of hunter-gatherers, and their place names may be familiar.

### Getting There

I have traveled by this area off the 210 Freeway often, and I always wanted to go up into the mountains and explore the area. So we made a map and away we went. I used an application on my phone, and it gave me a good idea just where to go. We parked on Via Santa Catarina Street and began our hike.

*Note:* You can also start at the Claremont Hills Park entrance side on Mills Avenue, and walk up to the trail. If you do that, you would be on Cobal Canyon Mountain Way.

### The Hike

This was an easy trail; it is wide enough to have a ranger truck drive right by us. There were a lot of people hiking, jogging, and walking their dogs. The trail and area

are nice. There is a parking lot on the Cobal Canyon Mountain Way side, and it is more traveled. I think I will go back and try some of the other trails.

Most of the Claremont hillsides are owned by the city and are designated as a wilderness park. However, many other parcels are privately owned and may be developed. In the interest of wildlife preservation, the Johnson's Pasture was purchased in 2007 to benefit the entire Claremont community.

Many families, hikers, bicyclists, horse riders and other residents from all parts of town benefit from the area. Even those who choose never to visit Johnson's

Pasture have benefited from enhanced property values, unblemished hillsides and reduced long-term costs for fire prevention, trash removal and road maintenance.

The park is amazing and has lots of gorgeous views. I liked the fact that you have many options either going up a hill or around it. I saw lots of people out in the early morning. I started on Johnson's Pasture and then found myself on Gale's Mountain, and finally on Burbank Mountain Way all the way to the Claremont parking lot (Claremont Wilderness Trail Head). There are many ways to start this trail, or I should say trails. This area is wonderful and full of birds and gorgeous views. It's amazing and all free!

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

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



Mountain bikers and hikers share the trail.

### Johnson's Pasture Trail – Claremont

**Acreage:** 1,620

**Length:** 5.3 miles

**Difficulty rating:** Easy

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Activities:** Running, jogging, bike riding, family friendly, dog friendly

**Directions:** From downtown Los Angeles, go north until you reach the 210 Freeway, then so east until you reach Town Avenue (exit on Town Avenue). Make a right on Baseline Road, then turn left on Mountain Avenue. Continue going north (you will be in a residential neighborhood) until you reach Via Santa Catarina. Make a right and this is a dead end street. Park your car and follow the trail.

**Parking:** Free on Via Santa Catarina residential side. Pay by the hour on Mills Avenue side. Parking for the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park is at the park entrance on Mills Avenue as well as the overflow parking lot at the northeast corner of Mills Avenue and Mount Baldy Road.

#### Park hours:

May: 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

June – July: 5:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Aug: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Hours vary the rest of the year.

Visitors in violation of these hours may be subject to a citation.

**Admission:** Free