



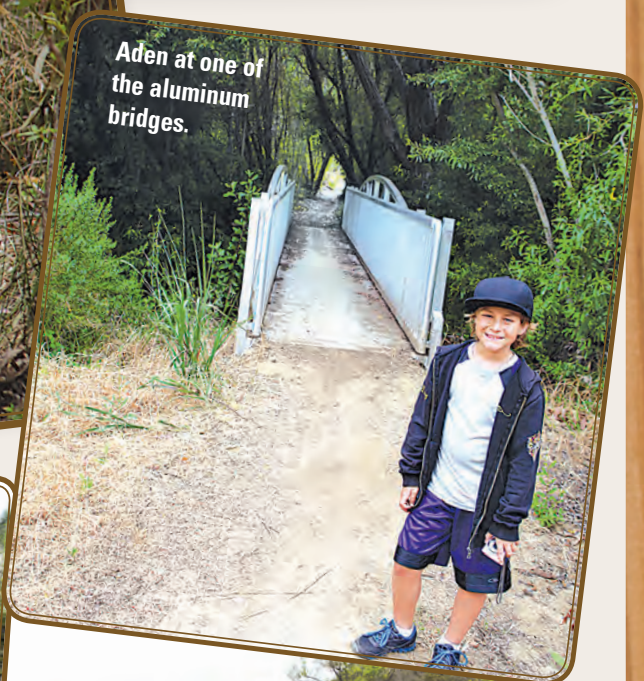
Aden along the trail.

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

Angel's *Be Alive!*



BUCK GULLY RESERVE TRAIL - Newport Beach



Aden at one of the aluminum bridges.



Aden near the end of the trail.



Myself with Angel Jr. and Aden as we begin our hike.



Angel Jr. by the dedication sign of Buck Gully Trail.



Aden (starting his photography training) and Angel Jr. say "hi."

Hello everyone!

This month we travel to Newport Beach. Last month, we covered the Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Trail, and while I was searching that trail, Buck Gully caught my eye. The photo looked really nice and the trail just received funds to add bridges to cross the creeks below.

The City of Newport Beach, residents and project partners dedicated more than three miles of renovated trails in the Buck Gully Reserve. The recent trail renovation project was made possible by the city, the state of California and Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

So let's go take a look!

The Trail

The Buck Gully is a natural, coastal canyon between Newport Beach and Orange County. The canyon is bounded by urbanized areas, including single-family residences, roadways, and the Pelican Hills Golf Course. The watershed draining into Buck Gully encompasses about 1,200 acres and includes portions of the San Joaquin foothills. The ownership of the canyon has changed from the Irvine Company, to the county, and finally the city. Irvine has always had a history of protecting, conserving and maintaining valuable open space areas that define the city's urban form, serve as habitat for many species, and provide recreational opportunities to the public. Activities include docent-led hikes, mountain bike rides, and volunteer programs including trail maintenance and weed removal. The removal of invasive weeds helps maintain healthy habitats for the diverse wildlife population in

Buck Gully. In 2005, the city authorized the acceptance of certain scenic easements, a resource preservation easement, and fee ownership of reserve lands in Upper Buck Gully and Newport Coast. In April, four aluminum bridges, ranging in length from 35 to 50 feet, were installed and anchored in place. The bridges span areas that were previously traversed in ways that weren't optimum for the traveler, or for the ecosystem. Conservationists and planners call trails like the ones forged in Buck Gully "social trails."

I really liked this trail. It was clean and well kept, and the new bridges make a big difference. I am sure that, before the bridges were installed, you got your shoes wet and shorts dirty after walking through the creek a few times. Some people might like to get down and dirty; nonetheless the trail was very pleasant.

Everyone in my family loved the trail. I liked the variety of scenery along the way, and the birds were at every tree singing beautiful songs to keep us company. Enjoy the trail.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take lots 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

Buck Gully Reserve Trail
Fifth and Poppy Streets • Newport Beach

Acres: 300
Trail Length: Almost 3 miles
Difficulty Rating: Easy walk
Duration: 1 – 2 hours or longer
Hours: Dawn to dusk every day
Activities: Walking, bird watching, photography
Not permitted: Dogs. The presence of dogs disturbs native wildlife routines, but dogs are also more susceptible to snake bites while wandering around on the trail.

Directions: From downtown Los Angeles, you can also take the I-5 Fwy to the CA-55, then CA-73 south, exit MacArthur Boulevard toward Newport Beach. Turn left on San Joaquin Hills Road, then turn right onto Marguerite Avenue. Turn left onto Fifth Avenue, then left on Poppy Avenue. The trail sign will be on the right.
Parking: Free street parking at location