

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales
Angel's

Be Alive!

- Brea

Carbon Canyon Regional Park

Aden and I in front of the lake.



Angel Jr., Aden and Dakota are in front of the redwood trees.



Angel Jr. and Aden are at the playground slide.

Hello again, everybody!

This month, my family and I found a hidden gem in Brea: the Carbon Canyon Regional Park. Since my family loves to travel and find new places to explore, we found a real treat at this park: we found coastal redwood trees here in Orange County; can you believe that? Previously we have traveled all the way to Yosemite National Park, which is not that far. But if I knew there was a place with redwood trees and it was closer, I would have started there! Coastal redwoods are right here in Brea!

History

This area was once known as Olinda, settled by farmers and ranchers before the 1880s. The arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad instigated a land boom in the area. Farmers and ranchers believing they had found an agricultural haven flocked to the area. They had cattle and sheep and were pastured in the open fields, which are now the regional park. However, the farming area took a new direction - "oil." In the late 1800s, oil was discovered in the region, which caused an oil boom in the area. Multiple oil companies drilled throughout the foothills of Orange County. Oil towns developed with the company owning the houses, stores and the land. One such town was the town of Olinda, located on what is now the regional park. Olinda thrived as an oil boomtown until the oil fields began to shut down in the 1940s. If you look closely you can still see some operating oil wells on the far hills while you hike in Carbon Canyon Regional Park.

The Adventure

Carbon Canyon Regional Park has a 3.4-mile loop for hiking, running or jogging. The park has fishing, hiking, volleyball, children playgrounds, and lots of picnic areas, to name a few activities. I like the area and the park because they are very relaxing; there is something for everyone to do.

The really cool item is of course the redwood trees at the end of the trail. Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea has a 10-acre grove of coastal redwoods, the largest grove of these trees in Southern California.

Of course they are not as big as the ones at Yosemite National Park, but that is because they are babies right now. The tallest redwoods are from 80 to 100 feet tall, and they were planted around 1975 when the park opened. The story is: A bank was having a promotion (for every account opened the bank would donate a tree), so when the promotion ended they had more than 600 seedlings left. Approximately 200 trees were donated to the county park after the bank promotion. This is a simple version of what happened.

Everything about this park is beautiful. So if you are ever in the Brea area, please stop by and enjoy the park and all there is to see. We recommend spending time in this park for a few hours or a full day. There is plenty of space and lots of activities for everyone. Lastly, if you have a dog or a few, you are welcome to bring them. Just make sure they are on leashes.



There's a free guided walking tour though the redwood grove.



Aden and Angel Jr. climb trees.



A horse and rider say hi to Kathy, Angel and Dakota.



Carbon Canyon Regional Park

4442 Carbon Canyon Road
Brea, CA 92823

Features: Redwood grove hike; 124-acre regional park; Carbon Canyon dam; playgrounds, barbecue and picnic areas; volleyball courts, bike trails, equestrian trails, fishing and a nature center

Hours: Fall - winter, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Spring - summer, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Parking: \$3 weekdays, \$5 weekends

Directions: From downtown, take the US-101 south and connect to the CA-60 east, then take the CA-57 south until you exit on East Lambert Road. Continue on East Lambert Road to CA-142 east/Carbon Canyon Road. The destination will be on the right.



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