

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are critical to the success of growing the Citywide Trails program. Their work contributes to the safety, beauty and sustainability of trails. To become a trail volunteer, contact the city's volunteer coordinator at 760-434-2929, or visit www.volunteerincarlsbad.net.

Trail Work Days and Special Events

Join us each month at a different trail for clean-up, maintenance and improvement activities. Each year, the community comes together to show its support for enhancing access to trails and protecting Carlsbad's natural open spaces at our National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day celebrations. Visit www.carlsbadca.gov/trails for dates and locations.

Ongoing Trail Maintenance

Adopt a segment of trail for a minimum of one year, and provide routine trail maintenance on a monthly basis. Take pride of ownership in your trails by performing maintenance such as erosion repairs, pruning, trimming, graffiti removal and collecting litter.

Special Projects

Take on a special Adopt-a-Trail project and have your group or organization volunteer to provide the labor, materials and equipment for implementation. Sample projects include: constructing new trails, providing new trail amenities such as signage, benches and kiosks, and constructing trail improvements such as foot bridges and trail markers.

About Lake Calavera Preserve

Lake Calavera Preserve is the largest of 13 city-owned, dedicated and managed nature preserves in Carlsbad.

This system of preserved lands was established in the city's Habitat Management Plan. The objective of these conservation plans is to protect the rich diversity of plants and wildlife in San Diego County.

Lake Calavera Preserve is home to four sensitive plant species and twelve sensitive animal species. In addition, there are 17 native vegetation communities on site, including Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, southern willow scrub, mulefat scrub and freshwater marsh.



Trail Use Regulations

1. Stay on the designated trail. CPC 602
2. Put litter in containers provided. Do not leave or deposit any litter. CMC 11.32.030(1)
3. Pick up after your pet. CMC 7.08.010, SDCC 62.670
4. All pets must be on a hand-held leash under 6' long. CMC Sec. 7.08.010, SDCC Sec. 62.669
5. Bicycle riders 17 years and younger must wear a helmet. CVC 21212
6. Bicycles should be driven at safe speeds considering all other trail users.
7. Ride or walk on right side when traffic is coming from the opposite direction or when someone signals they would like to pass.
8. Motorized vehicles and horses are not allowed on this trail. CMC Secs. 11.32.030(11), 11.32.030(19)
9. No smoking, fires or firearms. CMC Secs. 11.32.030(2), 11.32.030(4), 11.32.110
10. Report accidents or emergencies to the Police Department (dial 9-1-1).
11. Report trails maintenance problems or vandalism to the Parks Maintenance division at 760-434-2824.
12. Report emergencies or violations of the above rules and regulations to the 24-hour police dispatch line 760-931-2197.

Important Phone Numbers

Police & Fire (Emergencies Only).....9-1-1
24-Hour Non-Emergency760-931-2197
Parks Division (Trail Maintenance)760-434-2824
Graffiti Removal760-434-6700
Parks & Recreation Administration760-434-2826

www.carlsbadca.gov/trails

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Lake Calavera *Open Space Preserve*



Do You Live Adjacent to Natural Open Space?

What you do as a neighbor can have a major impact on the health of our natural lands – and the plants and animals that live there. Nearby homeowners can inadvertently damage natural lands by not adequately controlling their pets or poor landscaping practices that cause the spread of invasive plants or allow polluted run-off into local creeks. You can help protect our natural lands by following these simple guidelines:

Don't dump or store garbage, yard waste, wood or any other debris over your fence and into the preserve.

Keep wildlife wild by not feeding the birds or leaving out pet food or water that attracts coyotes or other animals.

Maintain your landscaping:

- Stay within your property lines and do not plant or water anything within the preserve.
- Maintain your yard free of invasive non-native plant species and don't let landscaping plants "creep" into the preserve.
- Do not over water your landscape or let any water run into the preserve.

Don't make your own trails from your yard into the preserve. Use only authorized trails and preserve entrances.

Shield all nighttime lighting from shining directly into the preserve. Use low-pressure sodium lighting.

Nature Walk

Try to identify these species during your next visit to Lake Calavera Preserve



White-tailed kite
Habitat: grassland



Monkey flower
Habitat: coastal sage scrub



Red-shouldered hawk
Habitat: upland



Arroyo willow
Habitat: riparian



Orange-throated whiptail
Habitat: chaparral, coastal sage scrub



California buckwheat
Habitat: coastal sage scrub



Buckeye butterfly
Habitat: grassland, scrub

How We're Giving Back to Nature

Active management: The Center for Natural Lands Management land managers perform ongoing habitat management, species surveys and enforcement activities.

Lake Calavera Trails Master Plan: The City of Carlsbad Parks & Recreation Department has prepared a master plan for a system of bicycle and pedestrian trails. Some existing trails will be closed for safety reasons, to protect wildlife or due to unsustainable soils and grades.

Habitat restoration: Eight acres of non-native vegetation in the Lake Calavera Preserve will be actively restored to native coastal sage scrub or riparian habitat. Five acres of restoration was funded by a grant from SANDAG

TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program and matching funds from the City of Carlsbad. Other restoration activities are required as mitigation for impacts from city projects.

Fencing and signage: Fencing and interpretative signage have been installed at key locations within the preserve to direct recreational users to authorized trails and to provide information about preserve rules.

Public outreach: The City of Carlsbad and The Center for Natural Lands Management partner on educational materials and provide recreational opportunities such as guided nature walks. Volunteer opportunities are available.

Hike Your Way Through the Universe

The Solar System Walk is an engaging and educational walk in the Lake Calavera Preserve. The walk consists of 10 interpretive signs along the trail which represent each planet, the Sun and Pluto. The experience demonstrates the relative distance between the Sun and all the planets in our solar system using a scale of 1 foot equals 1 million miles. Each sign features high resolution NASA imagery, fun facts and thought-provoking questions, and gives hikers an opportunity to learn about astronomy and the enormous size of our universe as they walk. The nearly 1 mile journey begins by the dam, at the sign representing the Sun, and follows the utility road south to Sage Creek High School.

Created as an Eagle Scout project by Colton Dister of Troop #750, in the summer of 2016, this imaginative project took over 400 volunteer hours and over 18 months to complete. It included fundraising, volunteer recruitment, research and collaboration with city staff and the Carlsbad Unified School District to ensure the project was aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.



Lake Calavera Preserve and Vicinity

