

OAK CANYON NATURE CENTER is a 58-acre natural park nestled in the Anaheim Hills. A year-round stream meanders through the park. Consisting of three adjoining canyons, four miles of hiking trails traverse one of the few remaining areas of oak woodland and coastal sage scrub in our region.

Native wildlife makes the canyon their home and is just waiting to be discovered. Also located on site is the John J. Collier Interpretive Center, a small museum with live animal and regional natural history exhibits. The Nature Center is the perfect place for you to learn about the wonders of the natural world in a tranquil setting. The trails are ideal for those who are just stepping into the wilderness for the first time or for those more experienced trekkers who are seeking a short hike.

Hours of Operation:

Individuals and families are welcome seven days a week.

April - May open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June - August open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

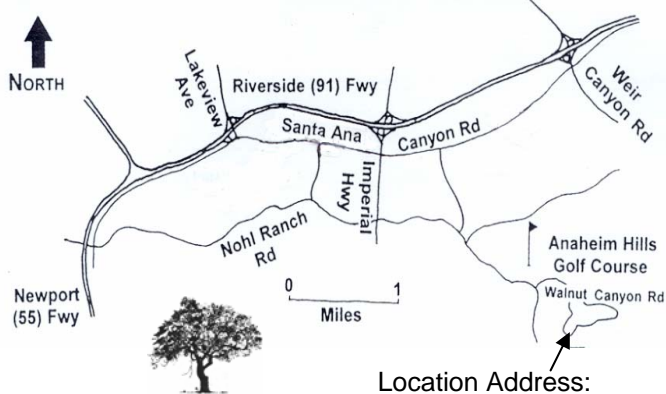
September - October open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

November - March open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holiday Closures: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and President's Day

Unlike other parks -- collecting, smoking, bicycles, and pets are not allowed. Group picnic tables are located in our parking lot area and picnicking is restricted within the park grounds. Your respect and courtesy are appreciated.

Look for the Oak Canyon Nature Center online at
www.anaheim.net/ocnc



Mailing Address:
Oak Canyon Nature Center
200 S. Anaheim Blvd., #433
Anaheim, CA 92805

Location Address:
Oak Canyon Nature Center
6700 E. Walnut Canyon Road,
Anaheim

Phone (714) 998-8380



Anaheim Community Services
intends to comply with the Americans with
Disabilities Act. Please call (714) 998-8380
if special accommodations are needed.

Opening Doors to Nature

OAK CANYON NATURE CENTER Trail Guide



Make this your first step
to the *Outdoor Experience*

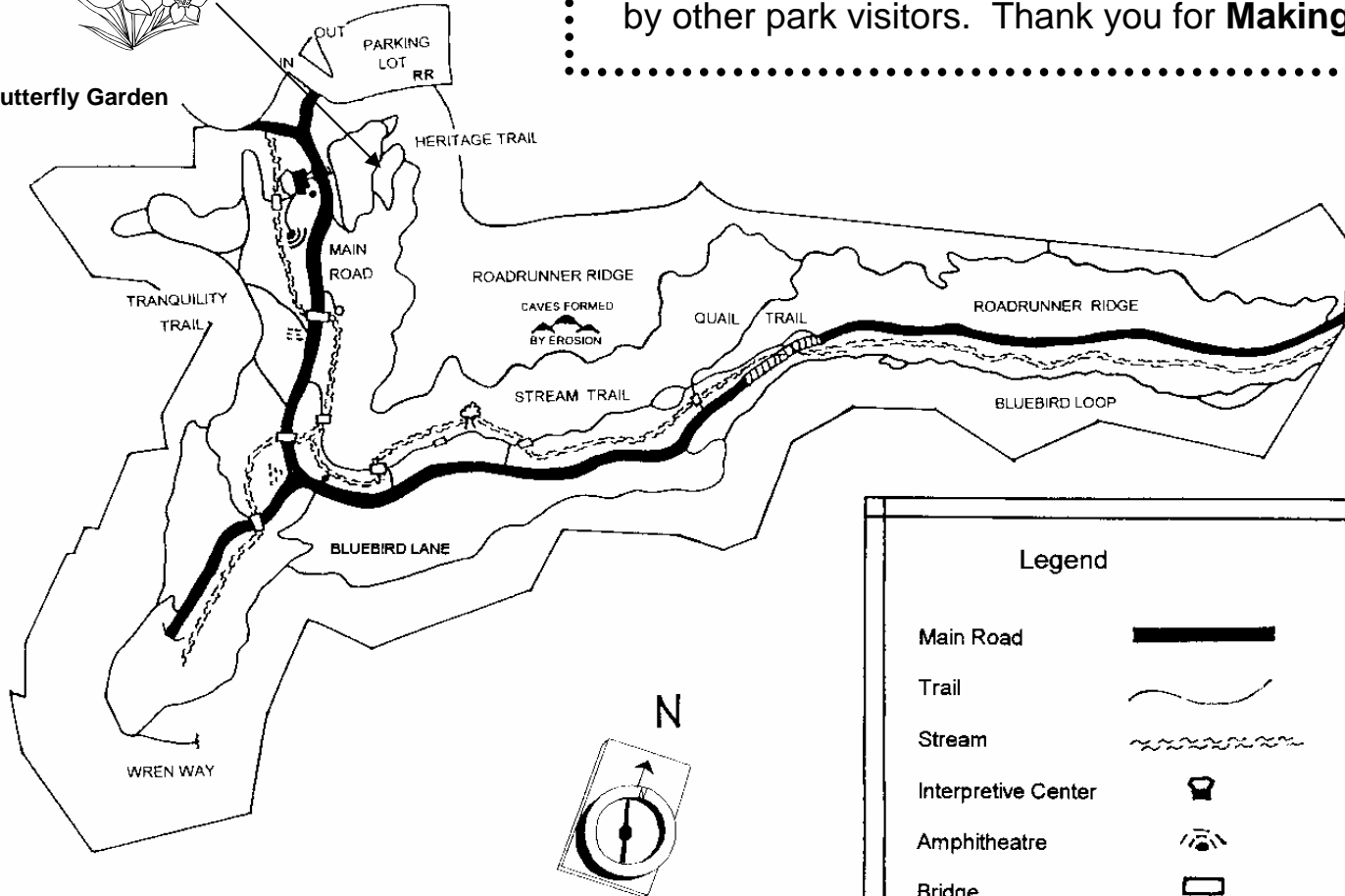


Anaheim Community Services
"We enrich individuals, families, and the community."



If you do not want to keep this **Trail Guide** after your visit today, please return it to the Interpretive Center to be **“reused”** by other park visitors. Thank you for **Making A Difference!!**

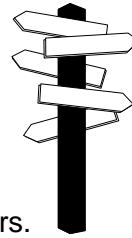
Heritage Butterfly Garden



Legend	
Main Road	
Trail	
Stream	
Interpretive Center	
Amphitheatre	
Bridge	
Water Fountain	
Benches	
Restrooms	RR
Oldest Oak Tree	



Oak Canyon Nature Center TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS



THINGS TO DO

MAIN ROAD bisects the center of the canyon, offering hikers an open view. The road is level and accessible to both strollers and wheelchairs. Distance: 0.7 mi. Walk Time: 28 min.

STREAM TRAIL meanders along the banks of the stream in dense oak woodland. The trail is mostly level and has plenty of shade. Distance: 0.3 mi. Walk Time: 12 min.

HERITAGE TRAIL is a paved self-guided trail, which identifies many of the native plants. Distance: 0.2 mi. Walk Time: 8 min.

TRANQUILITY TRAIL rises from the canyon bottom to the coastal sage scrub and oak woodland communities on the western hillsides of the park. The trail is hilly with intermittent shade. Distance: 0.3 mi. Walk Time: 15 min.

WREN WAY links the Tranquility Trail with Bluebird Lane. The trail follows the contour of the hillside along the southwestern corner of the canyon and receives full sun. It has a moderate grade in some areas. Distance: 0.2 mi. Walk Time: 10 min.

BLUEBIRD LANE & LOOP follow the south rim through the dense oak woodland. The trail is mostly flat with partial shade, making it a pleasant hike for those who enjoy a longer excursion. Lane Distance: 0.3 mi. Loop Distance: 0.6 mi. Walk Time: 15-30 min.

QUAIL TRAIL links Roadrunner Ridge with Stream Trail. The short path takes the visitor from the coastal sage scrub community down to the dense oak woodland along the stream. Distance: 0.1 mi. Walk Time: 5-8 min.

ROADRUNNER RIDGE follows the northern boundary of Oak Canyon in a coastal sage scrub habitat. The trail begins at the top of Heritage Trail and climbs along the northern canyon. The path is challenging and receives full sun. Heritage Trail link Distance: 0.4 mi. Walk Time: 18 min. Back Canyon link Distance: 0.3 mi. Walk Time: 14 min.

Highest point: 825 feet
Lowest point: 525 feet



A walk beside the stream will introduce you to some local wildlife. Gazing into the upper branches of an oak, you may spot two scrub jays calling to one another or an acorn woodpecker storing acorns. As you cross the stream, look carefully into the water and you may discover tree frogs or water striders. You will most likely see a rabbit or two along the trail, but most mammals are extremely shy. It is not uncommon to find the tracks of an opossum, raccoon, coyote, or a bobcat.

Try to identify some of the plants as you walk. Oak Canyon Nature Center has native flora of oak woodland, riparian, and coastal sage scrub plant communities. Toyon, sycamore, willow, and elderberry are common along the base of the canyon. On the drier slopes, wild buckwheat, black and white sage, sagebrush, and laurel sumac are present.

The self-guided plaques along Heritage Trail will help familiarize you with many of the local plants and animals. Visit the new **Heritage Butterfly Garden** – the butterfly sculptures in this garden are an outcome of the **Butterfly Initiative**, which has united communities in support of projects that have a positive and lasting impact on the future of Orange County through an Endowment for Arts and Science Education. The **Anaheim Arts Council** generously contributed the dramatic and beautiful large sculpture by artist Robert Holton to the citizens of Anaheim. The garden will be maintained to attract and benefit native butterflies for all to enjoy. The garden is maintained by the ongoing support of numerous scouts and volunteers.

Children will enjoy the large scaled interpretive exhibits located along the Heritage Trail just opposite the Interpretive Center. Experience nature by crawling through a web and peer back out as though through the eyes of a **funnel-web** spider. Crawl through a **fallen log** to experience the protective space a log shelter can provide. Climb into an empty **egg shell** to see where chicks spend the first part of their lives. Then, climb in and make yourself "at home" in a **tortoise shell**. These exhibits have been made possible through the generous contributions of **Kokuyo Co. Ltd.**, **Anaheim Commuter Services**, and the **Canyon Hills Women's Club**.

The **Interpretive Center** also houses exhibits of insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals. If you cannot identify what you have seen or if you have any questions, please feel free to ask a naturalist.



A Wilderness Island



How You and Your Family Can Help

Unique among local urban parks, Oak Canyon Nature Center is devoted to providing a wilderness experience for its visitors. When you are in the park, civilization seems far away. It is a place to unwind, to contemplate the beauty of the woodland-shaded stream, and hear the pleasant background of bird songs. Breathe in the aroma of sage covered hillsides. Watch the unfolding of myriad-hued spring wildflowers, especially along the upper canyon trails.

The remoteness of the wilderness is deceptive, however, which you may realize as you view homes along the ridgelines above. A drive through the surrounding neighborhood reinforces the realization that the Nature Center is an island ringed by suburban development. Therein lie its vulnerability, and our appeal to you, the friends, and neighbors of this lovely park.

What planners like to call “spillover” impact threatens the pristine wildness of Oak Canyon Nature Center. The problem is not unique here, but is intensified by the relative small size of the park in relation to the extent of the suburban area surrounding it. We thank you for the care you have taken to keep the Nature Center unspoiled and we ask your help in continuing to keep our park free of civilization’s scarring.

Please follow the recommendations, which will help keep Oak Canyon Nature Center as wilderness, for the enjoyment of you, its visitors, and for the many wild creatures, which call it home. Can you think of other ideas?

Thank you again for continuing to be good friends and neighbors!

STAY ON THE TRAILS. Trails focus impact, allowing the surrounding area to remain free of disturbance. Venturing off the trails can result in destruction of vulnerable habitat by trampling and soil erosion. Also, contact with **poison oak** may cause an unpleasant rash – another reason to stay on the trail. If you should come in direct contact on your skin or indirect contact on your clothing, cleanse affected areas with soap and water as soon as possible. **Rattlesnakes** may be found in this area. They are important members of the natural community. If disturbed or cornered, they will defend themselves. Give them distance and respect.

DISPOSE OF LITTER PROPERLY. Don’t bring food in to the park. Even the most conscientious hiker can inadvertently drop candy wrappers and beverage cans. The Nature Center is an exceptionally clean park, because visitors are careful not to litter. Keep up the good work!

ENJOY THE SOUNDS OF NATURE. Part of the wilderness experience is the sound of quiet natural worlds, the whisper of the creek, the morning chorus of bird songs, and the murmur of wind through the trees. Loud talking and playing radios detract from the wilderness experience of others and can frighten away sensitive wildlife.

THESE TRAILS ARE FOR WALKING... not motor biking, running, bicycling, skateboarding or horseback riding. There is a regional trail system nearby for equestrian use. The Nature Center is too small and vulnerable to coexist successfully with these active recreation uses.

PLEASE LEAVE ROVER AT HOME. While your dog would undoubtedly enjoy a run along our trails, our resident wildlife would not appreciate its presence. Dogs can also easily contact poison oak and transfer the irritating oil to you.

PARTY TIME? Not here please. Drinking alcohol and after hours congregating is strictly prohibited. The Anaheim Park Rangers and Anaheim Police Department regularly patrol the park.

WHY CAN’T I SMOKE? Smoking is prohibited at Oak Canyon Nature Center because we are in an extremely hazardous brushfire area. Our surrounding neighbors would be threatened too. Also, when there are cigarettes, there are cigarette butts, which become litter.