



OCTOBER 2022: HELLHOLE CANYON COUNTY PRESERVE

19324 Santee Lane, Valley Center, CA 92082 | 760-742-1631
8 a.m. to sunset, daily (except Wednesday) | No parking fee

ABOUT THE PARK

Hellhole Canyon County Preserve is a 2,500-acre open-space wilderness area that offers 8.5 miles of moderate-to-advanced trail opportunities. An equestrian-friendly staging area has ample trailer parking, vault restrooms, potable water, a lookout point and an amphitheater. The main trail descends from the staging area to Hell Creek where visitors can enjoy the shade of mature sycamore and oak trees. From there, trails get a little more challenging as they rise out of the creek bed and up to the peaks in the Rodriguez Mountain range.

Acquired in 1973 and located in the San Luis Rey River watershed, nearby Wilderness Gardens County Preserve is the oldest preserve in the County. Spanning 737 acres, the property boasts more than 4 miles of trails, picnic areas, portable restrooms and great birdwatching, as well as a grinding stone and historic gristmill – both remnants of San Diego’s rich indigenous culture and agricultural history.



EVENT CALENDAR

No RSVPs necessary

Oct. 8, 9 a.m. INTERPRETIVE HIKE

Join us for an educational, ranger-led hike to the creek and back, where you will learn about the land and local wildlife, native plants and their medicinal uses, hiking safety tips and more. The full hike is about a mile but is considered moderately strenuous due to steep terrain. Come prepared with layered clothing, sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. Inclement weather will cancel.

Oct. 15, 4:30 to 8 p.m. SPOOKY TRAILS

Hellhole’s popular Halloween event is back, with free after-hours activities to fright and delight trick-or-treaters of all ages. Learn more at sdparks.org.

- 4 p.m. Spooky Trail opens
- 5 p.m. Hawktober: Live Birds of Prey
- 5:30 p.m. Youth and Adult Costume Contest
- 6 p.m. Sky Watch with Local Astronomers
- 6:30 p.m. Movie in the Park: Sing 2

Oct. 22, 9 a.m. HISTORY, WILDLIFE AND SAFETY TALK

This accessible* activity features a nature discover table with pelts, skins, bones and live animals! Visit the interactive display and stick around for a fascinating presentation on the region’s rich cultural and agricultural history. Safety tips will also be covered, with plenty of time for Ranger Q&A!

*This area is flat and comprised of hard dirt, gravel and some pavement, and includes an ADA trail.

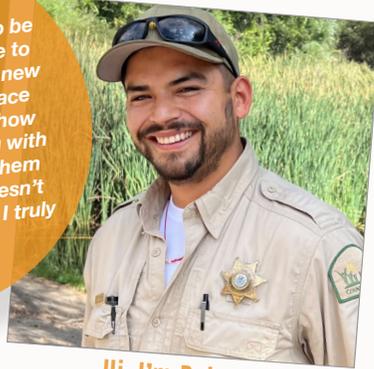
Oct. 23, 9 a.m. WILDERNESS GARDENS TRAIL TREK

FIELD TRIP! Meet at 14209 Hwy 76, Pala, CA 92059. During this 4.5-mile ranger-led trek, enjoy a close look at the path of the San Luis Rey River along with beautiful views of both Palomar Mountain and Pauma Valley. Photographers and bird watchers will love capturing the dramatic landscape and more than 40 bird species! Come prepared with layered clothing, sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection and water. Inclement weather will cancel.

MEET A RANGER

Ruben has been working with the County Parks and Recreation team for 5 years, taking on roles at Wilderness Gardens and Hellhole Canyon Preserves along with Sweetwater Regional Park. Prior to that, he worked at a coffee shop, but a conversation with a park ranger opened his eyes to the outdoors industry and a variety of volunteer and career opportunities. He applied, got the job and has since earned a degree in Public Administration to continue along on this career path. Look for Ruben when you visit or attend one of the events to the right!

“If you have a passion to be outdoors, and if you like to learn, grow and pick up new tools, this is a great place to be. I never realized how much I’d enjoy working with people and teaching them about our parks. It doesn’t feel like work because I truly love what I do!”



Hi, I’m Ruben.

Learn more about the series:
sdparks.org/experienceoutdoors

Media and sponsor inquiries:
Jessica.Geiszler@sdcounty.ca.gov

All scheduled events are free.
Public transit is encouraged.

Enjoy activities for visitors of
all ages, interests and abilities.

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation maintains 23 regional parks across the region. The Rad Regional Parks series shines a light on these properties, and the diverse amenities, services and programs they offer. This series is part of the County’s overarching Experience the Outdoors Program, championed by Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher, to encourage more people to spend quality time outside; breaking down barriers to visitation through inclusive and equitable participation practices.

This program brought to you by:

