In 1997, the California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the County of San Diego approved the Subarea Plan of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The biological goal of the MSCP is to protect wildlife and preserve safe habitats for species covered by the Endangered Species Act. Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon County Preserve is included in the MSCP and managed under State and Federal principles, including the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. This ensures that the preserve will remain pristine for generations to come.

Fire and Rebirth of the Preserve
In 2003, the devastating Cedar Fire burned the entire preserve, destroying most of its structures and leaving much of the land a temporary moonscape. In the ensuing months and years, life re-emerged.

Visitor Center
The visitor center, opened in 2007, sits directly across the road from the old Goodan Ranch house. This new "green" building is certified LEED Silver and was built to replace the old visitor center that was destroyed during the 2003 Cedar Fires. Within the lobby, guests will discover exhibits and displays depicting the history of the park as well as diagrammatic and interpretive programs. Along the plants, 73 bird species are recorded, 30 mammals, 38 amphibians and reptiles, and 46 invertebrates. Twelve of these species are specifically monitored as part of the MSCP and 32 special-status species are listed by wildlife agencies. Animals more commonly seen are mule deer, coyote, bobcat, acorn woodpeckers, rattlesnakes, red-shouldered hawks and flycatchers.

Preserve Wildlife
Ten different vegetation habitats, including coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian, and native grasslands can be found in the preserve. Within these habitats are 313 plant species including California sage brush, buckwheat, chamise, lilac, Manzanita, lemonade berry, coast live oak, sycamores, arrow willow, and various native grasses. Along with the plants, 73 bird species are recorded, 30 mammals, 38 amphibians and reptiles, and 46 invertebrates. Twelve of these species are specifically monitored as part of the MSCP and 32 special-status species are listed by wildlife agencies. Animals more commonly seen are mule deer, coyote, bobcat, acorn woodpeckers, rattlesnakes, red-shouldered hawks and flycatchers.

Interpretive Programs
Preserve staff pride themselves on the wide array of interpretive programs offered for children and adults. As interpretive specialists, and in collaboration with other industry professionals, they provide opportunities to learn and explore all that this preserve has to offer.

Friends of Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon
The Friends of Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon Preserve is a non-profit support group. Volunteer opportunities are also available, including park hosts, park patrols and hourly participation.

Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon County Preserve
Goodan Ranch Staging Area
16281 Sycamore Canyon Road, Poway, CA 92064
Highway 67 Staging Area
13920 Highway 67, Lakeside, CA 92040

Preserve Hours
April – September: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
October – March: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Pedestrian access available sunrise to sunset. Highway 67 gate closes at 5 p.m. year-round.

Trail System
With over 10 miles of multi-use trails for equestrianists, cyclists and hikers alike, Sycamore Canyon County Preserve appeals to all types of users. Offering both mild and more challenging topography, guests pass through hillsides that are mainly covered in chaparral. They can also enjoy grassy meadows, oak woodlands, seasonal creeks, riparian willows, sycamore trees and views of surrounding mountains, as well as the cities of Santee, Poway and San Diego.

The Ridge Trail
Stretching approximately 1.75 miles, the Ridge Trail runs from the Hwy. 67 staging area southwest along the ridge to the southern border overlooking the ranger’s station and old ranch house. This wide, well-maintained trail offers amazing views of the preserve and a moderately hilly terrain. The trail drops down into Goodan Ranch on the west, connecting to the canyon trail system.

Martha’s Grove Trail
This 2.25-mile trail offers some of the most diverse views in the preserve. It passes through wooded areas and areas crossed streams and ends down in the center of the canyon. The first part of the hike, starting at the Goodan staging area, is one-way and the trail in its entirety will offer a moderate challenge to guests.

The Western Trail
The Western Trail stretches approximately 1 mile along the western border of the preserve paralleling the visitor center. This single-track trail offers an alternative to the main road running through the preserve and is an easy hike or ride for any and all ages. It also offers more shade in the afternoon.

Rules and Regulations
Bicycles: Bicycles must yield right of way to other users. Children are required to wear helmets. Speed limit is 10 mph. The County of San Diego shall not be responsible for loss or accidents.

Horses and Other Animals: No horse or other animal shall be hitched to any tree, shrub, fence, fence post or any other object in the preserve.

Pets: Dogs are allowed on a maximum six-foot leash. Please clean up after your dog.

Vehicles: The unauthorized operation of OHV vehicles is prohibited.

Preservation of Trail Features: All wildlife, plant, and geologic features are protected and are not to be damaged or removed. All historical artifacts are to be left in place.

Littering: Littering is prohibited.

Fire Hazards: No smoking, including vaporizing products and e-cigarettes. Campfires are prohibited.

Information
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123
Reservations & Information: Toll Free: (877) 565-3600
Local: (858) 565-3600
Visit us at sdparks.org

(858) 513-4737
sdparks.org

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San Diego County Open Space Preserve
Welcome to Goodan Ranch
Sycamore Canyon County Preserve

For those seeking solitude and recreation in a scenic natural setting, Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon County Preserve has much to offer. Visitors can hike along miles of trails where they will enjoy grand vistas, abundant wildlife, and interesting reminders of the long and varied use of the area.

History of the Preserve

Thousands of years ago, Native Americans, collectively known as the Kumeyaay, lived within this valley. Archaeological evidence from these tribes has linked Sycamore Canyon and Goodan Ranch to these historic camps. Milling sites, pottery remnants, and even arrowheads are some of the artifacts found in recent years.

In the late 1800s, the town of Stowe was established within Sycamore Canyon. Stowe was a small town consisting of a post office and a school house. Up to a dozen families lived within its boundaries. The original plan was for the railroad to travel through Stowe but when the railroad bypassed the town it began to close down. The school and post office closed in 1905 and by the 1920s the town was all but shut down.

Goodan Ranch

In 1938, Roger and May Goodan of Los Angeles purchased land in Sycamore Canyon to build a ranch house which became their home away from home. Along with the house, a barn, a garage and a water tower, a shed and e windmill stood within their ranch property. The Goodans spent their summers and weekends at the ranch, affectionately called Rancho Ruidoso, riding horses and relaxing while their children played games.

At the peak of its success the ranch held as many as 100 head of cattle. Fred Albee was the live-in ranch hand who assisted with the livestock and maintenance of the ranch while the Goodans were away. Eventually the Goodans sold the property, yet Fred Albee stayed. He worked on the ranch up until 1991 when it was purchased by the County of San Diego, the City of Poway, the City of Santee and the State Wildlife Conservation Board under a Joint Powers Agreement.