

Pott's Flume Trail Rehabilitation Project

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is Pott's Trail?

Pott's Trail is a 2.3-mile segment of historic **Flume Trail** which travels through the scenic El Monte Valley in Lakeside. The full historic **Flume Trail** stretches about 5.7 miles from the old El Monte pump house on the west to El Monte Park on the east end.

2. How did "Pott's Trail" and "Flume Trail" get their names?

The County of San Diego purchased the 50-foot-wide parcel, once owned by the Pott's family, in 2019. Flume refers to the wooden channel that carried water by gravity along the 37-mile-long San Diego Flume from 1889 to 1937. **Pott's Trail** is a 2.3-mile segment of the historic **Flume Trail** which stretches about 5.7 miles and is named after the historic flume.

3. Is there historical significance to the trail and its surroundings?

The **Flume Trail** follows a portion of the historic San Diego flume alignment that brought water from the Cuyamaca Mountains to La Mesa from 1889 to 1937. Throughout the trail there are remnants of the original flume system and the tunnel cut into the mountainside. The trail head at El Monte Road is also the location of the old El Monte pump house.

4. Is the trail currently open, and who can use the trail?

Yes! Visitors are welcome to hike, bike, enjoy scenic vistas and connect with nature seven days a week. The trails are open from sunrise to sunset. All trail users must follow the Department of Parks and Recreation trail safety rules and use the trails in a way that respects and prioritizes the safety of all trail users. Due to narrow and steep portions of the trail, equestrian use is discouraged.

5. Are motorized vehicles allowed on the trail?

No person shall operate a vehicle in a County maintained trail pursuant to Section 41.127 et. Seq.

6. Is Parking available?

Parking is available at both ends of the Flume trail. At the East end parking is available for \$5 at El Monte Park from 9:30am- sunset. At the West end of the trail parking is available at the trailhead, located behind the original El Monte Pump house, near 14000 El Monte Road.

7. What improvements are included in this project?

This project will enhance the 2.3-mile **Pott's Trail** portion of the **Flume Trail** by:

- Safely removing and disposing of asbestos-containing fence posts
- Clearing debris and overgrown vegetation
- Reducing erosion

- Adding interpretive and directional signs

8. What is the projected cost of proposed improvements?

Total Project costs are estimated to cost \$500,000.

9. How is the project funded?

The project is funded through a San Diego River Conservancy Grant.

10. How is maintenance for the trial funded?

Maintenance of the trial is funded by the Department of Park and Recreation's Operational Budget.

11. Will the project include construction monitoring?

Yes, the project will conduct a Nesting Bird Survey if construction occurs within nesting bird season (Feb 15-Sep 30). The project will also conduct cultural monitoring (including Native American monitoring) for all initial ground disturbance.