



## CREST CANYON TRAIL

### For your safety and the preservation of sensitive habitat...

- 🌿 Please stay on designated trails and obey posted information.
- 🌿 Dogs are welcome and must be on leash at all times. Please pick up after your pet!
- 🌿 Open fires and smoking are prohibited.
- 🌿 Overnight camping is prohibited.
- 🌿 Motorized vehicles are not allowed on trails.
- 🌿 Please help protect the special nature of the river valley... the collection of plant, animal or cultural specimens is strictly prohibited.

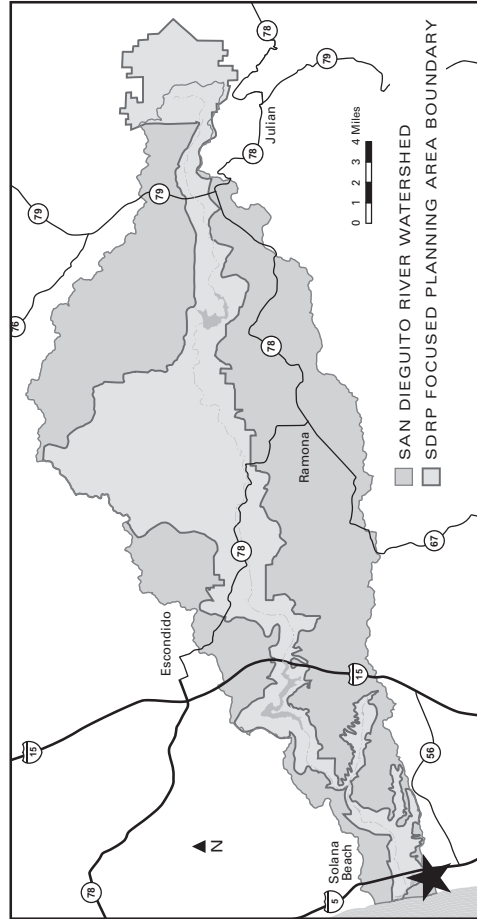
There are no facilities on the trails. Please remember to bring along enough water for you and your canine companion. The trails in Crest Canyon are open from sunrise to sunset. Crest Canyon is not open to mountain bikes or equestrians.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE:** San Dieguito River Park trails and activities are limited to public lands and private lands whose owners have given written consent. Inclusion in the Park's Focused Planning Area in no way affects the property rights of the owner. Private property may not be entered without the owner's permission. Trespassers may be subject to prosecution.

Established in 1989, the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park provides nature enthusiasts with striking examples of San Diego County's natural landscape from the Pacific Coast to the Pacific Crest. Learn more at [www.sdrp.org](http://www.sdrp.org).

*Enjoy your visit!*

### Park Overview



*With special thanks to the City of San Diego's Think Blue storm water pollution prevention program for a generous grant that made this series of trail guides possible. For more information about how you can "Think Blue!" at home and on the trail, visit [www.thinkblue.org](http://www.thinkblue.org).*

### About the Trail

The Crest Canyon Open Space Park Preserve is a gem nestled in the western corner of the San Dieguito River Park. Threatened by development in the 1970s, the canyon was protected as open space when local citizens convinced the cities of San Diego and Del Mar to purchase the land instead. Originally included in the plan for Torrey Pines State Preserve but then omitted because of cost considerations, Crest Canyon provides critical upland habitat to complement the wetlands in the San Dieguito Lagoon. It is also part of the County of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Program, which aims to preserve networks of open space for the protection of biodiversity.

Despite its urban setting, Crest Canyon is a beautiful example of coastal sage scrub intermingled with southern maritime chaparral, both rapidly disappearing with development along the coast. Rare plants such as Del Mar manzanita find a home here among vast displays of lemonadeberry, bush sunflower and coastal goldenbush. The canyon is dotted with Torrey Pines, found only in this area of San Diego County and on Santa Rosa Island off the Santa Barbara coast.

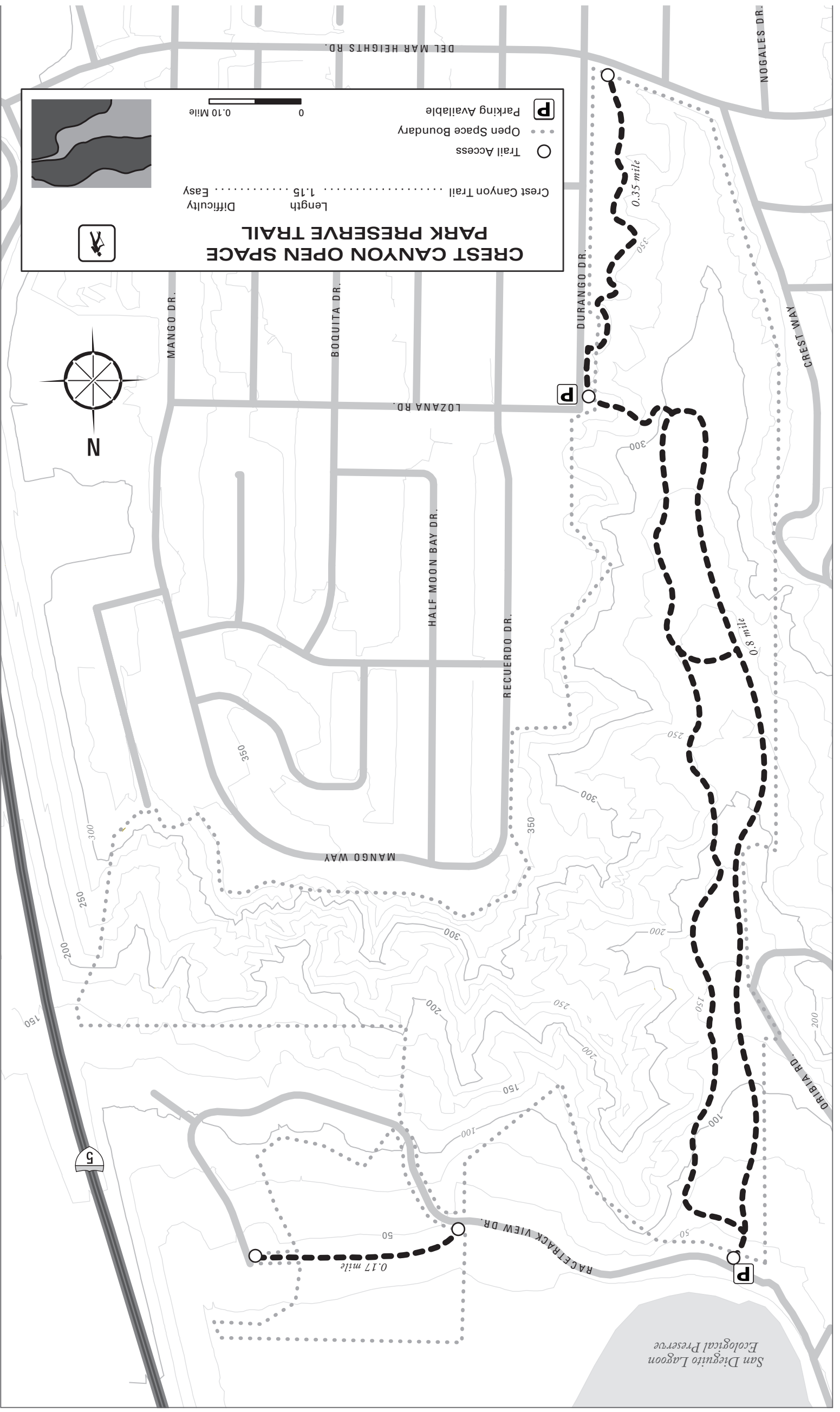
Visitors to Crest Canyon can enjoy two gently sloped trails which diverge in the middle of the canyon and meet again near the trailheads. The north trailhead is accessible from I-5 by taking Via de la Valle west to Jimmy Durante Blvd., going past the Del Mar Fairgrounds and then left on San Dieguito Drive to Racetrack View Drive. The south trailhead is accessible from I-5 by taking Del Mar Heights Road west, then turning right onto Durango Drive. Parking is available on the street at both trailheads.

*For maps and information about all the trails and activities in the San Dieguito River Park, visit [www.sdrp.org](http://www.sdrp.org). For information about membership, contact the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy at [www.sdrvc.org](http://www.sdrvc.org).*



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[www.sdrp.org](http://www.sdrp.org)



**CREST CANYON OPEN SPACE  
PARK PRESERVE TRAIL**

Trail Access ○  
Open Space Boundary ●●●●●  
Parking Available **P**

Crest Canyon Trail ..... 1.15 ..... Easy  
Length Difficulty

0.10 Mile



San Dieguito Lagoon  
Ecological Preserve