

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

- Please stay on designated trails and obey posted information.
- Dogs are allowed on leash.
- Open fires and smoking are prohibited.
- Overnight camping is prohibited and overnight parking is not permitted in staging areas.
- Possession of firearms or other weapons 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.

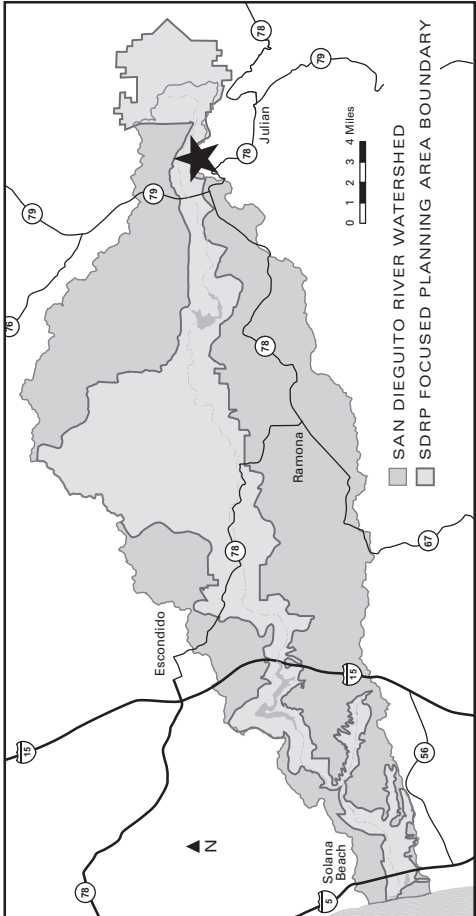
There are no facilities on the trails. Please remember to bring along enough water. The Preserve is open from 8:00 a.m. to sunset daily. Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East is open to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

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.

Enjoy your visit!

Park Overview



About the Trails

The Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve is as rich in biological and cultural resources as it is in scenic beauty. It is a part of the 17,000-acre Rancho Santa Ysabel, granted by the Mexican government in 1844 and used for ranching. Ancient oaks and massive sycamores surround grassy meadows and accentuate the riparian ribbon of Santa Ysabel Creek as it leaves its headwaters on the Volcan Mountain ridge. The 3,800-acre East section is one of two properties that make up Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve. The 1,500-acre West section of the Preserve is also open to the public and accessible from Highway 78, just west of the town of Santa Ysabel.

The Preserve's rolling hills are dominated by coast live oak and Engelmann oak woodland, non-native grassland and dense stands of chaparral studded with manzanita. The different vegetation communities throughout the Preserve support a variety of wildlife species, many of special status. The Kumeyaay inhabited this area for thousands of years, successfully utilizing the natural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley as they traveled between the mountains and the coast. A large number of cultural sites exist within Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve. Because of the sensitive nature of the artifacts here and their great significance to the Kumeyaay, your respect for these resources is greatly appreciated.

Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East is accessible either from Highway 79, north of Santa Ysabel or from Farmer Road, north of Julian. The trail segment from Highway 79 to Farmer Road is part the San Dieguito River Park's Coast to Crest Trail, which stretches 70 miles from the Pacific Coast in Del Mar to the Pacific Crest overlooking the Anza-Borrego Desert.

Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve is managed by the County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Department. For more information, contact ranger staff at (760) 765-4098. For maps and information about all the trails in the San Dieguito River Park, visit www.sdrp.org.

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.

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