

Meet our Animals

Many live native animal species call the Placerita Canyon Nature Center home, including a variety of reptiles, mammals, amphibians and birds. Most of the animals come to the nature center orphaned or injured, and are unable to be rehabilitated and returned to the wild. These animals are now "animal ambassadors" for their species, and are used to educate our visitors. All of the animals receive comfortable housing, nutritious diets and any required veterinary care.



"Apollo"
Turkey Vulture



"Sylvester"
Gopher Snake



"Kricket"
American Kestrel



"Sprinkles"
Tarantula



"Orion"
Great Horned Owl



"Daisy"
Opossum

Adopt-an-Animal Program

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates (PCNCA) is a non-profit organization and is responsible for the care of the nature center's animal residents. By "adopting" an animal (don't worry, you don't take it home!) you are helping PCNCA provide that animal with all of their nutritional and veterinary needs. Visit our website for more information and adopt an animal today!

Nature Center Hours

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday – Sunday: 9am – 5pm

Placerita Canyon Natural Area Hours

Open daily sunrise to sunset

Any person/vehicle present in the park during closed hours is subject to arrest and/or fine.

Saturday Special Events

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center holds regular educational events every Saturday to benefit and enrich the public's lives.

Nature Walk: Saturday, 11am-12pm

A short, easy nature walk for the entire family

Animal Presentation: Saturday, 1pm-2pm

An educational talk and a chance to see live native wildlife up close and personal

Bird Walk: Every 2nd Saturday, 8am

Fun for both beginner and advanced birders

Blooms of the Season: Every 4th

Saturday, 9:30am-10:30 am

A beautiful walk to learn about wildflowers currently in bloom

Please refer to our website for a complete calendar of planned special events.

For more information, please call (661) 259-7721 or visit our website at www.placerita.org

Placerita Canyon Nature Center



Sites & Trails

19152 Placerita Canyon Road
Newhall, CA 91321-3213
(661) 259-7721

Placerita Canyon Natural Area is located in Newhall, and is operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. The Placerita Canyon Nature Center is a public educational facility that was established on November 10, 1971.



Placerita Canyon is a fun place for family and friends to come together, picnic, hike and enjoy all that nature has to offer. The entire natural area reflects a wide diversity of plant and animal species, and is rich in history. Visitors can explore the natural area at their leisure, and a special program is available for elementary schools by appointment.



The Placerita Canyon Nature Center is generously assisted by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates (PCNCA), a non-profit organization run entirely by docents and volunteers. The PCNCA provides a wealth of services such as caring for the Placerita Canyon Nature Center's animals, as well as educating our visitors about the natural area's human history, local plant life, and native wild animal species.

Let's Go for a Hike!

Placerita Canyon has 8 different trails ranging from easy terrain for beginners to more difficult terrain for advanced hikers. All of the trails provide a beautiful escape from city life, and a chance to get back in touch with nature.

- **Botany Trail** 0.05 mile one-way
- **Heritage Trail** 0.30 mile one-way
- **Ecology Trail** 0.65 mile one-way
- **Hillside Trail** 0.30 mile one-way
- **Manzanita Mountain Trail** 0.90 mile one-way
- **Canyon Trail** 1.85 miles one-way
- **Los Pinetos Trail** 2.35 miles one-way
- **Waterfall Trail** 0.75 mile one-way

Placerita Canyon provides a safe sanctuary for native plant and animal species to live and thrive. All things, living and non-living, comprise this beautiful ecosystem. Removing anything is harmful (and illegal). Our visitors should enjoy and learn from this ecosystem, but take care to never disturb it. Our responsibility is to protect and conserve this natural area so it can be enjoyed for many future generations.

A Few Things to Remember

- ⚠ Hiking alone is never recommended.
- ⚠ Keep all pets safe and on a proper leash.
- ⚠ Don't forget your water and hiking gear.
- ⚠ Please, do not litter.
- ⚠ Bicycles are only permitted on the Los Pinetos Trail.
- ⚠ Do not remove anything from the park, living or non-living.
- ⚠ Avoid poison oak.
- ⚠ Never approach or touch any animal.
- ⚠ Keep an eye out for rattlesnakes and natural predators.

Historical Sites

Oak of the Golden Dream



Visit the site of California's original gold discovery in 1842. It is California Historical Landmark #168, and an exciting piece of our state's history. The tree is located at the end of Heritage Trail.

Walker Cabin



Walker Cabin was built by Frank Walker for his family in 1920. The cabin is open for tours every Saturday during the Nature Walk at 11 am, giving our visitors a rare chance to step into the past.

Nature Museum



The Nature Museum is open to tour at your leisure at the Nature Center. View living animals, such as rattlesnakes, and preserved animal specimens. This allows visitors to learn and familiarize themselves with the diversity among native wildlife.