

Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



Swan Canyon

Distance: 0.40 Miles
Hike Time: 45 Minutes
Difficulty Level: Difficult

Program Overview

The ocean is one of our greatest natural treasures, yet it is continually threatened by pollutants from sewer spills and storm water run-off.

San Diego, a city that borders the oldest, largest, and deepest ocean in the world, has over 40 urban canyons that hold 300 miles of public sewer lines. Most of these pipelines have unfortunately exceeded their life expectancy and are often inadequately maintained, making them susceptible to damage that can cause harmful spillover into our local



Once a break in the system takes place, untreated wastewater (the stuff that comes from our washing machines, sinks and toilets) may enter a nearby creek, river or storm drain and travel hundreds of miles downstream, eventually pouring into our coastal waters. Here, it spreads, becomes virtually impossible to contain and harms fragile marine life.



To help keep our waters contaminant free and safe for all, the San Diego Oceans Foundation has teamed up with the Metropolitan Wastewater Department's Sewer Spill Reduction Program to enlist citizen volunteers.

Volunteers are crucial to the Canyon Watch Program by regularly monitoring our urban canyons and reporting potential threats.

What to Look For...

As a Canyon Watch volunteer, you will be responsible for monitoring our local canyons. While patrolling, you should look for leaks, unusual smells and damaged or vandalized manholes. Any findings should be recorded in your 'Canyon Watch Field Report' and submitted online after your hike is completed. **Immediately report any active sewer spills or foamy discharge to the Sewer Emergency Hotline (619) 515-3525.**

Manholes

Manholes are typically painted lime green for easy identification. Check that all manholes are secured with a locking bar or recessed bolts and that they are clear of vandalism and other damage.



Unusual Smells

Manholes in proper working order should not emit odors. Foul smells are a sign of possible leaks or spills and should be included in your 'Field Report', but do not warrant a call to the Emergency Sewer Hotline.



Sewer Leaks & Foamy Discharge

Any sort of foamy discharge or active spill should be reported **immediately** to the Sewer Emergency Hotline! It is crucial to record the number painted on the manhole structure and GPS coordinates, if available, so you can accurately report its location.



Exposed Sewer Lines

Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.

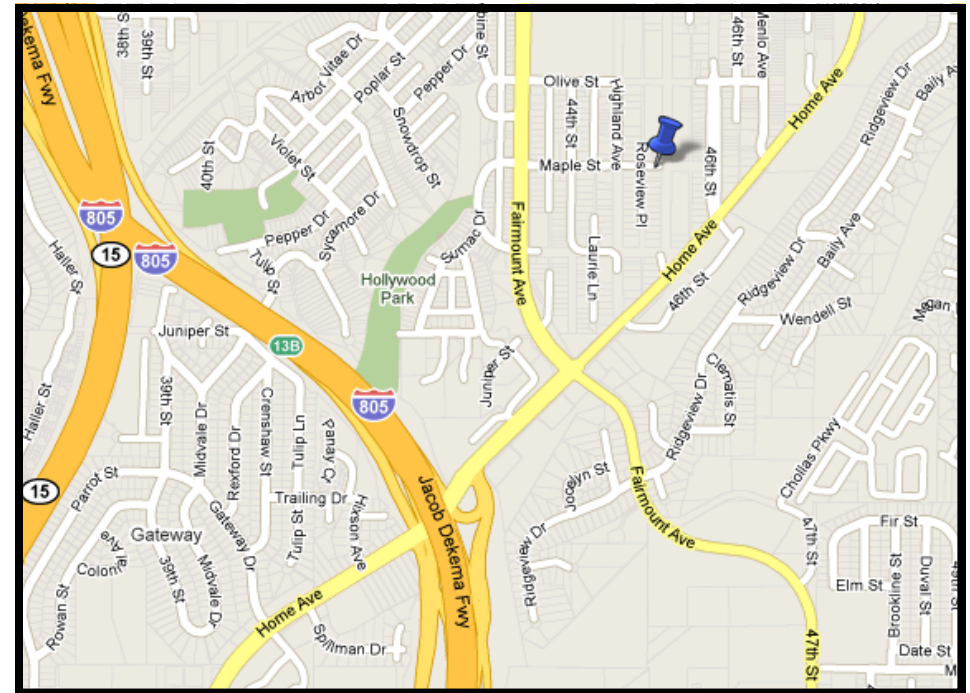


Swan Canyon

4498 Maple Street
San Diego, CA 92105

Take I-805 to Home Ave and head North East.
Turn left on Fairmont Ave. Make a right onto Maple St.

The canyon entrance is where Maple St. dead ends.



Note: This area has several steep hills to climb for access to manholes. There are also lots of shrubs to walk through. Make sure to wear appropriate attire for canyon hike.

**Coyotes may be present.*

Manhole Guide

The following information will lead you to the various manholes throughout this canyon. Please read the 'Hiking Safety Tips' available at www.sdoceans.org before beginning your hike.

Due to vegetation growth and other, unforeseen changes, some manholes may not be immediately visible. If a manhole cannot be reached due to construction or certain environmental hazards, please make a note of it and move on to the next manhole on your list.



- Swan Canyon Entrance -

Pass through the opening to the right of metal railing and head down hill, which is very steep, (please use caution).



1. Manhole #457
32° 44.00 N 117° 05.80 W

Located at the bottom of the hill, on right. Continue right to find next MH.



2. Manhole #456
32° 43.98 N 117° 05.80 W

Right side of path. Head back in opposite direction, past MH #457 and entrance to find MH #458.



3. Manhole #458
32° 44.03 N 117° 05.80 W

Walk through empty creek bed to find MH. Continue on through mulch path.



4. Manhole #455
32° 44.06 N 117° 05.84 W

Left side of trail. Follow path to right to find next MH.



5. Manhole #454
32° 44.07 N 117° 05.84 W

Directly on path. Continue to left.



6. Manhole #452
32° 44.11 N 117° 05.86 W

Visible from trail. Head southwest up small hill to next MH.



7. Manhole #450
32° 44.11 N, 117° 05.88 W

Left of path, on hill. Head back towards MH #452. Go over creek bed to find side path on left. Head through the bushes to find MH #451.



8. Manhole #451
32° 44.13 N, 117° 05.88 W

Right of path. Head back to MH #452 and look for path to right of hill.



9. Manhole #79
32° ___.' ___ N 117° ___.' ___ W

10 feet right of path. Get back on new trail and continue to next MH.



10. Manhole #97
32° ___.' ___ N 117° ___.' ___ W

Just right of path, clearly visible.



11. Manhole #96
32° ___.' ___ N 117° ___.' ___ W

Continue on trail towards the left to find MH. Head back past MH #79 and head right up the hill.



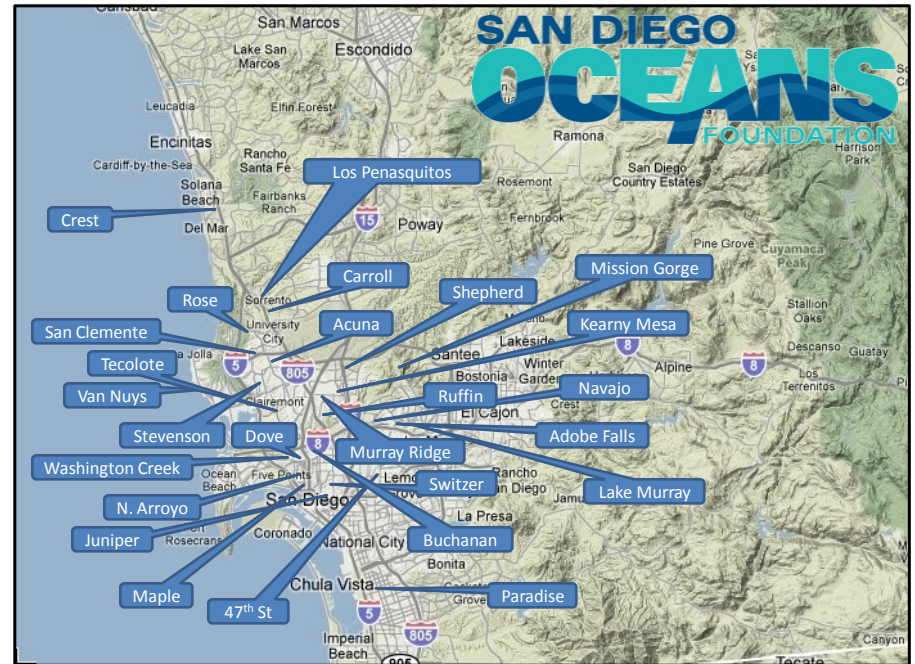
12. Manhole # ___
32° 44.17 N 117° 05.91 W

At top of hill, curve left then loop right down hill to find MH on path.

Thank you for monitoring Swan Canyon!

Please be sure to submit your Canyon Watch Field Report online at http://sdoceans.org/pollution_report_2.php within 24 hours of your hike.

Volunteer submissions are the key to early detection and prevention of raw sewage from making its way into our ocean!



Visit www.sdoceans.org to locate guides for other available canyons in San Diego County.



1875 Quivira Way, C-5 | San Diego, CA 92109
P: (619) 523-1903 | F: (619) 523-1979

Executive Director

John Valencia, john@sdoceans.org

Program and Outreach Director

Cheryl Barnes, cheryl@sdoceans.org

Marketing and Development Director

Heidi van Lydegraf, heidi@sdoceans.org

Ocean In Motion Program Coordinator

Zoe Dagan, zoe@sdoceans.org



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