

# Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



## Van Nuys Canyon

Distance: 0.94 Miles

Hike Time: 1 Hour

Difficulty Level: Moderate/Hard



## 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.



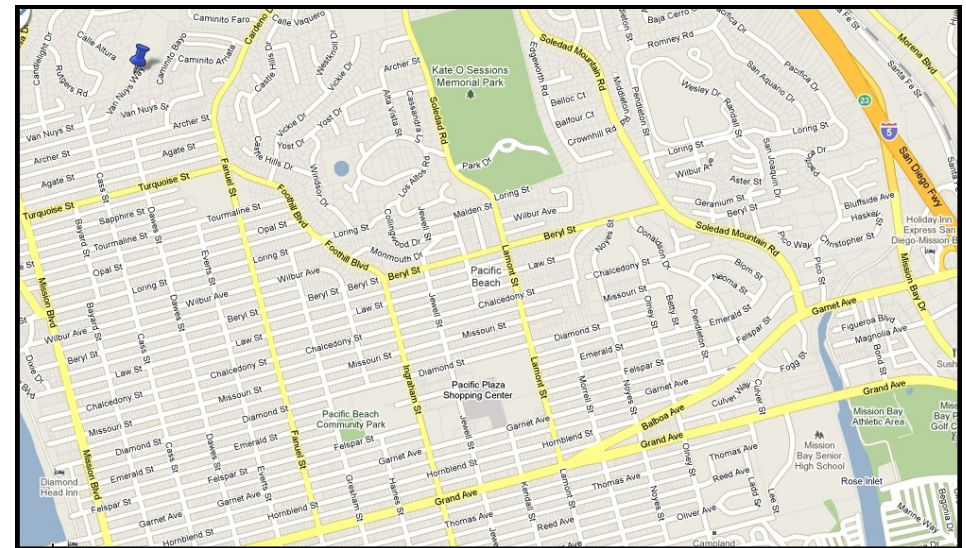
# Van Nuys Canyon

Van Nuys Way  
San Diego, CA 92109

From I-5, exit Grand/Garnet Ave. Head west on Garnet and turn right on Ingraham St (which becomes Foothill Blvd). Follow Foothill Blvd (which soon becomes Turquoise St).

Make a right on Cass St.

Cass dead ends at Van Nuys. Turn right and park.



Follow the residential driveway east on Van Nuys Way. The trailhead is located on the east side of Van Nuys St.

**The majority of this trail is rocky and uneven.  
Wear long sleeves, pants and good hiking shoes!**

# 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](http://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.



1. Manhole #75  
32° 48.7 N 117° 15.31 W

To the right of the driveway (before entering the canyon). Easily visible, marked by a tall, green pole.



2. Manhole #74  
32° 48.82 N 117° 15.27 W

Left of path; marked by a green pole that is visible from the trail.



3. Manhole #113  
32° 48.86 N 117° 15.24 W

Left of path (marked by green pole).



4. Manhole #114  
32° 48.92 N 117° 15.20 W

Right of path; up small incline (may be hidden behind tall grass). Continue on path and go right at the fork.



5. Manhole #174  
32° 49.01 N 117° 15.17 W

Shortly after fork, to the left and marked by a green pole.



6. Manhole #173  
32° 49.07 N 117° 15.17 W

Just left of path; marked by green pole.



7. Manhole #?  
32° 49.11 N 117° 15.17 W

Left of path; green pole in front.



8. Manhole #162  
32° 49.17 N, 117° 15.16 W

Follow through path of extending grasses. At clearing, look for green pole on your left (up hill).



9. Manhole #154  
32° 49.20 N, 117° 15.15 W

8 ft. left of path; easily visible from trail. Continue on main path.



10. Manhole #150  
32° 49.26 N 117° 15.12 W

Right of path; on small hill.



15. Manhole #93  
32° 49.42 N 117° 15.09 W

Left of path; marked by green pole.  
Follow around shrub to get to MH #86.



11. Manhole #149  
32° 49.28 N 117° 15.12 W

Left of trail; on incline; easily visible.  
When path veers right, head left up  
grassy path to MH#142.



16. Manhole #86  
32° 49.45 N 117° 15.10 W

Right of path; marked by green pole.



12. Manhole #142  
32° 49.30 N 117° 15.11 W

Just left of new path (marked by green  
pole). Continue on new path.



17. Manhole #82  
32° 49.49 N 117° 15.10 W

Left of path.



13. Manhole #91  
32° 49.35 N 117° 15.10 W

Easily visible on right side of path.  
Continue on same path.



14. Manhole #92  
32° 49.39 N 117° 15.09 W

Left of path (marked by green pole).

Thank you for monitoring Van Nuys Canyon!

Please be sure to submit your Canyon Watch Field Report online at [http://sdoceans.org/pollution\\_report\\_2.php](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!



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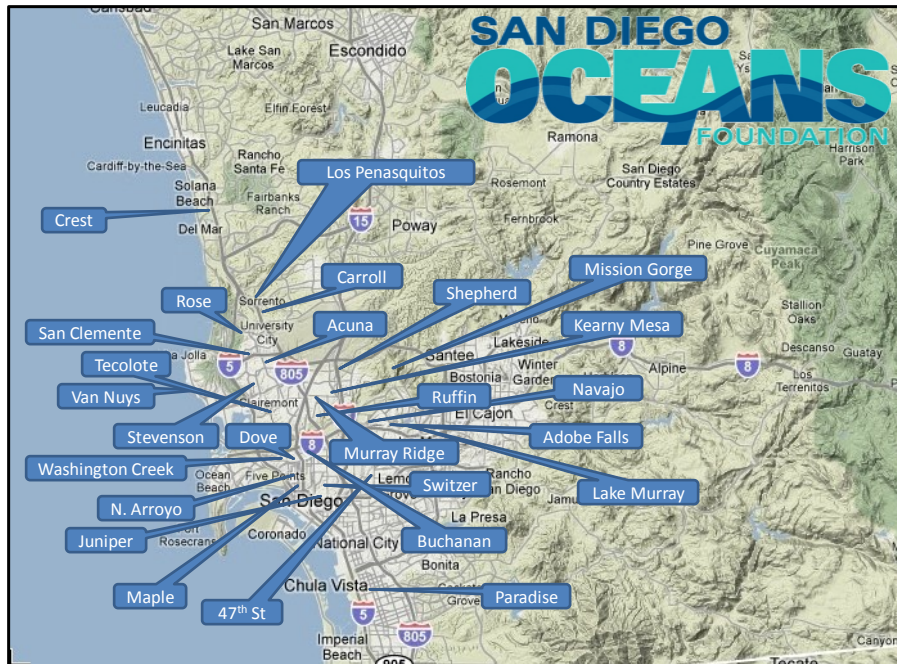
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Visit [www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org) to locate guides for other available canyons in San Diego County.

We rely on donations from people who wish to see the marine environment protected for its intrinsic value, for their enjoyment and for that of future generations.

To support SDOF programs, become a member or make a tax-deductible donation at: [www.sdoceans.org](http://www.sdoceans.org).