

Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



Mid Los Peñasquitos Canyon (North of Peñasquitos Creek)

Distance: 2.6 Miles
Hike Time: 1.5 Hours
Difficulty Level: Easy



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

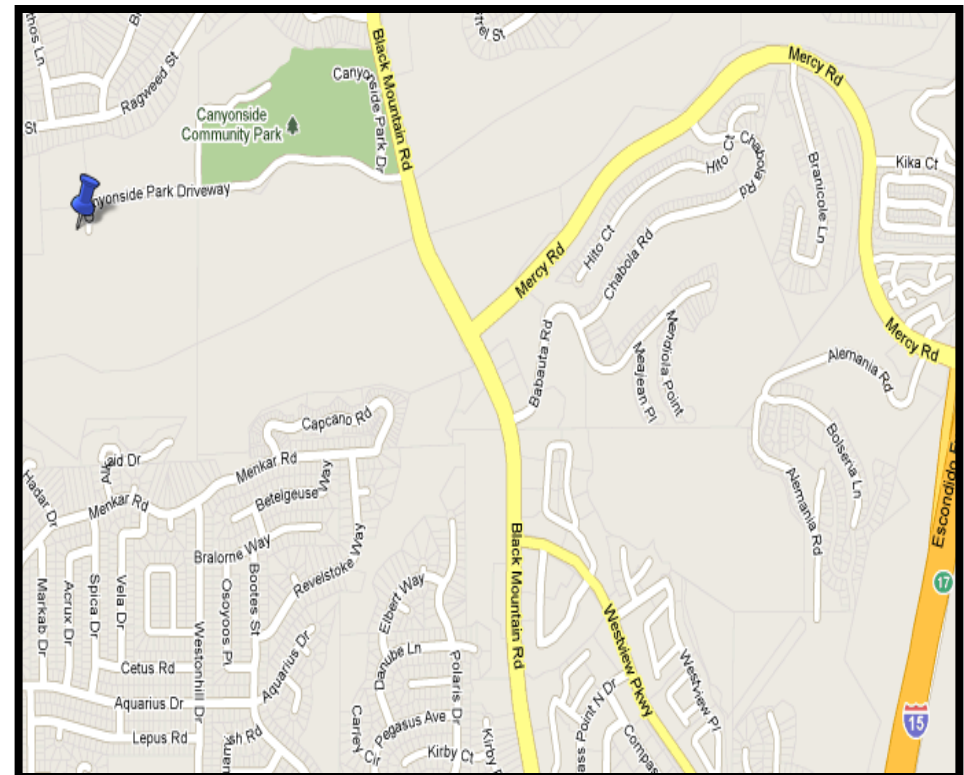
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



Mid Los Peñasquitos Canyon

Camino del Sur & Park Village Rd
San Diego, CA 92129

Take I-15 and exit on Mercy Rd. Head west on Mercy Road. Turn right on Black Mountain Road. Turn left on Park Village Road. Turn Left on Camino del Sur and park on right side of street.



Enter trail directly across from Peñasquitos Creek Park, on the right side of Camino del Sur, next to wooden kiosk.

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.



1. Manhole #13
32° 56' 16" N 117° 9' 16" W

Turn left at fork, towards path leading to manhole. Left of path. Return to fork.



2. Manhole #162
32° 56' 18" N 117° 9' 17" W

Take path to right of fork, towards houses, for 65 ft. Right of path.



3. Manhole #12
32° 56' 15" N 117° 9' 23" W

Green post 40 ft. left of trail.



4. Manhole #16
32° 56' 15" N 117° 9' 29" W

Take path on right of trail for 100 ft.



5. Manhole #10
32° 56' 13" N 117° 9' 29" W

Green post on left of trail.
Continue on left of fork.



6. Manhole #9
32° 56' 11" N 117° 9' 34" W

On left of trail.



7. Manhole #8
32° 56' 9" N 117° 9' 38" W

On left of trail about 70 ft. in.



8. Manhole #7
32° 56' 7" N, 117° 9' 43" W

On left of trail.



9. Manhole #6
32° 56' 6" N, 117° 9' 49" W

On left of trail about 30 ft. in.



10. Manhole #5
32° 56' 5" N 117° 9' 55" W

Take path on left of trail for about 50 ft.



15. Manhole #16
32° 55' 54" N 117° 10' 14" W

On left side of trail.



11. Manhole #4
32° 56' 4" N 117° 9' 59" W

On left side of trail.



16. Manhole #15
32° 55' 54" N 117° 10' 17" W

On right side of trail.



12. Manhole #8
32° 56' 3" N 117° 10' 2" W

On right side of trail. Continue straight at fork.



17. Manhole #14
32° 55' 52" N 117° 10' 20" W

About 30 ft. up slope on right of trail.



13. Manhole #9
32° 56' 1" N 117° 10' 5" W

On left side of trail.



18. Manhole #13
32° 55' 49" N 117° 10' 27" W

Take path to right. Green post 30 ft. up slope. Continue on right of fork, following trail sign.



14. Manhole #17
32° 55' 56" N 117° 10' 10" W

On left side of trail.



19. Manhole #12
32° 55' 47" N 117° 10' 32" W

About 20 ft. up slope on right of trail. Follow path on slope to right to reach #12.

Thank you for monitoring Los Peñasquitos Canyon!

20. Manhole #11
32° 55' 46" N 117° 10' 31" W

On left of path parallel to trail on slope past Manhole #11. Return to trail via slope path.



21. Manhole #10
32° 55' 48" N 117° 10' 33" W

On right of trail.
Continue on trail, left of kiosk, past creek bed. Turn left again.



22. Manhole #18
32° 55' 48" N 117° 10' 35" W

On right of trail.



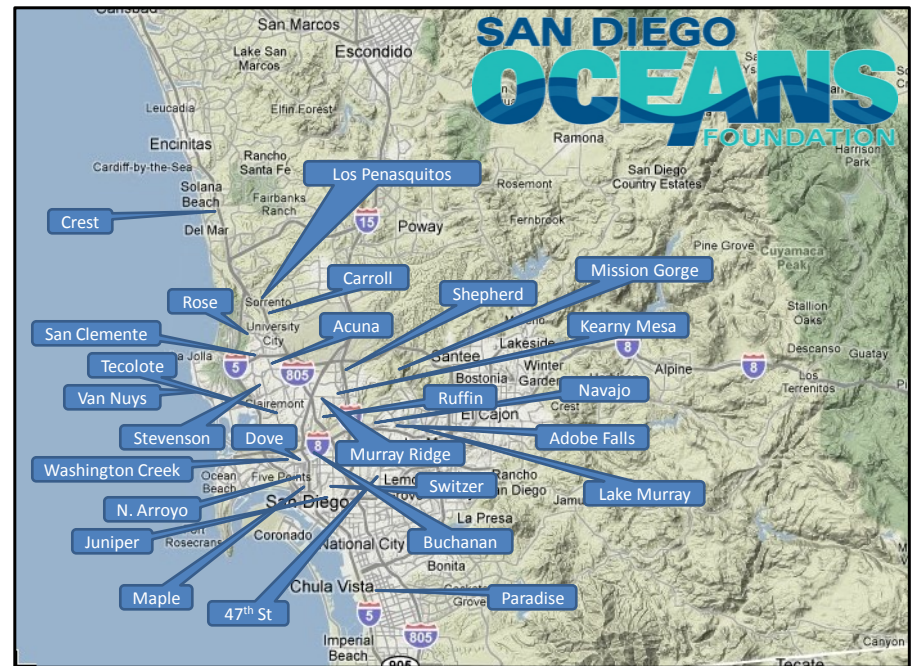
To Waterfall:
Follow trail and stay straight at fork, then left on path.

To Parking Lot:
Turn around and take same trail back.



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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