

Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



Ruffin Canyon

Distance: 1.15 Miles
Hike Time: 2 Hours
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

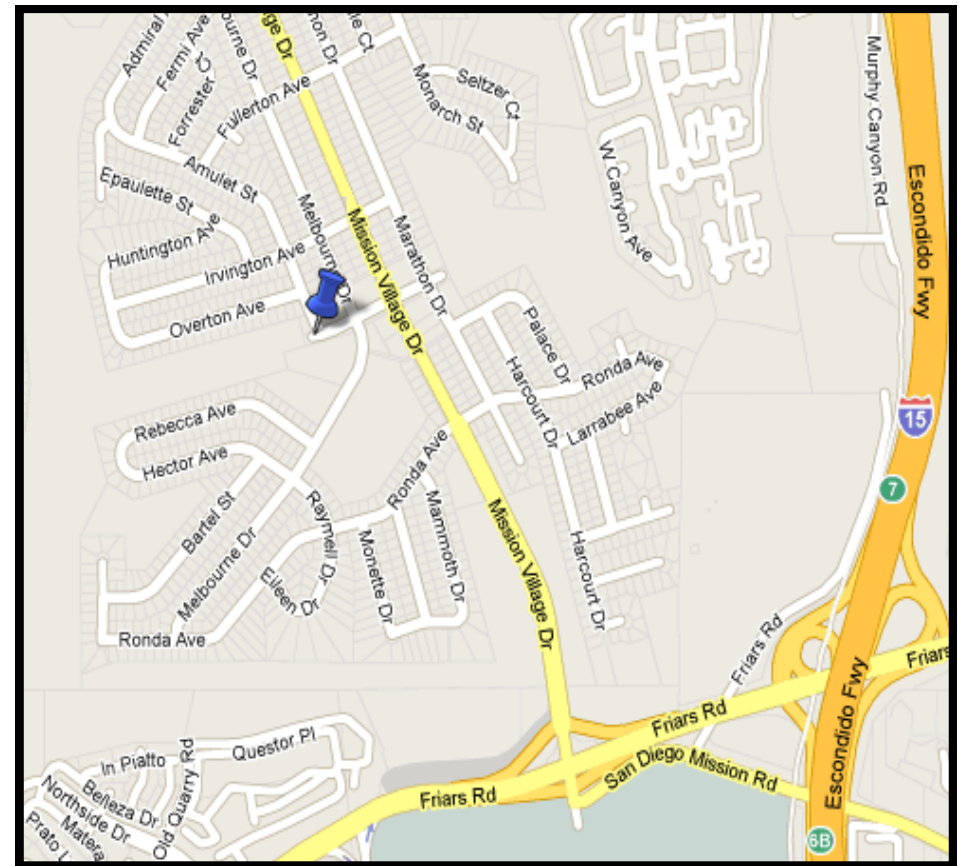
Pipelines should be buried underground. If you come across sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion, please let us know. Exposed pipes are more likely to crack and leak and should be reported.



Ruffin Canyon

Shawn Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Exit I-15 at Friars Road (head West)
Turn right on Mission Village Drive
Make a left on Shawn Avenue



Shawn Avenue ends at the Ruffin Canyon trail entrance.

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 #138
N32.793803 W117.127154

40 feet left of main trail.



2. Manhole #169
N32.793651 W117.128235

30 feet left of trail (across gully).



3. Manhole #140
N32.793363 W117.129278

Just beyond the green painted rock on left of trail (located in marsh).



4. Manhole #141
N32.793211 W117.130321

Just left of trail.



5. Manhole #142
N32.793055 W117.130942

Just left of trail.



You will now come to a fork in the trail. Please turn right. Hike through the creek bed to continue finding manholes.



6. Manhole #71
N32.793959 W117.131595

15 feet left of trail.



7. Manhole #72
N32.794731 W117.131688

10 feet left of trail.



8. Manhole #73
N32.795226 W117.131903

Just left of trail.



9. Manhole #74
N32.795230 W117.131661

Directly right and uphill from Manhole Number 73 on the opposite side of the trail.



10. Manhole #75
N32.795486 W117.131946

Just left of trail.



11. Manhole #206
N32.795733 W117.131677

Right of trail.

- Please turn around -

Backtrack until you come to the fork onto which you previously turned right. Continue onwards, walking past the fork. Remain on the right-hand trail.



12. Manhole #248
N32.792904 W117.131447

First manhole after turnaround.
Just right of the trail.



13. Manhole #103
N32.792311 W117.131750

15 feet off trail to the right.



14. Manhole #104
N32.791649 W117.131875

Just right of trail.
May be obscured by vegetation.



15. Manhole #105
N32.790867 W117.132042

Just right of trail. Marked by a green pole.



16. Manhole #170
N32.789892 W117.132317

Just right of trail.



17. Manhole #171
N32.789460 W117.1321501

Just right of trail



18. Manhole #172
N32.788915 W117.132935

Just left of trail



19. Manhole #173
N32.788004 W117.133310

Continue straight on path (do not take fork to left). Manhole located on the right side of the path.



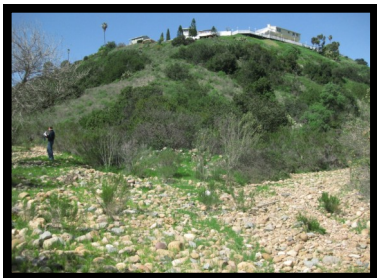
20. Manhole #174
N32.787303 W117.133122

Just left of trail



21. Manhole #
N32.786481 W117.133153

At the end of the trail, where it meets the road. Turn around.



After turning around, backtrack until you return to Manhole Number 173 (now on your left). Continue a short ways until you see a fork. TAKE THE LEFT-HAND FORK to continue finding manholes.



22. Manhole #161
N32.788255 W177.133816

After fork in an send ONE GROUP MEMBER. 70 feet to the left of trail. Look for green post.



23. Manhole #162
N32.788645 W117.133153

At left of trail, exposed by erosion.



24. Manhole #163
N32.788942 N W117.135570

Just left of trail



25. Manhole #243
N32.789502 N W117.136279

Left of the trail, below "No Trespassing" sign.



26. Manhole #45
N32.790445 N W117.136638

50 feet off trail to right, heavily obscured. Turn off marked by green rock and small cairn.



27. Manhole #46
N32.791138 N W117.136486

Right of the trail, behind a large bushel of bamboo.



28. Manhole #47
N32.792102 W117.136313

Just right of trail



29. Manhole #48
N32.792875 W117.136180

Right of trail, just past yellow gas line post.



30. Manhole #88
N32.793704 W117.135910

When you meet the fork, stay on path. Do not take right-hand fork. Manhole is on the right of the trail.



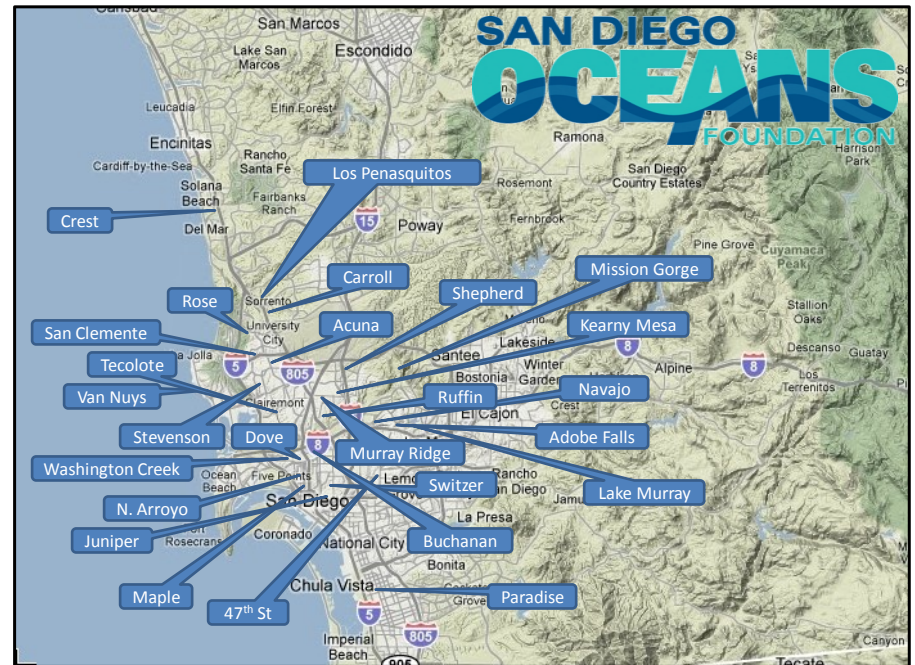
31. Manhole #49
N32.793816 W117.135987

Located directly left of the trail, opposite Manhole Number 88.

Thank you for monitoring Ruffin 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.

SAN DIEGO OCEANS FOUNDATION

www.sdoceans.org

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



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.