

Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



Switzer Canyon

Distance: About 0.43 Miles

Hike Time: 45 Minutes

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.

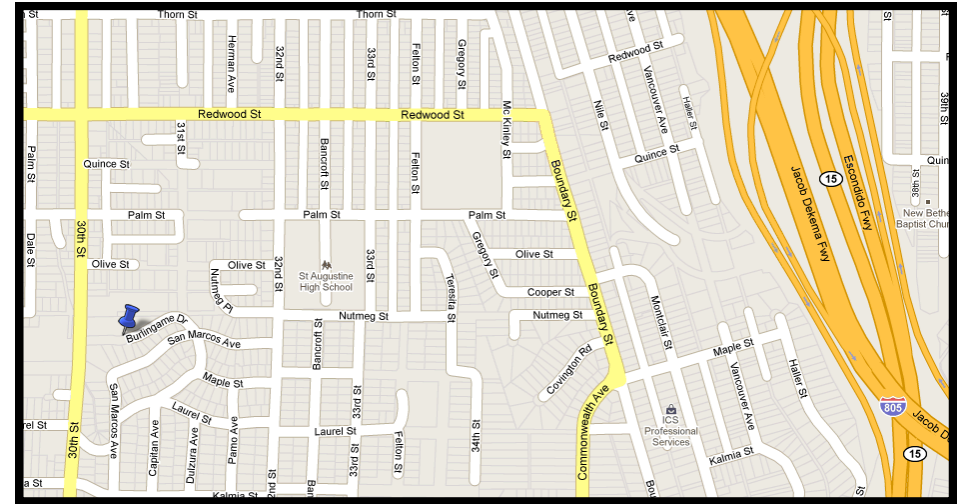


Switzer Canyon

Burlingame Dr.
San Diego, CA 92104

From I-805, exit N Park Way.

Make a slight left onto 33rd St and turn right on Palm St
Turn Left at 32nd St and make a right onto San Marcos Ave.
Turn Right at Burlingame Drive and park.

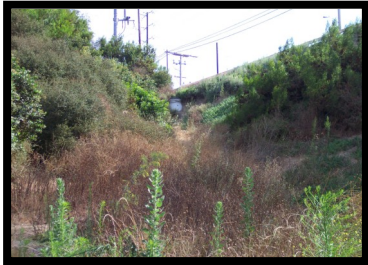


The trailhead can be found at the end of Burlingame Drive.

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&2. Manhole #206 & #153
#206 32° 44.00 N 117° 07.74 W
#153 32° 43.98 N 117° 07.75 W

MH #206 is 20 ft left of path. **Search for MH #153 only if you are comfortable doing so.** It is located past #206 and all the way up the hill. Once you reach the street, head left and look for lime green paint.



3. Manhole #190
32° 44.02 N 117° 07.63 W

Left of path



4. Manhole #187
32° 44.02 N 117° 07.74 W

Just past MH #190 (left of path)



5. Manhole # 408
32° 44.XX N 117° 07.XX W

150 ft left of path



6. Manhole #192
32° 44.08 N 117° 07.63 W

Just left of path



7. Manhole #197
32° 44.05 N 117° 07.65 W

Directly on path



- 8-10. Manhole #322, 324, and 195
32° 44.11 N, 117° 07.62 W

50 ft right of path
(three manholes in same location)

Thank you for monitoring Switzer 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!



11. Manhole #36
32° 44.14 N, 117° 07.61 W

15 ft left of path



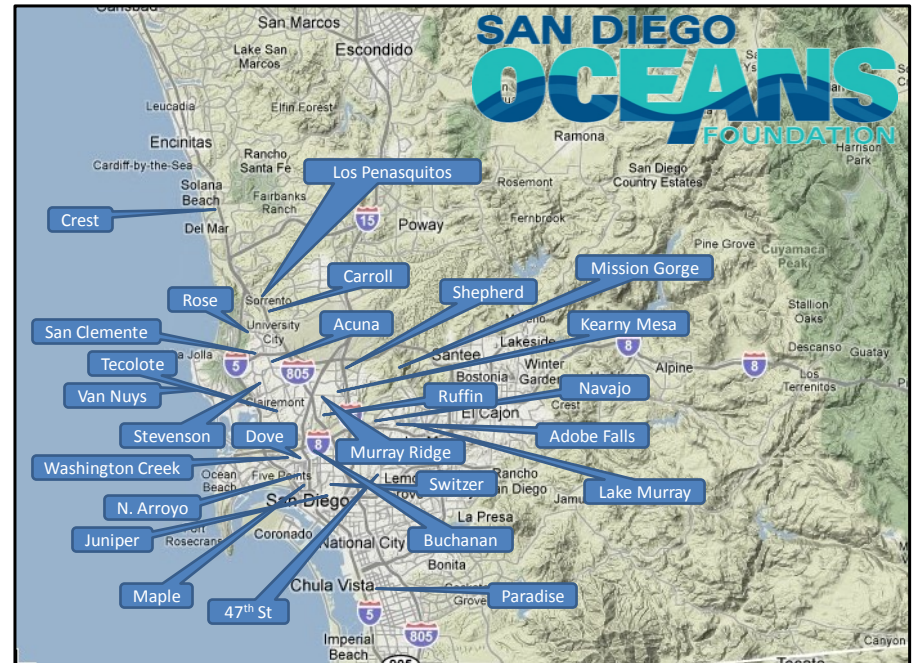
12. Manhole #18
32° 44.16 N 117° 07.58 W

Just right of path



13. Manhole #20
32° 44.19 N 117° 07.59 W

Make a left at the fork. Manhole is found on the right hand side of the dry creek bed.



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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