

# Canyon Watch Volunteer Guide



## Washington Creek

Distance: 0.68 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 waterways.



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.



## Sewer Leaks & Foamy Discharge

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



## Unusual Smells

A foul odor is a sign of possible leaks or spills. Check that there are no rank or rancid aromas near the manhole area.



## Sewer Lines

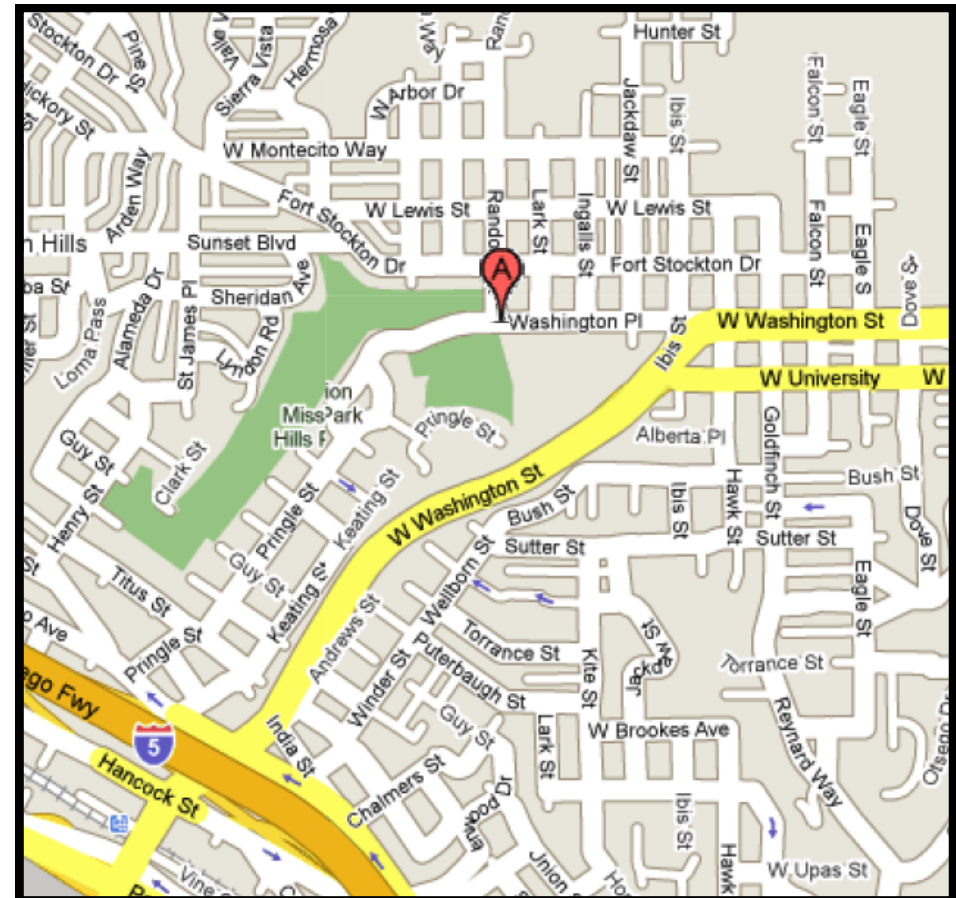
Pipelines should be buried underground. Check for sewer pipes that have been exposed due to erosion.



# Washington Creek

~ 1500 Washington Place  
San Diego, CA

Take Hwy 163 and exit Washington Street (head west)  
Continue to the fork in the road and head straight/to the right onto Washington Place. Park on Washington Place and Rudolph Street (near Mission Hills Park).



The trailhead is on the north side of the street just west of the tennis courts.

# Manhole Guide

Please be sure to submit your **Canyon Watch Field Report** online 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 [http://sdoceans.org/pollution\\_report\\_2.php](http://sdoceans.org/pollution_report_2.php) to submit your report and locate guides for other San Diego canyons.



Washington Creek Entrance



1. Manhole #32  
N 32.4501, W 117.1071

Just down the small hill; Directly on path



2. Manhole #35  
N 32.4500, W 117.1076

Just right of path



3. Manhole # 34  
N 32.4500, W 117.1079

20ft right of path



4. Manhole #82  
N 32.4498, W 117.1081

Just right of path



5. Manhole #85  
N 32.4495, W 117.1084

Directly on path



6. Manhole #84  
N 32.4492, W 117.1086

Directly left of path



7. Manhole #48  
N 32.4489, W 117.1088

Just right of path



8. Manhole #49  
N 32.4488, W 117.1089

Just right of path



9. Manhole #59  
N 32.4486, W 117.1092

Just left of path



14. Manhole #109  
N 32.4479, W 117.1097

Just right of path



10. Manhole #44  
N 32.4487, W 117.1093

50ft directly right of manhole #59



15. Manhole #56  
N 32.4477, W 117.1099

Just right of path (may be covered by brush)



11. Manhole #60  
N 32.4484, W 117.1093

Flat on ground; Directly on path



16. Manhole #53  
N 32.4475, W 117.1100

15ft right of main path



12. Manhole #61  
N 32.4483, W 117.1095

Directly in front of path



17. Manhole #977 & #57  
N 32.4477, W 117.1103

#977 is located 50ft uphill; Directly NW of manhole #53. #57 is about 100ft further up path. Continue on right of fork, following trail sign.



13. Manhole #54  
N 32.4480, W 117.1096

3ft left of path



18. Manhole #442  
N 32.4473 W 117.1100

Just left of path

Thank you for monitoring Washington Creek!

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