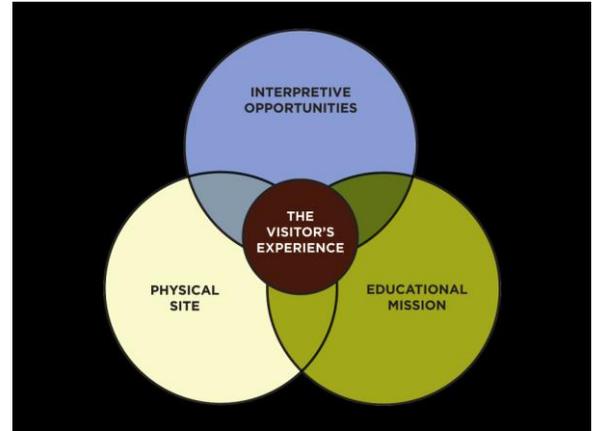


Getting Kids on Trails

Roger Bell
Pam Johnson
Jennifer Rigby



Inside the Outdoors: Rancho Soñado

Four Types of Programming

- Outdoor Science School
- Field Trips
- Traveling Scientist
- Community Programs

Inside the Outdoors



- ... outdoor education since 1974
- ... administered by the Orange County Department of Education
- ... aligned with California content standards
- ... self-funded
- ... serves students in four counties
- ... educates 147,000 children annually

The nexus of trail building with outdoor education

Before the 2007 Santiago Canyon Fire



After the 2007 Santiago Canyon Fire



Redesigning Trails



Disney Executive Volunteer Build Day at Rancho Soñado



Students on Trails After the Rebuild



Trails as Part of the Formal Learning Environment – Considerations for School Groups

- Distance
- Activities
- Group Size
- Timing
- Formal Education Constraints/ Curriculum Needs



Service-Learning



Connecting Children and Their Families to the Outdoors



Service-Learning



West Coyote Hills



Purposeful—Exhibits, displays, and other media on the trails and in the nature center support the mission of West Coyote Hills.

Enjoyable—People seek recreation and become enlightened in the process, not the other way around.

Relevant—We know the audience and use terms and examples they will understand.

Organized—Exhibit, displays, and other media follow a sequence and are guided by storylines.

Thematic—Exhibits are theme-based. Visitors can easily grasp the message behind the subject matter.

West Coyote Hills Mission Statement

West Coyote Hills fosters a connection between people and nature. Its balanced plan preserves natural open space, creates remarkable living environments, and beckons residents and visitors alike to be inspired by the land, the habitats, and the far-reaching views.



Vision Session

Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve / West Coyote Hills

Importance of access:

- offer recreation and education
- connect with nature
- become aware of native plants and wildlife
- learn experiences in the outdoors
- build a thinking voice of knowledge
- collaborate nature research history
- visit a "living laboratory"
- learn about the region's history
- improve the communities' quality of life
- increase "connectedness" with other trails

Spirit of the site:

- a facility for interpreting the history of natural and human communities
- a state study and model for other sites
- a showcase of "open design"
- the site's topography including its view points
- critical natural resources including native wildlife
- visual and experiential value from "nature's eye view"
- A place to raise awareness, impart knowledge, and strengthen individual responsibility toward among the visiting public.

Target audiences:

- children
- spring groups
- recreational users
- organizational groups
- corporate and professional homeowners
- people with special needs

Public and Open Space Accessibility Committee Meeting notes from November 4, 2010 planning session



Preserve the remaining remnants of the Tongue, the amazing beauty of meadows, and the old fields of wildflowers. Wild Coyote Hills' peak views now restored to a more pristine, natural state. Its original habitats support wildlife, including our special and rare southern landscape.

Substance 1

The human history of West Coyote Hills spans thousands of years. Footprints from the past have etched the land.

Managers:

The Tongue Valley farmed plants and herded game in West Coyote Hills. Encampment and village sites have been found in the vicinity.

Juan Bautista Cabrera received a 25,170-acre Mexican land grant, Rancho San Juan Capistrano, in 1824. With his cattle came extensive grazing, an introduction that marked the transformation of West Coyote Hills grasslands.

In 1851 California used most of its territory to Abel Stearns who continued to graze cattle. After Stearns died, the land, Stearns entered into a contract with Domingo Banchich, a Mexican ranchman in 1870.

Banchich's ranch became the largest sheep sheep operation. Sheep grazed in West Coyote Hills and further altered the landscape.

Substance 2

A mosaic of habitats is found in West Coyote Hills. Over the years, communities support wildlife, some of which is threatened.

Managers:

Over half of the acreage of West Coyote Hills is set aside as permanently protected natural open space.

Several habitats comprise West Coyote Hills, including coastal sage scrub, southern coastal scrub, and southern yellow scrub. Coastal sage scrub is one of California's most unique plant habitats and is home to the federally listed California gnatcatcher.

West Coyote Hills is also home to the coastal larkspur, horned lark, songspurred towhee, and other State "species of special concern."

Geological processes—erosion, sedimentation, Proterozoic, and folding—have shaped the land and the landscape.

Substance 3

West Coyote Hills is the focus of habitat restoration, monitoring, and protection. Active stewardship of the land is a responsibility we all share.

Managers:

The measures of West Coyote Hills—the fuels, shrubs, herbs, and flowers that proliferate in lawns and other areas of the Tongue natural culture the spaces that the rancher cattle and sheep and the oil that fueled drivers and power—supported several human settlements.

Real human activities have left their mark on the landscape.

West Coyote Hills is an active oil field, classified as a brown-field site after oil operations were ceased in 1974.

A large portion of West Coyote Hills has been permanently set aside as natural open space. Stewardship, monitoring, habitat restoration, and long-term monitoring are essential to protect wildlife from protected habitat.

Visitors are welcome on this land. This respect for site and regulations will ensure trail safety, as well as protection of critical habitat.

Keeping Track

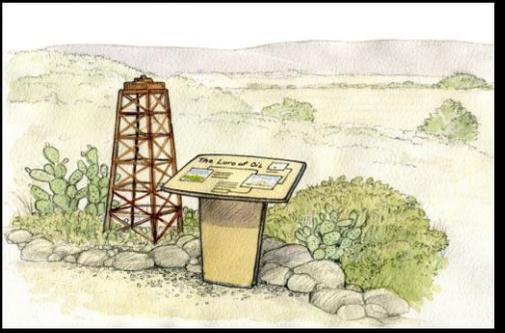
Leaping, trotting, hopping, or walking, animals leave clues in the tracks of their feet.

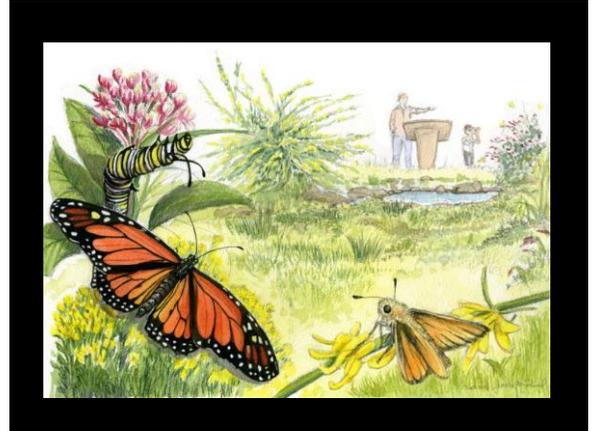


West Coyote Hills



History Station: The Lure of Oil



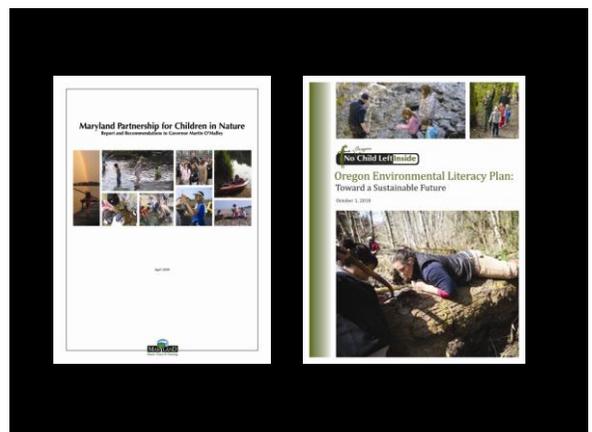


National initiatives and acts

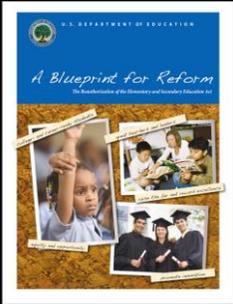
No Child Left Inside Act
 Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Let's Move Initiative
 Let's Move Outside Initiative
 Moving Outdoors in Nature Act
 America's Great Outdoors Initiative

Children & Nature Network
 Natural Learning Initiative



Elementary and Secondary Education Act

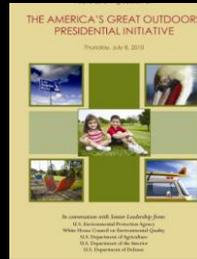


"A complete education includes...environmental education" (page 25).

"A well-rounded education includes... environmental education" (page 28).

www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/blueprint.pdf

America's Great Outdoors Presidential Initiative



Developing a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda with specific attention toward reconnecting Americans, especially children, to nature.

Defining a community-based strategy to protecting the nation's natural landscape.

Fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-americas-great-outdoors

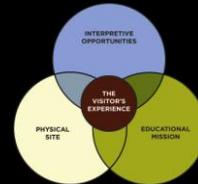
Let's Move



www.letsmove.gov

Lessons Learned

Thoughtful planning is multidisciplinary



Lessons Learned

Thoughtful planning is nonlinear



Lessons Learned

Thoughtful planning requires a system of checks and balances

$$\checkmark + \checkmark + \checkmark - \checkmark = X$$

Bellfree Contractors
www.bellfreecontractors.com



Inside the Outdoors
www.insidetheoutdoors.org



The Acorn Group
www.acorngroup.com

