



FRIENDS OF
LOS PEÑASQUITOS
CANYON PRESERVE

LUSARDI CREEK BRIDGE HIKE



Rejuvenation of the Riparian Zone

Distance: 3.5 miles roundtrip, 361 feet of elevation gain

Trailhead GPS: 33.004482, -117.16355

Getting There: Heading west on San Dieguito Road, begin to look for a pullout on the right side of the road. Pass the Montien Road sign, and the turn off will be immediately after the 45 MPH sign. The trail begins to the left of the kiosk.

Difficulty: Moderately easy. Wide trails, slight elevation gain and loss

Disclaimer: This is a multi-use trail. Watch for mountain bikers. **No restrooms on site.**

Highlights:

- This out-and-back hike boasts California native plants and exposed geological features.
- As you descend further onto the trail, the plant community will begin to shift from coastal sage scrub to riparian as you get closer to the creek.
- Historically, Lusardi Creek would have been dry in the summer. It now has water year-round from the irrigation that runs off from developed landscapes. The creek meanders through the bottom of the valley, providing perfect conditions for a lush riparian plant community (pictured).





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- Riparian plants are water-loving plants found along rivers and streams, like mulefat (pictured) and willow. These plants help control erosion, keep the water clean, and provide critical habitat.
- The riparian zone provides an opportunity for life. As you approach the bridge over Lusardi Creek, the sound of the road is replaced with running water and singing birds.



Turn around at the small bridge (pictured on first page), indicated with a red arrow on map below. You will return rejuvenated!

Remember to Leave No Trace – Plan Ahead and Prepare. This can make your trip more enjoyable and safe. Print a trail map, or download it to your cellphone. Wear hiking or walking shoes. Bring a quart of water per hour of hiking, per person. Bring binoculars to watch birds and for the great views up top!

More info. Learn more about The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve at <https://www.penasquitos.org/>.

Map. Start with the Black Mountain Open Space Preserve map at <https://www.penasquitos.org/s/blackmtn.pdf>, perhaps even download it to your phone. The Lusardi Creek Bridge Hike is shown below, and the red arrow marks the bridge and turn-around point.

