



FRIENDS OF
LOS PEÑASQUITOS
CANYON PRESERVE

DOUG HILL LOOP



Road to Restoration

Distance: 2.7 miles, about 300 ft elevation gain

Trailhead GPS: 32.989481 -117.130250

Getting There: Park at the Black Mountain Community Park. The trailhead is tucked away at the far end of the parking lot, beyond the baseball fields. Walk towards the shipping containers. You will notice a kiosk that says Lusardi Loop Tr. This is the beginning of the trail.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Disclaimer: This is a multi-use trail. Watch for mountain bikers. Sometimes portable toilets are located next to the ballfields.

Highlights:

- Start down the dirt road and follow it downhill. On both sides of the road, you will see native plants, part of a plan to restore the area back to its original habitat. This is a great area for a short walk with the family. Take a left at the fork where you see a wooden trail sign that reads “Lusardi Loop Trail.”
- Continue until you come to a T crossing with a service road. Take a right and walk up toward the houses, you’ll see fields in the process of being restored and you will see disturbed habitat. This area, previously used for grazing and farming, is now overridden by invasive species, in particular artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*, pictured below). This is an invasive plant, meaning it steals important resources, like water, space, and nutrients, from the native plants. Its presence has prevented the regrowth of the original biodiverse coastal sage scrub habitat.



FRIENDS OF LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE

- Near the top of the road, past a concrete structure, a trail starts uphill and to the left. This trail will take you on Doug Hill through native habitat for a captivating view. Doug Hill itself has recovered and displays intact native habitat after the recent fires, with a little help from volunteers combatting invasive weeds.
- After looping around the top of Doug Hill, the trail circles around the east and south sides. The trail will eventually loop you back to the service road.
- You will hear the birds chirping and bees buzzing when you are walking in native habitat. Watch for the many other animals making this area their home including lizards, rabbits, and roadrunners.

More info. Visit the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve website to learn more about our restoration work at Black Mountain Open Space and other preserves, <https://www.penasquitos.org/>

Remember to Leave No Trace – Keep your pet on a leash. Protect you dogs by rattlesnakes and ticks by keeping them on the trail. Also remember that wildlife can be stressed by being chased or disturbed by dogs. Keep in mind that the City requires all dogs to be kept on a leash not to exceed 8 feet, in all parks and open space. More at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/dogs/>.

