



FRIENDS OF
LOS PEÑASQUITOS
CANYON PRESERVE

PEÑASQUITOS RIPARIAN LOOP



Human History Etched into Nature

Distance: 2.6 miles, 52 feet of elevation gain

Trailhead GPS: 32.940319, -117.135664

Getting There: Park at the western end of the ballfields at Canyonside Community Park.

Difficulty: Easy, flat.

Disclaimer: There are poison oak and sensitive riparian plants. Do not wander off-trail. Restrooms are in the community center building. Open limited hours, shown at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/recctr/canyonside>.

Directions:

Start at a trail just to the left (south) of the white gate. There is a kiosk there. Continue south (left) on the trail, across the Ranch House Crossing, and then turn right (west) at the main trail (road). There are multiple side trails that are a nice respite from the busy main trail along the way. These trails are parallel to the main trail and will eventually lead to an intersection and a bridge at Peñasquitos Creek Park Crossing.

Cross the creek, continue north and stay right at the intersections. You'll encounter an earthen berm. Walk on the berm, first north then east then south (shown on map). You may take a left or a right at the end of the trail, both lead back to the Adobe. Taking a right, you get to walk across an asphalt road, but the path below is sometimes flooded after the rains.





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Highlights:

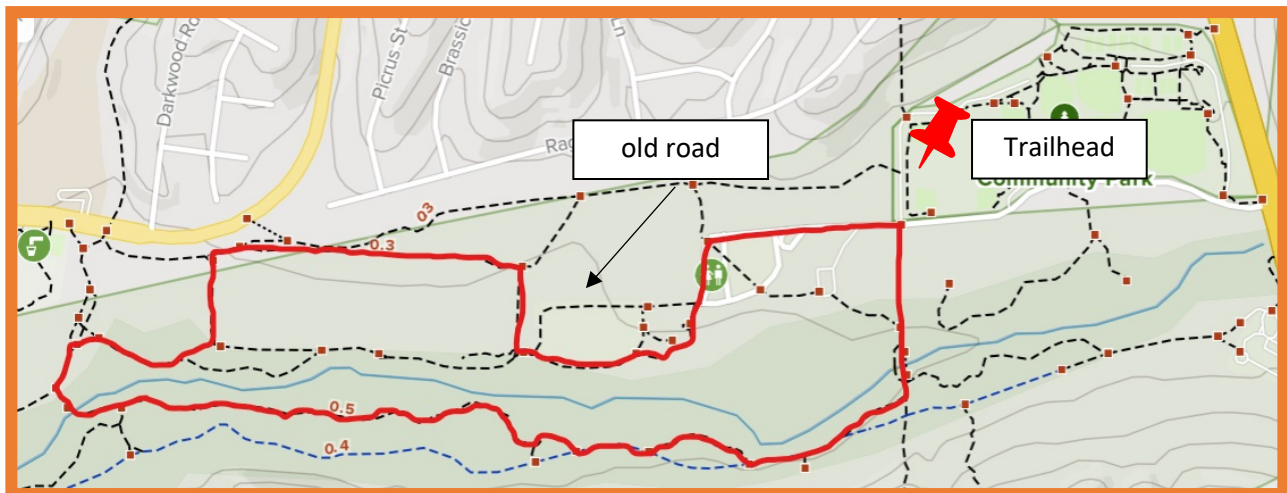
- The Peñasquitos Canyon adobe area is a unique historical site, with a story that follows almost every major historical era of San Diego.
- The Adobe is the second oldest stranding residence in the county. Part of it is the adobe built to satisfy the requires of the first Mexican land grant in San Diego County, back in 1823.
- When you cross the berm, you are in the old City of Poway Sewage Ponds, long abandoned. There is an area overtaken by invasive plants. Poway used to percolate the waste out of sewage water here! Disruption and high nutrient content made way for invasive plants to take over.
- You may see patches of asphalt from the old road for the sewage trucks.



Remember to Leave No Trace – Don't be a Party Pooper! Pack out your pet waste. Pet waste is a health hazard for both people and animals. Pet waste can lead to the rise of invasive species and can spread diseases to wildlife. And the City requires that all dogs be kept on a leash not to exceed 8 feet. Learn more at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/dogs/>.

More info. Visit The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve website at <https://www.penasquitos.org/>.

Map. Start with the map below, perhaps even download it to your phone.





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