

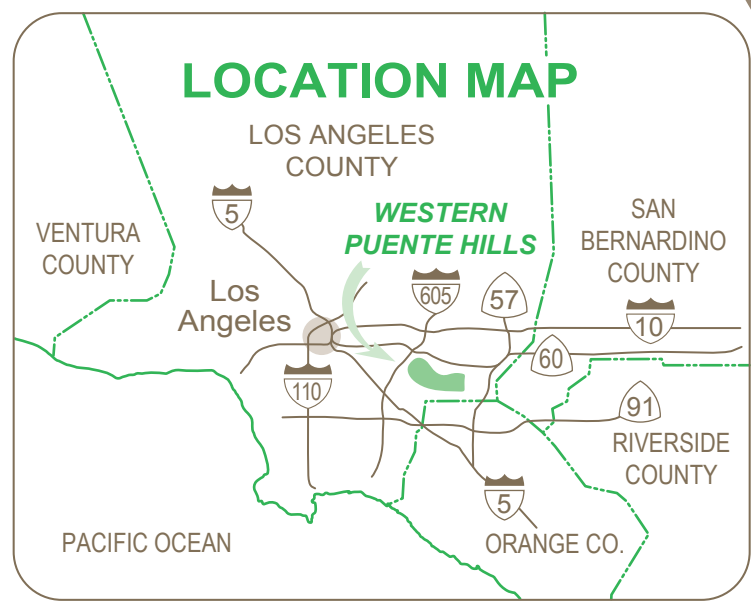
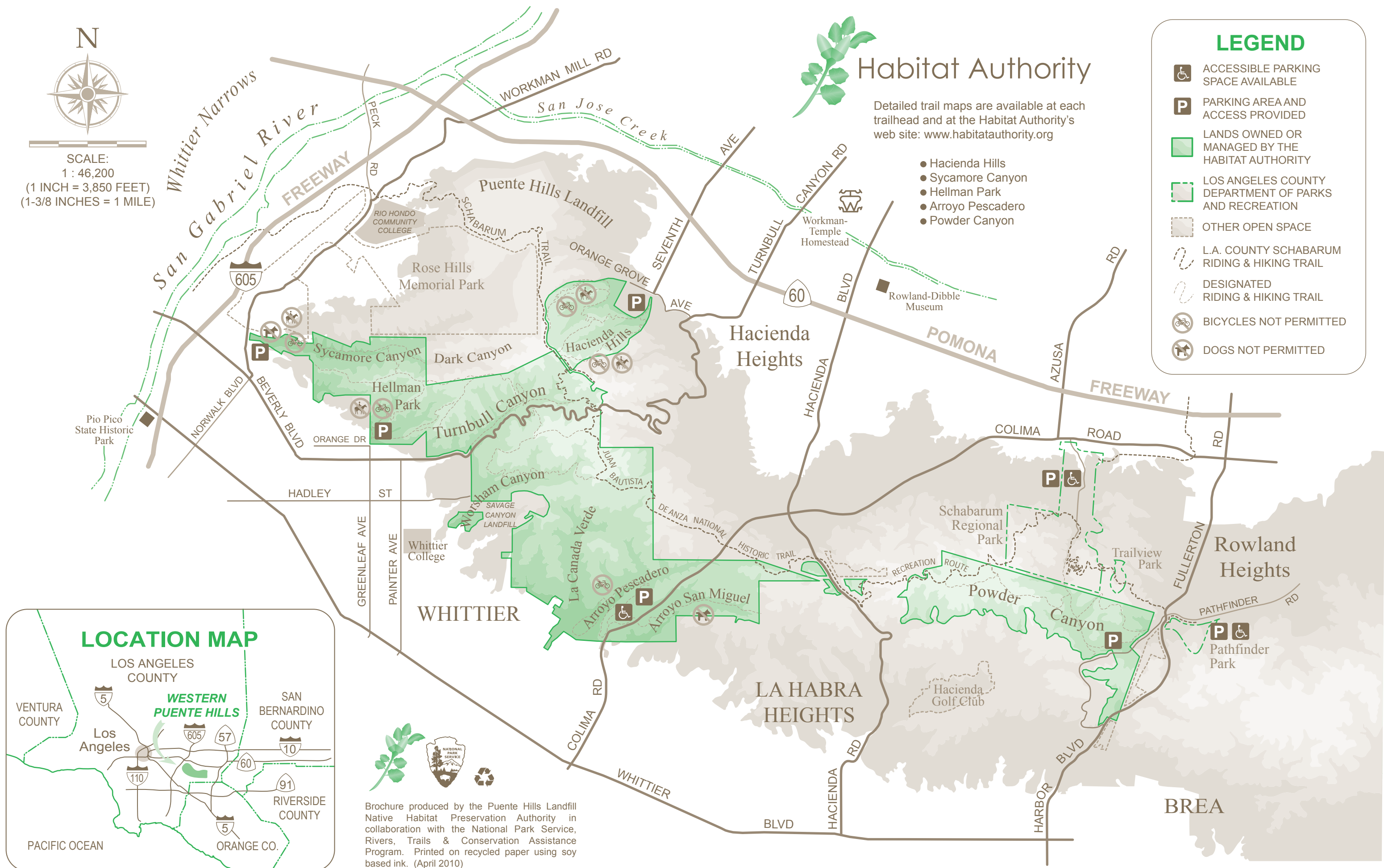
# Habitat Authority

Detailed trail maps are available at each trailhead and at the Habitat Authority's web site: [www.habitatauthority.org](http://www.habitatauthority.org)

- Hacienda Hills
- Sycamore Canyon
- Hellman Park
- Arroyo Pescadero
- Powder Canyon

## LEGEND

- ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE AVAILABLE
- PARKING AREA AND ACCESS PROVIDED
- LANDS OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE HABITAT AUTHORITY
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
- OTHER OPEN SPACE
- L.A. COUNTY SCHABARUM RIDING & HIKING TRAIL
- DESIGNATED RIDING & HIKING TRAIL
- BICYCLES NOT PERMITTED
- DOGS NOT PERMITTED



Brochure produced by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority in collaboration with the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program. Printed on recycled paper using soy based ink. (April 2010)

Please observe the following..

**Stay on trails.** Decades of ranching and oil extraction have damaged these lands, which are gradually returning to normal health. Please allow time and other natural processes to restore plant life and reclaim lands. Plants include poison oak and cactus, which may cause injury to humans.

Many trails were initially developed as service roads and are not improved to accommodate wheelchairs or strollers.

**Bicycles are prohibited** at Arroyo Pescadero and **on certain trails** in Hellman Park and Hacienda Hills, but permitted elsewhere on lands owned or maintained by the Habitat Authority.

**No smoking, fireworks, matches,** or other flammable items, whether fire season is current or not.

**Bring your own water.** Water is generally not available on the premises.

**Dogs are not permitted** in Sycamore Canyon and Arroyo San Miguel, but are welcome elsewhere when leashed and restrained from harming wildlife and visitors. Please help protect land and water resources by removing animal waste dropped by your pet.

**Motor vehicles are not permitted.**

**Camping is not permitted.**

Habitat Authority lands are **open** to the public from **sunrise to sunset**.

**Access** to park lands is **prohibited within 48 hours after rains and during “red flag” conditions** defined by National Weather Service.

Wild animals may be dangerous. Children and pets should be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times.

Rocks, trees, flowers, and other objects or artifacts must not be removed or disturbed, so that others may enjoy these resources.

**Possession of** firearms, bows and arrows, compressed air guns and other **weapons** is **prohibited**.

Pack it in? **Pack it out.**

Habitat Authority lands are actively patrolled and protected by law enforcement officers.

24-hour ranger dispatch:  
(562) 698-1446

About the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a joint powers agency with a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and Hacienda Heights Improvement Association.

The Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

The Habitat Authority was created in 1994 from a mitigation fund generated by "tipping" fees collected at the Puente Hills Landfill. As of April 2010, more than 3,869 acres have been preserved.

The Puente Hills Preserve consists of rugged topography, steep hillsides and deep canyons. This ecosystem is connected to the Chino Hills and Santa Ana Mountains by habitat linkages and corridors that allow wildlife to continue to move through the landscape.

Hikers, cyclists, bird watchers and equestrians of all ages enjoy the trails that the hills have to offer, and enjoy spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, Catalina Island, and San Gabriel Valley and Mountains.

Donations to the Habitat Authority can be deducted from income taxes under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 170.

For more information, please contact:



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Native Habitat Preservation Authority  
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Mammals vary from rodents, such as the California ground squirrel, dusky-footed woodrat, and brush rabbit, to small carnivores including the gray fox, coyote and bobcat, and large carnivores like the California mountain lion. The mule deer is the largest herbivore found in the Puente Hills. These are all shy and secretive creatures by nature, but if you look carefully, you may find evidence of their presence.



**Fauna**, or animal life, includes numerous varieties of insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. The Puente Hills are part of a biological system that extends from the Whittier Narrows and San Gabriel River to the Chino Hills, Santa Ana River and Mountains.

**Walnut woodlands** exist in pockets, with the California black walnut being predominant, sometimes growing amongst chaparral species such as toyon and elderberry. These plants provide important food sources for birds and other wildlife. Walnut woodlands are found in Powder Canyon.



**Riparian vegetation** grows where water flows. Dense tree cover and lush growth might include coast live oak, western sycamore, arroyo willow and mulfat. These species can be found along streambeds Sycamore Canyon, Hacienda Hills, Powder Canyon and Arroyo San Miguel.



**Oak woodlands** are comprised of tall coast live oaks growing along the slopes and flat grasslands of Powder Canyon, Hacienda Hills, and Turnbull Canyon.

**Chaparral** grows under the same conditions as coastal sage scrub, yet includes large, woody shrubs that often grow in dense thickets. Individual species include elderberry, laurel sumac, lemonade berry and toyon. The best stands of chaparral are found in the Hacienda Hills, Arroyo San Miguel and Powder Canyon.



The Arroyo San Miguel, and Powder Canyon, sage scrub in Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, preserve includes splendid examples of coastal protected by state and federal regulations. The and California sagebrush. This rare community is sages, California buckwheat, California encelia fall. Plant species include purple and black developing a brown appearance in summer and drought, plants go dormant and lose their leaves.

**Coastal sage scrub** is a very threatened community in the California SAGEBRUSH. The hardy plants making up this community are commonly found on gentle, rolling, south-facing slopes with maximum exposure to the sun. These plants are shallow rooted. To get through the summer

**Flora**, or plant life, consists of groups known to biologists as coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian vegetation (found along a creek or stream), and walnut woodlands.

Wildlife in the Puente Hills includes distinct communities of plants which are uniquely adapted to the environment, and animals that depend upon these plants and other animals.

Flora & Fauna of the Puente Hills



Puente Hills Preserve

Access Guide



Rugged terrain, unstable slopes, limited access, and a lack of water made the hills difficult to develop in modern times, but the land's geologic history made it valuable for another purpose: oil extraction. Large tracts of land were once owned by corporations such as Unocal, Chevron and Standard Oil. Some of those lands are now owned or managed by the Habitat Authority.

The Modern Era

Under the era of Mexican government in California, the hills became parts of the vast ranchos tended by William Workman, F.P.F. Temple, John Rowland and Pio Pico.

Early Settlers

The Spanish expeditions of Gaspar de Portola and Juan Bautista de Anza passed through the San Gabriel Valley just north of the Puente Hills. The Portola expedition passed through the eastern Puente Hills, near Brea Canyon. Today, Los Angeles County's Schabarum Trail is a recreation route associated with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, a unit of the National Park Service.

The Age of Exploration

The Puente Hills and all surrounding lands were first populated by the Tongva, who came to be known as "Gabrieleños" (or children of Gabriel) by Spanish explorers and settlers. They preferred to live in valleys, building villages near reliable sources of water. The hills were revered for abundant wildlife resources, and regarded as sacred places.

The First People

The hills were formed over millions of years as land along the north edge of the Whittier-Elsinore fault was pushed upward by seismic forces. The hills are also shaped by continuous erosion, caused by rain and wind. The hills rise from an elevation of approximately 400 feet in Whittier and Hacienda Heights, to a summit of more than 1,400 feet above sea level in La Habra Heights.

History and the Puente Hills