Safety & Trail Etiquette

RESTROOMS AND WATER can be found on Burma Road Trail at the water tank. There is no other drinkable water on the trails.

BE AWARE of the potential and inherent dangers that exist in any wilderness setting. Watch for and avoid rattlesnakes, poison oak, stinging nettle and scorpions.

DOGS must be on leash at all times as required by City of RPV Municipal Code Section 12.16.050. Please remove dog waste and pack out all litter.

FIRE AND SMOKING are not permitted in the Preserve due to the potential for serious fire damage.

NATURAL FEATURES are protected in the Preserve and are to be admired, but not removed.

FIREARMS are not permitted on the Preserve. City of RPV Municipal Code Section 9.08.010.

BICYCLES AND HORSES are allowed in the Preserve only on designated trails.

TRAVEL ON DESIGNATED TRAILS It doesn’t take much off-trail activity to beat down sensitive vegetation whether you are on horse, foot or bicycle. You can help balance preservation with recreation by staying on designated trails as shown on the trail map. Bicyclists must yield to foot and equestrian traffic.

TRAIL CLOSURES will be in effect during and following significant rainfall to protect trails. Closures may also go into effect at various times for habitat protection and erosion prevention when deemed appropriate. Please respect any signs regarding these closures.

TRAIL MODIFICATIONS of any kind are not permitted in the Preserve. This includes construction of jumps, wooden ladders, earthen mounds, formation of berms and brush clearing.

Portuguese Bend Reserve was preserved in 2005 and is the largest of the ten reserves that make up the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. As well as providing community-valued recreation, the Reserve contains important linkages for wildlife and valuable native habitat for sensitive species.

Portuguese Bend Reserve consists of 399-acres of rolling hills, five distinct steep canyons and rock outcrops, with coastal sage scrub habitat, a community of intensely fragrant and drought resistant shrubs and flowering plants. Unique features include a pillow lava outcrop called Ailor Cliff named after Conservancy founder Bill Ailor.

How You Can Help

If you would like to donate, participate in trail work or other volunteer projects, join a nature walk, or become a member, please visit the PVPLC website at: www.pvplc.org or call (310) 541-7613.
Trails in the Portuguese Bend Reserve range from moderate to difficult and lead visitors through unique canyons and to stunning vistas of the coast and Catalina Island. The trails can be accessed from a few locations, but the most popular is via the Burma Road Trail at the end of Crenshaw Blvd. Street parking is available on Crenshaw Blvd. or at Del Cerro Park. Head east to the Burma Road trailhead for the overview of the entire Reserve.

Hikers, off-road bicyclists and equestrians of all ages are welcome to enjoy many miles of trails and take in the surrounding natural beauty of the peninsula.

Burma Road is wide and flat, providing the main thoroughfare connecting many trails and loops. From here, visitors can access areas with habitat recovering from the 2009 wildfire on the Ishibashi, Paintbrush and Rim trails. Be sure to look for regenerating lemonadeberry and prickly pear cactus.

Burma Road Trail will also lead to the Eagle’s Nest Trail, which offers a shaded overlook under pine trees. Follow the Rim Trail to visit the iconic Ailor’s Cliff and adjacent landslide area. The ground here is constantly moving, resulting in an ever-changing hiking experience with unique geologic formations.