

OTP Hike for 1/5/05
Rolling Hills Estates Horse Trails
Distance: 9 miles
Elevation Gain: approx. 1000'

The trailhead is at Ernie Howlett Park; entrance, 1.1 miles south of Pacific Coast Highway on Hawthorne Blvd. at a relatively blind driveway to the right with signage both in the median and on the right. Park at the left end of the lot; restrooms in adjacent building near tennis courts. Lunch will be at the General Store, which makes great sandwiches. The trails listed in the hike are NOT marked, so pay attention to the directions.

The hike proceeds south (left) on the Howlett Trail near the baseball field then zigzags east/south along the tennis area, between houses, and downhill to a culvert under Hawthorne Blvd. After crossing turn north (left) on Moccasin Trail and follow to the Landfill Loop Trail which is another left turn. * Walk the perimeter of the landfill (approx. 1.5 mi.) bearing left whenever possible unless road marked no trespassing and return to the entrance gate where it should be time for cookies.

Exit and turn east (left) on Moccasin Trail along the Rolling Hills Equestrian Center, cross under Crenshaw Blvd. via the culvert, continue on Lariat Trail along the South Coast Botanic Gardens to Rolling Hills Road. There are restrooms to the left inside the back gate to the Botanic Garden if needed, otherwise turn south (right) to crosswalk across Rolling Hills Road and proceed north (left) on Bent Springs Trail, east (right) on Empty Saddle Trail, across Empty Saddle Road and along the Empty Saddle Club the briefly south (right) and down a steep hillside in the Chandler Nature Preserve. Turn east (left) at the little league field onto the Chandler Trail and at the Y-intersection bear north (left) on the Golf Course Overlook Trail.*

After rejoining the Chandler Trail cross a small bridge and proceed uphill following turns to the south (right) and then east (left) on the Dapplegray Trail, then south (right) onto the Palos Verdes Drive East Trail. Turn west (right) at the signal onto the Palos Verdes Drive North Trail and continue across Crenshaw Blvd. to the General Store where there are tables for lunch. After lunch proceed north on Rolling Hills Road to the Lariat Trail, turn west (left) and return to Ernie Howlett Park for refreshments.

*For shorter hike (approx 6.5 miles) eliminate Landfill Loop, Golf Course Overlook and return to park via P.V. Dr. North.