



CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

Connecting Spaces for People and Nature

ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES



ESTABLISHED
1981

SPECIES IN THE PARK
200+

One of
your 280+
California
State Parks.

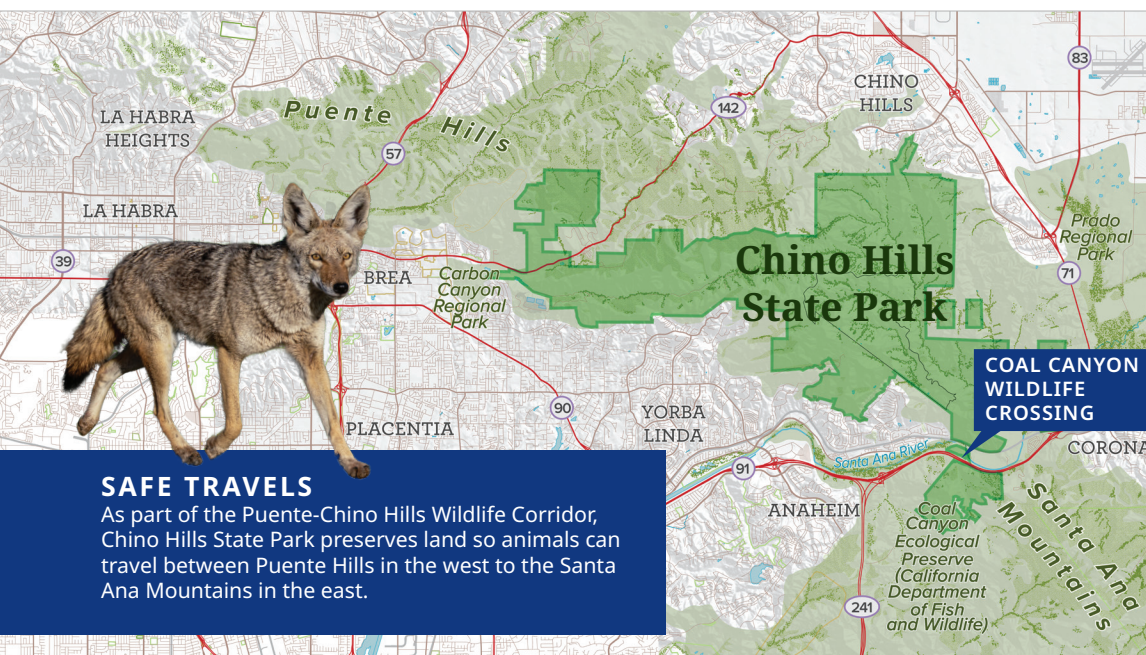
A CRUCIAL LINK

The rolling grasslands of Chino Hills State Park are surrounded by freeways. With its ridgeline boundaries that protect visitors' views from the sight and noise of freeway traffic, the park can seem like an island in a sea of pavement and buildings. Despite being in close range of millions of Californians, the park contains a diversity of native plants and wildlife, from oak woodlands and coastal sage scrub to vulnerable mammal, bird and reptile species. The genetic diversity and survival of many species depend on their ability to roam undisturbed by freeways and other barriers. Chino Hills State Park is the anchor that connects a chain of natural lands.



A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Chino Hills State Park was established to preserve natural landscapes, biological diversity and opportunities for recreation. Hills For Everyone, a local conservation group, worked with the legislature and a range of agencies to preserve natural lands between Orange County and the Inland Empire in the 1970s. This combination of legislative and grassroots efforts led to the creation of Chino Hills State Park in 1981.



SAFE TRAVELS

As part of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, Chino Hills State Park preserves land so animals can travel between Puente Hills in the west to the Santa Ana Mountains in the east.

Incremental acquisitions joined Chino Hills State Park to the Puente Hills. Over 45 separate acquisitions have expanded the park area to more than 14,000 acres. This created a network of protected areas —the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. The corridor now stretches over 30 miles, interrupted by a midsection of unprotected land. These acquisitions have often occurred against the backdrop of land-use battles to fend off development. Activists blocked proposals for an international airport, freeway expansions, a sewage treatment plant and lucrative housing developments.

In one of California's most densely populated regions, Chino Hills State Park is a crucial link that connects people to nature and allows wildlife to roam and thrive.



Deer, mountain lions and gray foxes are some of the animals that have been photographed crossing the freeway via the underpass at Coal Canyon.

CLOSING THE GAPS

For the benefit of wildlife and people, State Parks continued efforts to connect the park to the landscapes surrounding it. At Coal Canyon, in the park's south, privately owned land and a freeway separated the park from the important ecosystem of the Santa Ana Mountains. State Parks, its partners and local advocates raised millions of dollars to purchase the parcels in 2000 and 2001. As part of the acquisition, Caltrans removed the Highway 91 off-ramps at Coal Canyon. This was the first time Caltrans had taken this kind of action for the benefit of wildlife.

The decommissioned underpass at Coal Canyon is now a wildlife crossing. It connects Chino Hills State Park to more than 400,000 acres of protected land in the Cleveland National Forest.

PEOPLE AND THE PARK

Over the centuries, the park has been the backdrop of many people's lives and livelihoods. Prior to European contact, the Native Gabrieleño people gathered acorns, elderberries and other food in today's park area. During the Spanish Mission period and the Mexican Republic era, the Chino Hills were used for cattle grazing. This continued during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Oil exploration and mining activity also took place during this time. A ranch house, barn, and several windmills and watering troughs serve as reminders of the cattle ranching days.

Today, roughly 90 miles of trails crossing through open, rolling hills are perfect for hiking, biking, picnicking or horseback riding amid stands of native oak and walnut trees. In spring, blooming wildflowers attract many visitors, while winter and fall provide a quieter setting. Several Native American groups, including the Gabrieleño, Luiseño and Juaneño people have ancestral ties to the park area. State Parks works with tribal members in the stewardship of the park and in the creation of exhibits.

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

4721 Sapphire Road, Chino Hills, CA 91709
951-780-6222 (711, TTY Relay Service)

OUR MISSION

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

ACCESSIBILITY

California State Parks supports equal access. For accommodation requests including alternative formats, please contact IEDistrict@parks.ca.gov. For information about accessible features at this park, visit parks.ca.gov/AccessibleFeatures.



A California gnatcatcher, one of the rare bird species that call Chino Hills State Park home.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
parks.ca.gov/ChinoHills

SUPPORTED BY

Friends of Chino Hills State Park
ChinoHillsStatePark.org



CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

CONNECT TO PROTECT

A LIFELINE FOR WILDLIFE

Chino Hills State Park and its neighboring parks and preserves form a wildlife corridor. This links islands of open space together and enlarges habitats. Mammals like mountain lions can roam safely in unfragmented natural areas. These large habitats allow them to avoid crossing freeways, which can result in collisions and deaths. Connected spaces also help maintain healthy populations of other plants and animals. They encourage genetic exchange, species migration and repopulation after a catastrophe such as a fire. Without a connection to other protected spaces, the park would not be able to preserve its rich biodiversity. Thanks to conservation actions, Chino Hill State Park will remain a balanced, protected ecosystem.

QUAIL

BOBCAT

MOUNTAIN LION

RACCOON

COYOTE

DEER

FOLLOWING THE PATH

Today, the Wallace Annenberg Wildlife Crossing over the 101 freeway in Los Angeles County and other projects have followed a similar approach to prioritize connected habitats.

