

# Oil Drilling Project <sup>350</sup> Proposed At Park

*Community  
Services*

By LARRY PETERSON  
Register Staff Writer

BREA — Tennis players, archers, model airplane buffs and redwood trees soon may have to share the county's Carbon Canyon Regional Park with oil wells.

Santa Fe Energy Co. of Santa Fe Springs, wants to start drilling at least 20 wells there in January, county Environmental Management Agency director George Osborne said in a memo to county supervisors this week.

The firm, Osborne said, claims it doesn't need permits for the wells and isn't subject to county or state environmental laws because the 120-acre park is on federal land.

Osborne recommended that supervisors ask the county counsel to find out whether the company is right or whether the county can impose restrictions on the proposed oil wells.

Company spokesmen Friday declined comment, saying that officials authorized to approve statements on the issue are out of town until Monday.

The amount of oil deposits under the park is believed to be relatively small, but the incentive to drill there has

increased with recent dramatic increases in oil prices.

Dan Price, chief of leasing and acquisition for the county General Services Agency, said the Chancellor Western Development, now Santa Fe Energy Co., retained mineral rights to the property when the U.S. Corps of Engineers bought the property in 1946.

When the county leased the park property from the corps in 1974, it was never made clear exactly what drilling rights the company retained, he said.

The agreement, under which the corps agreed to pay for half the \$1.6 million park development, called for the county to buy two parcels, totaling 11 acres in area, between Carbon Canyon Road and the Carbon Canyon Dam.

One parcel, owned by a private individual, has been bought by the county, but a second, owned by the oil company, has been the subject of continuing negotiations since 1974, Price said.

The county tried to get the company to agree to drilling on two specific sites in the park in exchange for withdrawing its claim to drilling rights in the remainder of the park, he said.

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## Oil Drilling Project Proposed

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But the company has maintained that because the park is on federal land, state and local restrictions on oil drilling don't apply, Price added.

No agreement has been reached on the proposed compromise, he said.

Osborne aide Ray Rhoads said that under the agreement with the corps, the firm retained the right to drill, but those rights were subordinated to the corps' rights to flood the property.

It could be argued, Rhoads said, that the county's \$1-a-year lease from the corps gives the county the right to regulate the use of the property even

though Santa Fe Energy retains mineral rights.

If the county retains the power to regulate oil development on the property, the firm must obtain a permit that is subject to county-imposed conditions.

In addition, the company would have to submit a state-required environmental impact report, subject to the approval of the county planning commission and board of supervisors. Approval of the documents by those bodies could lead to the imposition of additional controls on drilling.

Rhoads said the park has the highest per-acre usage of any of the coun-

ty's regional parks.

Among the facilities there are an archery range, a lake, a grove of young redwood trees, a model airplane flying area, picnic grounds, tennis courts and an historic pepper tree grove that marks the site of the defunct oil town of Olinda.

A map forwarded to supervisors by Osborne shows a proposed company drill site for 10 wells near the tennis courts and a pepper tree grove and a second 10-well site in a parking area.

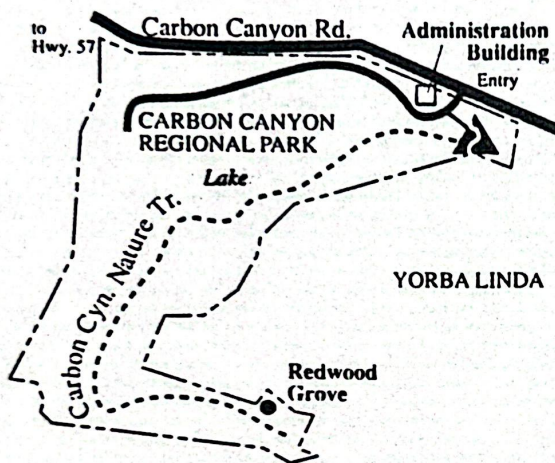
The park property and nearby area were major oil producers early in this century, but drilling there gradually waned as production dropped off.

## Carbon Canyon Nature Trail

### Carbon Canyon Creek to Redwood Grove 2 miles round trip

Season: All year

Carbon Canyon Regional Park offers some much-needed “breathing room” for fast-growing northeastern Orange County. The park has both a natural area with trails that connect to nearby Chino Hills State Park, and a more developed part with wide lawns, tennis courts, ball fields, picnic grounds and a lake.



The park spreads up-canyon behind Carbon Canyon dam. As Orange County grew, so did the need for flood control, and in 1959, a dam was built at the mouth of the canyon. If, as a result of winter storms, the Santa Ana River rises too high, the dam’s floodgates will be closed, thus sparing communities downstream of the dam, but flooding the park.

A century ago, the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad precipitated a minor land boom. Farmers and ranchers rushed to the area. Cattle and sheep were pastured in the canyon now called Carbon.

But it was another boom—an oil boom—that put Carbon Canyon on the map. E.L. Doheny, soon to become one of L.A.’s leading boosters, discovered oil in the area in 1896. His company and several others drilled the foothills of Orange County. The name Carbon was applied to the canyon because of the many dried-up oil seeps in evidence.

Santa Fe Railroad tracks were extended to the mouth of Carbon Canyon in order to haul out the oil. At the end of the tracks was the oil town of Olinda, boyhood home of the great baseball pitcher Walter Johnson. “Big Train,” as the hurler was known, pitched for the Washington Senators, and led the American League in strikeouts each year from 1912 to 1919. Olinda boomed until the 1940s when the oil fields began to play out.

The undeveloped part of Carbon Canyon Regional Park is a narrow corridor along Carbon Canyon Creek. A one-mile nature trail leads creek-side through an interesting mixture of native and foreign flora. At the entrance station you can pick up an interpretive pamphlet, which is keyed to num-

bered posts along the nature trail, and details points and plants of interest.

During the summer months, early morning and late afternoon are the most comfortable times to hit the Carbon Canyon Nature Trail. Rewarding the hiker at trail's end is a small, shady redwood grove.

**Directions to trailhead:** From the Orange Freeway (57) in Brea, exit on Lambert Road. Drive 4 miles east on Lambert (which changes to Carbon Canyon Road east of Valencia Avenue) to the park entrance. There's a vehicle entry fee.

**The Hike:** From the parking area, walk back to the entrance station, and you'll spot the signed trail in a stand of pine, just east of the park entrance. On closer inspection, you'll discover that the pines are Monterey pines, native to California but not to this area. This stand is a holdover from a Christmas tree farm that was operated before the park opened in 1975.

Less-celebrated than the Monterey cypress but almost as rare, the Monterey pine is found growing naturally within Point Lobos State Reserve and at only two other areas along the California coast. This fog-loving three-needle pine has a very restricted natural range; however, it's cultivated for timber all over the world—particularly in the South Pacific.

From the pines, the nature trail descends to the Carbon Canyon creekbed. After crossing the creek, the trail forks. (The path to the left leads toward Telegraph Canyon and to a network of hiking trails that crisscross Chino Hills State Park. The 8-mile length of Telegraph Canyon, home of native walnut groves, is well worth exploring.) Carbon Canyon Nature Trail heads right with the creekbed. Creek-side vegetation is dominated by mustard, castor bean and hemlock. You'll also find two exotic imports—the California pepper tree, actually a native of Peru, and some giant reeds, bamboo-like plants that harm the native plant community because they take a great deal of the scarce water supply.

At the trail's mid-point, there's a distinct, but unmarked, side trail that angles across the creekbed to the developed part of the park. If for some reason you want to call it a day, here's your exit point.

As you near trail's end you'll get brush-framed glimpses of Carbon Canyon Dam. The trail ascends out of the creekbed to the park's redwood grove. The redwoods, planted in 1975, have a lot of growing to do before they rival their majestic cousins to the north.

# *Brea's Good News paper*

March 6, 1974

## Planning Commission OK's Carbon Canyon Park Plan

Plans for phase one of the Carbon Canyon Recreational Facility were approved on Feb. 26 by the Brea Planning Commission after a presentation by Ron Molendyk, City Parks and Recreation Director, and members of the Harbor, Beaches and Parks Commission.

The approval was sought to determine if the plans were in compliance with the city's general plan because part of the park falls within city limits. Brea, however, does not provide any of the funds for the recreational facility and has no authority to dictate what services will be provided.

The facility will be funded out of federal and county revenue and construction will be handled by the Army Corps of En-

gineers. The first phase, budgeted at \$750,000, incorporates 60 of the total 300 acres of park land.

According to the plans, the Carbon Canyon Regional Park will offer space for two baseball diamonds, a soccer field, eight tennis courts, a target course for archery, and an area for radio operated model airplanes.

A lake is also included in the three phase plan but no decision has been made yet as to its size and use. Nor have provisions been made for bike, horse or minibike trails.

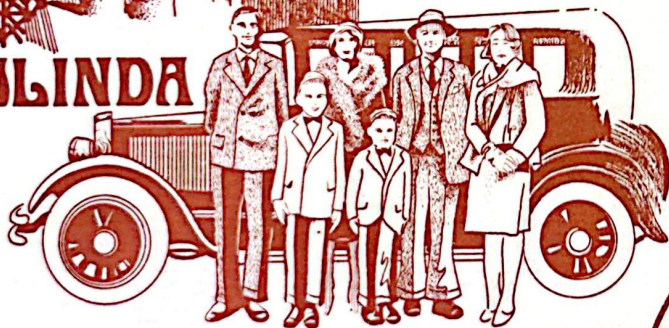
Molendyk stated that if all funding dates were met, ground breaking would begin at the end of this summer and the project could be completed within five years.

# Garbon Garyon

Regional **Park**



**OLINDA**



**Dedication**

**DEDICATION PROGRAM  
CARBON CANYON REGIONAL PARK  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1975, 11:00 A.M.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Band Music .....                                 | Santa Ana Winds. Official<br>Orange County Youth Band<br>Robert Ward Conducting.    |
| Posting of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance ..... | Brea Boy Scout Troop 801.<br>Scout Master Guy Sinclair                              |
| Invocation .....                                 | Reverend William Grady<br>Sunny Hills Baptist Church                                |
| Master of Ceremonies .....                       | Ray Rhoads<br>Executive Assistant to<br>Supervisor Ralph A. Diedrich                |
| Board of Supervisors .....                       | Ralph A. Diedrich<br>Supervisor, Third District<br>Chairman of The Board            |
| Corps of Engineers .....                         | Colonel John Foley<br>District Engineer   |
| Welcome .....                                    | Leonard MacKain<br>Mayor, City of Brea  |
| Presentations .....                              | Roy Knauft, Aide to<br>Congressman Charles E. Wiggins<br>Assemblyman Bruce Nestande |
| Dedication of Major Jack Armstrong Grove .....   | Supervisor Diedrich and<br>Mrs. Ella Armstrong Post                                 |
| Benediction .....                                | Reverend William Meyers, President<br>Brea Ministerial Association                  |
| Dedication .....                                 | Supervisor Diedrich   |

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**CARBON CANYON REGIONAL PARK**

When the first European families arrived in this canyon, it was inhabited by the Shoshonean Indians, later known as Gabrielinos. The closest of the great ranchos was Rancho San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana, owned through a Mexican land grant by Juan Pacifico Ontiveros, so that family was probably the first to farm the area.

Discovery of oil created the boom town of Olinda in the canyon. After the drilling operation was completed, most of the families moved away, and the land was used for oil production and agriculture. Even though the canyon is now the location of this beautiful county regional park, oil production will continue and the surrounding hills will still be used for grazing.

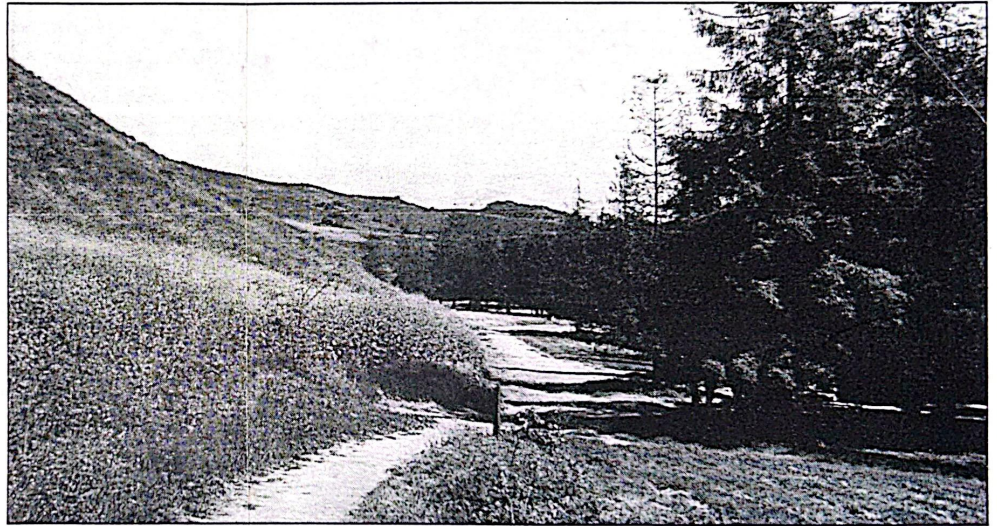
The cover picture shows Juan Pacifico Ontiveros and his wife, Martina; the old Olinda School; the Armstrong Family; the Oil Era; and depicts a few activities slated in the park.

**MAJOR JACK ARMSTRONG GROVE**

Major Jack Armstrong, a member of one of Olinda's pioneer families, distinguished himself as a fighter plane pilot during World War II, and later as a test pilot. He lost his life in a jet fighter plane crash in 1954, attempting to better his own world speed record. A grove of trees here in the park was planted by his father, Milton, around the family home. The grove was saved during construction of the park and is named in honor of the aviator.

# Orange County Life

## SECRET PLACE



Randy Reade/The Register

A stand of redwood trees at Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea is about a mile's scenic walk from the entrance to the park.

## Brea park's redwood trees are an oddity

One of the best-kept secrets in Orange County doesn't even belong in Southern California.

Tucked away in a hidden pocket of Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea is a grove of redwood trees.

Redwoods are not indigenous to warm, dry Southern California. They rely on the dampness of Northern California or the western Sierra Nevada, where they have grown for thousands of years.

When Carbon Canyon Regional Park was being designed and constructed in the early 1970s, an anonymous donor,

afraid of seeing the trees becoming extinct, donated more than 200 seedlings to the park.

The seedlings were cultivated at the Orange County Industrial Farm — now the James A. Musick Branch Prison just south of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station — by Mac McDonald, a nurseryman, until they were replanted at Carbon Canyon Regional Park in 1975.

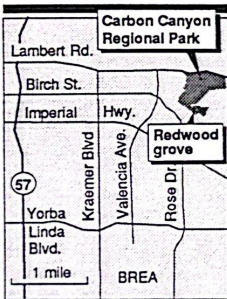
The 120-tree grove covers 5 acres of the park near Carbon Canyon Dam. The trees range in height from 45 to 60 feet and are approximately 15 to 20 years old. A fire killed some of the trees several years ago.

Cliff Cawood, park ranger, said a new irrigation system recently was installed, since the trees depend heavily on moisture. The area surrounding the grove is kept cleared of potential fire hazards, and the trees are pruned periodically.

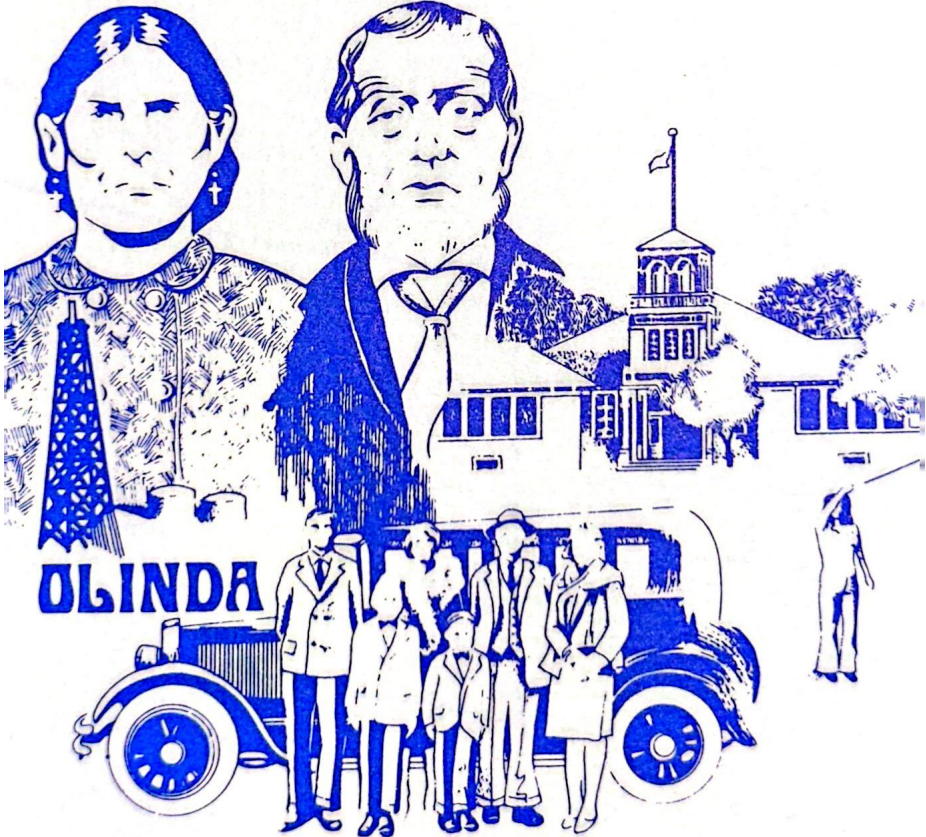
The grove is at the back of the park, so expect to hike about one scenic mile each way.

The park is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekly, and a \$2 gate fee is required. Park hours will be extended to 9 p.m. from April 1 to Oct. 1. For further information call, 996-5252.

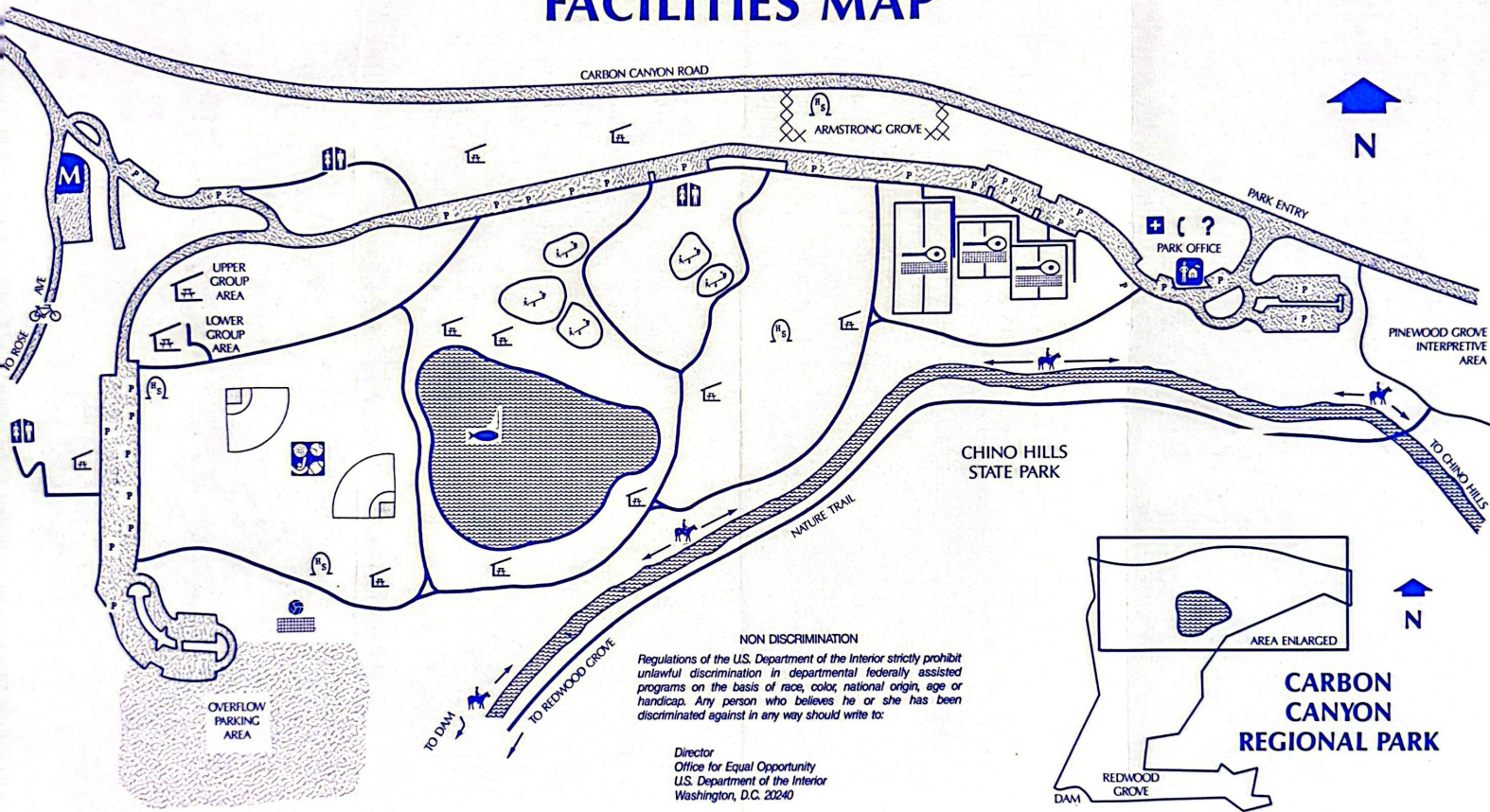
Randy Reade/The Register



# CARBON CANYON REGIONAL PARK

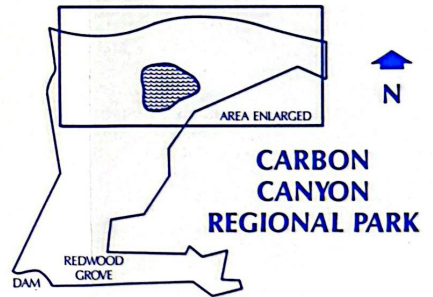


# CARBON CANYON REGIONAL PARK FACILITIES MAP



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 Washington, D.C. 20240



Carbon Canyon Regional Park is situated among the rolling foothills of the Chino Hill Range. The 124-acre park is situated upstream from the Carbon Canyon Dam. A highlight of the park is located in the southern sector near the dam. Here can be found a 10-acre grove of coastal Redwoods (*Sequoia Sempervirens*). Throughout the park, pepper trees, sycamores, eucalyptus and Canary Island Pines abound.

**HISTORY**

The area of Carbon Canyon known as Olinda was settled by farmers and ranchers before the 1880's. The arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad instigated a land boom in the area. Farmers and ranchers, believing they had found an agricultural haven, flocked to the area. Cattle and sheep were pastured in the open field that is now the park. However, the farming which existed was to gradually give way to a new commodity...oil.

In the late 1880's the oil boom was on. A multiple of oil companies drilled the foothills of Orange County. Company owned oil towns developed at these sites. One such town was Olinda, located on what is now park land. Olinda thrived as an oil boom town until the fields began to shut down in the 1940's.

As Orange County grew, demand for protection from floods also grew. One source of flood damage was Carbon Canyon Creek itself. The Area was studied, and it was concluded that an earthfill dam at the mouth of the canyon would be most effective. Work began on the project in 1959, and by 1965 a 114-acre area behind the upstream from the dam was chosen as a site for Carbon Canyon Regional Park. Carbon Canyon Regional Park was opened to the public in 1975.

The last physical evidence of the community of Olinda became a memory with the development of the dam, but unlike most areas in this modern day of construction and devel-

more natural state.

**FACILITIES**

Carbon Canyon Regional Park offers a multitude of recreational opportunities. Those interested in active sports will enjoy the eight tennis courts, volleyball courts, softball fields, and a multipurpose field.

Five fully equipped tot lots offer adventure and enjoyment for younger visitors. A one and a half mile biking trail, as well as a nature trail and equestrian trail accessing Chino Hills State Park are available. Picnic areas with barbeques are also part of the park facility. A beautiful 4-acre lake rounds out the opportunities. 2 fishing piers are provided. Anglers must comply with State Fish and Game codes, including possession of a valid fishing license.

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS:**

- CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICANTS PROHIBITED.
- A speed limit of 10 mph is enforced at all times.
- Park only in Designated Areas.
- Fires are permitted only in fireplaces and approved camp stoves. FIRE PREVENTION MUST BE THE FIRST CONSIDERATION OF EVERY PERSON USING THE PARK.
- Vehicle operation is limited to designated roads only.
- Firearms, weapons and fireworks are prohibited.
- Dogs must be restrained by a leash at all times (6 foot maximum).
- Only rubber-soled shoes may be worn on tennis courts. No street shoes or wheeled vehicles such as bicycles are permitted on the courts.
- Swimming or wading is not permitted in the lake.
- Private watercraft are not permitted in the lake.
- Rocket type aircraft are prohibited.
- Skateboarding and rollerskating prohibited.
- Horses must stay on designated trails only.

**THIS PARK DEPENDS ON THE VISITORS TO PROTECT ALL WILDLIFE, VEGETATION, GEOLOGIC FEATURES AND IMPROVEMENTS. THESE FEATURES ARE PROTECTED AND ARE NOT TO BE DAMAGED OR REMOVED FROM THE PARK PREMISES.**

**Operating Hours:**

November 1 to March 31: 7 A.M. to 6 P.M.  
 April 1 to October 31: 7 A.M. to 9 P.M.

**Parking Fees:**

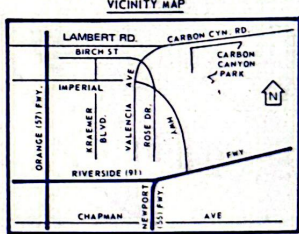
- \$ 2.00 per vehicle per entry
- \$10.00 per bus per entry
- \$30.00 Annual Day-Use Pass per year (valid at County Regional Parks – prorated pass available)
- \$ 7.50 Annual Day-Use Pass per year Senior Citizen – (60 years or older and Handicapped).

**Groups:**

All groups of 100 or more must obtain a group permit at least 15 days in advance. Forms are available from the park office.

**LOCATION**

Carbon Canyon Regional Park is located in the City of Brea. To reach the park proceed north (or south) on the 57 (Orange) freeway to Lambert Rd. Proceed east on Lambert Rd. for 4 miles (Lambert changes to Carbon Canyon Rd. east of Valencia Av.). The park entrance is one mile east of Valencia Av. on Carbon Canyon Rd. (Hwy 142).



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