Safety & Trail Etiquette

RESTROOMS AND WATER can be found at the Ladera Linda Community Center. There is no water on the trail. Water found in streams is not for human consumption.

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.

In emergency: Dial 911

Crimes should be reported to the Lomita Sheriff at (310) 539-1661.

Infringements of Preserve rules or regulations should be reported to RPV City Park Rangers at (310) 491-5775.

City of Rancho Palos Verdes
30940 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 377-0360 www.palosverdes.com/rpv

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
916 Silver Spur Rd., Suite 207
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(310) 341-7613 www.pvplc.org

Forestal Reserve is one of ten open space reserves that make up the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve owned by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and managed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. This reserve contains some of the best remaining coastal sage scrub habitat on the Peninsula with splendid spring wildflowers. The eastern portion contains a former quarry and marked trails that wind around the top of the quarry bowl. The dramatic cliffs at the end of the road are characterized by faults, folds, sedimentary bedding and igneous intrusions with many crystals and fossils, particularly fish scales, in the surface rock debris.

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.
Quarry Loop 1.2 miles, Easy
Start at the trailhead near the entrance on Forrestal Drive and take the Quarry Trail to the left. Follow this to the bowl formed from the old basalt quarry. This turns into the Basalt Trail for a short distance. Turn right at the Mariposa Trail and a few hundred feet further, you will find yourself at a Vista Point above the bowl. Here you can witness spectacular views from Catalina to Malibu. The trail makes a sharp turn north and crosses a small bridge over a blue line stream then wraps up with a steep descent down the Pirate Trail.

Forrestal Reserve Loop, 2.3 miles, Moderate
Start on the Purple Sage Trail off of Intrepid Drive. Continue along the fire road as it turns into the Conqueror Trail. Veer right up the switchbacks of the Dauntless Trail and ascend to the Canyon View Trail. Here you can look down into Klondike Canyon that borders the western edge of the preserve. Canyon View meets the Flying Mane Trail and continues up the switchbacks, then flattens out before running into the Mariposa Trail where you will cross a small bridge over a blue line stream. The hike wraps up with a steep descent down the Pirate Trail. Walk back up Forrestal Drive to Intrepid to complete the loop.

Fossil Hill Loop, 0.6 miles, Easy
Begin at the end of Forrestal Drive and head out on the Fossil Trail. The shale cliffs to your left and right were popular fossil-collecting destinations at one time. Fossil collection is no longer permitted as it contributes to serious erosion and removes these beautiful natural features from the preserve. Turn left at Red Tail Trail and follow it up a short slope to the Vista Point Trail. Head up to the top of Fossil Hill where rock benches provide a spot to relax and take in the view. Continue down the back side of Fossil Hill on the Vista Point Trail and follow the Exultant Trail back to Forrestal Drive.