

Franklin Trail

elevation change: 3,683 ft. distance: 7.34 mi.

HISTORY OF FRANKLIN TRAIL

Although people have hiked Franklin Canyon since time immemorial, the original Franklin Trail dates to 1913, when the Forest Service built a trail from the Carpinteria Valley to the ridge of the Santa Ynez Mountains. This gave hikers and riders a direct route to the Santa Ynez River. In the 1930s, Franklin Canyon was closed to the public after a fire was attributed to picnickers there. The public then accessed the trail via the Edison service road.



Image Courtesy of Carpinteria Valley Museum of History

to reopen the trail by the County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee and the Montecito Trails Foundation gained momentum when, with the help of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, landowners gradually granted easements across their property.

From 2011-2013, Friends of Franklin Trail spearheaded the fundraising efforts, with generous community support, to rebuild the trail.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This trail has been realized through the overwhelming support of the Friends of Franklin Trail community and the cooperation of Salud Carbajal & Santa Barbara County, County of Santa Barbara Community Services Department, Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, Caltrans (EEMP grant), City of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County Trails Council, Montecito Trails Foundation, Carpinteria Unified School District, Johannes Persoon Family,

Bill and Glenna Horton, Rancho Monte Alegre and the Los Padres National Forest.

The Franklin Trail would not be possible without the generous financial support of hundreds of people who contributed to the trail fund. We would like to acknowledge the following donors who gave a thousand dollars or more in financial or in-kind contributions to this effort:

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Santa Barbara County Multi-Use Trail

FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN TRAIL

Trail Open During Daylight Hours

PLEASE READ

ALL TRAIL USERS

- No fires or camping
- No firearms or shooting
- Respect private property—stay on marked trails
- Be courteous to all trail users
- Do not use trail when wet or muddy
- Prevent erosion—never cut switchbacks
- Do not litter—carry out what you bring in

MOUNTAIN BIKERS

- Use bike bells to alert other trail users
- Stop for hikers and horses to pass
- Announce your presence when approaching
- Anticipate other users when trail visibility is low
- Avoid skidding

HIKERS AND RUNNERS

- Yield to horses, talk, ask how best to pass
- Be alert for approaching bicyclists
- Avoid cutting across switchbacks

TRAIL USERS WITH DOGS

- Dogs must be on-leash
- Dogs must be under owner's control
- Do not allow dogs to chase wildlife
- Remove dog waste to trash receptacle

EQUESTRIANS

- Horse manure must be removed from the trailhead
- Know the terrain, your ability and that of your horse
- Inform other trail users of the safest way to pass

WARNINGS

FIRE DANGER

Franklin Trail is a High Fire Hazard Area. All fires prohibited. No smoking allowed. Prevent wildfires!

BE PREPARED

Bring water, wear appropriate clothes and shoes, and be watchful of your surroundings.

WILDLIFE

The chaparral and mountainous terrain is home to bears, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, rattlesnakes, and ticks.

POISON OAK

Avoid coming in contact with the poison oak that lines the sides of the trail. Wear protective clothing and stay on the trail.

NO TRESPASSING

Keeping the trail open depends on respecting our neighbors. The trail is flanked by private property from the trailhead to the Los Padres National Forest.

CITY AND COUNTY ORDINANCES

This trail is managed by Santa Barbara County Parks under the authority of Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 26 and applicable City of Carpinteria ordinances.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Call 911

