

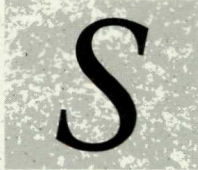
National Park Service

Santa Monica Mountains

National Recreation Area



## SOLSTICE CANYON



*Solstice Canyon—a place where nature greets you with the sights and sounds of a gentle stream set among oaks and sycamores. At times, raging fall wildfires have burned down the slopes of Solstice Canyon to the ocean.*

The serenity and abundant natural resources of this canyon have attracted people for thousands of years. The Chumash were the first to use the land for food, water and shelter. Ranchers grazed cattle in the area for many years. In 1903, Henry Keller built a stone hunting cabin after the original homestead cabin was destroyed in a wildfire. The stone house survived many wildfires but was finally destroyed in the 2007 Corral Fire. The stone walls are still visible across the stream as you walk down Solstice Canyon Trail.

Further upstream is the Roberts Ranch House. Built in 1952, it is on the same site of several prior homes destroyed by wildfires. Renowned African-American architect Paul Williams designed the house and landscape for Fred and Florence Roberts. The house incorporated stunning natural features within its design, including waterfalls, springs and trees. Today, walking around the foundation, you can experience moving through a life-sized blueprint of a Paul Williams home.

Solstice Canyon was an important site of early pioneering space research. In 1961 Thompson-Ramo-Wooldridge (TRW) rented 10 acres from the Roberts family for a research facility. Designed to develop supersensitive magnetometers to study the magnetic fields in space, this facility was also used to test satellite equipment for space missions, including the Pioneer series, until it closed in 1973. At the TRW overlook you can see the foundations of the TRW buildings, all that remain after the Corral Fire. The circular foundation is the location of the silo-like building where the magnetometers were tested.

Solstice Canyon became a public park in 1988. It is now managed by the National Park Service. Solstice Canyon is recovering from the November 24, 2007 Corral fire. The blackened plant skeletons are reminders of the towering flames that denuded the canyon slopes. However, the green growth of resprouting shrubs and new seedlings is evident. Spring wildflowers are also abundant.

This canyon is still a peaceful haven from city life. Visit Solstice Canyon, where the old meets the new. Help us preserve and protect its serenity and beauty for all to enjoy.



**National Park Service**  
Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area  
401 West Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks CA 91360  
[www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)

Visitor Center 805-370-2301

In emergency: dial 911

To report suspicious activity call  
Angeles Dispatch 661-723-3620

### Information & Safety

**Stay on established trails** and off of private property. **Accessing** Solstice Canyon from private property is prohibited.

**Natural and cultural features** including rocks, plants and animals are protected and may not be collected or disturbed. **Do not climb** on park structures.

**Be prepared:** take water, food, and first-aid supplies when hiking, biking or horseback riding.

**Dogs** must be on a 6' or shorter leash at all times. For the health and consideration of others, clean up after your pet.

**Firearms, weapons and traps** are not allowed on public lands in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

**Bicyclists** must ride courteously and yield to hikers and equestrians. **Hikers** must yield to equestrians. Bicyclists and equestrians are allowed on designated trails only.

**Fire** is a constant danger. Open fires are prohibited. Smoking is not permitted during times of high fire danger.

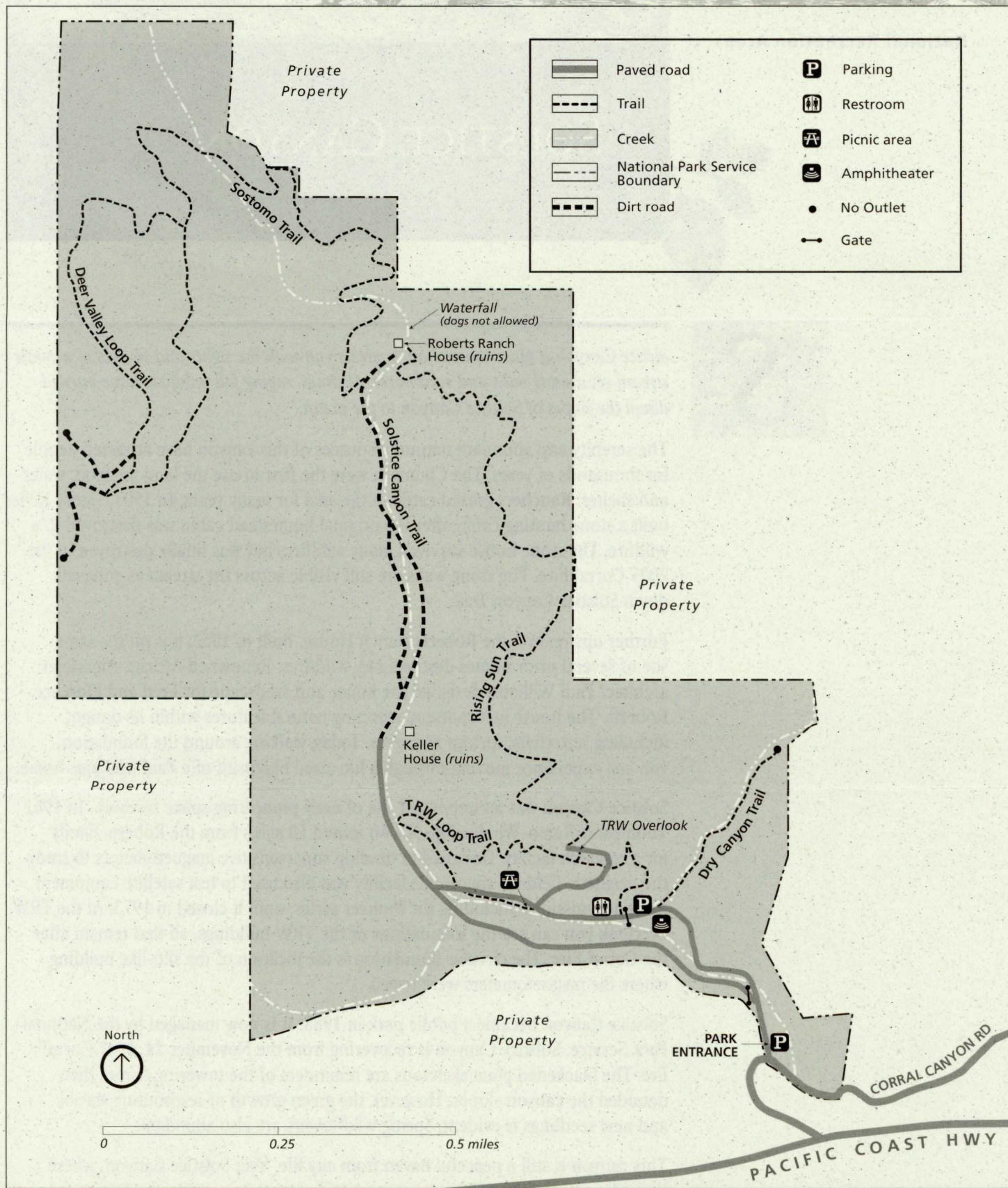
**Trail closures** will be in effect during and following extreme weather or hazardous conditions.

Learn to recognize and be alert for **ticks, bees, rattlesnakes, and poison oak.**

**Water** from streams and ponds is not safe to drink, due to possible contamination or the presence of the giardia protozoan.



# SOLSTICE CANYON



## Trails

**Solstice Canyon Trail** 2.1 miles round trip, easy—Stroll down the Solstice Canyon Trail and look for the stone walls of the Keller House, built in 1903 after a fall wildfire. On your way upstream to the Roberts Ranch House, see if you can spy the low concrete retaining walls of a former fish pond in a grassy area overlooking the creek. Many other clues to the past remain even though the Roberts' family home burned in 1982. Walk across the creek into the ruined remains of a hidden sanctuary and garden. Imagine another time when giraffes, camels, buffalo, African deer and exotic birds roamed the Roberts' Ranch.

**Dry Canyon Trail** 1.2 miles round trip, easy—Don't let the name fool you—this canyon isn't always dry. Walk through woodlands next to

an intermittent stream. Look for signs of wildlife, including deer, quail and bobcat. At the end of the trail, winter rains bring a 150-foot waterfall to life.

**TRW Loop Trail** 1.5 miles round trip, easy—Begin just beyond the gate at the end of the parking lot. Continue past the TRW Overlook, through chaparral and an oak woodland. Cross Solstice Canyon Trail by the bridge to connect with the southern portion of the loop. From the picnic area, the trail follows the road back to the parking lot.

**Rising Sun Trail** 1.5 miles, moderate—This trail is named after the Rising Sun Vineyard, a winery established in West Los Angeles by Matthew Keller. Consider hiking the trail as a loop in conjunction with the Solstice Canyon Trail for a variety of scenery from the canyon floor to the

ridgeline. Look for a postcard-perfect view of the ocean, framed by the canyon walls at the TRW Overlook.

**Sostomo Trail/Deer Valley Loop** 3.9 miles, moderate to strenuous—Locate the trailhead off of Solstice Canyon Trail, southwest of the Roberts Ranch House. Hike through chaparral and coastal sage scrub to the west ridge of Solstice Canyon, to see another beautiful ocean view. On the way, you will pass the ruins of several more cabins burned in past wildfires.

*Note: Bicyclists are limited to the Solstice Canyon Trail only. Carpooling is encouraged since parking is limited.*