

Santa Monica Mountains

King Gillette Ranch



Site managed as a partnership of the National Park Service, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and California State Parks

IN THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS

One of the most stunning locales in the Santa Monica Mountains, 588-acre King Gillette Ranch is situated in the heart of the Malibu Creek Watershed, by the confluence of some major tributaries, and adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park. This scenic parkland at the lower end of the Las Virgenes Valley is a haven for large mammals of the Santa Monica Mountains. At the same time, it offers a rare unspoiled view of California's rich cultural and historic resources, including some structures designed for razor magnate King C. Gillette in the 1920's by Wallace Neff, architect of California's Golden Age.

The broad meadows and low ridgelines serve as a wildlife corridor in the geographic center of the Santa Monica Mountains range. Several sensitive species are present. Raptors and other birds forage and nest among the plant communities of valley and coast live oak savannah, grassland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland, and southern willow riparian vegetation. Park features include Gillette's historic Spanish Colonial Revival style mansion and other structures that were part of the original landscape plan. These include a long tree-lined alleé and grand entry, a large constructed pond, a formal courtyard and terrace, bridges, and lawns.

A short, somewhat steep hike leads to a knoll, known as Inspiration Point, with 360-degree views—including the famous rock formations of Malibu Creek State Park. Other activities include strolling, bicycling, photography, and picnicking.

King Gillette Ranch

26800 Mulholland Highway
Calabasas, California 91302

Visitor Center: 805-370-2301

King Gillette Ranch is home to many educational and public programs, including summer campfires, guided hikes and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Outdoor Education Program. The site's facilities and grounds are available for special events. Please contact the MRCA Event Coordinator for more information: 310-589-3230 x144.

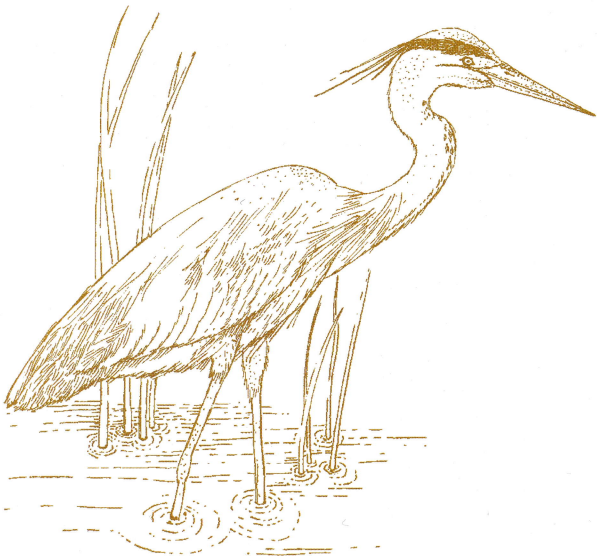
DIRECTIONS

From the 101 Freeway: Exit *Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon*. Head south on *Las Virgenes Road* for 3.0 miles and then left onto *Mulholland Highway*. The park entrance is 0.1 mile on the right.

From Pacific Coast Highway: Head north on *Malibu Canyon Road* for approximately 7.0 miles and turn right onto *Mulholland Highway*. The park entrance is 0.1 mile on the right.

PARKING

Free 2-hour parking is available at the Visitor Center. For longer visits, park over the bridge to the left for a \$7 fee.



Tips for a safe and enjoyable visit:

Whether you are an equestrian, hiker, or mountain bicyclist, help us protect our natural areas by staying on designated trails. Please also be considerate of other trail users and respect private land.

KEEP HYDRATED

Carry and drink plenty of water. Recommend one quart for short walks and more for longer hikes.

FOOTWEAR

Wear sturdy footwear – hiking boots or sneakers with good tread.

NEVER HIKE ALONE

The buddy system allows someone to go for help if needed.

HELP PREVENT WILDFIRE

No smoking or fires in the park.

POISON OAK

Staying on trails is the best way to avoid contact with this plant's leaves (clusters of three shiny leaflets) or its roots.

TICKS Check your clothing and exposed skin after hiking since some ticks may carry diseases.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RATTLESNAKES

These snakes will not bother you if you stay away from them. If someone is bitten by one, do not make an incision or try to draw out venom. Instead, seek advanced medical attention and get the person to an emergency room.

EMERGENCIES

Call **911**. For a ranger, call Angeles Dispatch at **661-723-3620**.

For More Information

Visitor Center: 805-370-2301

www.LAMountains.com

www.nps.gov/samo

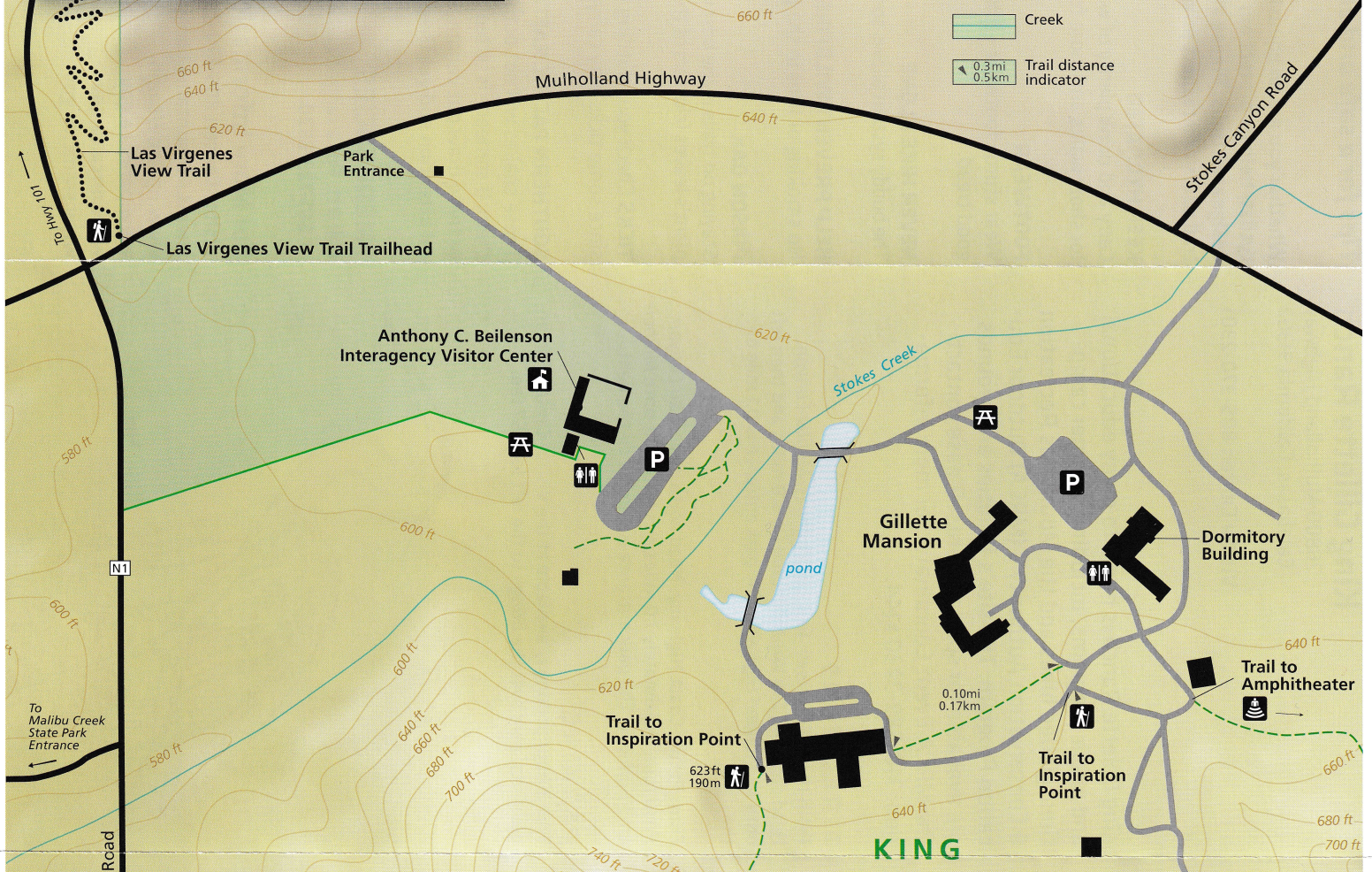
www.parks.ca.gov

www.mrca.ca.gov

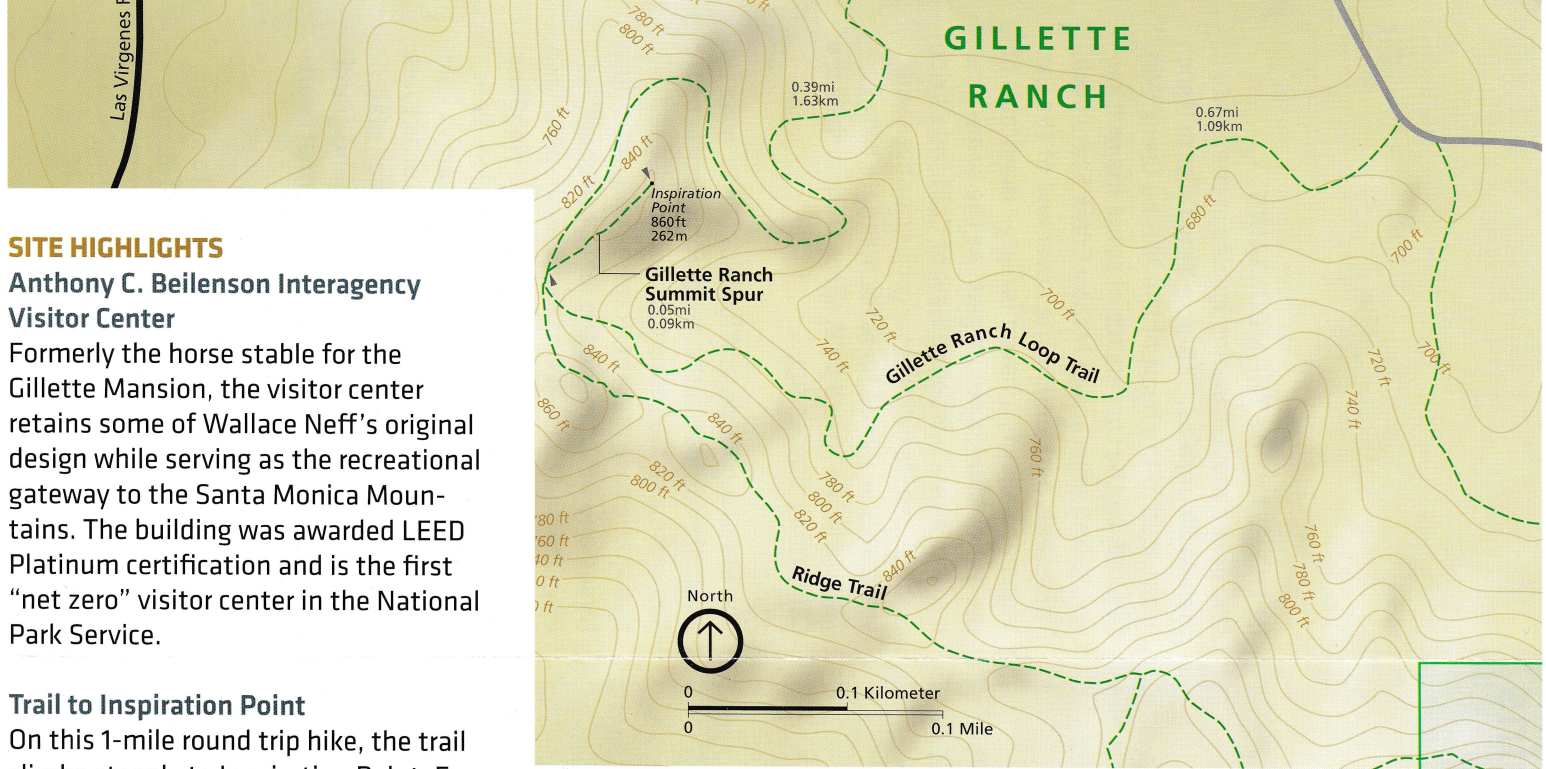
www.smmc.ca.gov



- National Park Service land
- Other public parkland
- Primary road
- Service road - paved
- Multi-use trail
- Hiker only trail
- Creek
- 0.3 mi / 0.5 km Trail distance indicator
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Ranger station
- Restrooms
- Trailhead
- Amphitheater
- Contour lines every 20 fit



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SITE HIGHLIGHTS

Anthony C. Beilenson Interagency Visitor Center

Formerly the horse stable for the Gillette Mansion, the visitor center retains some of Wallace Neff's original design while serving as the recreational gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains. The building was awarded LEED Platinum certification and is the first "net zero" visitor center in the National Park Service.

Trail to Inspiration Point

On this 1-mile round trip hike, the trail climbs steeply to Inspiration Point. Enjoy an amazing vista of the surrounding Las Virgenes Valley. Extend your hike by another 1.5 miles by taking the trail heading south along the ridge.

Botanical Center

A walking path leads from the parking lot to the MRCA's working native plant nursery. Plants grown here are used to restore native habitat in MRCA and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy parklands. Adjacent to the nursery is the White House, a single-family residence built before the Gillette mansion.

Pond

As part of the original landscape design, Stokes Creek was dammed to create a classic country estate-style pond. Great blue herons, mallards, cormorants, and other birds are often seen here.

Gillette Mansion

Designed by architect Wallace Neff, the 25-room mansion was built in 1928 as the primary residence of the founder of the Gillette Safety Razor Company, King Camp Gillette. Hollywood movie

director Clarence Brown purchased the property in 1935 and added a pool, tennis courts, and an airplane landing strip. After a series of ownerships, the ranch became public parkland in 2005.

Dormitory Building

The Claretian religious order purchased the ranch in 1952. The Claretians built the three-story seminary building, which included a dormitory, classrooms, and a chapel in 1955.