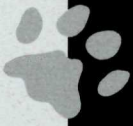


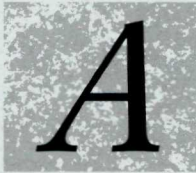
National Park Service

Santa Monica Mountains

National Recreation Area



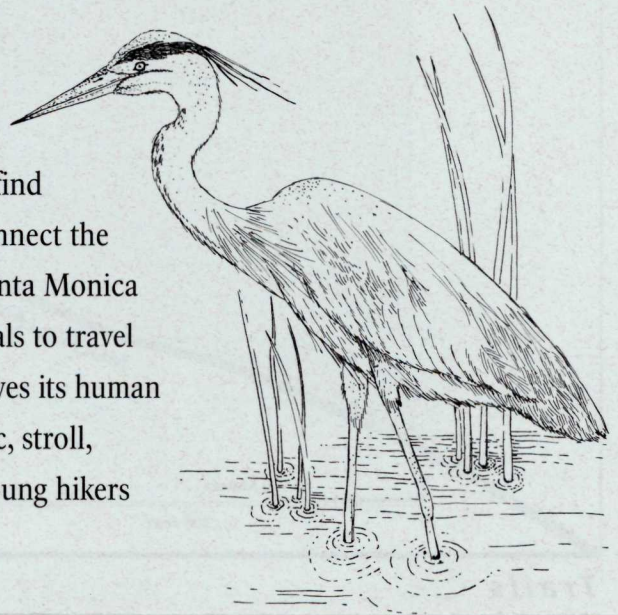
ROCKY OAKS



s you drive along Mulholland Highway or Kanan Road, you could easily miss Rocky Oaks. Hidden between houses, roads and other signs of modern life, Rocky Oaks is home to a surprising number of plants and animals. Its fewer than 200 acres contain a diversity of wildlife habitats including a pond, oak woodland, grassland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities.

For thousands of years, Rocky Oaks provided people with food, shelter and materials. Ancestors of today's Chumash survived on the abundant resources of the land, hunting animals and harvesting plants. European settlers brought agriculture to this area. The stock pond and much of the grassland habitat are remnants of that life-style. Agricultural operations at Rocky Oaks ended with the 1978 Kanan Fire.

Today, Rocky Oaks serves as a refuge for wildlife. Rocky Oaks is an undeveloped space in which animals can find food and shelter. It helps connect the habitats that make up the Santa Monica Mountains and allows animals to travel and rest. Rocky Oaks also gives its human guests a place to relax, picnic, stroll, view wildlife or introduce young hikers to the outdoors.



National Park Service
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks CA 91360
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

Natural and historic features including rocks, plants and animals, are protected by law and may not be collected.

Stay on established trails and off of private property.

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

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

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

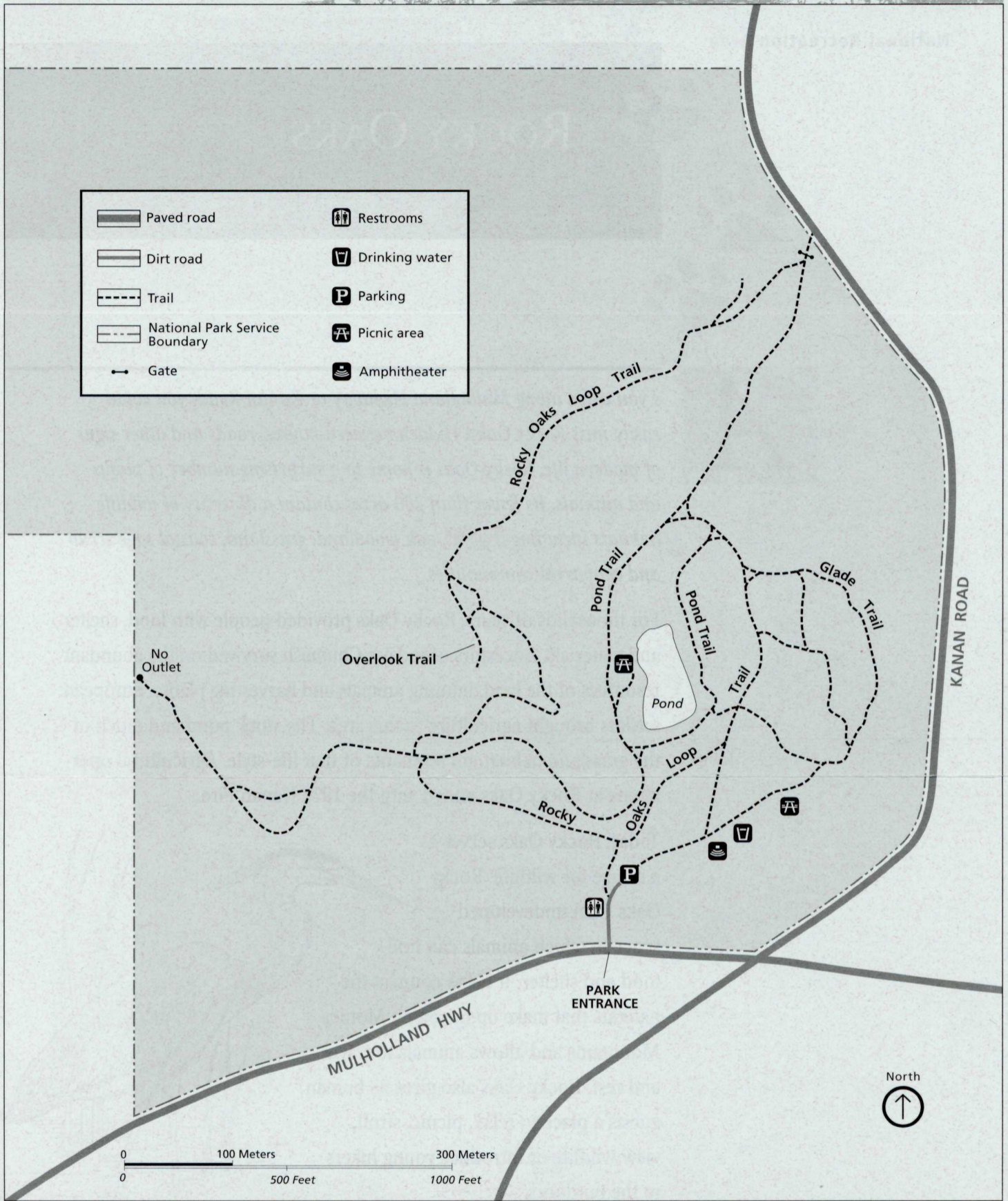
Firearms, weapons, traps and nets are not allowed on public lands in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

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

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

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

ROCKY OAKS



Trails

Rocky Oaks Pond Trail 0.4 miles, *easy*—Stroll around the pond and rest at the water's edge. This pond, left over from when Rocky Oaks was a cattle ranch, supplies drinking water to animals such as rabbits, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons and deer. Water birds such as buffleheads, mallards and coots can be found swimming in the pond. Plants such as tule, cattail and willow grow in and near the water.

Rocky Oaks Loop Trail 1.1 miles, *easy*—Stop, take a deep breath, and smell the sage as you walk along this trail. Sage is an important part of the chaparral plant community. Chaparral plants, common in the Santa Monica Mountains, are found only in

a few places in the world, including the Mediterranean coast, southern California, central Chile, southern Africa and southern Australia. Chaparral plants are adapted to fire and can survive long periods without rain.

Glade Trail 0.3 miles, *easy*—Look for quail, rabbits and deer mice as you walk through the grassland. Most of the grasses you see today are non-natives such as wild oats. With the introduction of ranching and farming, much of California's native grassland was lost. Explore the oak woodland that is a remnant of what once covered much of California. Many oak trees have been lost due to ranching, farming, industrialization and development. Acorns were an important food source for the area's first

human inhabitants. Today, oaks still provide food and shelter for many animals and the shade from these trees is refreshing on a hot day.

Overlook Trail 100 yards, *moderate*—Hike to the top and be rewarded with a panoramic view of the Santa Monica Mountains. Imagine this area 500 years ago. What wouldn't you see? The landscape has changed considerably since then. Houses, roads and telephone poles now dot the natural landscape. What will this place look like in 50 years if we don't take care of our resources?