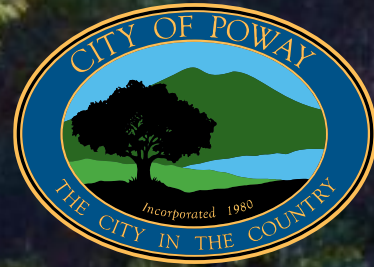


A Joint Partnership of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the City of Poway, County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, and Friends of Blue Sky Canyon



DOCENTS WANTED!

Support our school tour, school outreach and public tour programs by becoming a docent. We guarantee you will make a lasting impact!

TRAINING IS FREE AND SELF-PACED

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Online applications can be found at
www.poway.org

Mailing address:

PO Box 789, Poway, 92074
(858) 668 4781

www.poway.org/bluesky

Contact:

BlueSkyReserve@poway.org

To learn more about how the Kumeyaay utilized native plants, visit the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center on the third Saturday of each month between 10 am and 1 pm

13104 Ipai-Waaypuk Trail
Poway, 92064

Blue Sky Ecological Reserve Self-guided tour brochure



Welcome to a Special Place!

Blue Sky Ecological Reserve offers a window to a world of diverse natural wonders. Blue Sky's 700+ acres of public land has been set aside as a natural habitat for several threatened and rare plant and animal species.

Habitat is a combination of food, water, shelter and space in an arrangement that meets the needs of plants and animals. The specific needs of each of these plant and animal species determine the type of habitat they can survive in.

Stand at the trailhead and look around. Note the green lushness of the creek spanning the bottom of the canyon. To your right, discover chamise chaparral habitat with its stiff-leaved plants. Look to the hillsides on your left. This is our coastal sage scrub, with its low-growing, aromatic, more soft-leaved plants.

We hope your visit will continue to spark your interest in the value, beauty and diversity of nature.

Keep a Watchful Eye!

Rattlesnakes, poison oak and loose rocks exist in Blue Sky as well as in other natural areas. These features are an important part of the natural community.

This Reserve belongs to you!

Please help us maintain a healthy environment by observing the following:

- For your safety, please stay on the trails.
- Keep your pet on a leash not more than 6', and pick up after your pet.
- Releasing wild or domestic animals and plants is prohibited.
- Do not disturb or collect plants, animals or archaeological objects.
- Bicycles are prohibited.



1 California Buckwheat*: Honeybees collect nectar from the flowers, which creates a dark, robust honey. Young shoots were eaten as greens by the Kumeyaay Indians.

2 Laurel Sumac*: Also called the “taco plant” because of its leaf shape. Leaves are folded to reduce surface area exposed to the sun. Their downward-pointed ends direct moisture to the roots.

3 Yucca*: The leaf fibers were used by the Kumeyaay to make ropes and baskets. The stalk was made into a quiver to store arrows, and the flowers and root ball were used to produce shampoo.

4 Poison Oak*: Important plant for a variety of wildlife. The leaves and berries provide calories and contain critical nutrients. Leaves turn bright red before dropping in summer, giving Blue Sky a temporary punch of color.

5 Coast Live Oaks: Oaks provide shade, shelter and food for many of Blue Sky’s animals. A single tree can produce thousands of high-protein, nutrient-dense acorns in one season. Most oak trees are deciduous (drop their leaves each year) but Coast Live Oaks keep their green foliage year-round. The oak tree is the national tree of the United States.

6 What’s in the Cage?*: This was once a working well, now capped, which was shared by several ranchers who lived in Blue Sky up until the late 1980s.

7 Toyon*: Did you know that Hollywood was named for this showy plant that blooms with bright red holly berries in winter? It grows abundantly in the hills above Los Angeles and is LA’s official plant. Toyon berries are a key winter food source for our birds.

8 California Wild Rose*: During World War II, rose hips were used in jellies and sauces. They are prized for their high vitamin C content and are eaten by a variety of wildlife.

9 White Sage*: Also known as bee sage. *Apiana* means “of/belonging to bees”. Listen for the gentle buzz from the many types of bees that visit the flower stalks.

10 Lifblood of the Canyon: All living creatures must have water to survive. A seasonal creek in Blue Sky provides an intermittent water source for our wildlife. You can trace its course by the lush green spine of the riparian habitat that cuts through the canyon.

11 Elderberry*: Kumeyaay used this plant for its strong antiseptic and anti-infection properties. They also fashioned its hollow branches into musical instruments and ate the blue berries, fresh and dried. The berries are a key summer food source for our birds.

12 Lungs of the Canyon: Animals breathe in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide. These trees are taking in that carbon dioxide and producing the oxygen we breathe.

13 Willow*: Branches were used in the construction of Kumeyaay houses (e’waas), and to make cooking utensils and weapons. The bark contains salicylic acid. Modern-day synthetics of this are found in aspirin. The inner bark was pounded into strips to create skirts and capes for the women.

14 Sycamore*: Known as the “Ghost which Stands in the Water” for its ghostly white bark. It is our tallest tree. Birds love the seeds. Hummingbirds gather the fuzz under the leaves to line their nests.

15 Rest Area: Picnic tables here were once in the shelter of oaks. The 2007 Witch Creek fire destroyed a swath of Blue Sky’s iconic oaks. Ensuing years of drought brought down many of the survivors.

16 What’s That Humming Noise? Look back to the east where you can see Ramona Water District’s pump station. Water is pumped from here to the residents of Ramona.

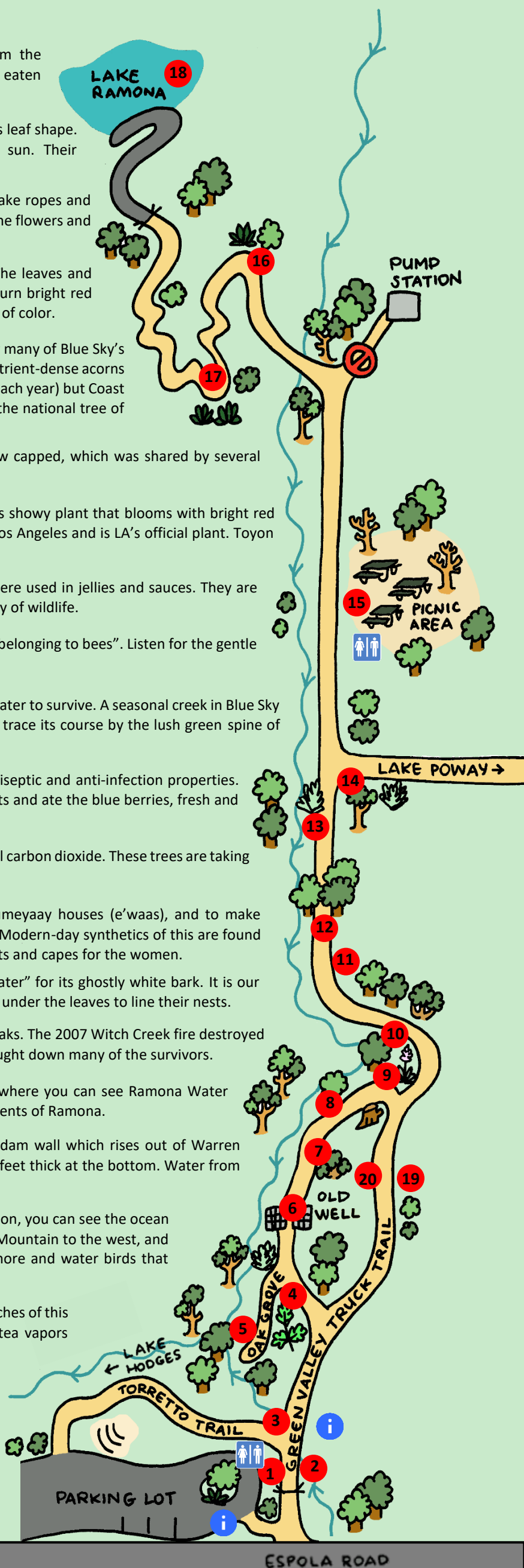
17 Lake Poway Dam: Look south to spot the Lake Poway dam wall which rises out of Warren Canyon. The earthen dam is 20 feet across at the top and 1000 feet thick at the bottom. Water from Lake Poway serves Poway residents.

18 Lake Ramona. You have arrived! At 1,450 feet in elevation, you can see the ocean on a clear day. Enjoy a bird’s-eye view of Twin Peaks and Black Mountain to the west, and Mount Woodson towering in the east. Count the species of shore and water birds that frequent this habitat.

19 Chamise*: The Kumeyaay made arrow shafts from the branches of this plant. The boiled leaves were used as a soap substitute, and tea vapors relieved respiratory problems.

20 Sugar Bush: Loves sun and requires little or no water once established. Kumeyaay Indians made a tea from the leaves to ensure easy childbirth. The berries were made into a tart drink.

*Interpretive signs courtesy of Friends of Blue Sky Canyon



ESPOLA ROAD