

Simon Park Open Space Preserve

ACCESS: Currently, the only staging area available for Simon Park is at Mt. Gower Open Space Preserve, then access via Rutherford Trail (see page 9). The description below assumes the trail user has traveled along Rutherford Trail and crossed Vista Ramona Rd. RTA is working with County officials to establish closer staging.

LENGTH AND ELEVATION: Valley floor trail is ~1 mile one way, ~3 miles one way over the ridge to the western boundary of the park; 1440' to 2140'.

DESCRIPTION: The Vista Ramona entrance to Simon Park Open Space Preserve is via a swinging log step-over gate. The trail winds through oak trees and grasslands, and visible nearby are a seasonal pond and creek. From the valley floor, trails ascend to a ridgeline (2140' elevation), which overlooks the town of Ramona.

Numerous unofficial "pioneer" trails criss-cross the valley floor and rise to the ridgeline. Currently, trail markers are nonexistent, making navigation somewhat difficult. Also, some of these pioneer trails that rise to the ridgeline are extremely steep, narrow, and rocky. Therefore, to reduce further environmental damage, and to enhance the safety of human and animal trail users alike, it is recommended that trail users try to remain on the main trails, which are safer and better constructed.

The Rancho San Vicente development, which is adjacent to Simon Park Open Space Preserve, includes public riding and hiking trails that connect with the San Diego Country Estates trail network (Homeowners Association permission to use is required).

RECOMMENDED USES: Suitable for all categories of non-motorized recreational use. Be aware that there could be seasonal streams.

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