

Medea Creek Trails

The Trail: *Medea* is Spanish for “middle,” so the name is probably from the Rancho Period. There are three segments of the trail. The first segment extends between Oak Hills Drive on the south, along the east side of Medea Creek north to Calle Rio Vista. Some workout stations are present along the asphalt trail. Workout stations are also present along Oak Hills Drive. The vegetation along either side of the canyon is lush and is dominated by valley and coast live oak trees. The second segment extends south of Oak Hill Drive and beyond Conifer Street. The trail is paved on the east side of the creek. On the west side, one segment is a dirt path. At the southern end is a pedestrian bridge. The trails are well used and generally abut housing. The third segment of the trail extends from Sunnycrest Drive north to Kanan Road near the Oak Park Library.

Geology: All of this trail is underlain by Quaternary alluvium.

Plant Life: The plant survey was conducted on May 28th and 29th of 2020. Plants encountered included red-stem filagree, tree tobacco, arroyo willow, Mediterranean mustard, broadleaved cattail, coast live oak, cudweed, valley oak, quail bush, California sycamore, yellow star thistle, hare barley, purple needle grass, Fremont cottonwood, laurel sumac, wild oats, horehound, red willow, rabbitfoot grass, horsetail, sow thistle, Mexican fan palm, telegraph weed, chamise, toyon, giant rye, sugar bush, olive, California black walnut, blue elderberry, gourd, Russian thistle, castor bean, squaw spurge, olive, black, white and purple sages, birchleaf mountain mahogany, bush sunflower, white clover, mugwort, Italian thistle, saltcedar, whispering bells, narrow-leaved milkweed, blue elderberry, chamise, hollyleaf cherry, greenbark ceanothus, coast golden bush, ripgut brome, wild cucumber, purple nightshade, California sagebrush, heart-leaved penstemon, perizia, scrub oak, California buckwheat, golden yarrow, California everlasting, mule fat, coyote bush, valley oak, wand buckwheat, white sage, cliff aster, black mustard, fountain grass and fig.

Animal Life: These are urban trails, so while there is an abundance of wildlife, however, many mammalian species are probably absent. Animals that may be seen along the trail are: birds, such as red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, great-horned and barn owls, mourning dove, Anna’s hummingbird, common crow and raven, and white-crowned and English sparrows; reptiles, such as southern Pacific rattlesnake, San Diego gopher snake, California king snake, and Great Basin fence lizard; mammals, such as brush rabbit and desert cottontail, California ground squirrel, Botta’s pocket gopher, deer mice, roof rat, coyote, striped skunk, and mule deer. Be observant.

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While mountain lions are present in the hills around Simi Valley, encounters are unlikely, but you should always be alert. It is best that you do not hike alone, and that you keep small children close at hand. Rattlesnakes may be encountered — Stay on the trail and avoid them when they are encountered — Be observant and never try to handle them. Do not handle any wildlife, including bats, even if they appear to be injured or sick. Remember, you are visitors to their homes.

**Mike Kuhn,
Executive Chair,
Rancho Simi Trail Blazers**

*Please see **Trail Safety Tips** at this trail's main page for more info.*



MEDEA CREEK
NATURAL PARK
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District