



SAN MARCOS TRAILS @A GLANCE

The information below outlines some of San Marcos’ most popular trails.

To see all trail routes, check out the map on the back of this pocket guide or visit www.san-marcos.net/trails.



AQUEDUCT TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 0.85 mile
LEVEL: Easy to moderate; elevation gain of 80 feet
PARKING: Quail Hills Park 736 Avenida Leon
The trail can be accessed from Quail Hills Park and heads south towards South Santa Fe and West Mission Road.

BORDEN TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 2 miles
LEVEL: Easy; elevation gain of 163 feet
PARKING: Cerro de las Posas Park, 1387 W. Borden Road
The trail can be accessed from the corner of Las Posas and Borden Road and travels east along Borden Road.

CANYON TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 1.55 miles
LEVEL: Moderate; elevation change totals 363 feet
PARKING: San Elijo Park, 1105 Elfin Forest Road. Once parked, travel 1/8 of a mile north of the park along Sunset Trail to the Canyon Trail trailhead.
The trail travels west through areas of lush vegetation and offers scenic canyon views to the north. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

CERRO DE LAS POSAS RIDGELINE TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 5 miles
LEVEL: Moderate to difficult; elevation gain of 1,000 feet
PARKING: S. Twin Oaks Valley Road (0.25 miles north of the fire station).
Beginning at the Ridgeline trailhead, head west towards the cell phone towers. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

CIMA DRIVE LOOP TRAIL

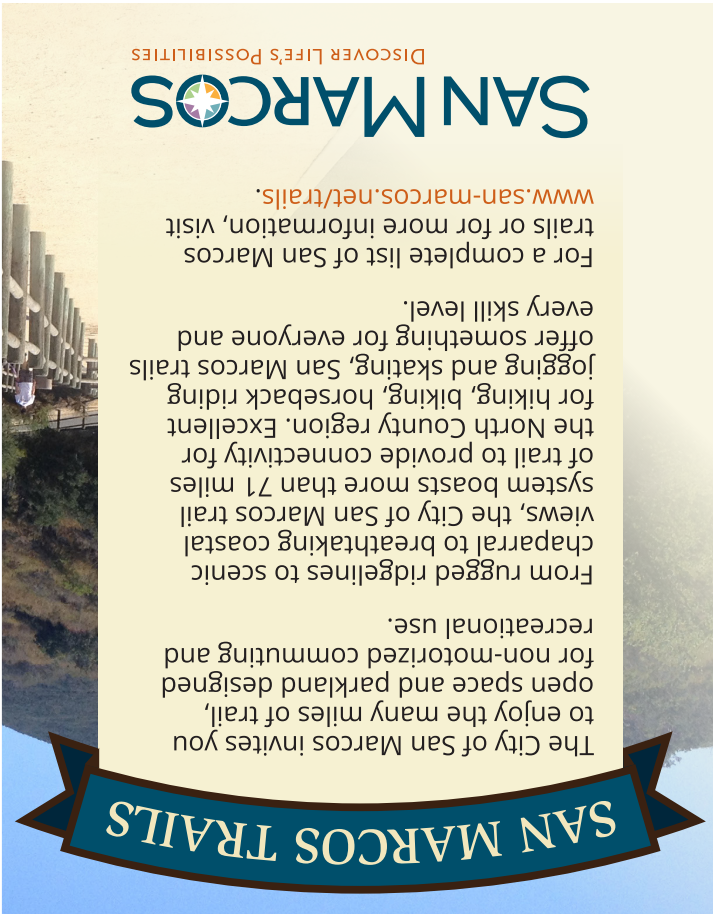
TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 3 miles
LEVEL: Moderate; elevation gain of 265 feet
PARKING: Discovery Lake (Lake View Park), 650 Foxhall Drive
The trail travels west crossing over Applewilde Drive towards the cul-de-sac on Cima Drive.

COPPER CREEK TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 2 miles
LEVEL: Moderate; elevation change totals more than 325 feet
PARKING: Adjacent to Mahogany Park, 1799 San Elijo Road
The trail is easily accessed adjacent to the small Mahogany Neighborhood Park next to the Rancho La Costa Habitat Conservation area with connectivity to Carlsbad. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

DISCOVERY CREEK TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 2 miles
LEVEL: Easy; elevation gain of 144 feet
PARKING: Discovery Lake (Lake View Park), 650 Foxhall Drive
The trail travels west crossing over Applewilde Drive and Via Vera Cruz, then continues towards Discovery Elementary School.



DISCOVERY LAKE TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 0.75 mile
LEVEL: Easy; elevation gain of 10 feet
PARKING: Discovery Lake (Lake View Park), 650 Foxhall Drive
A popular area for families and pets alike with breathtaking lake views, this trail follows a loop around Discovery Lake.

DOUBLE PEAK TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 5 miles
LEVEL: Moderate to difficult; elevation gain of 1,000 feet
PARKING: Discovery Lake (Lake View Park), 650 Foxhall Drive
From the Discovery Lake parking lot, go south across the lake’s bridge and follow the paved path up through the Stone Canyon neighborhood. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

GARDEN TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 0.51 mile
LEVEL: Easy; elevation change totals 112 feet
PARKING: Adjacent to Questhaven Park along Questhaven Road
Accessed on Questhaven Road across from Questhaven Park, a small garden awaits hikers using this trail. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

JACK’S POND TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 1 mile
LEVEL: Easy; elevation gain of 82 feet
PARKING: Jack’s Pond Park, 986 La Moree Road
Jack’s Pond Trail follows the western perimeter of the park from La Moree Road to East Barham Drive.

LAKEVIEW TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 1 mile
LEVEL: Moderate
PARKING: Ridgeline Trailhead, 102 San Elijo Road
The trail follows west towards the cell phone towers.

LAS POSAS TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 1.5 miles
LEVEL: Easy; elevation gain of 50 feet
PARKING: Cerro de las Posas Park, 1387 W. Borden Road
The trail can be accessed from the corner of Las Posas Road and Borden Road. Various trails connect with Las Posas Road.

MORGAN TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Urban **LENGTH:** 0.40 mile
LEVEL: Easy; elevation change totals 105 feet
PARKING: San Elijo Park, 1105 Elfin Forest Road
The trail travels south from the northwest corner of San Elijo Park back towards San Elijo Road. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

OLD CREEK RANCH & CANYON TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface
LENGTH: Old Creek - 5 miles; Canyon - 4 miles
LEVEL: Moderate; elevation gain of 300 feet
PARKING: San Elijo Park, 1105 Elfin Forest Road
Hike the trails north and west of San Elijo Park including Old Creek Ranch and Canyon Trails. More advanced hikers can connect to the Denk Mountain and Carlsbad trails system for a seven-mile excursion.

OLIVE HILLS TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 0.84 mile
LEVEL: Easy
PARKING: Mulberry Park, 751 Mulberry Drive; or Hollandia Park, 12 Mission Hills Court
Access this easy trail from Mulberry Park, Borden Road or Hollandia Park.



PURPLE HEART TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 0.55 mile
LEVEL: Easy
PARKING: Walnut Grove Park, 1950 Sycamore Drive
Beginning at the end of the Walnut Grove Park Trail, the Purple Heart Trail connects to the La Cienega Trail.

QUESTHAVEN TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 0.52 mile
LEVEL: Easy to moderate; elevation change totals 64 feet
PARKING: Adjacent to Questhaven Road
Situated along north Questhaven Road, this trail will soon connect to San Diego County. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

RAIL TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Urban **LENGTH:** 5.5 miles
LEVEL: Easy
PARKING: Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Drive
Connecting to the regional Inland Rail Trail, the San Marcos connection parallels the Sprinter and connects with Escondido and Vista. The Inland Rail Trail will provide access to five train stations while offering urban recreation space for bikers and hikers.

RANCHO DORADO TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 1.7 miles
LEVEL: Moderate to difficult; elevation change totals 386 feet
PARKING: Simmons Family Park, 2180 Rocky Point Drive
Accessed from Simmons Family Park, this trail travels west towards White Sands Drive and connects to Carlsbad.

SAN ELIJO ROAD TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 3.65 miles
LEVEL: Moderate to difficult; elevation change totals 825 feet
PARKING: Ridgeline Trailhead Parking Lot, 1112 San Elijo Road
From Ridgeline Trailhead, the San Elijo Road Trail travels west and then past the town center of San Elijo, ending at Rancho Santa Fe Road. Cell phone connectivity is intermittent.

SUNSET TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 2 miles
LEVEL: Moderate to difficult; elevation gain of 560 feet
PARKING: San Elijo Park, 1005 Elfin Forest Road
The trail follows north towards the cell phone towers and provides access to the Cerro de las Posas Ridgeline from San Elijo Park.

TOWN CENTER TRAIL

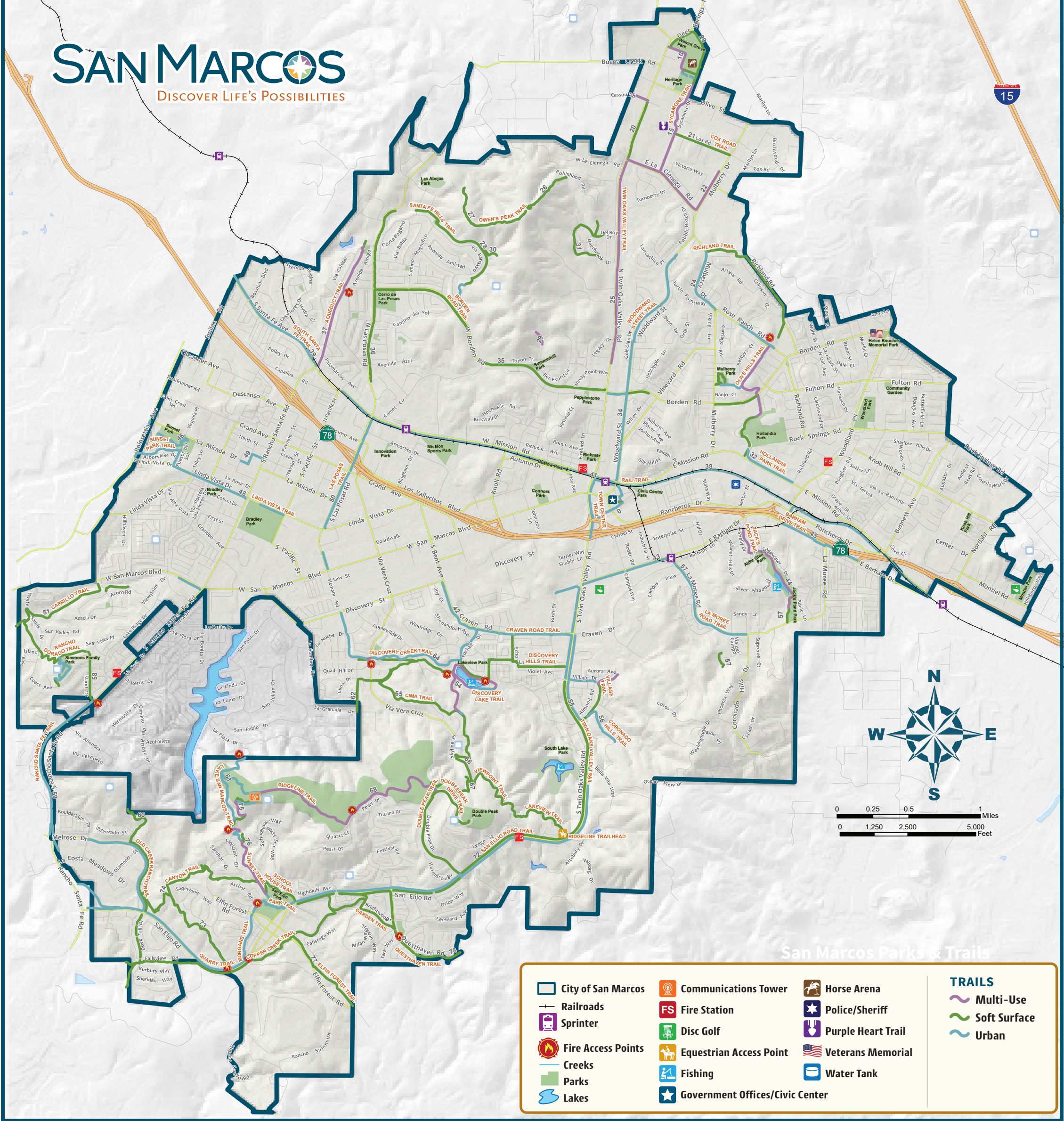
TRAIL TYPE: Urban **LENGTH:** 0.75-mile loop
LEVEL: Easy
PARKING: Civic Center parking structure, 3 Civic Center Drive
Located in the heart of the city, this trail can be accessed from the grassy area between the city’s Civic Center and the Community Center located at 3 Civic Center Drive.

TWIN OAKS VALLEY TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Multi-use **LENGTH:** 1.7 miles
LEVEL: Easy to moderate
PARKING: Walnut Grove Park, 1950 Sycamore Drive
Accessed from Walnut Grove Park, Twin Oaks Valley Trail travels south on Sycamore Drive to La Cienega Road.

WALNUT GROVE TRAIL

TRAIL TYPE: Soft surface **LENGTH:** 1.25 miles
LEVEL: Easy to moderate
PARKING: Walnut Grove Park, 1950 Sycamore Drive
Accessed from Walnut Grove Park, the trail follows the perimeter of the park.



San Marcos Parks & Trails

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| City of San Marcos | Communications Tower | Horse Arena |
| Railroads | Fire Station | Police/Sheriff |
| Sprinter | Disc Golf | Purple Heart Trail |
| Fire Access Points | Equestrian Access Point | Veterans Memorial |
| Creeks | Fishing | Water Tank |
| Parks | Government Offices/Civic Center | |
| Lakes | | |

TRAILS

- Multi-Use
- Soft Surface
- Urban

TRAIL GUIDELINES

Trail hours are from sunrise to sunset.

Please stay on designated trails and keep to the right of the trail, allowing room for others to pass.

Trail speed limit for bicyclists, skaters and equestrians is 15 mph and 5 mph when within 50 feet of other trail users.

Bicyclists and skaters yield to pedestrians and equestrians; pedestrians yield to equestrians.

Smoking, fires, firearms and hunting equipment are prohibited.

Motorized vehicles (except for patrol and maintenance) are prohibited.

Please keep dogs on 6-foot maximum leash at all times and remember to please clean up after your pet.

State law requires helmets for bicycle riders 17 years and under. It is strongly recommended that all bicyclists and horseback riders wear approved helmets.

Do not ride bicycles or horses where trails are muddy. Hoof and heel ruts damage the trails, making it difficult to repair and potentially hazardous to other riders. Releasing wild or domestic animals, fish or plants is prohibited.

Do not disturb or collect plants, animals or archaeological objects.

Take out what you carry in; do not litter.

There are no restrooms or drinking water available on the trails.

Carry water and first aid supplies. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Rattlesnakes are found in this area. They will defend themselves if cornered or threatened.

Ticks, poison oak, loose rock, steep ravines and other dangers exist in parks and/or trails.

Mountain lions have been sighted in this area. Avoid walking alone and keep small children close by.

TRAIL SIGNS

To improve emergency response time and enhance your hiking experience, the City of San Marcos installed directional trail signage complete with trail name, identification number and distance along the trail. A unique Quick Response (QR) Code is also provided to allow easy access to the city's website that offers additional trail information.

As you are using our trails, please remember to take note of the trail identification number in the event of an emergency or scan the QR code using your mobile device.

Trail 66

START

Cima Drive Loop
3 mile

Discovery Creek Trail
2 mile

TRAIL COURTESY

Funded By:

EMERGENCY: 916-711-1111
NON-EMERGENCY: 916-710-7440
Please state trail #.

EXPLORE MORE!

SAN MARCOS HIKES SERIES FIRST SATURDAY EACH MONTH



Explore San Marcos's expansive 72+ mile trail system! Each month we host community hikes in different parts of the city trails. Join us on these guided adventures to discover new trails and meet fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

LEARN MORE ONLINE! WWW.SAN-MARCOS.NET/DEPARTMENTS/PARKS-RECREATION

Created by: City of San Marcos GIS 2023
Data Sources: City of San Marcos, SanGIS

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the maps and data provided; however, some information may not be accurate or current. The City of San Marcos assumes no responsibility arising from use of this information and incorporates by reference its disclaimer regarding the lack of any warranties, whether expressed or implied, concerning the use of the same. For additional information, see the disclaimer on the City's website – www.san-marcos.net