

# Trail Guide

- **Sendero Loop**  
Difficult, unpaved, 2.48 mi
- **Esencia Loop**  
Moderate, paved, 3.92 mi
- **Oak Canyon Trail**  
Easy to moderate, unpaved, 0.75 mi
- **The Backyard Loop**  
Paved and unpaved, 3.32 mi
- **Class 1 Bikeway/Multi-Purpose Pathway**  
Easy to moderate, paved
- **Access to Ladera Ranch Trails & O'Neill Regional Park**  
Moderate to difficult, unpaved
- **Regional Riding & Hiking Trail**  
Easy, paved and unpaved

\*All pathways and trails are dog friendly



**RANCHO MISSION VIEJO**



Map not to scale and not intended to measure distances. Subject to change.



“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.

— Marguerite “Daisy” O’Neill



O’Neill/Moiso family

When you set out to discover the trails at Rancho Mission Viejo, you’re entering a whole new realm. The hundreds of acres of wilderness and permanent open space surrounding The Ranch is The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo. It’s a habitat reserve—land set aside for the conservation of plant and animal species.

Protecting The Reserve lands is a high priority for the Rancho Mission Viejo family, stewards of this land since 1882. Family matriarch Marguerite “Daisy” O’Neill always encouraged her family to understand that the blessings of landownership come with a responsibility to be a good

neighbor, advice which forms the foundation for our Culture of Care. Collectively, we’re the stewards of this inspiring open space and its vulnerable native species. Here are a few things to remember when you’re out in this very special habitat.

### About The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo

Through scientific monitoring and on-going restoration projects, The Reserve manages the land. Yet it also offers many opportunities for residents and guests of this area to connect with and explore all nature has to offer through recreational, educational and stewardship programs. To find out about access to Reserve hikes, access days, and volunteer opportunities, visit [RMVReserve.org](http://RMVReserve.org).

### Your Neighbors Are a Pretty Impressive Bunch

These lands are home to a diverse population of plants and animals, including endangered and protected species. In our native grasslands, you’ll find wildflowers like the endangered **Thread-leaved Brodiaea**. Other conserved plant communities, such as the coastal sage scrub, riparian, and oak woodlands, support a wide variety of vulnerable species including



the endangered **arroyo toad** and the **California gnatcatcher**, an endangered bird.

### They’re Also Rather Sensitive

Exercising good trail etiquette is a must to help protect the fragile habitats bordering our community trails and pathways. Please:

- Stay on marked trails.
- Put trash in its proper place.
- Observe all posted signs.
- Volunteer for local trail stewardship projects.

### This Wilderness is Still Growing

The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo is a growing habitat reserve located on the historic Rancho Mission Viejo. Today The Reserve is approximately

6,500 acres in size. In the future The Reserve will grow to over 20,868 acres.

### About Rancho Mission Viejo

One of the great historic California Ranches spanning more than 200,000 acres, Rancho Mission Viejo has evolved from an agricultural and cattle ranching community into a thriving area that families call home. Today, the 23,000 remaining acres include Rancho Mission Viejo itself, the last working ranch in Orange County, plus a growing residential community at The Ranch, and a protected open space natural habitat at The Reserve.



*NOTICE: The areas around the trails are home to a number of wild animals (e.g., mountain lions, coyotes and rattlesnakes) that could cause harm to individuals using the trails. Trail users may also encounter a variety of hazardous conditions during their visit - including uneven surfaces, plants with spines and quickly changing weather conditions. Rancho Mission Viejo and its affiliates assume no risk for the safe condition of any trail or facility whatsoever. Trail users are solely responsible for risks encountered and their own health and safety. Rancho Mission Viejo and its affiliates expressly disclaim any and all responsibility for any injuries that may occur as a result of any entry onto the trails or adjoining lands.*