



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**San Diego
Creek Trail**
California



San Diego Creek Trail

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The San Diego Creek Trail is a spine of Irvine's extensive network of trails and bike lanes. Much of the trail follows San Diego Creek and connects to the city's well-appointed parks, schools, and residential subdivisions. Near its western endpoint in Newport Beach, the trail also runs adjacent to the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve, a protected estuary and renowned bird-watching area.

From end to end, the paved trail spans approximately 10 miles and provides a wide, well-maintained route for cyclists, walkers, and runners. Following the creek, it provides scenic views with cool, shaded areas near community and school park facilities. The city manages the trail as part of its nearly 400-mile (and still expanding) network of well-connected multiuse trails and on-street bicycle facilities, or bikeways. Many shorter bikeways

touch or cross the San Diego Creek Trail at some point, allowing you to form loop trips. These include the [University Trail](#), [Freeway Trail](#), [Peters Canyon Trail](#), [Harvard Trail](#), [Woodbridge Trail](#) and [Jeffrey Open Space Trail](#).

The trail's western endpoint is at the northwestern corner of Eastbluff Drive and Jamboree Road in Newport Beach. A pedestrian bridge over the creek provides a connection to the [Upper Bay Trail](#). On-street parking is available on Eastbluff Drive, and a wide sidewalk that's part of the Mountains to Sea Trail serves as a connection to the San Diego Creek Trail. A short section of trail runs alongside Upper Newport Bay, then curves east to begin following San Diego Creek. Continuing northeast along the creek, you pass the Rancho San Joaquin Golf Course before continuing under Michelson Drive and I-405. You'll soon reach Colonel Bill Barber Marine Corps Memorial Park at a bend in the creek, where you'll cross to its north side.

In 2.7 miles, at Windrow Community Park, continue following the trail under Jeffrey Road and turn to cross the creek again to follow the south side (from this point, there are two segments of the trail on either side of the creek). Look out for possible gate closures at roadway intersections; these prevent users from entering segments that may be inaccessible or unsafe due to rising creek waters during heavy rainfall. At Alton Parkway, a short section of trail follows the creek's south side but dead-ends below the Laguna Freeway/CA 133. To end your trip before the San Diego Freeway/I-405, exit the trail via bike lanes on Alton Parkway.

To take the trail to its easternmost endpoint, south of I-405, cross to the north side of the creek at Alton Parkway. Continue on the trail under the Laguna Freeway/CA 133, then continue south under I-405 once again. The trail goes on as the creek turns from a channelized concrete waterway back to a natural creekbed along a subdivision, then ends near Dana and Antivo in Irvine. The trail connects to Los Olivos Trail—a 0.4-mile trail heading south toward Los Olivos



San Diego Creek Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Orange

Length: 10.8miles

Trail end points: Jamboree Rd & Eastbluff Dr
(Newport Beach) to Laguna Fwy/SR 133, north of
I-405 (Irvine)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

Access to the San Diego Creek Trail is best done by using the most convenient of the numerous community or regional parks as a trailhead. Many will start their journey at the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve Interpretive Center on University Drive, southeast of Irvine Avenue in Newport Beach. A small parking fee may be charged. From the parking lot, head east on the Upper Bay Trail and south over the Jamboree Road bridge to reach the San Diego Creek Trail.

At about the halfway point, you will find Bill Barber Community Park at the corner of Barranca Parkway and Harvard Avenue. The park is a full-service pit stop with parking, drinking fountains, restrooms and picnic shelters.

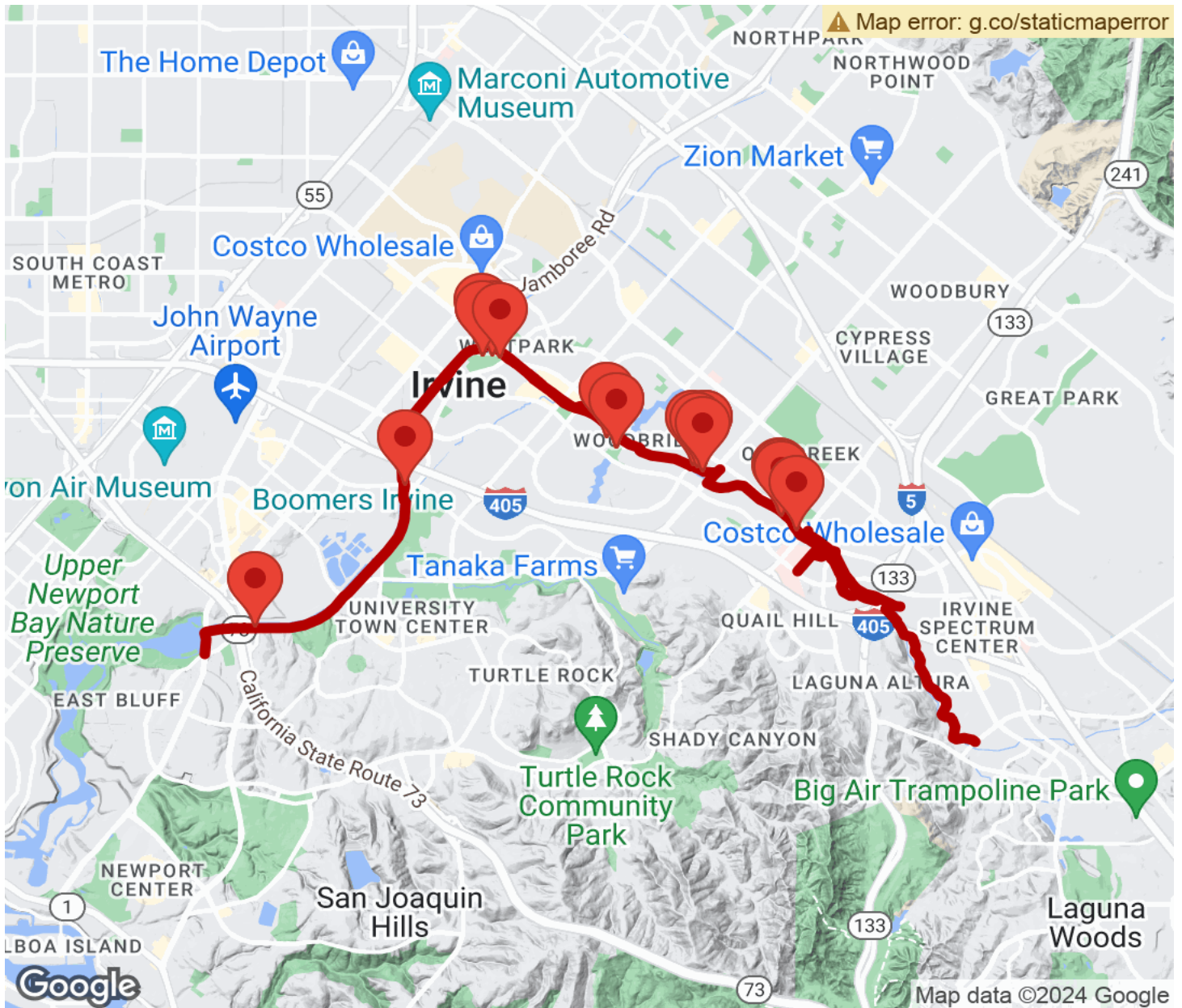
Farther east along the creek is Windrow Community Park at the corner of E. Yale Loop and Barranca Parkway, but the park closest to the eastern end of the trail is Valley Oak Park, situated right where Valley Oak Drive crosses the creek.

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all locations, transit options, and detailed directions.



San Diego Creek Trail

California



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com