

Operation: Oak Canyon Nature Center

The area that is now Oak Canyon Nature Center was once part of a bustling mining community here in Orange County in the late 1800's. The surrounding canyons were mined for limestone, copper, coal and silver. People came to this area from near and far setting up camps similar to the exhibit you can see along the Main Road, south of the Nature Center. Many of the mining expeditions were "busts" and some only lasted a few years before the mines were abandoned.

Today Oak Canyon Nature Center is a wildlife sanctuary, meaning the ecosystems contained within are not disturbed. This is one of the few remaining areas of pristine Oak Woodland and Coastal Sage Scrub in Orange County.



Hint: From the parking lot, stay on the Main Road until you see the Stream Trail on the left. The key will be after the first bridge on the Stream Trail.

Many of the early inhabitants of Orange County could not go to the grocery store as often as we can today. They relied on themselves and their neighbors for their everyday food. Many grew their own fruits and vegetables as well as raised their own livestock for meat and dairy.

Growing your own garden is very beneficial to your health in many ways. Planting and harvesting a garden can be very relaxing and can be a fun way to work together as a family. Eating fruits and veggies from your own garden is also better for your health because you are more likely to eat more fruits and veggies if you grow them! Try it out yourself!



Across the Main Road from the interpretive center are a series of large scaled exhibits allowing you to imagine what it is like to be a bird, spider or turtle. Try them out for yourself and see what you can learn!