

Operation: Peters Canyon

Peters Canyon Regional Park was part of the original 1846 Spanish land grant, Rancho Lomas de Santiago (this includes parts of present day Irvine and Tustin).

In 1897 the rancho was purchased by James Irvine and leased to James Peters, whom the canyon is named for. Peters built a home and dry-farmed barley and beans in the upper part of the canyon.

It wasn't until 1992 that the Irvine Company dedicated 354 acres of Peters Canyon to the County of Orange to be preserved as open space and turned into the beautiful park that exists today.

Hint: To find the Beginner Clue, park at the south entry by Peters Canyon Elementary School.



Clue (Beginner): Follow the Lower Canyon Trail to the Peters Canyon Creek Trail. To find the rubbing post, follow the trail till you find a bench near the creek. There you will find the key.

Find the eucalyptus grove that James Peters planted while living on the rancho that is now Peters Canyon Regional Park (near Peter's Canyon Retarding Basin). The eucalyptus groves are home to Cooper's, Red-Tail and Red-Shouldered Hawks that can be seen patrolling the skies for unwary prey.

What kind of prey do you think the hawks are looking for?

Are they looking for the same kind of prey or different?

How many eucalyptus trees do you think there are in the grove today?

Hint: To find the Advance Clue pick up a trail map at any kiosk throughout the park. Use this to lead you to the East Ridge Trail.



Clue (Advanced): Take the East Ridge Trail to the tallest peak in the park, there you'll find the key.

Mountain biking is becoming an increasingly popular sport amongst all ages. Like running, street cycling, and other aerobic activities, mountain biking gives the heart and lungs a great workout in a small amount of time. Not only is it a great workout, but it also helps you feel like you conquered something mentally. The sense of achievement from tackling the rough terrain to topping a high mountain gives you the sense of courage and belief you should try to instill in your everyday life.



There are many animals that call Peters Canyon home, including mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, opossums, raccoons, and an occasional mountain lion. Many smaller amphibians, mammals and reptiles are attracted by Peters Canyon Reservoir and Creek.

Below, list the animals that you saw on your visit to Peters Canyon. Did you see any animal tracks? Sketch the tracks that you saw and try to identify what animal left the track by looking at the animals identification cards at the many kiosks throughout the park.