

The EFRR also contains a section of the Escondido Creek which flows year round from Lake Wohlford to San Elijo Lagoon. The creek runs adjacent to the EFRR's staging area, giving all visitors an opportunity to pass over it as they begin their hike or ride from the trailhead. Once over the creek, the EFRR offers 11 miles of backcountry trails that wind up the steep hills that surround the EFRR. The EFRR also boasts six designated overlooks, each with a shade structure and/or picnic tables. The overlooks provide views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands, Coronado Islands, the Laguna and San Bernardino mountain ranges, and the Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir. The EFRR is home to the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty, which was designed by James Hubbell and opened in 2009. Other amenities include five picnic areas as well as portable restrooms and water at the trailhead, Ridgetop Picnic Area, and Ray Brooks Overlook. Whether hiking, biking, riding, or just relaxing, experiencing one of the few remaining rural areas in North County is a great way to spend the day.



ELFIN FOREST RECREATIONAL RESERVE RULES & REGULATIONS

All visitors are responsible for reading and understanding the following:

Know your location in the EFRR at all times!

- ⬆ The EFRR opens each day at 8:00 a.m. The EFRR is closed on days affected by rain or inclement weather and on December 25th.
- ⬆ **Please check the main entrance signs for current closing time.** Closing time is approximately 30-45 minutes before sunset. Parking lot gates are locked at closing time. Use outside of posted open hours is considered trespassing P.C. 602
- ⬆ The only permitted sites to enter and exit the EFRR are via the Harmony Grove staging area or the Del Dios Highlands County Preserve. The EFRR is located between the 6 and 6.5 mile markers at 8833 Harmony Grove Road, Escondido, CA 92029.
- ⬆ **No collecting allowed.** All natural resources and wildlife are protected.
- ⬆ Firearms and hunting are prohibited. **All fires, smoking and fireworks are prohibited. Alcohol is prohibited.**
- ⬆ Motorized vehicles and equipment are prohibited beyond parking area.
- ⬆ Hiking, biking and equestrian use is limited to existing designated trails. **Off-trail travel is prohibited** (This includes dogs).
- ⬆ Please travel at a **safe speed** at all times. **In addition**, bicyclists must dismount their bikes in the immediate vicinity of horses.
- ⬆ **California leash law is enforced. Please pick up after your dog.**
 - **Saturday, Sunday and Holidays:** Dogs are required to remain on leash at all times throughout the EFRR.
 - **“Way Up” Trail and Lower Trails:** Dogs must remain on leash at all times.
 - **Monday – Friday:** Dogs under **effective voice command** are permitted off leash only at the top of the “Way Up” Trail (point marked with sign).
 - **Additionally**, dogs must be held **on-leash** in parking, picnic, and overlook areas or any time they become a nuisance to people, property, and wild or domestic animals.
- ⬆ A **Special Use Permit** (free of charge), which is available from a park ranger or by telephone, is required for group use of the EFRR. A group is defined as: eight or more people, four or more vehicles, four or more horses.

Many **natural hazards** exist in backcountry areas, please see information at trailhead. To schedule group use and obtain a Special Use Permit, or for copies of the full text of these and other regulations relating to the EFRR, call the **Olivenhain Municipal Water District Parks Department** at (760) 632-4212. For emergencies, call 911.



Municipal Water District

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Elfin Forest

RECREATIONAL RESERVE



The 784-acre open space reserve was developed by Olivenhain Municipal Water District, in partnership with the San Diego County Water Authority and the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management, as an element of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project, and the Authority's Emergency Storage Project.



The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve first opened in 1991. One of San Diego County's most precious natural resources, the EFRR currently offers approximately 11 miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian trails, primitive picnic areas, and scenic mountain viewpoints. In addition, the natural beauty of the EFRR includes such native plant communities as oak riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

Owned by the Authority and operated and managed by OMWD, the EFRR has been designed to unify the interests of domestic water supply development, natural resources management and recreational opportunities. EFRR rangers conduct guided group tours and student exploration programs to help promote environmental awareness and preservation of local watersheds. To arrange a ranger-led tour of the EFRR, call (760) 632-4212. All wildlife and natural resources at the EFRR are fully protected so that future generations may also enjoy these wonders.

Located at 8833 Harmony Grove Road in the rural Elfin Forest community, the EFRR provides a wealth of opportunities for recreation, educational research and environmental appreciation.

Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Trails Guide



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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Staging Area/Main Parking | 8. Way Up Trail | 15. Mariposa Trail | 23. Equine Incline Loop Trail |
| 2. Interpretive Center | 9. Harmony Grove Overlook | 16. Mariposa Picnic Area | 24. Chaparral Trail |
| 3. Overflow Parking | 10. Mex-al Trail | 17. Quail Trail | 25. Elfin Forest Overlook |
| 4. Escondido Creek | 11. Mex-al Overlook | 18. Escondido Overlook | 26. Manzanita Trail |
| 5. Creek Trail | 12. Ridgetop Picnic Area | 19. Lake Hodges Overlook Trail | 27. Ray Brooks Overlook |
| 6. Creek Viewing Area | 13. Ridgeline Maintenance Road | 20. Lake Hodges Overlook | 28. Cielo Trail |
| 7. Botanical Trail | 14. Tyke's Hike Trail | 21. Witch Trail | 29. Connection to Del Dios Highlands County Preserve |
| | | 22. Lake Hodges Loop Trail | |

Experience the EFRR with these Trail Recommendations



For a short, relatively easy hike with lots of shade, follow the Escondido Creek and the trails leading to the upper and lower creek viewing areas.



For those looking for a short hike, there is a 1 mile self-guided Botanical Trail. Botanical Trail brochures are available at the trailhead.



Way Up Trail begins in the staging area and crosses the Escondido Creek and its oak riparian habitat before it heads up into the coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities. A 1.5 mile, 600 foot climb will leave you standing at the Ridgetop Picnic Area where you can find restrooms and a drinking fountain while capturing views of the Olivenhain Reservoir.



To access the east side of the EFRR, take the Lake Hodges Overlook Trail. As the name suggests, you are rewarded with views of Lake Hodges to the east and the Olivenhain Reservoir to the west.



From the top enjoy the 2.5 mile Equine Incline loop overlooking the Elfin Forest area.



Access the highest point in the EFRR by taking either Tyke's Hike Trail or the Equine Incline loop to the Elfin Forest Overlook roughly 1,346 feet above sea level.



For a view of the downstream side of the dam, and the David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant take the Cielo Link Trail.