

Spring Tours

2011

2011 SPRING NATIVE HABITAT TOURS: THE PATH TO RECOVERY

You are invited to join The Toll Roads for the 11th Annual Native Habitat tour series. Don't miss your chance to experience some of the more than 2,100 acres of open space protected with the construction of Orange County's public toll road system. Hike through the oak wooded Upper Chiquita Canyon, listen for songbirds along Bonita Creek and enjoy scenic beauty and wildlife activity at Upper Newport Bay. These guided hikes offer a glimpse into Orange County's habitat areas that few people have ever seen, so reserve your spot quickly!

UPPER CHIQUITA CANYON

Natural growth process & bird watching hike

Date: March 26 • Time: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This 1,182-acre conservation area located near Coto de Caza was set aside with construction of the 241 Toll Road. A steep to moderate six-mile hike gives participants a peek at an area rich with coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, grassland and natural drainage habitats. Specific techniques that were used to restore this popular site and soil and slope-forming processes due to heavy rains will be the focus of this hike. The tour, which includes some vigorous hills, will be led by a restoration ecologist and an ornithologist. Walking sticks are highly recommended.



BONITA CREEK

Restoration & bird watching tour

Date: April 2 • Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The 21-acre Bonita Channel is the main wildlife link from Upper Newport Bay to the San Joaquin Hills and was restored with construction of the 73 Toll Road. This creek was restored from a narrow rip-rap lined ditch and underground culverts to a viable riparian habitat rich with wildlife. This easy hike will be primarily on a paved path and will include a walk along San Diego Creek to a restored saltwater marsh. Bird watchers will see wetland and coastal sage scrub bird species and the hike will focus on plants and the methods used to restore the creek and riparian habitat. The tour will be led by a restoration ecologist and an ornithologist.



UPPER NEWPORT BAY

Watershed & bird watching tour

Date: April 30 • 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Upper Newport Bay drains a significant 154 square mile watershed that extends into the Santiago Hills and includes part of Costa Mesa, Irvine, Lake Forest, Newport Beach, Orange, Santa Ana and Tustin. This easy six-mile hike will begin at the connection of the restored Bonita Creek and the saltwater marsh at San Diego Creek and will be on primarily paved trails. Bird watchers will see wetland, marsh, and coastal sage scrub bird species, and the hike will focus on plants that form the interface of salt and freshwater marsh. Newly restored cactus scrub habitat in surrounding upland habitat will be reviewed. This tour will be led by a restoration ecologist and an ornithologist.



Please call (949) 754-3405 or email lmorgan@thetollroads.com to reserve a space on a tour. Space is limited. Confirmation of reservation and driving directions will sent via e-mail prior to each tour. The Spring Tours series is designed for participants over age 12.

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The Toll Roads
Stop sitting. Get moving.