



Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

DAY USE: 7:00 A.M. – SUNSET | MUTH INTERPRETIVE CENTER: TUES. – SUN., 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

2301 University Drive
Newport Beach, CA
92660
949-923-2290

NATURE
PRESERVE

Each year, thousands of visitors bike, walk, kayak, birdwatch or simply relax in the tranquility of the 135-acre Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. The Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve is a treasured community asset, not only for its recreational value, but also for its contribution to our local ecosystem. The bay's many different habitats and distinct plant communities are all brought to life at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center. A state-of-the-art facility dedicated to education, the Muth Interpretive Center helps visitors understand and better appreciate the unique beauty of Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.

WHAT THERE IS AT UPPER NEWPORT BAY NATURE PRESERVE.



A BRIEF HISTORY.

The white cliffs of Upper Newport Bay were formed 15 million years ago and are composed primarily of microscopic diatoms representing the Monterey Formation. Fossils from mammoths, bison and giant sloths have been discovered in the bay's sedimentary deposits.

The Gabrielino tribe of Native Americans dwelled in the area more than 2,000 years ago, subsisting on fish and plants of the bay. The bay was part of the Rancho San Joaquin granted to José Sepúlveda in 1837, and the hills above the bay were used to graze cattle and sheep. In 1864, the bay was included in the lands acquired by James Irvine and his partners to form the Irvine Ranch.

In 1870, the steamer "Vaquero" carried a load of lumber into the bay, and the name "New port" Bay followed. The bay supported a salt works from the 1930s until 1969, as well as the dredging of shells to be used as a chicken feed supplement.

Proposals to develop the bay in the 1960s led to efforts by environmental groups to preserve its coastal wetlands. In 1975, most of Upper Newport Bay was set aside as a State ecological reserve. The reserve's 752 acres are managed by the California Department of Fish and Game. In 1989, the County acquired 140 acres of bluff land surrounding the bay to establish the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.



"Be sure to stop in the Muth Center to watch the documentaries created for and filmed at Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve."



PETER AND MARY MUTH INTERPRETIVE CENTER.

The Muth Interpretive Center is a 10,000-square-foot state-of-the-art educational facility dedicated to the preservation of Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve and its coastal wetlands ecosystem. Built into one of the bluffs on the north side of the bay, it offers panoramic views, yet is so unobtrusive that many aren't even aware it's there. Inside, exhibits and interactive displays make the bay come alive, and teach visitors about life in and around an estuary and about the importance of Upper Newport Bay.



SO MANY WAYS TO LEARN. SO MANY WAYS TO HAVE FUN.

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve hosts many programs for all ages. Stargazing. Walking, canoe and kayak tours. Sunset strolls. Story-telling and crafts and so much more. What's your favorite way to learn?

CONSIDERATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BEGINS WITH OUR BUILDING.



We incorporated many sustainable elements in building the Muth Interpretive Center. Concrete and cement are made from primarily renewable materials, including sand, gravel and water obtained from stream beds along Aliso and Trabuco Creeks.

There are approximately 300 tons of recycled rebar in the building, made up of confiscated firearms, used oil filters, steel-belted tire cords, and steel drums and containers. The wood for the doors and windows is laminated from leftover scraps of mahogany. The interior door panels are constructed with an annually renewable resource of wheat straw.

Tiles comprised of factory seconds, discontinued stock and jobsite leftovers were collected for the restrooms, and the lavatory counter tops are made from recycled glass. And the carpeting is made from recycled plastic bottles.



TRAILS: MAY BE CLOSED FOR UP TO THREE DAYS FOLLOWING RAIN

To schedule guided hikes, call the Park Ranger.

866-OCPARKS | unbc@ocparks.com • www.ocparks.com/uppernewportbay

LIKE UPPER NEWPORT BAY NATURE PRESERVE? YOU'LL LIKE THESE PARKS, TOO.

ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK • CASPERS WILDERNESS PARK • LIMESTONE CANYON AND WHITING RANCH WILDERNESS PARK • RILEY WILDERNESS PARK • TALBERT NATURE PRESERVE

OC Parks has been entrusted with the care and protection of this park. Help us preserve our county's natural and cultural resources for you and your fellow guests' future enjoyment. Please check with your Park Ranger for this park's specific rules, or see them online at www.ocparks.com.