

THE BEN OVERTURFF TRAIL

The Ben Overturff Trail is named for a historical Monrovia who made these canyons and Deer Park a popular recreation area in the early 1900's. The reconstructed trail follows the original path as much as possible through Sawpit, Sycamore and Twin Springs Canyons. It winds through approximately 3.5 miles of some of the most beautiful and undisturbed wilderness left in the San Gabriel Mountains, and culminates at Mr. Overturff's famous lodge site at Deer Park.

The lodge was a popular weekend get-away for city dwellers from approximately 1911 - 1945, when Mr. Overturff had to abandon it due to his declining health. Access became limited by the gate at Sawpit Dam, placed by L.A. County Flood Control to protect the vital watershed of Sawpit Canyon for conservation and drinking water purposes.

The cabin was demolished by the U.S. Forest Service to discourage vandalism, and public access has been extremely limited.

Fifty years of relative seclusion has allowed the richly diverse plant and animal communities to flourish. Many sensitive species inhabit these canyons and should be treasured as the unique and beautiful species that they are.

A visitor who uses their eyes and ears wisely may discover the tracks of coyote, raccoon, or bobcat along the sandy stream crossings, or hear the shy great horned owl at dusk. Numerous birds can be heard in the oak and alder canopies as well as in the chaparral underbrush of sages, toyon, cedrothus and sumac.

Particularly observant visitors may even spot the tracks of our most elusive inhabitants, the black bear or mountain lion. Above the trees, one may see the soaring silhouette of a red-tailed hawk or golden eagle.

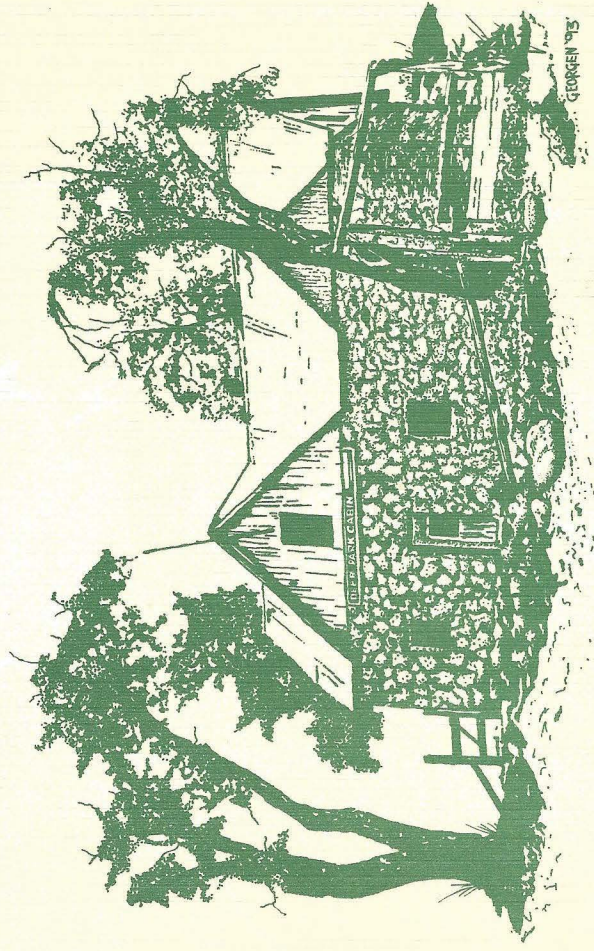
In addition to these, visitors should be aware that numerous reptiles call these canyons home. While most of these are harmless, rattlesnakes are a natural species of this area and should be treated with the respect they deserve. They are usually non-aggressive and will only strike if feeling threatened or surprised. Please be alert, and don't put hands or feet where you can't see them!

To insure a pleasant experience for all visitors and the natural inhabitants, please be sure to pack out all trash and leave the canyon a beautiful place.



CITY OF MONROVIA
Department of Public Works

BEN OVERTURFF TRAIL



A Historic Trail Into Sawpit Canyon

Reopened February 27, 1993

Monrovia Canyon Park
1200 North Canyon Boulevard
(818) 357-5046

PARK RULES

- No Firearms/Weapons
- No Fires
- No Overnight Camping
- No Collecting

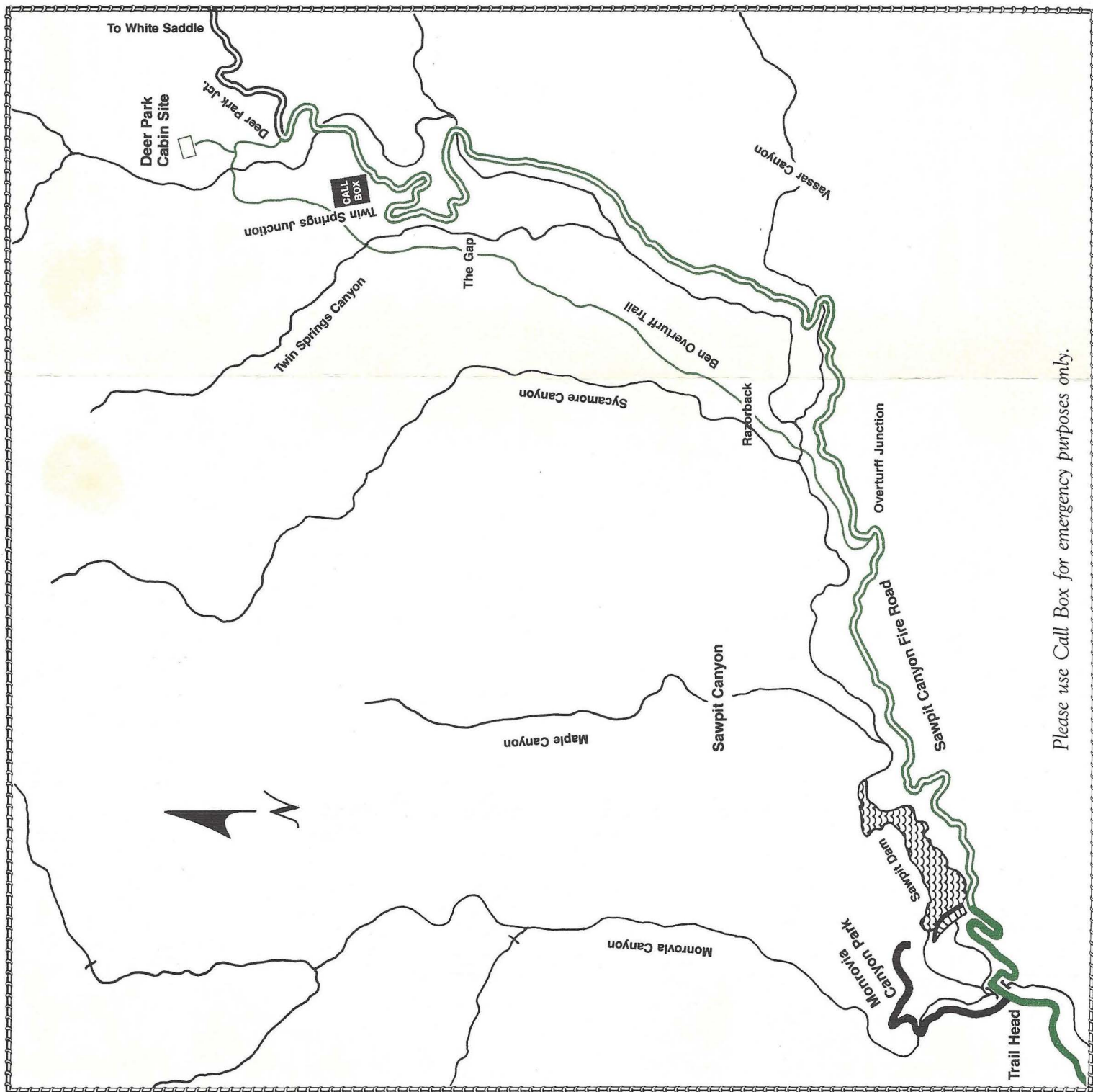
PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

- Respect Natural Inhabitat
- Pack Out Your Trash
- Keep Your Dog(s) on a Leash
- Stay on the Trail
- Watch for Rattlesnakes & Poison Oak
- Look for Wildflowers
- Take Only Pictures/Leave Only Footprints
- Listen for Birds

MONROVIA CANYON PARK HOURS

Monday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
* Tuesday	Closed
* Wednesday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

* The Ben Overturff Trail is closed on these days.



Please use Call Box for emergency purposes only.