



## Natural San Luis DOCENT-LED HIKES

SLO-DOCENTS.ORG

### RESERVOIR CANYON

JUN 6 9am Christie

### BISHOP PEAK (Patricia)

JUN 13 9am Carolyn

### IRISH HILLS (Johnson Ranch)

JUN 20 9am Seth

### CERRO SAN LUIS

JUN 28 8am Jan

### BISHOP PEAK to the top

JUL 11 9am Seth

### RESERVOIR CANYON to the top

JUL 16 8am Jan

### IRISH HILLS (Prefumo Canyon)

JUL 18 9am Carolyn

### ISLAY HILL (Sweet Bay)

JUL 25 9am Christie

### SOUTH HILLS (Woodbridge)

AUG 8 9am Seth

### IRISH HILLS (Madonna)

AUG 14 8am Jan

### ISLAY HILL (Sweet Bay)

AUG 22 9am Carolyn

### CERRO SAN LUIS

AUG 29 9am Christie

### CERRO SAN LUIS to Lemon Grove

SEP 3 8am Jan

### IRISH HILLS (Madonna)

SEP 19 9am Christie

### CERRO SAN LUIS (Fernandez)

SEP 27 9am Carolyn

## SLO City Parks RANGER-LED HIKES

### BISHOP PEAK (Patricia)

JUN 14 1pm

### STENNER SPRINGS (road's end)

JUL 12 1pm

### RESERVOIR CANYON

AUG 16 1pm

### ISLAY HILL (Sweet Bay)

SEP 13 1pm

## Volunteer TRAILBUILDING

### IRISH HILLS (Prefumo Canyon)

JUN 20 9am-12pm

### RESERVOIR CANYON

JUL 18 9am-12pm

### BISHOP PEAK (Patricia)

AUG 22 9am-12pm

### IRISH HILLS (Madonna)

SEP 12 9am-12pm

### STENNER SPRINGS (road's end)

SEP 26 9am-12pm

**HIKES** Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Hike length varies with group.

**TRAILBUILDING** Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Tools, water and snacks provided.

**INFO** Heavy rain cancels hikes and trail work. City Ranger 781-7302 or ECOSLO 544-1777



## ABOUT

DISTANCE 2 miles

TYPE Loop

ELEVATION CHANGE 550 ft

OPEN TO Hikers, runners, bikes, dogs on leash

FEATURES Great views of downtown SLO and Edna Valley

CAUTIONS Unshaded, steep

ADDRESS Fernandez Road at southbound Hwy 101 Marsh Street onramp

*"We hiked the M trail last week and look forward to riding it soon. The grade is really nice - barely noticed we were climbing. Thanks for putting the barricades up across the trail cutting pathways!"*

~ Christie Cutter



# The 'M' trail

## Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve

*The City of San Luis Obispo is committed to protecting natural resources while providing trails that have a consistent grade, terrain and width. The original trail, known as Grinder, was so steep and wide that big ruts had eroded into it. With our dedicated and fun-loving volunteers, City Rangers cut a new trail, closed the most degraded sections, and*

*grass seed. The City has had many calls supporting the work we've done. Try the trail and let us know how you like it!*

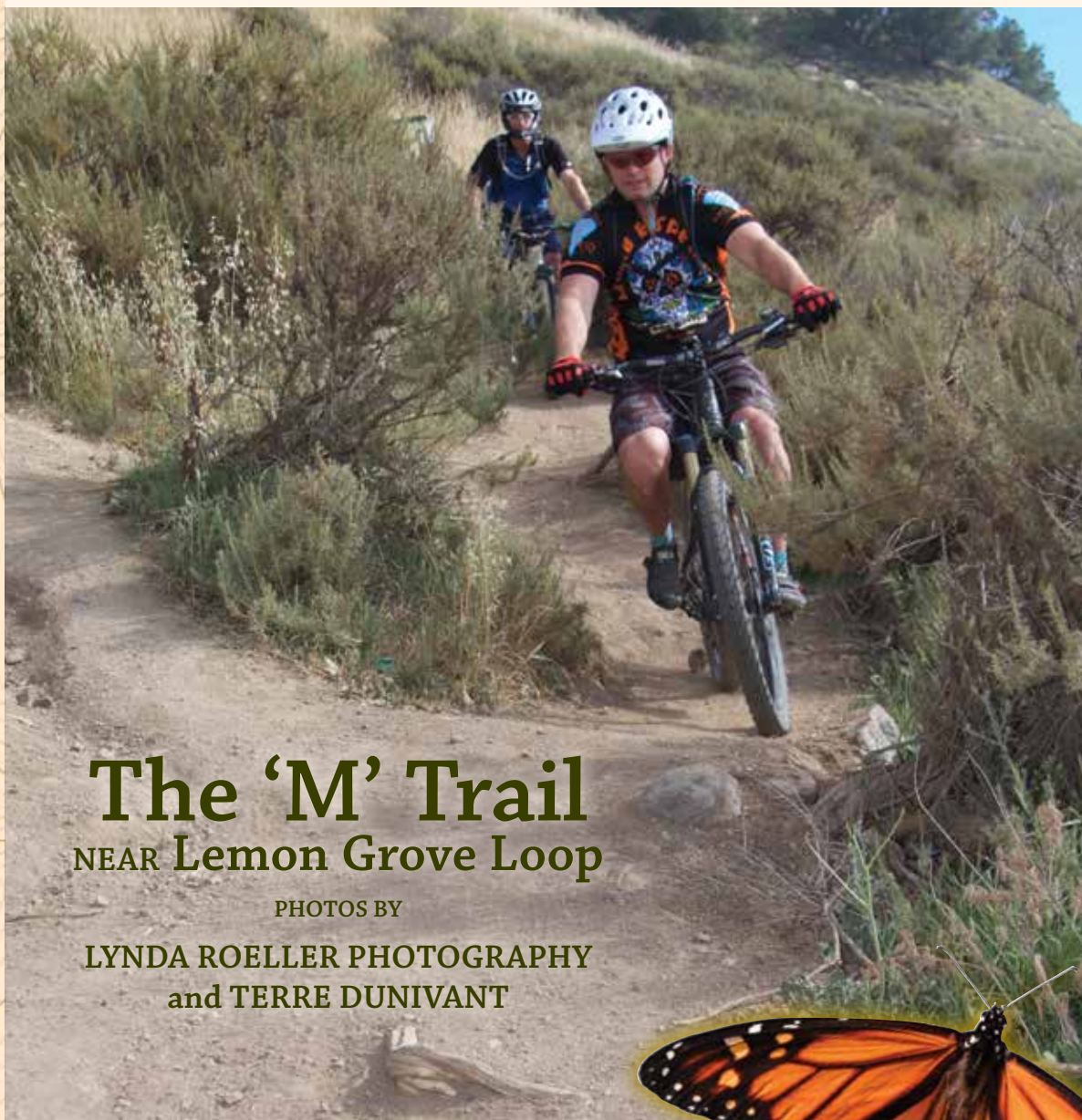
Cerro San Luis was named by padres who built the Mission using rock mined from the mountain, which is called San Luis Mtn or Madonna Mtn by many locals, as well as Maino Open Space by almost no one.

The "M" was built by students of Mission High School, and the new "M" trail goes right past it.

Another popular trail on Cerro San Luis is Lemon Grove Loop. Around 1900, an American Civil War veteran, G.W. Chandler, lived on the mountain and planted lemons and oranges, which are still watered by two springs.

## SAFETY

- Stay on designated trails
  - Dogs must be on a leash
  - Pick-up after your dog
  - Pack it in, pack it out
  - Camping and fires prohibited
  - Smoking prohibited
  - Do not remove flowers, rocks or other natural features
  - Open from dawn to dusk
- INFO: Ranger Service 781-7302



# The 'M' Trail

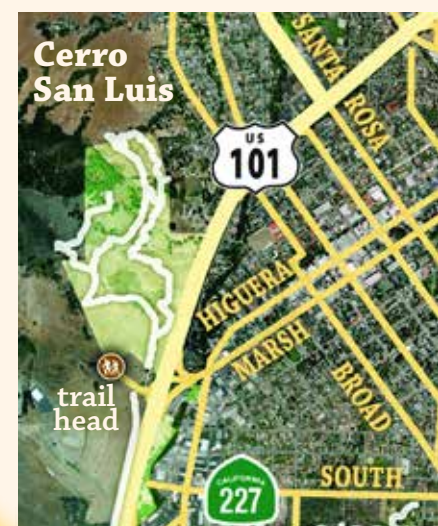
## NEAR Lemon Grove Loop

PHOTOS BY

LYNDA ROELLER PHOTOGRAPHY  
and TERRE DUNIVANT



East face of Cerro San Luis at sunset



## TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

City of San Luis Obispo Open Spaces

### BISHOP PEAK @ Patricia

To reach the trailhead, take Foothill Blvd west and make a right turn at Patricia Drive. Continue north on Patricia Drive. Trailhead is on the left just past Patricia Court.

### BOWDEN RANCH

Take Johnson Ave south, then left on Lizzie Street (opposite French Hospital). Lizzie ends at a split rail fence that marks the beginning of the trail.

### CERRO SAN LUIS

From Higuera Street, take the Marsh Street onramp to 101S, but turn right onto Fernandez Road just before entering the freeway.

### FELSMAN LOOP

Meet at Patricia Drive trailhead. From Foothill, turn north onto Patricia Drive. Trailhead is on the left, just past Patricia Court.

### FROOM RANCH @ Madonna

Take Higuera Street south, then a right on Madonna Road and follow it to the end. Trailhead is at the far side of the roundabout, up the walkway.

### IRISH HILLS @ MADONNA ROAD

To reach the Madonna trailhead from Hwy 101, take Los Osos Valley Road north towards Los Osos. Turn left on Madonna Road and follow it to the end. Find parking on the street, then walk up the dirt road to the trailhead.

### IRISH HILLS @ PREFUMO CANYON

Take Los Osos Valley Road north. Turn left on Prefumo Canyon Road. Follow for 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left after the bridge crossing.

### ISLAY HILL

Take Broad Street south, turn left on Tank Farm Road. Make a right onto Wavertree Street. Turn left on Spanish Oaks Drive, then right onto Sweetbay Lane. Trailhead is at the end of Sweetbay Lane.

### JOHNSON RANCH

Take Higuera Street until it turns into South Higuera Street. Park at turnout located at the intersection of South Higuera Street and Ontario Road. Trailhead is on the right, just off the freeway.

### LEMON GROVE LOOP

From Higuera Street, take the Marsh Street onramp to 101S, but turn right onto Fernandez Road just before entering the freeway. Lemon Grove Loop is on the Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve.

### RAILROAD RECREATION TRAIL ALL ACCESS

Meet at the SLO Railroad Station at the south end of Santa Rosa Street (Amtrak station).

### RESERVOIR CANYON

Take Highway 101 North from San Luis Obispo. About a mile past city limits, turn right on Reservoir Canyon Road. Trailhead is at the end of Reservoir Canyon Road. Park to the left.

### SOUTH HILLS @ EXPOSITION DRIVE

From US 101, exit Madonna Road and go east. Take a left on Higuera Street and a quick right onto South Street. Turn right onto Exposition Drive and look for the South Hills Open Space sign on the right hand side of Exposition Drive, at Corrida.

### STENNER SPRINGS

Take Highway 1 towards Morro Bay. Less than a mile outside SLO, turn right onto Stenner Creek Road. Follow Stenner Creek Road for about 2.5 miles to the end.



CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
OPEN SPACE TRAIL  
TOPO  
MAPS

Miles of mountain biking and hiking trails traverse the City's 3,500 acres of open space and parkland, making outdoor adventures a wonderful part of everyday life on the Central Coast.

Download pdf TOPO MAPS showing trails, elevations, and features such as creeks and roads by aiming your smart phone at the QR code below. Or go to <http://bit.ly/SLOspaces>

# Non-Native Control at Johnson Ranch



The native California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) has disappeared from 70% of its range and is now classified as vulnerable and threatened. One of the protected frogs was discovered in 2006 at the City's Water Resource Recovery Facility (the sewer plant). It was decided that any native frogs found during the Los Osos Valley Road Bridge project, currently underway, would be relocated to Forbes Pond at Johnson Ranch.

**BULLFROGS vs. RED-LEGGED FROGS**  
Non-native bullfrogs can be identified by their distinctive tympanum, or eardrum (A). A characteristic feature of the red-legged frog is the dark stripe that's visible on both sides of the frog, extending from the eye to the hip (B), called a dorsolateral fold.

Habitat loss is the main reason California's native frogs are now a protected species, but predation by non-native species is thought to have played a role as well. Bullfrogs, bass and bluegill eat California red-legged frogs, so we are removing these non-native species from Forbes Pond. This control program is needed since a very small

population of native steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) remains in Dry Creek, which flows adjacent to Forbes Pond. One of the main goals in our conservation planning process is control of non-native species in order to support the native, endemic species.

## The Celebrated California Red-Legged Frog



At about 3" long, *Rana draytonii* is a fairly large frog. Wide color variations include brown, gray, olive, or reddish backs with irregular black spots or stripes. Only the lower abdomen and underside of its hind legs show the red patch. The California red-legged frog (named "State Amphibian" earlier this year) is "endemic" to California, meaning it exists nowhere else. Our local frog was thought

to be a subspecies of the northern red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*), but was recently determined to be a separate species (*Rana draytonii*). About two million acres in California have been designated critical habitat for the red-legged frog over the past 10 years. Oddly, this protected habitat did not include land Calaveras County, the setting of Mark Twain's short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" which features this species.

PHOTOS BY Freddy Otte (top) and Bill Stagnaro



ECOSLO Boardmember **NANCY GRAVES** applies California Coastal Trail marker with Andy Zilke, former California State parks Superintendent.

ECOSLO has been blessed to have **Nancy Graves** on its Board for the past three years. She worked for many years establishing the California Coastal Trail in San Luis Obispo, and previously volunteered with Coastwalk as a County Coordinator. This led Nancy to sit on the County Trail Advisory Committee and the County Transportation Advisory Committee, where she helped with the County's Trail Plan and the Coastal Trail Plan.

In 2011 Nancy received the Bill Deneen "Friend of the Environment" award. Last year Nancy helped train our newest generation of SLO Docents. Some of Nancy's favorite ECOSLO events include Coastal Cleanup and last year's Tsunami Marine Debris Clean-up, which she attended with her son.

Nancy's favorite activities will always include being out in nature, as it heals the soul. Nancy is passionate about her work with ECOSLO because she believes it's important to save these special places for the next generations.

~ Karina Greek, ECOSLO Program Coordinator

## Support ECOSLO, Support our TRAILS



ECOSLO collects used ink cartridges (any kind) to keep them out of the landfill and raise money to support trail construction and maintenance in San Luis Obispo.

Please bring your ink cartridges to the ECOSLO office at 246 South Higuera Street in SLO (shared with SLO Green Build).

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**SLO STEWARDS**  
Environmental Center  
of San Luis Obispo  
Post Office Box 1014  
246 South Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

# SLO STEWARDS

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## Bishop Peak Natural Reserve CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE

The City's Natural Resources Program is currently working on the **Bishop Peak Natural Reserve Conservation Plan 2015 Update**, which will continue to guide the management and stewardship of the site over the next ten years. Bishop Peak Natural Reserve is one of the most iconic and well-loved landmarks in the entire region, offering spectacular panoramic views of the City below and the surrounding area, remarkable plant and wildlife diversity, and pleasant hiking and passive recreational opportunities. The City's first ever conservation plan was prepared for Bishop Peak Natural Reserve and was subsequently adopted by the City Council in 2004.

Over a decade has passed since the plan's initial introduction and a number of new challenges have emerged, including continued natural resources protection; neighborhood compatibility in the areas around the two primary trailheads; increased use pressure leading to needs for trail maintenance and heightened levels of enforcement; and, emergency response access and Ranger patrol. With these issues in mind, the Conservation Plan Update serves as an opportunity to assess the current state of the Reserve, monitor the implementation of the existing plan, and to establish timely strategies for further protection and enhancement of the Reserve.

*Bishop Peak Natural Reserve is one of the most iconic, well-loved landmarks in this entire region, offering spectacular panoramic views of the City below and the surrounding area, remarkable plant and wildlife diversity, and pleasant hiking and passive recreational opportunities.*

To review the Legislative Draft or a slide show presentation about the Conservation Plan Update, please visit the City's website at: <http://www.slocity.org>

The City Council is scheduled to consider the Bishop Peak Natural Reserve Conservation Plan 2015 Update at its meeting on July 7, 2015. Written comments may be addressed to:

**Bob Hill, Natural Resources Manager**  
City of San Luis Obispo  
990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike. ~ John Muir

Bishop Peak PHOTO BY Douglas Bush