



Enhancing public awareness of the importance of maintaining and restoring the unique natural habitat within Chino Hills State Park through interpretive and educational activities.

e-bikes in Chino Hills State Park



From the Desk of the
Interpreter

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If you are a long-time visitor to Chino Hills State Park, you may remember a time when only the fittest of riders could ride their bike up the very steep Bane Canyon entrance without stopping. [Read More](#) (Scroll Down)

Help the Park and Donate to CHSPIA



What are those?

Tarantulas!

[Read More](#) (Scroll Down)



Do you have something to share for the next Newsletter?

Do you have something you want to share about an experience in the Park, such as a special sighting of an animal or bird or plant, or maybe a romance or a friendship you made while in the park?

Contact Eric at eric@chinohillsstatepark.org.



The word is getting out! Chino Hills State Park, surrounded by cities and urban development, is the right place to go to quickly experience vast open spaces, trails, and scenic vistas. [Read More](#) (Scroll Down)

e-bikes in Chino Hills State Park

If you are a long-time visitor to Chino Hills State Park, you may remember a time when only the fittest of riders could ride their bike up the very steep Bane Canyon entrance without stopping. This was especially true before the road was paved; it seemed like most riders ended up walking their bikes up the steep sections. Well, that has changed. On a busy weekend you may notice more riders riding their bike to the top with ease. What has changed is the proliferation of e-Bikes.

E-Bikes have allowed even the most casual of riders to use their bike in ways they could not do before. They can go farther and longer without the pain and exhaustion that they experienced by doing all the pedaling themselves. The problem is the California State Park system has regulations against riding e-bikes in most parts of the parks; and Chino Hills State Park is no exception.

In Chino Hills State Park, the only acceptable area that e-bikes are allowed is the paved Bane Canyon Road that spans from the entrance to the Rolling M Ranch. If you do ride an e-Bike on the paved road, please be aware that all bikes (both traditional and electric) are subject to a maximum speed limit of 15 mph. Exceeding this speed can lead to a citation. However, e-bikes are forbidden on all of the Park's dirt fire roads and single-track trails. The reasons are pretty straightforward. First the policy takes into account safety concerns. The relatively high speeds that e-bikes can reach combined with the hazards of our trail system (steep, loose dirt, and gravel, slippery, etc.) can lead to serious injury if a bike crash were to occur. Also, the higher speeds could put hikers and walkers in increased danger should a collision occur on a trail or road.

Another concern about e-bikes on trails is the environmental impact on the immediate habitat adjacent to trails. The rapid acceleration and higher torque of the wheels dig into the dirt more than traditional bikes. This increased dirt displacement eventually causes erosion producing a widening of trail into the habitat harming the nearby native plant species.

For the official California State Parks policy on the use of e-Bikes go to [E-Bikes in CA State Parks](#).

Help the Park and Donate to CHSPIA

The word is getting out! Chino Hills State Park, surrounded by cities and urban development, is the right place to go to quickly experience vast open spaces, trails, and scenic vistas. Within the last few years, the number of visitors at CHSP has been increasing and will continue to do so. Along with this love of the park and increased use, comes challenges that require the help of dedicated individuals to ensure the park remains beautiful, clean, and maintained. If you were ever thinking of getting more involved and directly working to improve the Park, there is no better time than now.

First, you can become a **Park Volunteer**. Depending on your interests or hobbies, there is a volunteer program that's right for you! Are you interested in helping to educate school-age kids? As an Education Volunteer, you could assist our staff with running our education field trip programs. Maybe you would like to do a little hiking or spend time gardening outdoors? Then you can become a Trail Ambassador and hike the trails, interact with visitors, and provide interpretive information in an official capacity. Or as a Volunteer Grounds Assistant, you could assist with maintaining the Discovery Center grounds and take part in planting opportunities in our Native Plant Nursery.

Another way to help is to **donate to the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association (CHSPIA)**. Your funds go directly towards supporting and enhancing the Park. While CHSPIA applies for and receives one-time grants, these funds are for specific programs, such as buses for school field trips, and they are not sustainable funding sources. We still need help with other items, such as supplies for interpretive programs or barbed wire removal efforts. It is only through donations from individuals that we are able to provide support for these programs. The more that we receive, the more that we are able to do for the Park. You can donate at www.ChinoHillsStatePark.org or by using the QR code at the bottom of this newsletter.

A good place to start to learn more about the Park and the different ways that you can help out is to visit us at www.chinohillsstatepark.org.

From the Desk of the Interpreter

Hello and Happy Trails to everyone. I am Michele "Shelly" Imler and I am very excited about beginning my time as the interpreter at Chino Hills State Park. I have 10+ years under my hat as a Cubmaster and a Cub Scout Day Camp Director. I have been a teacher since 2007. Being an Interpreter took the best of both of my worlds and created one incredible dream job!

My 2024 goals are to build a weekend morning program for families. I will create a scouting program that competes with the organizations' own Jamborees and Camporees. I will also be building my education program to emphasize explorative opportunities for grades 6-12. My most special (and passion project) is to bring in a swath of volunteers that will be with me for my tenure at the park. Teams are based on time together. I am building my team! You are an important part of it. Park aids are an important part of it. Volunteers are an important part of it. We can continue to build this park together!

Anyone who wishes to volunteer at Chino Hills State Park should visit the Volunteers in Parks page to fill out the application [here](#).

What are those? - Tarantulas!

Tarantulas (tr·an·chuh·luhs) are a common sight in the park. They are the largest spiders in the world. In the United States, they

are mostly found in the Southwest.

Although tarantulas do have venom and can bite, they pose no serious danger to humans. When threatened, a tarantula will rear up on its back legs, exposing its fangs. If seriously threatened, the tarantula may eject hairs from its abdomen that are coated with venom.

What's the difference between a regular garden spider and a Tarantula? Tarantulas are usually larger than most spiders. Not all spiders are hairy-bodied, whereas tarantulas are always. Tarantulas have two or four spinnerets (silk exuding tube-like structures) while spiders have six.

Tarantulas have many natural predators, including larger lizards, snakes, and birds. However, the most ferocious is the tarantula hawk, a large, metallic blue and orange wasp.

Tarantulas are highly effective insectivores, eating hearty amounts of the crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, and caterpillars that are the bane of our gardens. But for all their beneficial work, tarantulas have always gotten a bad rap.

A female tarantula can live 20 - 25 years. A male tarantula only lives about 7 - 8 years. During most of the year, tarantulas are nocturnal and stay close to their burrows. During mating in the fall, males leave their burrows to search for receptive females.



www.ChinoHillsStatePark.org

Donate to help CHSPIA support Chino Hills State Park



CHSPIA is a non-profit volunteer-based organization that assists the California Department of Parks and Recreation in maintaining and restoring Chino Hills State Park. Through interpretive programs and volunteer support designed to enhance visitor experiences, CHSPIA fosters appreciation and the enlightened use of the State Park. All funds raised go directly to CHSPIA to support interpretive activities, events and other programs.

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