



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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

### AT A GLANCE

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- How Visitor Counters Help the Park
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## CHSP Day at Ontario Tower Buzzers Baseball Game

On Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, it will be Chino Hills State Park Day at the Ontario Tower Buzzers baseball game, a minor league affiliate of the Dodgers. The Friends of Chino Hills State Park will get 50% of the proceeds for every ticket bought at [gofevo.com/event/Friendschino2](https://gofevo.com/event/Friendschino2). Come on out, enjoy a great game in a beautiful new stadium, and support Chino Hills State Park at the same time.

**Friends of CHINO HILLS STATE PARK**

**ONTARIO Tower Buzzers**  
FUNDRAISER

get YOUR TICKETS

**Last Game of the Season**  
Sunday Sept. 6  
1:05 pm

Buy a ticket for the last game of the season — September 6 at 1:05 PM

Ontario Towerbuzzers • Jersey giveaway

Support the Chino Hills State Park interactive program

**Buy your ticket. Make an Impact!**

# How Visitor Counters Help the Park

The Friends of Chino Hills State Park received a grant a number of years ago to install park visitor counters at eight entrances to the Park. This data has allowed Park staff to plan for staffing needs and make the case for additional resources from Sacramento, which is essential for all the functions performed by Park staff.



A dedicated team of Friends of CHSP members go to each of the park visitor counters at the entrances to the park and download data that has been accumulated over that month of the hikers, bikers, and equestrians who enter. In addition to use of the data by Parks staff, we use the data to better understand the use patterns to guide our efforts at signage and trail maintenance.

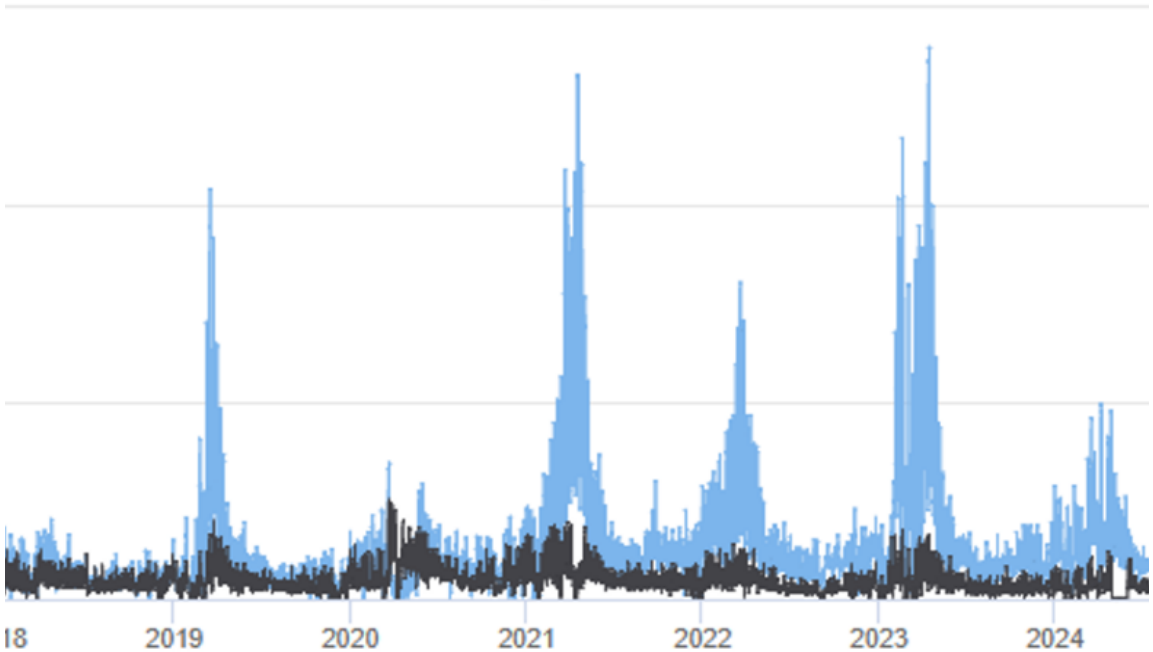
A common misconception is that these are cameras and not counters. This is completely false. There has been vandalism of some of the counters, which is probably due to this misconception. This has resulted in hundreds of dollars of repairs as well as loss of data, which just ends up hurting the Park. Please spread the word that these are counters so that we can continue this valuable work.

The counter data below clearly shows the impact of the poppy super bloom in the spring. Note that we typically have about 500 visitors at the Bane entrance per day, whereas during the super bloom events we peak at over 5000 visitors per day! We should all be appreciative and supportive of the hard-working Park staff during these periods as they deal with these crowds.

## Daily/Weekly/Monthly totals

2017-05-01 to 2025-12-31 (3167 days)

Daily Totals



# Good Trail Etiquette isn't just polite

## Trail Etiquette & Safety Tips for Chino Hills State Park

Chino Hills State Park's many miles of trails and fire roads are shared by hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians. With so many users enjoying the same routes, a little courtesy and awareness go a long way toward keeping everyone safe — and preserving the park's natural beauty.



### 1. Know the Right-of-Way

- **Hikers & runners yield to horses.** Step to the downhill side of the trail when possible, speak calmly, and let the rider guide the interaction. Sudden movement can spook a horse.
- **Bikes yield to hikers and horses.** Mountain bikers should slow down well before reaching others, announce themselves, and pass only when safe. Consider a bike bell to gently announce that you are coming up the corner.
- **Uphill travelers have the right-of-way.** They're working harder and have less ability to stop or restart.

### 2. Share the Trail with Care

- Step aside on narrow trails to allow safe passing.
- Be aware of the terrain when stepping off trail momentarily to allow passing; you may need to step up or down from the trail. Watch out for snakes and poison oak.
- Earbuds: keep volume low or use one ear only so you can hear approaching users.

### 3. Communicate Early and Clearly

- Use a friendly "Hello!" or "Passing on your left" when approaching others.
- If you're behind someone, give them time to react — especially on narrow singletrack.
- When approaching horses, calmly alert the rider, if they don't see you, as soon as possible. Keep your distance when passing horses. Only approach the horse, if the rider says it is OK.

### 4. Stay on Designated Trails

- Do not cut switchbacks — it causes erosion and damages habitat.
- Do not enter closed areas (look for signs) — closures protect sensitive wildlife and prevent trail degradation.
- Walking off-trail increases your chance of injury or getting lost.

## 5. Pace and Speed Control

- The posted trail speed limit for bikes and all users is **15 mph**. This applies to all roads and all trails inside the park.
- Trail runners and mountain bikers should adjust speed based on visibility, trail width, and traffic.
- Blind corners, tall grass, and ridge lines can hide other users — slow down before you need to.

## 6. Wildlife Awareness

- CHSP is home to deer, coyotes, bobcats, rattlesnakes, and occasionally mountain lions.
- Give wildlife space; never feed or touch animals.
- If you encounter a snake, maintain at least 6 feet of distance.
- Step onto logs before stepping over them — rattlesnakes often rest on the far side.
- Report sick or aggressive wildlife to park staff.

## 7. Hydration & Heat Safety

- Carry at least 1 quart of water every two hours — more in summer.
- Consider how hot the pavement gets if you are on the Bane Canyon Road with a dog. It can get hot enough to burn their paws.
- Cell service is limited in many areas; download maps ahead of time.
- Start early, especially on exposed fire roads like North Ridge, Telegraph, Lower Aliso, and South Ridge.

## 8. Tick & Poison Oak Precautions

- Pack out all trash, including fruit peels and snack wrappers.
- Poison oak is common throughout the park — remember: “Leaves of three, let it be.”
- If exposed, wash with water and mild soap as soon as possible.

## 9. Leave No Trace

- Walk in the center of trails, use repellent, and check for ticks after your hike.
- Stay on marked trails only and avoid trampling vegetation.
- Protect water sources — leave streams and ponds for wildlife.

## 10. Plan ahead

- Tell someone where you’re going and when you’ll return.
- Hike with a buddy when possible.
- Think about bringing a small first aid kit for minor scrapes and cuts.

Chino Hills State Park thrives because its visitors care. Practicing good trail etiquette isn’t just polite — it keeps our trails safe, protects wildlife, and ensures everyone can enjoy the rolling hills, oak woodlands, and sweeping views that make this park special.

# Interpreter's Corner

Every June, something quietly remarkable happens above our heads. The days stretch, the hills of Chino Hills State Park softly turn gold, and the sun arches higher in the sky than at any other point in the year. We call it summer. But why does it happen? And why should we love it?

Fun fact: Earth isn't closer to the sun in summer. In early July, Earth is its farthest point from the sun all year (aphelion). Our planet spins on an axis tilted about 23.5 degrees relative to its orbit around the sun. As Earth makes its yearlong journey, that tilt means different parts of the globe lean toward the sun at different times. When the Northern Hemisphere leans toward the sun, we get longer days, higher sun routes in the sky, and more direct, concentrated sunlight. Six months later, we're tilted away, and winter arrives.

Summer is more than heat and long evenings. It's the season when the whole ecosystem around us is working at full tilt; pun intended.

- Light changes behavior! Longer days mean more hours for plants to photosynthesize, more time for pollinators to work, and more daylight for wildlife to forage and raise young.
- The park bursts to life at dusk! Longer twilight hours mean more chances to catch bats, owls, and other crepuscular creatures just as they're waking up for the night.
- It wakes up something instinctual in us! Human beings have marked the solstice for thousands of years; as a turning point, a harvest marker, a moment to pause and notice the sky. Standing on a ridge at Chino Hills watching the sun set at its northernmost point on the horizon is the same experience people have had here for millennia.

Summer, in other words, isn't just a season of heat to endure maximum connection between us and nature.

If this kind of sky-watching sparks your curiosity, I'd point you toward *Crystals in the Sky: An Intellectual Odyssey Involving Chumash Astronomy, Cosmology, and Rock Art* by Travis Hudson and Ernest Underhay (Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 1978).

It's a wonderful reminder that long before satellites and star charts, people here in California were already careful, devoted students of the sky and that noticing the turn of the seasons is one of the oldest human traditions there is.

So this summer, as the days lengthen and the hills golden, take a moment at dusk to look up. You'll be joining a very long line of skywatchers.

# Discovery Center Store

If you are looking for fun park-related items, stop by the Friends Store at the Discovery Center. There are book, shirts, hats, stickers, stuffed birds and other items. And you would also be supporting the Friends and the programs at Chino Hills State Park.



## Odds & Ends

Check out our social media for current information about the Park at:

<https://www.facebook.com/10CHSPIA>

<https://www.instagram.com/chspinterpretiveassociation/>

**Dogs are welcome in the Park only on the paved Bane Canyon Road.** While dogs are not allowed on any of the dirt trails in the Park, bring your pup out on the paved Bane Canyon Road while still enjoying the Park.

**Do you know of any groups that may want to support the Park?** Does your employer have a matching donation program that you can target towards CHSPIA? Let us know, or if you have any questions, please email [eric@chinohillsstatepark.org](mailto:eric@chinohillsstatepark.org).



For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions, email [info@chinohillsstatepark.org](mailto:info@chinohillsstatepark.org).

If you want to volunteer at the park, for more information go to:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/9c092e9f-8c6e-46e9-b19f-48d3f4f3a41c/1>

Help the Park and make a tax-deductible donation to Friends at [www.ChinoHillsStatePark.org](http://www.ChinoHillsStatePark.org) or at this QR Code:



Friends of Chino Hills State Park | 4500 Carbon Canyon Road | Brea, CA 92823