



Sweetwater Reservoir

RIDING & HIKING TRAIL



Trail Rules

- ◆ Please stay on the trail and rest areas only. Trespassing on reservoir lands, adjoining property, or structures is strictly prohibited.
- ◆ Pack out what you pack in! Remove all items brought onto the trail and clean up after horses and pets.
- ◆ Hunting on the trail and reservoir areas is prohibited; fishing is only allowed in designated areas. Violators will be prosecuted.
- ◆ Respect nature and all signs, fences and facilities along the trail. Do not damage or deface any items.
- ◆ Keep vehicles out of the area. Motor traffic is limited to official use only.
- ◆ Hitch at designated posts only. Do not tie any animal or bicycle to any tree, shrub or structure.
- ◆ Restrain or leash all pets. Do not allow animals to run loose.
- ◆ Ensure all horses and dogs brought onto the trail are licensed.
- ◆ Trail closes at dusk.
- ◆ No smoking. Cigarettes accidentally dropped or disposed of improperly can start a brush fire.
- ◆ Contaminating a drinking water supply is against federal law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Note: The Riding and Hiking Trail is separate from the Sweetwater Reservoir Fishing Facility, which requires a day use fee and is open Sat/Sun/Mon only; closed major holidays. Visit www.sweetwater.org for current hours.

Welcome! Sweetwater Authority operates the public drinking water system for residents of Bonita, Chula Vista and National City. Sweetwater Reservoir is a “terminal drinking water reservoir” - water stored here is pumped directly into Sweetwater Authority’s water treatment plant.

Sweetwater Dam was completed in 1888. The reservoir has a capacity of 28,079 acre feet of water, enough to serve 56,000 families for about a year. The dam collects runoff from 182 square miles of the Sweetwater River Watershed.

Trail Features: The Sweetwater Reservoir Riding and Hiking Trail is a County of San Diego trail, operated through an easement granted by Sweetwater Authority. Provisions contained in the easement allow Sweetwater Authority to revoke its permission for use of the trail. These stipulations help protect both the water supply and sensitive wildlife near the reservoir.

Several sensitive species inhabit the areas adjoining Sweetwater Reservoir. Included are the endangered Least Bell’s vireo, California gnatcatcher, Otay tarplant, and a vast number of other indigenous plant and animal species. Riparian woodlands, coastal sage scrub, vernal pools and associated grasslands are among the natural habitats encountered along the trails. All habitats, wildlife, plant, geologic and historical features are protected by law.

Please be responsible for yourself and to others when using the trail. By observing the intent of the trail and adhering to the trail rules, you will help keep the trail open for future generations.

Trail Mission: The Sweetwater Reservoir Riding and Hiking Trail exists to provide public access to the natural surroundings of Sweetwater Reservoir in a manner that protects sensitive wildlife and preserves the quality of drinking water stored in the reservoir.

Trail Access: The trail entrance is designated on the map on the back of this flyer. Visitors must enter at the approved gate and must remain on the trail at all times. The trail is subject to closure for security reasons without notice. Trail traffic is limited to pedestrians, horses, bicycles and pets to avoid damage and disruption from motorized vehicles. Pets must be leashed at all times. It is imperative that animals are not allowed access to the shoreline to avoid potential contamination of the water supply.

(See back for map and more information)

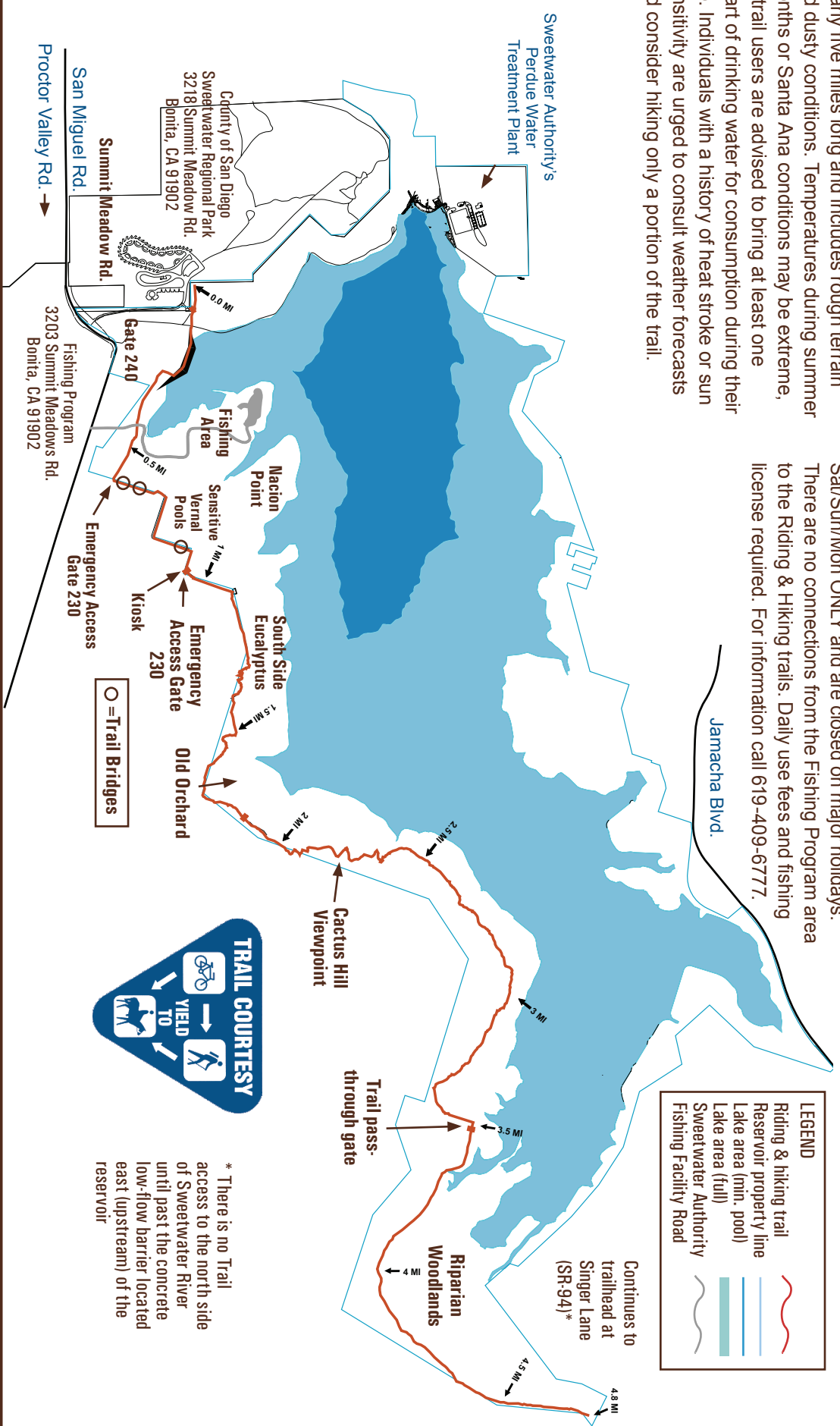
Disclaimer: All persons who use the trail do so at their own risk. The County of San Diego and Sweetwater Authority are not responsible for losses or accidents which occur from using the trail.

Trail Conditions

Sweetwater Reservoir Riding & Hiking Trail

No restroom or drinking facilities are located on the trail. The reservoir portion of the trail is nearly five miles long and includes rough terrain and dusty conditions. Temperatures during summer months or Santa Ana conditions may be extreme, so trail users are advised to bring at least one quart of drinking water for consumption during their trip. Individuals with a history of heat stroke or sun sensitivity are urged to consult weather forecasts and consider hiking only a portion of the trail.

Fishing Facility Limits:
Sweetwater Authority Fishing Facility trails are open Sat/Sun/Mon ONLY and are closed on major holidays. There are no connections from the Fishing Program area to the Riding & Hiking trails. Daily use fees and fishing license required. For information call 619-409-6777.



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