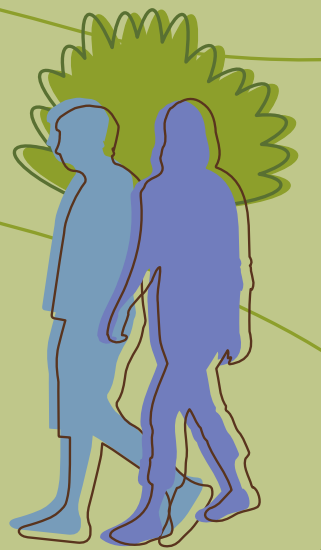
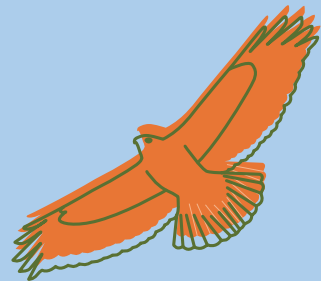




Elephant Hill Nature Guide



Welcome to Elephant Hill!

Elephant Hill is a beloved hillside open space located in El Sereno. Its steep slopes offer impressive views and are home to native black walnut, oak, and elderberry trees and a rich variety of wildlife—rabbits, coyotes, and bobcats, reptiles, and many species of birds including owls and hawks. During rainy seasons, a natural spring resurfaces at the base of the hill near the western entrance to Elephant Hill. The Test Plot project, a thriving native plant garden built by the community, is located at the eastern gate and demonstrates the restoration potential of Elephant Hill.

Since time immemorial, the Tongva, Kizh, and Tataviam peoples have cared for these lands using cultural practices of fire, cultivation, tending, and pruning. European colonization impeded these practices and Spanish, Mexican and American settlers brought in sheep and cattle grazing. This altered the landscape by introducing many non-native and invasive species, including eucalyptus and mustard, reducing native habitat.



Until recently, real estate developers were not eager or incentivized to invest in El Sereno, a once ‘redlined,’ now predominately Latino community. For similar reasons, Northeast LA hillside open spaces were overlooked for land preservation.

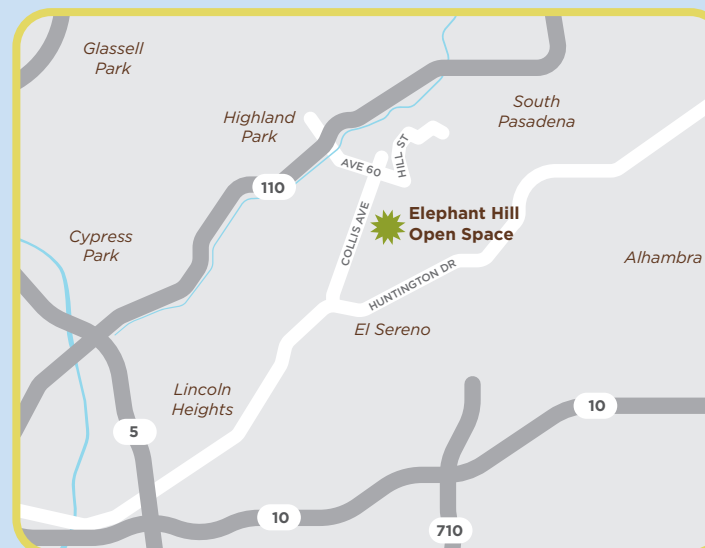
Elephant Hill—also known as the “Heavens”—now faces urban development pressures as well as unauthorized off-roading, which leads to:

- *Degraded hillside habitat*
- *Destruction of wildlife, native trees and plants*
- *Risk of brush fires and flooding*

Through a grant from the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of California State Parks, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is working to prevent off-roading by:

- *Increasing ranger patrols*
- *Installing signs and other improvements such as gates and boulders to prevent unauthorized access*
- *Working with Save Elephant Hill and its partners to engage residents and other stakeholders about these issues*

The good news is that Elephant Hill remains undeveloped, and nearby residents continue to advance their longterm goals to: conserve additional land, restore the remaining historic habitat, protect wildlife, and connect people to nature.



Save Elephant Hill

Learn more about Elephant Hill’s natural history and conservation efforts.

SaveElephantHill.la

 @SaveElephantHill

 /saveeelephanthill90032

 SaveElephantHill@gmail.com



Help us document who lives in Elephant Hill with iNaturalist

Thank you to the community scientists who contributed photos for this field guide. Visit bit.ly/ElphantHillFieldGuide to view the original iNaturalist observations.

MRCA
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Learn more about MRCA’s mission to preserve, protect, and create open space.

mrca.ca.gov

 @MRCAparks

 /LAMountains

Elephant Hill Species

Birds



California Scrub-jay
Chara Californiana



American Kestrel
Cernícalo Americano



Anna's Hummingbird
Colibrí de Cabeza Roja



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Reinita Coronada



Cooper's Hawk
Gavilán de Cooper



Nuttall's Woodpecker
Carpintero Californiano



Common Raven
Cuervo Común



Turkey Vulture
Buitre Pavo



Lesser Goldfinch
Jilguero Menor



Red-tailed Hawk
Aguililla Cola Roja



California Ground Squirrel
Ardilla Terrestre de California



Eastern Fox Squirrel
Ardilla Zorro

Mammals



Bobcat
Gato Montés o Lince Americano



Desert Cottontail
Conejo del Desierto



Coyote
Coyote



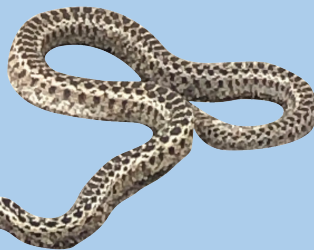
Botta's Pocket Gopher
Tuza de Bosilla de Botta

Reptiles



Western Fence Lizard
Bejori de Cerca Occidental

San Diego Gopher Snake
Topera de San Diego



Southern Alligator Lizard
Lagartija Lagarto Meridional



Banded Garden Spider
Araña de Jardín Bandeada

Invertebrates



Jerusalem Cricket
Niño de la tierra



Painted Lady
Mariposa Vanesa Pintada



California Trapdoor Spider
Araña Trampera Californiana



Southern California Shoulderband Snail
Caracol de Banda del Hombro de California



Toyon
Toyón



Coffeeberry
Baya de Café



Coast Live Oak
Encino Verde



Tree of Heaven
Árbol del Cielo



Milk Snail
Caracol de Leche



Southern California Black Walnut
Nogal Negro del Sur de California



Blue Elderberry
Saúco Azul



Black Mustard
Mostaza Negra



White Horehound
Marrubio de Monte



Castorbean
Higuerilla

Non-natives / Invasives