



Free access is provided from the Sandia Creek Drive trailhead, located 2 miles from Fallbrook. The majority of the trail system provides for a delightful shade-covered stroll underneath towering cottonwood and sycamore trees, and large arching coast live oak trees. The trails follow the

gentle grade of the Santa Margarita River, offering an approachable hike for the whole family.

THE CONSERVANCY

The Wildlands Conservancy opened its first preserve in 1995 and now owns and stewards the largest private nonprofit nature preserve system in California and provides more free education programs to kids than any other nonprofit in the state. Wildlands continues to save remarkable landscapes and open them to the public free of charge for recreation and education because we believe connecting with nature is a priceless gift.

All of The Wildlands Conservancy's operations are made possible through private funding, including generous support from visitors like you. From making a donation of cash or real estate to volunteering your time, there are multiple ways you can get involved with Wildlands. To learn visit us online at WildlandsConservancy.org or call us at (909) 797-8507.

OUR DUAL MISSION

To preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the earth and to provide programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature.



(909) 797-8507 » info@twc-ca.org » WildlandsConservancy.org

The Wildlands Conservancy is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation.

THE TRAILS

SANTA MARGARITA RIVER TRAIL

2.5 miles (one-way) » 🚶 Moderate 🐎 Strenuous
From the trailhead walk towards the two wooden kiosk displays and follow the rock lined path into the oak woodland. At 0.25 miles you will encounter the Santa Margarita River and outcroppings of bedrock. Take care navigating the rocky terrain along a narrow shelf to reach the arching oaks above the river. From here follow the well-shaded river terrace past several river access points. At trail marker A8, climb the trail and turn left once you reach an intersection to rejoin the trail and continue toward Rainbow Creek. This is an out and back trail.

GAVALIN MOUNTAIN TRAIL

4 miles (one-way) » 🚶 Moderate 🐎 Strenuous
From the trailhead cross the Santa Margarita River and follow the sandy trail network (blue on trail map) to the edge of the oak woodlands. From here ascend the steep section of trail from B9 to a mid-slope trail and then descend past B8 into another oak woodland grove (yellow on trail map). Follow the trail across a seasonal stream crossing and ascend once again to gain amazing views of the river corridor and surroundings, including Gavalin Mountain. The trail will take you past several additional river crossings and narrow shelves and lead to the foot a Gavalin Mountain. Several loops can be made by crossing the river and connecting with the Santa Margarita River Trail.

500' TRAIL

2 miles (one-way) » 🚶 Moderate 🐎 Strenuous
This trail is an alternative to the River Trail that runs along the rim of the river valley at an elevation of 500 feet above sea level. Chaparral dominates the slopes that the path traverses. There are numerous vistas of Gavalin Mountain and the Santa Margarita River and tributaries.

RAPTOR RIM TRAIL

2 miles (one-way) » 🚶 Moderate 🐎 Strenuous
Climb up Raptor Ridge through California lilac and spring-time wildflower fields to the breath-taking views of the winding Santa Margarita River below. Follow the trail along the rim of the canyon to a set of switchbacks to connects with the Gavalin Mountain Trail.

COUNTY PARK TRAIL

TNT

ACCESS & CONNECTOR TRAILS



THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY SANTA MARGARITA RIVER TRAIL PRESERVE

TRAIL MAP INSIDE

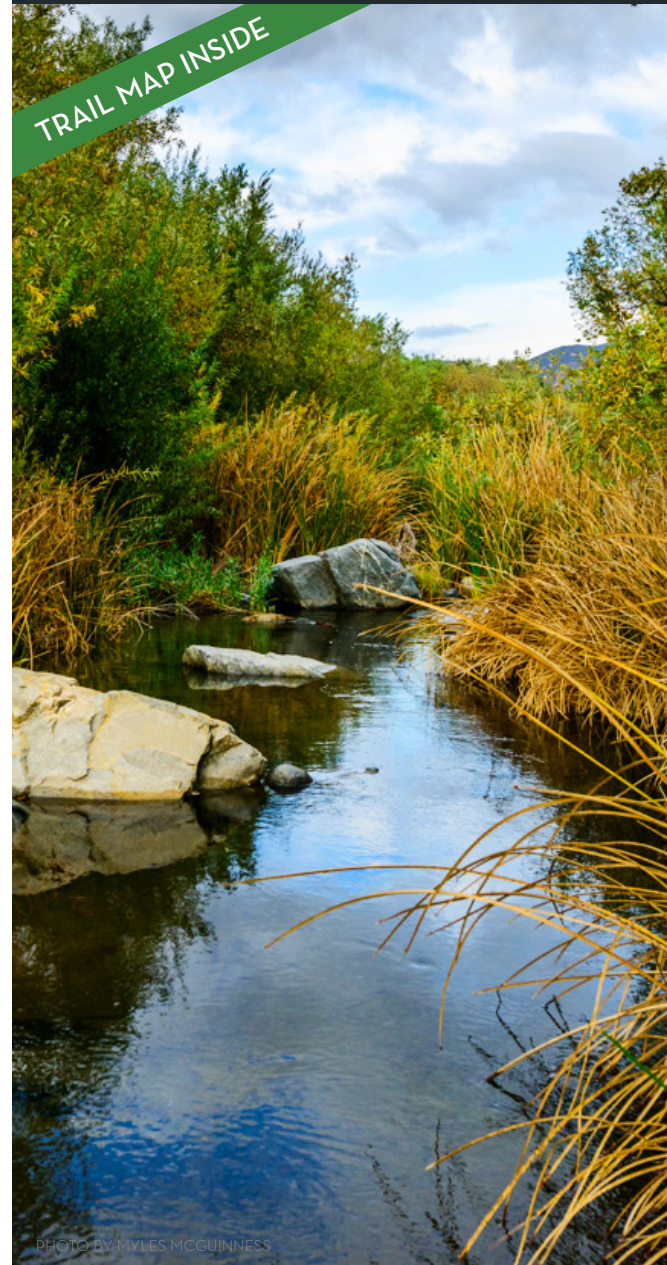


PHOTO BY MYLES MCCUINNESS

OPEN DAILY FREE OF CHARGE

Parking lot and trails open 8 am to 5 pm

THE PRESERVE

Tucked along the edges of the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains in North County San Diego, the Santa Margarita River is Southern California's last free-flowing river. With its nearly 1,000 plant and animal species and remarkable riparian and upland habitats, Santa Margarita River Trail Preserve is truly a vestige of biodiversity in the region, transporting its visitors into an unexpected nature sanctuary unlike anywhere else in the Coast Ranges.



This 1,384-acre property, formerly owned by the Fallbrook Public Utility District, was once considered for a hydroelectric dam and reservoir. Following two years of work, including the development of an Integrated Resource Management Plan in partnership with volunteer stewards Fallbrook Trails Council, The Wildlands Conservancy acquired the property in late 2018. The acquisition was funded through a Prop 68 program administered by Wildlands' long-time partner, the California State Coastal Conservancy.

RECREATION

Santa Margarita River Trail Preserve is open to the public free of charge and provides opportunities for hikers, equestrian riders, and naturalists alike. The Preserve is popular for its 18 miles of scenic trails, and the solitude and reprieve from the business of day-to-day life its riparian forest, oak woodlands and chaparral habitats offer.

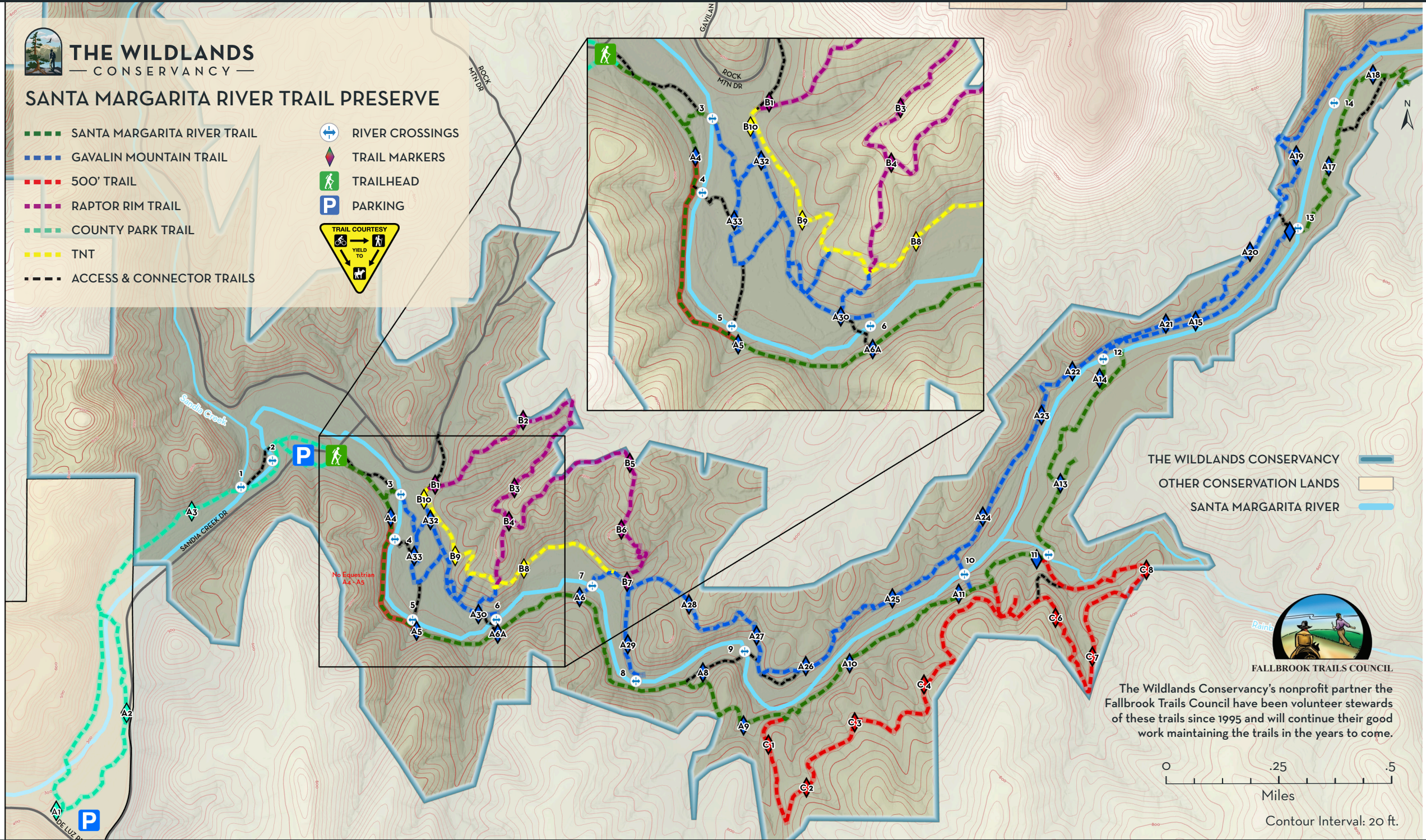


THE WILDLANDS — CONSERVANCY —

SANTA MARGARITA RIVER TRAIL PRESERVE

- SANTA MARGARITA RIVER TRAIL
- GAVALIN MOUNTAIN TRAIL
- 500' TRAIL
- RAPTOR RIM TRAIL
- COUNTY PARK TRAIL
- TNT
- ACCESS & CONNECTOR TRAILS

- RIVER CROSSINGS
- TRAIL MARKERS
- TRAILHEAD
- PARKING

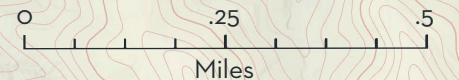


- THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY
- OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS
- SANTA MARGARITA RIVER



FALLBROOK TRAILS COUNCIL

The Wildlands Conservancy's nonprofit partner the Fallbrook Trails Council have been volunteer stewards of these trails since 1995 and will continue their good work maintaining the trails in the years to come.



Contour Interval: 20 ft.