

We're Here for the Wildlife

We're here to preserve the environment in this amazing place for wildlife and plants, while providing trails so you can enjoy it too. Please help protect the land and all the things that live here.

- No dogs, cats, or other domestic pets, on or off leash.
- No firearms, campfires, smoking, or open flames.
- No motorcycles, bicycles, or any other cycles on trails. The boardwalk accommodates strollers, wheelchairs, and walkers.
- No drones over Preserve airspace.
- No collecting plants or wildlife. Just take home great memories.
- Please stay on designated trails.



Vermilion Flycatcher
– Dan Ward

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Nestled in the Little San Bernardino Mountains, the desert oasis at Big Morongo Canyon is one of the largest cottonwood and willow riparian (stream) habitats in California. During storms, water draining from the surrounding mountains can become a river that flows through the preserve and down the canyon. But year around, ground water from snow-covered Mt. San Geronimo rises up along the Morongo fault to create a marsh habitat, a great attractor for all kinds of wildlife.

The Preserve is an internationally-recognized birding site. Several rare species nest here, and a great variety of birds stop here during the spring and fall migration seasons. It is an eBird hotspot and has been designated as one of the United States' Important Bird Areas.

With elevations ranging from 600 feet on the canyon floor to 3,000 feet at the top of the ridge, this diverse 31,000 acre landscape incorporates both the Mojave and Colorado desert climates. The land is owned by San Bernardino County and the Bureau of Land Management. In 2016 it was incorporated into the Sand to Snow National Monument.

The Preserve is operated by the Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, a non-profit staffed largely by volunteers and funded mostly by small donations from visitors.

FRIENDS OF BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE

11055 East Dr • PO Box 780 • Morongo Valley, CA 92256
(760) 492-1843 • bigmorongo.org

In partnership with



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND
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CONSERVATION
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FOUNDATION

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BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE

Trail Map




Trail Status

The boardwalk was severely damaged by the August 2023 hurricane, and we have closed sections for your safety. We are working with the San Bernardino County to repair and restore the boardwalk.

Trail	Length	Difficulty
Marsh 500 ft closure near Mesquite Trail junction	0.65 mi • 1 km	Easy
Desert Willow All open	0.75 mi • 1.2 km	Easy
Yucca Ridge One way. Closed at Mesquite Trail junction	0.72 mi • 1.2 km	Moderate
Mesquite Open only from Marsh to Canyon Trail.	0.5 mi • 0.6 km	Easy
West Canyon All open	0.84 mi • 1.7 km	Moderate
Canyon All open	4.9 mi • 13.4 km (Each way)	Moderate

TRAIL MAP

 The areas shaded on red were severely damaged by the August 2023 hurricane, and are closed for your safety. Please keep out.



Note: Canyon Trail is 8.34 Miles Round Trip.
Moderate-Strenuous, See Trail Notes and Inset



LEGEND	
	Marsh Area
	Benches/Decks
	Location Markers
	Marker Distances
	Bridges
	West Canyon Trail
	Canyon Trail
	Mesquite Trail
	Yucca Ridge Trail
	Desert Willow Trail
	Marsh Trail
	Improved Road
	Closed Trail

Canyon Trail Inset

Indian Ave.
Private Land
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
5.00 mi.
North
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