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# TRAIL GUIDE

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Amenities - Access Points  
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City of San Buenaventura



# WELCOME

## TO THE VENTURA RIVER TRAIL

The City of Ventura welcomes you to explore the Ventura River Trail, which follows the old Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way from Main Street to Foster Park 6.3 miles (10.16 km) inland. Opened in 1999, this pedestrian and bicycle

path links the Ojai Valley Trail and the coastal Omer Rains Trail for one of the best 17-mile urban bike rides in Southern California – from the Ventura Pier to Fox Street in Ojai.

Funding for the Ventura River Trail came from the City of Ventura Parks & Recreation Improvement Fund, City of Ventura General Fund, and State of California and Federal Transportation Funds. The

City of Ventura, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy coordinated the project.

On your journey through Ventura's historic agricultural and industrial zone – now dynamically changing with high-tech communication industries and modern housing – you will discover natural scenic beauty and installations that interpret Ventura's economic and

cultural history and its environment funded by the City of Ventura Public Art Program.

## RULES OF THE TRAIL

- Trail open dawn to dusk.
- No motorized vehicles.
- Dogs allowed only on leashes.
- Dog owners responsible for cleaning up after their dogs.
- For concerns about trail maintenance call 805.652.4550.

**1 A Delicate Balance** by Ralph Allen Massey suggests how humans impact wildlife. Two Ventura River estuary guardians, a Great Egret and Brown Pelican sculpted in bronze, perch at the Dubbers Lane trail entrance, off Olive and Main Streets.



**2 Mark** by Jud Fine measures off the entire trail in miles (left side) and kilometers (right side). Its 32 concrete distance markers topped with artifacts from Ventura Avenue oil fields and cryptic messages invite contemplation on how humans mark the earth.



**3 Clay Track Middens** by Valerie Temple are a series of four half-ton bas-relief trash receptacles bearing images or footprints of native animals that the artist observed crossing this Ventura River habitat route.



**4 Drinking Fountain** by Jeff Sanders at the trail's Park Row entrance depicts the Chumash legend of Sky Snake whose lightning tongue gave fire to the Santa Cruz Island people.



**5 Orange Trace** by Jeff Sanders lies scattered over the ground beyond Stanley Avenue as if these four clusters of life-like painted bronze oranges just rolled off an old Sunkist Railroad freight car.



**6 Win\*Pin** by Wyndra Roché combines reminders from the Ventura River Valley's agricultural past with pinwheel poinsettia petals in homage to Ventura's official flower.



## Legend

- Public Art**
- Trail Access Points**
- Ventura River Trail**
- Omer Rains Trail** (extends 5 miles east)

- Dubbers St./Rex St.
- West Park Row Ave.
- W. Harrison Ave./Westpark Ctr.
- Stanley Ave.
- Shoshone St.
- Shell Road
- Orchard Dr.
- Crooked Palm Road/Hwy 33 Underpass
- Ojai Valley Waste Water Treatment Plant Access Road
- N. Ventura Ave./Hwy. 33
- Santa Ana Rd. at entrance to Foster Park

## Points of Interest

- San Buenaventura City Hall
- Ventura Pier
- Mission San Buenaventura
- Ortega Adobe
- Seaside Wilderness Park
- Westpark Community Center
- Simpson Tract & Ventura Ave. Library
- Ventura Syncline
- Ventura Ave. Water Treatment Plant
- Foster Park

## Amenities

**Restrooms** – at and east of Ventura Pier, near California St. Plaza and at Figueroa St. on the Promenade, Surfers' Point Park, Emma Wood State Beach Park, Westpark Community Center, and Foster Park.

**Pay Phones** – Mission Plaza Shopping Center and restroom locations above.

**Water Fountains** – at restroom locations and on trail at Park Row.

**Parking** – at restroom locations above and Main at Peking Streets.

**Showers** – east of Ventura Pier, and at Surfers' Point and Emma Wood State Beach.

**Amtrak Station** – adjacent to the Ventura County Fairgrounds (Seaside Park) at 10 W. Harbor Blvd.



# POINTS OF INTEREST

## San Buenaventura City Hall 1

501 Poli St.

Visit this 1912 marble-and-terra cotta Beaux Arts building weekdays for complete visitor information and orientation.



## Westpark Community Center 6

450 W. Harrison St.

This youth center has a water fountain, restrooms, and murals on its north and south facing walls.



## Ventura Pier 2

First built in 1872, midway inside the San Buenaventura State Beach Park, Ventura's pier is Southern California's second oldest, after Port Hueneme's.



## Simpson Tract & Ventura Avenue Library 7

606 N. Ventura Ave.

Housed within the historic, recently restored Casa de Anza, the library displays extensive public art murals by Catherine Day. Her *Portrait of a Neighborhood* commemorates the designation of the surrounding Simpson Tract, one of Ventura's oldest neighborhoods, as a historic district.



## Mission San Buenaventura 3

211 E Main St.

Father Junipero Serra's final stone and adobe church was completed in 1809.



## Ventura Syncline 8

Near the Canada Larga Road trail access point is an oil-rich terrain folding like an accordion.

Nearby the old Petrochem oil refinery closed in the 1980s abuts a former film studio back lot.



## Ortega Adobe 4

215 W Main St.

Ventura's only remaining adobe residence downtown and the first home of the Ortega Chile Company was built in 1857.



## Ventura Avenue Water Treatment Plant 9

5895 N. Ventura Ave.

This 1939 FWA Spanish Revival facility that extracts and treats watershed supplies is the site of a future public art installation.



## Seaside Wilderness Park 5

Across the Ventura River Main Street Bridge and adjacent to Emma Wood State Beach Park is a for-pedestrians-only park, containing the river mouth, former Hobo Jungle, 1.3 mile Ocean's Edge Trail with rare cobble tide pools, and .7 mile River's Edge Trail – a birdwatchers' paradise.



## Foster Park 10

At trail's end this county park has shade, restrooms, picnic tables and a spectacular view of the Ventura River flowing towards the ocean from the nearby sandstone bridge with lion sculptures.

