

OTP AND OTHERS HIKE FOR 14 JANUARY 1998

John chady, hike leader

SANTA CLARITA WOODLANDS PARK, TOWSLEY CANYON (aka Ed Davis Park)

This hike will consist of two parts:

Part I will take the Towsley View Loop Trail with lunch at the viewpoint. This will be 5.5 miles round trip and is proposed for the average hiker and the world renowned Mouse Patrol. Although described in the brochure (see map on other side) as "moderate to difficult" frequent stops to enjoy the birds and the view of the Santa Clarita Valley will enable all to reach the top. (The steep part is not too long.)

Part II is proposed for faster walkers who will continue over the summit and on the backside of the hill turn left at trail post #11 and drop down to the track below (or continue to trail post 12 and turn left onto the track). Continue up the canyon as far as you dare. (My brother and I walked a bit over one-half mile where one comes to a stand of sycamores (or are they cottonwoods?) which would make a nice lunching place and turn around). Also you will pass evidence of early occupants of this canyon when you pass by an old rusting kitchen range, water heater, refrigerator (Serval?), metal tool shed and clothesline supports.

This woodlands was once oil producing properties and, even though the wells are gone, oil still oozes out of the ground in places so watch where you put your feet. The geological formations are interesting too. The first users of the free flowing oil and asphalt were the Tatavian Indians who used them to waterproof baskets and shelters and for medicinal purposes.

HOW TO GET THERE

Go North out of the San Fernando Valley (I-405/I-5) towards Valencia. Exit the I-5 at Calgrove. Turn left under the freeway. Turn right into first driveway past Lyons Road. (There are signs for the park but they aren't too prominent.) Follow drive back about one-half mile to the second parking lot. (Road is blocked beyond). Hike will start from here at 9:30 AM. Good "facilities" are located up on the hill near the ranger station.

**REFERENCES: Oat Mountain, CA, US Coast and Geodetic Survey, 34118-C5-TF-024
Santa Clarita Valley Area, Auto Club of Southern CA**

TRAIL INFORMATION:

Towsley Canyon service road---easy, gentle grade.

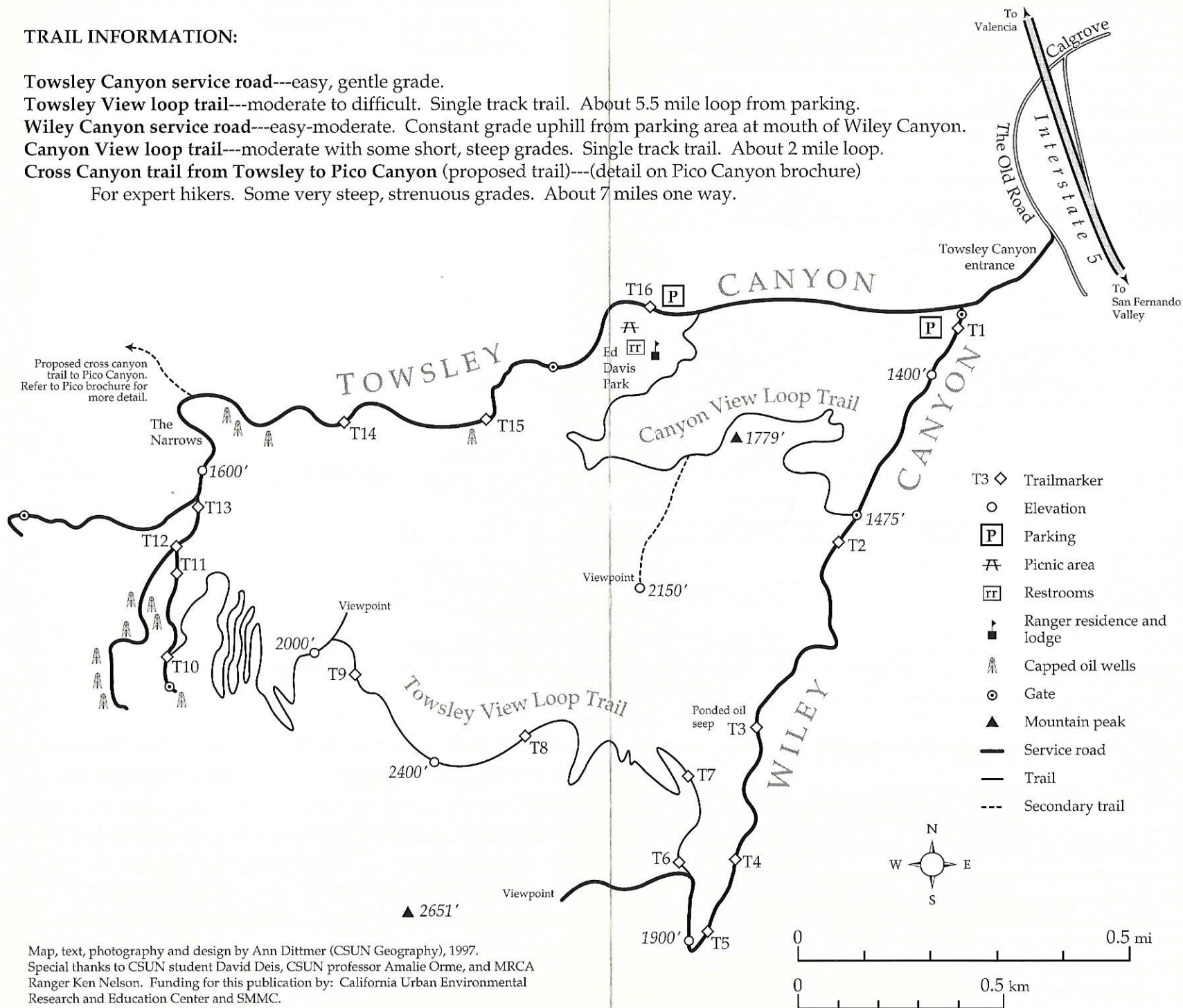
Towsley View loop trail---moderate to difficult. Single track trail. About 5.5 mile loop from parking.

Wiley Canyon service road---easy-moderate. Constant grade uphill from parking area at mouth of Wiley Canyon.

Canyon View loop trail---moderate with some short, steep grades. Single track trail. About 2 mile loop.

Cross Canyon trail from Towsley to Pico Canyon (proposed trail)---(detail on Pico Canyon brochure)

For expert hikers. Some very steep, strenuous grades. About 7 miles one way.



Map, text, photography and design by Ann Dittmer (CSUN Geography), 1997.
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 Cover photo: Hikers entering "The Narrows".