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**FERN DELL – MT. HOLLY**

**April 7, 20**

**Anna Decker**

Fern Dell Canyon to Griffith Observatory is 2 ½ miles round trip with 500 ft. elevation, if you decide to hike up to Mount Hollywood it will be 5 miles round trip and 1,000 ft. elevation.

Fern Dell, which is part of Griffith Park, is just off Los Feliz Blvd. It is located near the Western Canyon entrance of the park. Its narrow trail is arguably one of the most charming and lush in the area and will take you through stream areas with hanging plants and over little bridges. The meandering area is home to over 50 fern species.

Up Western Canyon to the hilltop behind the Observatory. then down along different trails and fireroads with a stop at the Observatory. Elevation gain of 1,000 feet. Approximately two and a half hours, including stops to enjoy the 360-degree panoramic views of the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area from atop Mt. Hollywood and at the renovated Observatory. Those who wish to linger can visit the Observatory exhibits before descending the last mile along the fire road to the Fern Dell parking lot on their own.

Mount Hollywood trail takes us to the top of Mount Hollywood with a commanding view of San Fernando Valley, the Los Angeles Basin, and the San Gabriel Mountains. The trail includes Dante's View a terraced 2 acre garden planted by Dante Orgolini in the 1960's. This South-facing garden has picnic benches and shade trees along its intertwining trail.

**From Orange County:** Take 5 North. Exit Los Feliz and go west. Go a few miles, past the Observatory to the Fern Dell Drive, which is a light. Take a right at Fern Dell Drive and park right away along the road. Look for picnic tables on your right, that is the meeting point.

**From the Valley:** Take 101 South to Sunset Blvd. Go left and then another left onto Western Avenue. Western Avenue will become Los Feliz. At the first light, which is Fern Dell Dr., turn left and park right away along the road. Look for picnic tables on your right, that is the meeting point.

The hike will begin across the street at the wooden sign "FERN DELL TRAIL".