



WILLIAM S.
HART
MUSEUM

Discovery Guide

NATURE AT THE HART

The former ranch residence of famed silent film star, William S. Hart, was bequeathed to Los Angeles County for the benefit of the public. The park has 265 acres of land which includes an animal barnyard, hiking trails, and a herd of American Bison.

NATIVE ANIMALS

Cottontail Rabbits have light brown, thick, furry coats with short white tails. While you might see them during the day, the best times to spot them are at dawn, dusk, or at night when they are most active. Look for them in open grassy areas or even in your backyard.



Western Fence Lizards

are also known as “blue bellies,” which refers to the bright blue markings on their undersides, especially on adult males. They are generally gray-brown to black, and often found basking in the sun along the trail to the Museum. Males can be observed doing “push-up” displays to defend territory and attract females.

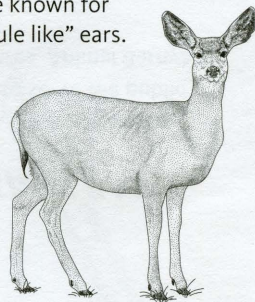
The **California Scrub-Jay** is often mistakenly called a Blue Jay because of its vibrant blue color. You can spot one by its blue coloring, white throat, and olive-gray back. The best place to spot a California Scrub-Jay is in the oak trees.

Red-tailed Hawks are usually seen soaring in the sky or perched on the tree tops. Three things to look for are the transparent red tail that looks pale orange on the underside, a dark brown belly band, and a black bar on the fore edge of the wing.



Turkey Vultures are easy to locate. Look for a black body, red head, and grayish feathers on the underside of the wings. They are usually seen soaring in wide circles with their two-toned wings spread in the shape of a broad “V.”

Mule Deer are not easily seen wild in the park because they typically can hear you before you see them. They are known for their black tipped tails and “mule like” ears.



NATIVE PLANTS

Coast Live Oak trees have oval, evergreen leaves with toothy margins.

Valley Oak trees have deeply lobed (or sectioned), somewhat dull green leaves that are shed in winter.

Both types of oak trees can reach massive sizes and live for hundreds of years, providing vital habitat for wildlife and welcome shade for us.

Chaparral Yucca have sharp, spine-tipped green or blue-gray leaves. In spring, this spiky species produces stunning flower stalks up to 15 feet high, laden with creamy white blossoms. Each rosette blooms just once, then dies.

Purple Sage, a true sage, has fragrant gray-green leaves and lavender-purple flowers in spring. Bees and hummingbirds are common visitors.

California Sagebrush, sometimes called coastal sage, has pungent, feathery gray leaves and tiny yellowish flowers in summer.



Coast Live Oak



Valley Oak



Purple Sage

As you walk along the Hart trails, you can also make a real contribution to scientific research by photographing your wildlife observations and uploading them to **iNaturalist.org**, where they can be used by scientists to better understand the local biodiversity.

Be Our Guest

HOURS

Fall/Winter *(Labor Day to Memorial Day)*

Park open daily until 5 pm

Museum open Wednesday–Friday, 12–3 pm with free tours every 30 minutes.

Saturday–Sunday, 11 am–3 pm with free tours every hour on the hour.

Summer *(Memorial Day to Labor Day)*

Park open daily until 7 pm

Museum open Wednesday–Sunday, 11 am–4 pm with free tours every hour on the hour.

Spanish language tours available one day each month.

Call 626.254.4584 for details and schedule.

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GUEST SERVICES

First Aid and Lost & Found

Contact a Museum or Park staff member for assistance.

Photography

Photography for personal use is allowed except in designated areas. No flash or videotaping please. Commercial photography is not permitted.

Accessibility assistance

Hart's home was built to accommodate a resident with a wheelchair (Mary Ellen, Hart's sister), so the majority of the house is accessible, with advance notice. Parking is available behind the home for any guest who cannot hike the Nature Trail. For a parking pass, or to arrange an accessible tour, please contact Museum staff at 626.254.4584 prior to visiting.

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Institutional Partner

WHERE TO EAT

Picnics are welcome in the picnic area east of the Bunk House. The nearest food for purchase can be found in downtown Newhall.

HELP PROTECT OUR TREASURES

Please do not eat or drink inside the Museum. Crumbs and spills can attract bugs and pests that can damage our objects and artifacts. William S. Hart Park and Museum are a smoke-free environment.

HELP KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Please don't feed the wild animals.

Call 661.254.4584 for information.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Enjoy discounts at the Museum Stores, summer camps, classes, and more. Plus, you also get free admission to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, and the Natural History Museum!

