Keep pets on a non-retractable 6-foot leash and under your control.

Remember to bring plenty of water, sunscreen/sun protection, and bug spray. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear.

Please place all trash, recycling, and bagged pet waste in appropriate receptacles to protect wildlife and their habitats. Picking up after pets keeps our river clean of waste contaminants and is courteous to people and wildlife downstream.

Stay up to date on refuge development, activities, and volunteer opportunities. The refuge plans to host multiple community meetings each year to provide our neighbors and supporters with updates on the design and construction process. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page, Instagram, and website for updates and announcements for community meetings.

Another Way to Explore the Refuge
Test your knowledge of wildlife and share your photos and explore the refuge through our interactive app:

Discover Valle de Oro Game & Wildlife Spotting App

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Map

As the Southwest’s first urban wildlife refuge, Valle de Oro NWR serves as an oasis for both wildlife and people. Established in 2012, the refuge is beginning to transition from agricultural fields to a diversity of native habitats and visitor amenities. Visit often and help us grow!

Guidelines for an Enjoyable Visit
Respecting wildlife and their habitat is the first step in keeping Valle de Oro NWR a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable place for both people and wildlife.

The refuge is open from 6am to 6pm every day. Please park in designated parking areas at the Welcome Center (the tan house with the green roof) and access the interior of the refuge by walking, jogging, hiking, bicycling or horseback riding. Yield to approaching vehicles or horses and stay out of construction sites and closed areas.

Little to no disturbance to wildlife allows for more observation of their natural behaviors and activities and is courteous to other visitors. Bring binoculars for safe up-close viewing of wildlife and minimize noises.

Please leave your kites, balloons, drones, model aircraft or vehicles, and sports-related equipment at home.

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