

New hiking trail: Revamped Indio Hills Trail unveiled

City News Service

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Indio officials gathered at the start of the popular Indio Hills Trail to celebrate recently completed improvements to the pathway, although residents were urged stay away due to COVID-19.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was originally set for March but postponed due to the pandemic. Despite the improvements technically wrapping up months ago in February, project participants remain elated.

“This is the first trail to open in the eastern Coachella Valley in recent memory,” said Jim Karpiak, executive director of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

“Although we imagined a grand celebration to mark the occasion, we realize that could be some time away. Because of that, we didn’t want to let another season pass by without recognizing at least in this small way, the collaborative effort it took to make the Indio Hills Trail happen,” he said.

Local recreation enthusiasts have hiked a series of unmarked trails and roads known as the Golf Center Trail, Indio Hills Badlands Trail and East Indio Hills Trail in the area well before a new marked five-mile loop trail was completed earlier this year.

The trail now boasts plenty of parking spaces and signage, along with a defined route that helps protect the environment.

The work was a joint project of the city of Indio, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Friends of the Desert Mountains, Indio Water Authority and the Bureau of Land Management.

Photos: Indio Hills Badlands Trail in north Indio

12 PHOTOS

2:51 p.m. PST Nov. 20, 2020



The Indio Hills Badlands Trail stretches across the landscape in north Indio. The trail, which is about a five miles long, loops along the San Andreas Fault. The trail has been widely used for years and is part of the East Indio Hills Conservation Area in the Coachella Valley Multi Species Conservation Plan. Indio officials held a ribbon cutting for the trailhead to recognize new safety and access improvements Friday, November 20, 2020.

JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN



Representatives from the city of Indio and the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy cut the ribbon at the Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead to recognize new safety and access improvements Friday, November 20, 2020.

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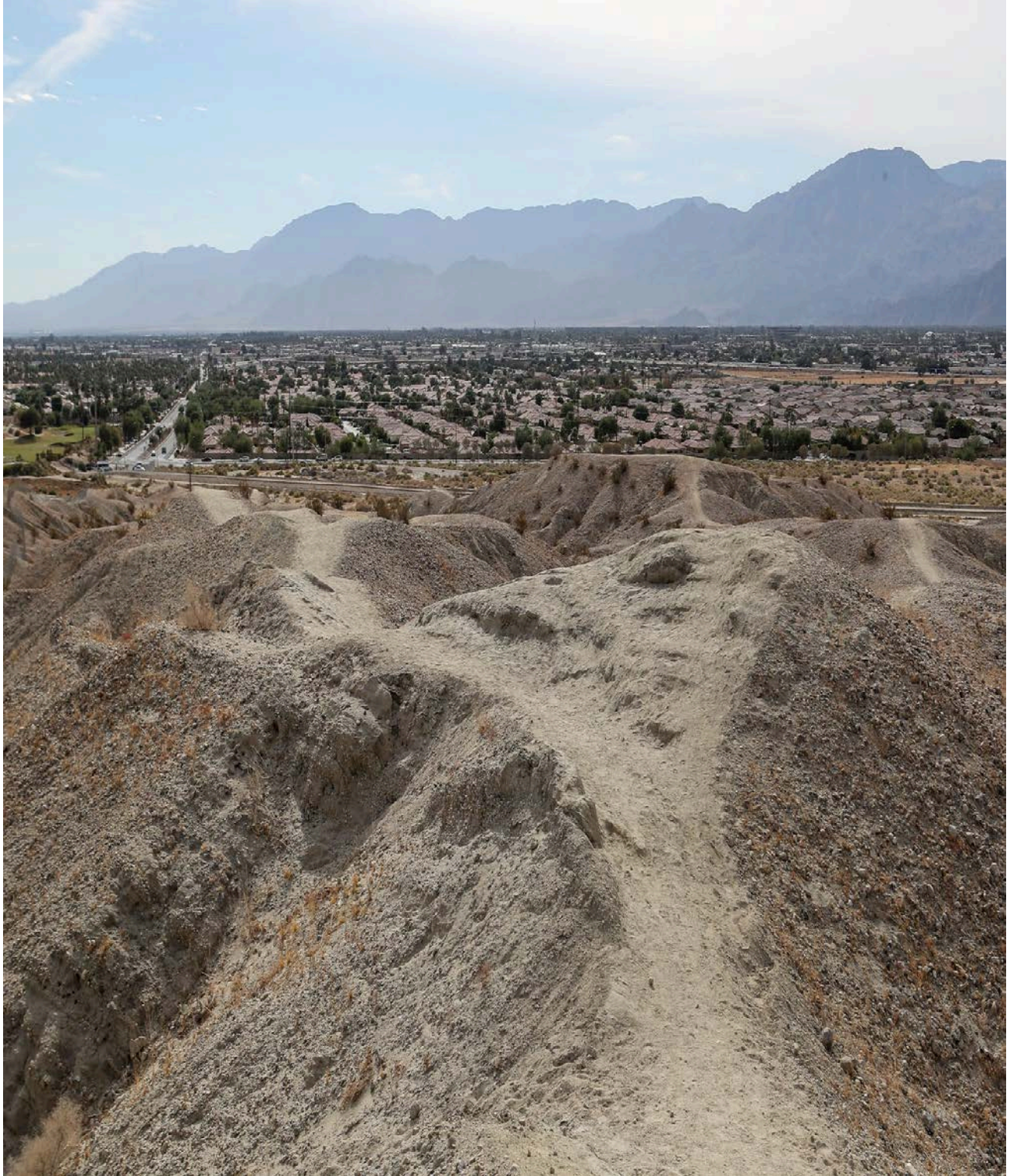
The Indio Hills Badlands Trail, November 20, 2020.

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A sign about trail courtesy informs the public at the Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead, November 20, 2020.

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The Indio Hills Badlands Trail, November 20, 2020.

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Indio Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Holmes speaks to a small group at the Indio Hills Badlands Trailhead where officials held a ribbon cutting to recognize new safety and access improvements Friday, November 20, 2020.

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A couple hikers access the Indio Hills Badlands Trail in north Indio, November 20, 2020.

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The Indio Hills Badlands Trail runs north toward the foothills of north Indio, Friday, November 20, 2020.

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Hikers walk the Indio Hills Badlands hiking trail in north Indio, March 6, 2020.

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A hiker walks along the Indio Hills Badlands hiking trail in north Indio, March 6, 2020.

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Hikers walk along the new Indio Hills Badlands hiking trail in north Indio, March 6, 2020.

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Signs guide hikers in the right direction on the Indio Hills Badlands hiking trail in north Indio, March 6, 2020.

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