

**SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES**  
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

*Chairperson Koos, Alternate Chairperson Shawver, and Members Larson, Vanderhoff, Webber, and Ball were present. Member Martin was absent.*

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At this time, members of the public may address the Subcommittee on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

*Marianne Tan spoke in favor of installing signage prohibiting drone and aircraft use and commented on mountain bike etiquette issues.*

**III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM A)**

The following item will be approved by one motion unless a Subcommittee Member requests to pull a specific item.

**A. APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 2022**

*Motion: Alternate Chair Shawver*

*2nd: Member Larson*

*Approved 6-0*

**IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (ITEM A)**

**A. TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS PILOT PROJECT DISCUSSION**

Subcommittee Members will discuss and provide feedback on the OC Parks Trail Use Designation Pilot Project Technical Report produced by Utah State University that analyzes and summarizes research findings from changing trail use designations and direction on certain trails in the County parks system.

*Ed Maurer, Sierra Club, spoke in favor of meeting with park user groups before action is taken to make changes to trails.*

*Farzad Izadi Uharazi, Sierra Club, spoke in favor of OC Parks broadly communicating any proposed changes to trails before taking action.*

*Helen Maurer, Sierra Club, encouraged a stakeholder meeting with park user groups to discuss safety, policy, and decision making before recommendations are adopted, emphasizing education and public input and buy-in are integral to policy success.*

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.

*Ray Hiemstra, Sierra Club, spoke in favor of all trail user groups being included in a public workshop series with opportunities for additional input.*

*Mike Wilson, OC Parks Business Office Manager, provided a review of the Trail Use Designations Pilot Project and research findings from Utah State University's technical report and invited the Subcommittee Members to discuss the item.*

*Pam Passow, OC Parks Interim Director, answered the Subcommittee Members' questions.*

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Determine if trail use designations can serve as a viable tool for OC Parks to consider in trail management decisions.

*Motion: Chairperson Koos*

*2nd: Member Vanderhoff*

*Approved 6–0*

## **V. SUBCOMMITTEE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

*Natalia Gaerlan, Subcommittee Executive Officer, announced that former OC Parks Director Tom Starnes has retired and Pam Passow is currently serving as OC Parks Interim Director. Richard Fink is now serving as OC Parks Interim Deputy Director of Operations. She acknowledged the service of Members Vanderhoff and Larson, who are both completing their terms on the Subcommittee, and gave an update on two upcoming Subcommittee vacancies and announced a call for applications. She provided an update on the rerouting of East Ridge View Trail in Peters Canyon Regional Park to improve trail sustainability and allow access for patrol, maintenance, and emergency response per the Peters Canyon Regional Park General Development Plan.*

## **VI. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORT**

At this time Subcommittee Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

*Members Vanderhoff and Larson both made remarks about their time serving on the Subcommittee in advance of their terms ending in January 2023.*

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT 7:17 P.M.**

**OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**STAFF REPORT**

**FROM:** Natalia Gaerlan, Executive Officer

**DATE:** March 27, 2023

**SUBJECT:** OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule

A proposed schedule of 2023 meeting dates is provided below for the Subcommittee's review.

**Second Quarter**

Thursday, May 11            Regular Meeting

**Third Quarter**

Wednesday, August 9      Regular Meeting

**Fourth Quarter**

Thursday, November 9     Regular Meeting

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the Subcommittee's 2023 meeting schedule.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalia Gaerlan





# OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Discussion Topics

- Background and Program Overview
- Trail Ambassador Deployment Locations
  - Irvine Regional Park
  - Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
  - Peters Canyon Regional Park
  - Santiago Oaks Regional Park
  - Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
- Recommended Action

# Background

- 2017 – Trails Subcommittee recommended the formation of a Trail Ambassador Program to share information about trail safety, etiquette, wayfinding, and natural resources with OC Parks visitors. Staff began developing the Trail Ambassador role, elements, and task descriptions and drafting a Training Manual.
- 2019 – OC Parks contractor Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) began refining the Training Manual and building a training program for Ambassadors.
- 2022 – The Training Manual was finalized and volunteer training initiated.



## A Trail Ambassador:

- *Educates visitors about responsible trail use*
- *Helps ensure a safe and enjoyable visit for all trail users*
- *Promotes and protects local wildlife and natural habitats*



**OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program**

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee – March 27, 2023



# Roles & Responsibilities

## Public Interaction

- Engage park visitors in a positive, respectful manner
- Provide information about trail etiquette, safety, park rules, trail/park closures, and maps



## Wayfinding

- Use park maps, directional signage, and landmarks to help trail users **navigate** during their park visit
- Match visitors with the right trail for their skills/desired **experience**



## Wildlife Encounters

- Educate visitors about what wildlife they may see and how to stay safe while on the trails



## Trail Closures

- Provide information about closures or re-routes of park trails, whether due to weather, sensitive habitats, wildlife, fire, or other circumstances

OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Program Overview

## Volunteer Trail Ambassadors

- Receive specialized training in trail safety and etiquette and are familiarized with each park at which they serve
- Stationed at trailheads, intersections, and designated points along a variety of park facilities and trail types



## Locations Under Consideration

- Irvine Regional Park
  - Horseshoe Loop and Santiago Creek Trailhead near Park Entrance
  - Near Parking Lot T
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
  - Willow Trailhead
- Peters Canyon Regional Park
  - North Loop Trailhead
  - East Ridge View Trail (Big Red) and Peters Canyon Trail
- Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
  - Borrego Canyon Trailhead
- Santiago Oaks Regional Park
  - Windes/Pacifica Trailhead
  - Santiago Creek Trail Stepping Stones

**OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program**

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023



# Trail Ambassador Deployment Locations

## Irvine Regional Park

- Horseshoe Loop and Santiago Creek Trailhead near Park Entrance
- Near Parking Lot T, by OC Zoo and Nature Center



OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023

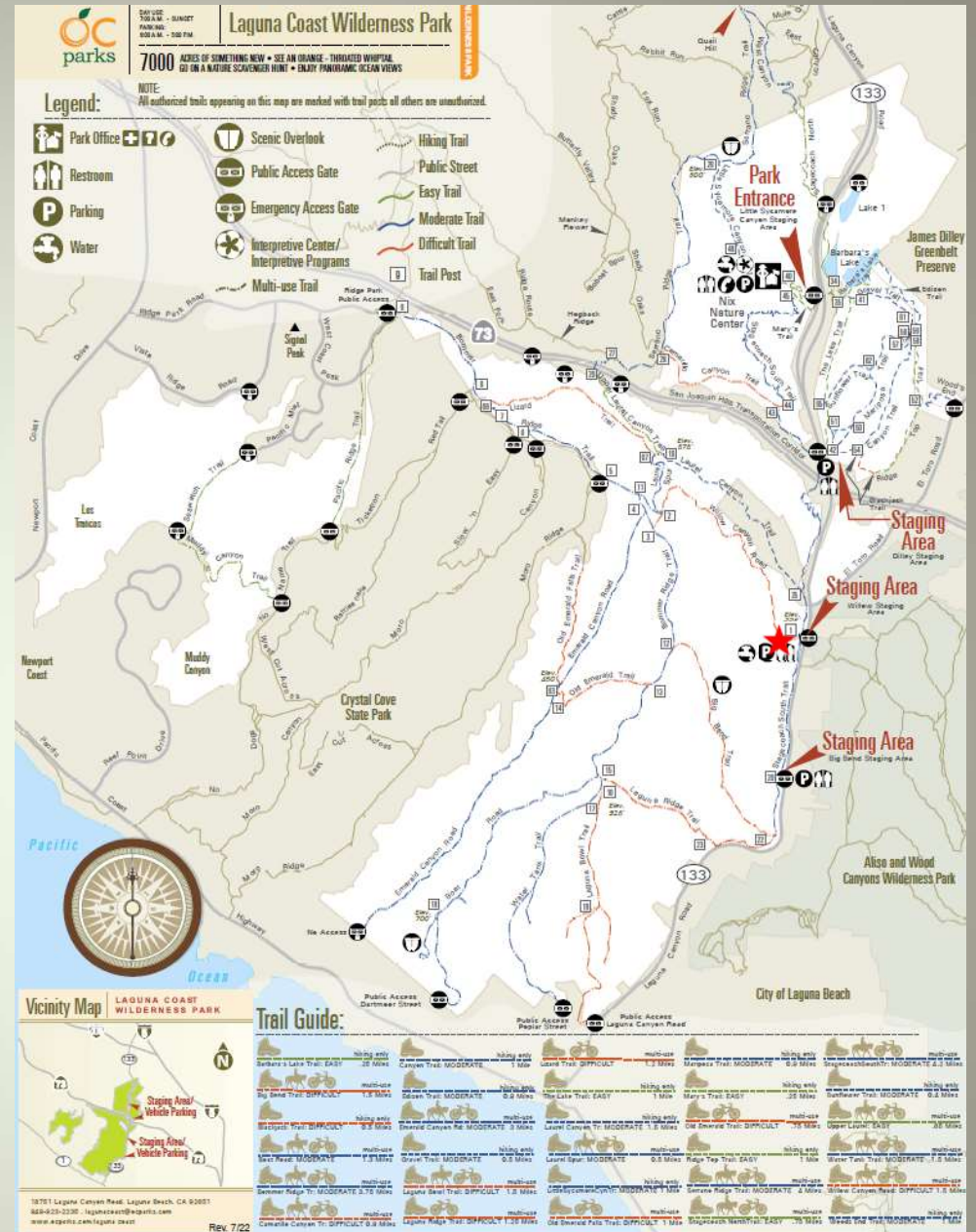




# Trail Ambassador Deployment Locations

## Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

- Willow Trailhead



OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Trail Ambassador Deployment Locations

## *Peters Canyon Regional Park*

- North Loop Trailhead
- East Ridge View Trail and Peters Canyon Trail



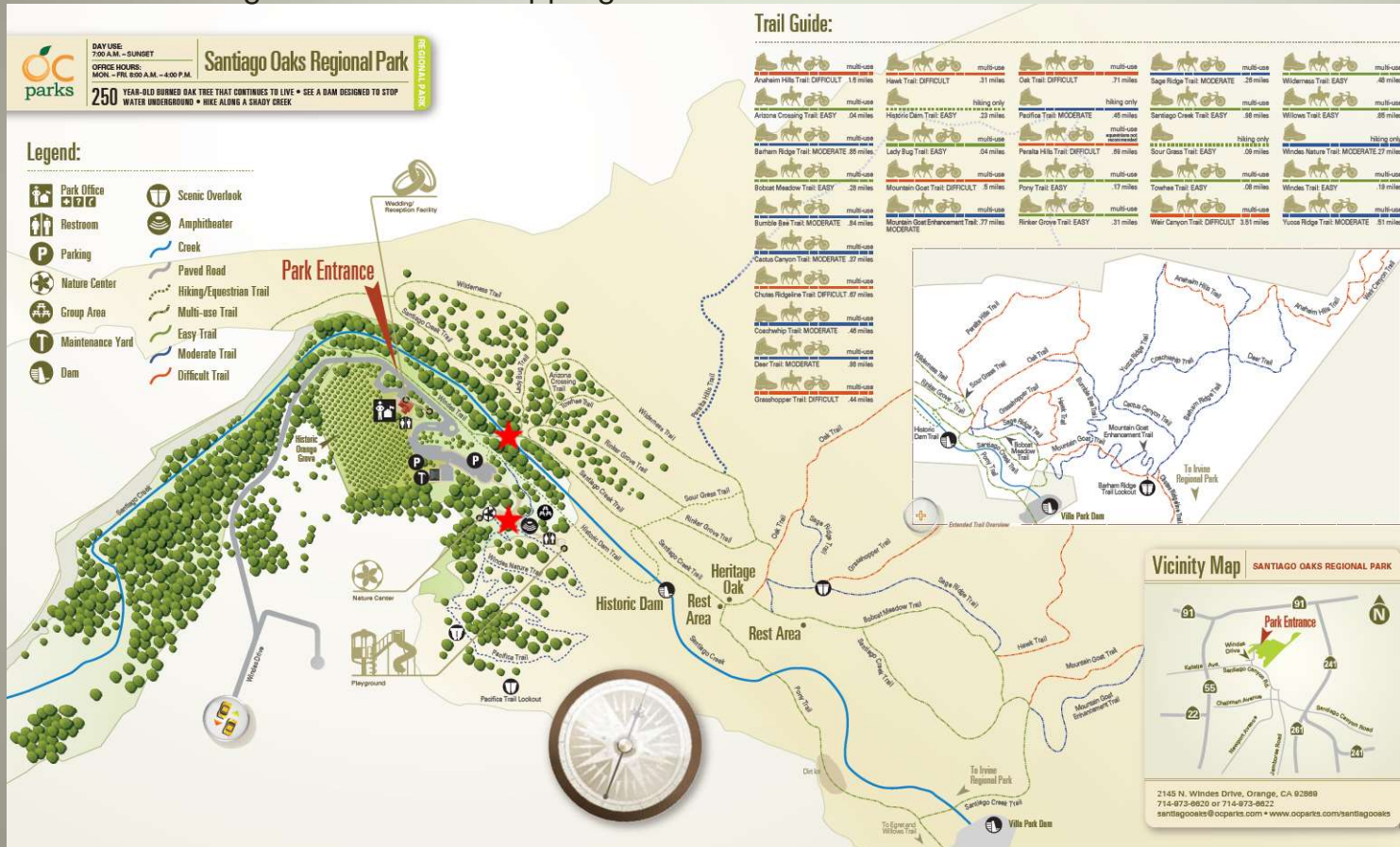
OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023



# Trail Ambassador Deployment Locations

## Santiago Oaks Regional Park

- Windes/Pacifica Trailhead
- Santiago Creek Trail Stepping Stones



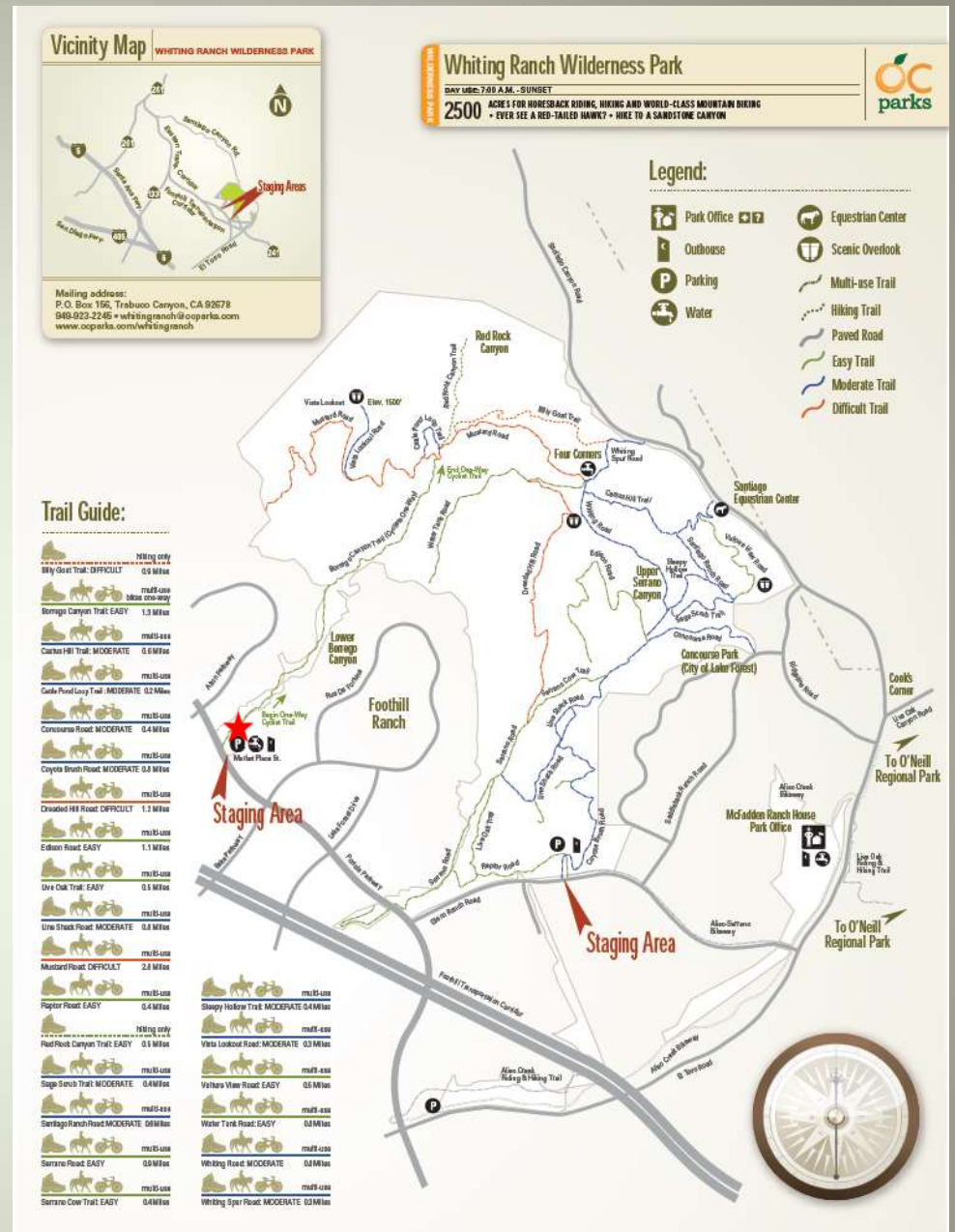
OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023



# Trail Ambassador Deployment Locations

## Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

- Borrego Canyon Trailhead



OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Recommended Action

Recommend to OC Parks staff that Trail Ambassadors be initially deployed to identified locations, including but not limited to:

- Irvine Regional Park
  - Horseshoe Loop and Santiago Creek Trailhead near Park Entrance
  - Near Parking Lot T, by OC Zoo and Nature Center
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
  - Willow Trailhead
- Peters Canyon Regional Park
  - North Loop Trailhead
  - East Ridge View Trail and Peters Canyon Trail
- Santiago Oaks Regional Park
  - Windes/Pacifica Trailhead
  - Santiago Creek Trail Stepping Stones
- Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
  - Borrego Canyon Trailhead





**OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park**  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Presentation Agenda

- Background
- Goals of Reroute
- Project Overview
  - Planning
  - Implementation
- Conclusion



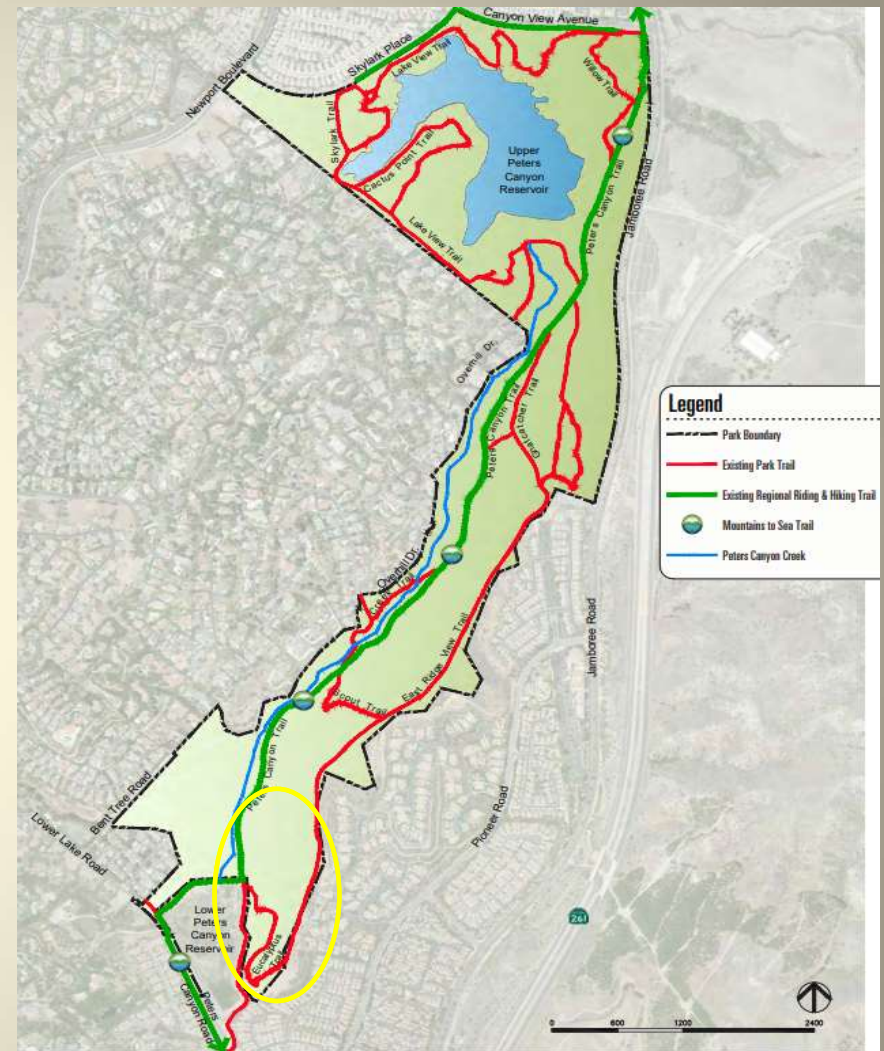
# Peters Canyon Regional Park History

- Part of original Spanish land grant, Rancho Lomas De Santiago
- 1886 – Land purchased by James Harvey Irvine I
- 1931 – Upper Peters Canyon Reservoir completed
- 1940 – Lower Reservoir constructed
- 1992 – Irvine Company donated 340 acres to County



# Background

- Park includes 340 acres with 9 miles of trails
- Land must be managed in accordance with the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP), a state and federal agreement that protects habitat values
- Park's 2019 General Development Plan identifies East Ridge View Trail for realignment due to steepness, heavy erosion, and access difficulty for patrol, maintenance, and emergency vehicles



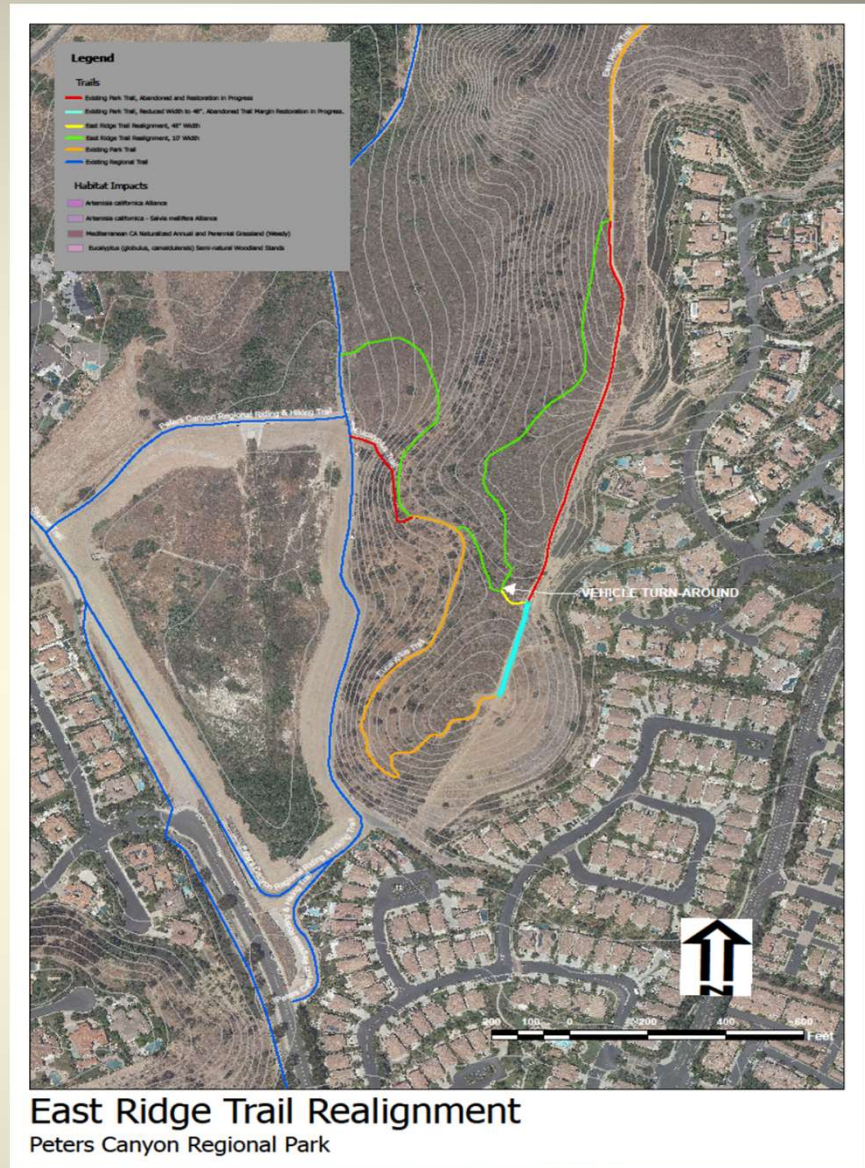
**OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park**  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee – March 27, 2023





# Goals of Reroute

- Increase public enjoyment of Park
- Enhance sustainability
- Reduce trail maintenance
- Improve trail connectivity
- Improve Park patrol, maintenance, and emergency response capabilities



OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee – March 27, 2023





# Reroute Planning

- In 2022, a working group was formed with OC Parks' facility staff, Natural Resources, Trails Coordinator, and contractor
- Considerations included:
  - Recreation – Temporary trail closures, signage and fencing needs, and improved grade and flow
  - Operations – Equipment and materials access, timing for season and weather, and special events
  - Sustainability – Grade and camber, drainage features, and vehicle accommodation
  - Sensitive resources – Native plant and animal species, habitat features, and archaeological/paleontological
- Wildlife Agencies required demonstration of impact avoidance/minimization measures and a habitat restoration plan



# Reroute Planning

- Recreation impact avoidance/minimization efforts entailed:
  - Minimizing trail closures, installing signage, and strategic fencing to guide visitors to new route
- Habitat impact avoidance/minimization efforts involved:
  - Flagging and salvaging native plants for decommissioned trail segments
  - Positioning the trail to go through non-native rather than native habitats
  - Performing work outside of nesting season
  - Restoring habitat on decommissioned trail segments





# Reroute Implementation

- Work began in Winter 2022 to avoid nesting season, started on November 28 and completed on December 16, 2022
- Work included:
  - Salvaging native plants from the path of the new alignment
  - Installing the new alignment of East Ridge View Trail
  - Connecting the new alignment with Eucalyptus Trail
  - Decommissioning and closing the old alignment
  - Fencing and signing the new and closed segments



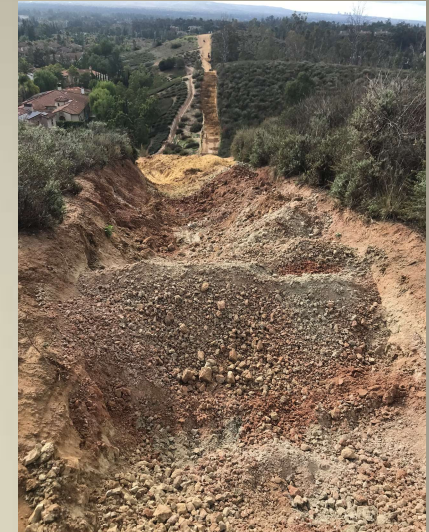
**OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park**  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee – March 27, 2023





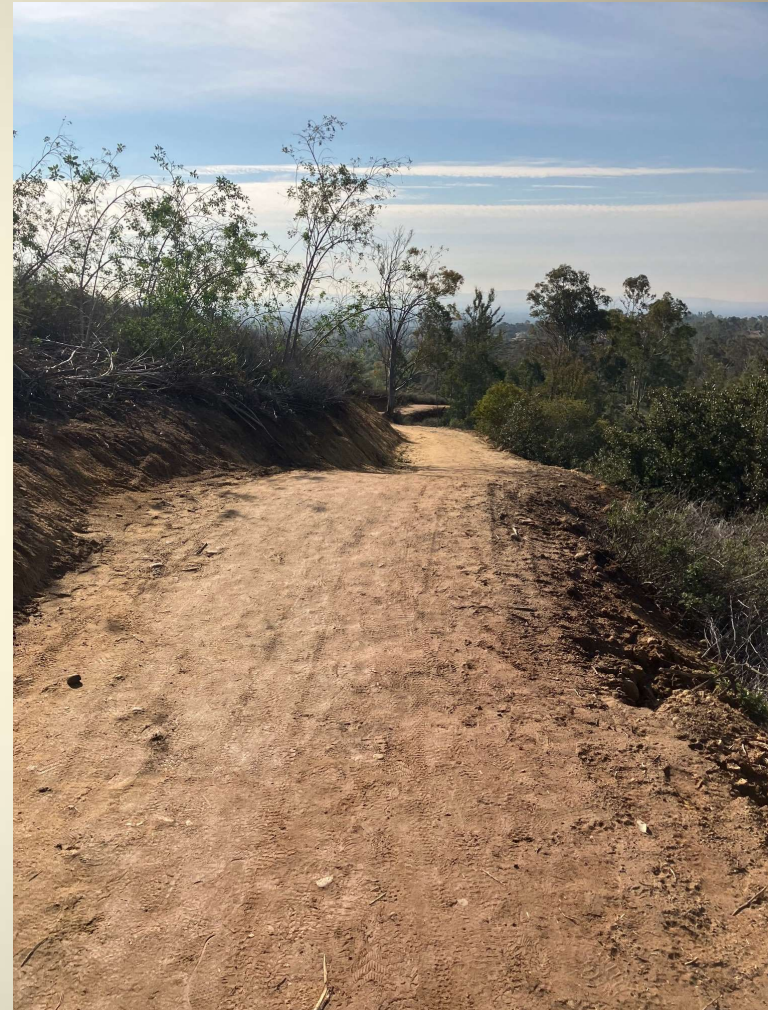
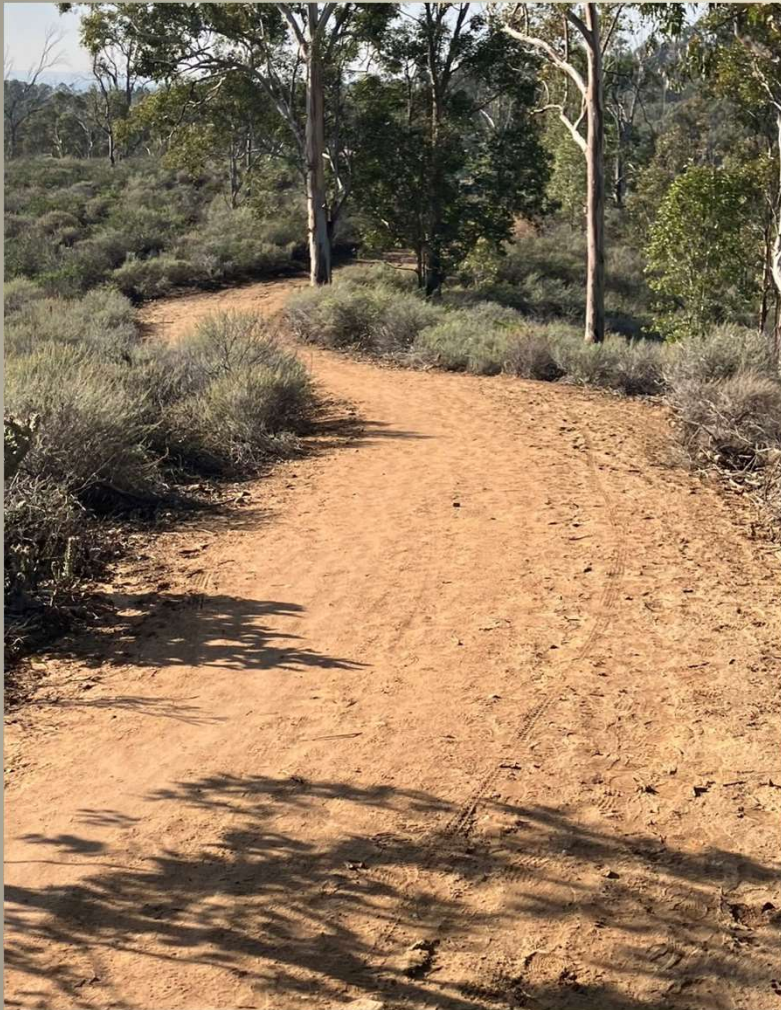
# Habitat Restoration Implementation

- Goal: Establish self-sustaining, high-quality habitat in the footprint of decommissioned trail segments
- 2022 Site Preparation:
  - Decompact decommissioned trail segments
  - Salvage soil and native plants from new alignment
  - Locally collect native seed
- Installation:
  - 2022 – Spread cut vegetation material from new trail over decommissioned trail segments
  - 2022 – Plant salvaged material
  - February 2023 – Hydroseed with native plant seed
  - 3 Years – Maintenance, monitoring, and reporting to Wildlife Agencies





# Project Results



OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Project Results



OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — March 27, 2023





# Questions



OC Parks East Ridge View Trail Reroute, Peters Canyon Regional Park  
OC Parks Trails Subcommittee – March 27, 2023

