

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in Italics)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 — 3:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Fegraus, Vice Chair McCary, and Members Orgill, Clark, Lee, and Osborne were present. Members Foley, Norton, Conners, Weiss, Litschi, and Felder were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

No comments were received from the public.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless an Authority Member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE AUTHORITY MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to approve

Chair Fegraus welcomed Member Lee as the newest Alternate Member for the City of Laguna Woods and Member Lee briefly introduced herself.

IV. AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–G)

A. LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (LCF) UPDATE

Item IV.A was heard after Item IV.D.

Scott Thomas, the new LCF Executive Director, was welcomed by Chair Fegraus and provided an update on the following: 2024 highlights: 12.2 miles of the 21 trails trail were repaired and restored for all trail users; restored over 200 acres with planting and fuel modification in conservation projects; 2,200 students on 52 field trips; implemented two new education programs for 5th and 6th grade students; volunteers logged 9,700 hours; coordinated 300 events for the public. Upcoming activities include: OC Parks/LCF Native Plant Nursery Open House on Saturday, January 18 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Public welcome to come and learn more about native plants - Information is on the LCF website; participating in the restoration of the 65 acre parcel as part of the Pacific Pocket Mouse project.

B. LAGUNA BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

No update at this time.

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C. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION (NCC) UPDATE

Darin Loughrey, NCC Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, shared the following: the January NCC newsletter on The Economic Impacts of Open Space illustrated how the properties enrolled in the Orange County Central-Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCCP/HCP) positively contribute to the economic sustainability of our area. It defines the economic benefits derived from open spaces and wilderness parks. In addition, the valuation of ecosystems is further explored through the growing industry of Ecotourism and continuing efforts to embrace a concept known as Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP). The informative newsletter is available at <https://occonservation.org/>

D. IRVINE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

E. NEWPORT BEACH OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

F. ALISO VIEJO OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Representative not available to provide an update at this time.

G. LAGUNA NIGUEL OPEN SPACE UPDATE

No update at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G.

Motion: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items IV.A–G

V. OC PARKS STAFF UPDATES (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. PARK OPERATIONS — ALL DEPARTMENTS UPDATE

Ev Mena, OC Parks Parks Division Manager, shared the following: new Orange County First District Supervisor – Janet Nguyen; some impact from the winds with closure or power outage at a number of parks; Travis Martz as of January 24 will be the new Operations Manager overseeing the Saddleback and Foothill Operations Group; New Park Ranger Academy starts January 15 with 10 recruits for 4 months

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of classroom activities and 2 months of in-the-field training. Current graduates started onboarding at Headquarters and are now at park facilities.

B. LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK (LCWP) AND ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK (AWCWP) SPOTLIGHT

1. LCWP Update

Brad Barker, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger II, shared the following: Rain - July 1, 2024 to now was 1/10 inch, a year ago was 6 inches, two years ago 9 inches; Volunteer Hours during 2023-2024 fiscal year – LCWP 5,500 hours, AWCWP 3,800 hours plus hours by Laguna Canyon Foundation; looking at installing a bridge over Laurel Creek – more information later; Attendance – During 1998 with 3,400 visitors, During 2024 was 232,000 visitors. Ranger Megan Matchett has left OC Parks which leaves LCWP short a ranger. CGA members noted Ranger Matchett’s positive impact on the park and wished her the best.

2. AWCWP Update

Adam Martinez, OC Parks Supervising Park Ranger I, shared the following: Received seed for the reseeding in the 5 Oaks area; painting interior of the Visitor Center and outside eaves; remulching the picnic area near the Visitor Center; new ranger Nikee Chambers from the last Academy graduates; Holidays were busy with visitors, but crowds have reduced following the holidays. January 9th fire training and later in January the Laguna Beach Park Rangers and AWCWP staff will meet for fire training and understanding monitoring and procedures. Questions were asked about fire procedures. These were explained as: Locate the fire, directions to the fire, communications with OC Parks and Laguna Beach, evacuation of visitors, use of police for neighborhood evacuations, use resources of fire hydrants within the park and city, best roads and/or trails for firefighting. Question of how can OC Parks use cameras with AI features to spot a fire?

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B.

Motion: Member Orgill

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to Receive and File Agenda Items V.A–B

VI. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–H)

A. LCWP LAGUNA LAUREL PACIFIC POCKET MOUSE INTRODUCTION

Staff from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will present on a new Pacific Pocket Mouse project at LCWP.

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William Miller, United States Fish and Wildlife Service Biomonitor, gave a presentation on the new Pacific Pocket Mouse project. The Nature Conservancy holds the conservation easement over the proposed site. The Pacific Pocket Mouse is on the Endangered Species Act. The goal is to establish 10 stable sites for the Pacific Pocket Mouse with the hope of delisting them in the future. The presentation is included with the Minutes. Authority looks forward to hearing more about the project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Authorize the Chair to prepare and issue a letter to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in support of the project, if appropriate.
2. Receive and file.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to authorize Chair Fegraus to prepare and issue a letter in support of the project and to receive and file the item.

B. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

City of Laguna Beach Staff, if available, will share an update on its Laguna Canyon Road Improvement Project following a report presented at the November 15, 2022 City Council Meeting and further planning.

No updates on the Project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Item was received and filed and continued.

C. LAGUNA CANYON ROAD WIDENING AND SAFETY PROJECT UPDATE

OC Parks Staff, if available, will share an update on Caltrans' Laguna Canyon Road Widening and Safety Project.

Brian Kurnow, OC Parks Entitlements Division Manager, noted that the work continues. Park staff receives daily emails regarding the construction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Item was received and filed and continued.

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D. LAGUNA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN (LCAD) STUDENT CENTER DEVELOPMENT

City of Laguna Beach Staff, if available, will provide a report of the proposed developments at the Laguna College of Art and Design Student Center and any possible impacts to AWCWP.

Penny Milne, Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization President, commented on the LCF camera study of the project area before and during construction and after will provide valuable information for the City of Laguna Beach's Laguna Canyon Road Protect and Connect project.

No updates on the Project at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item, if appropriate.

Item was received and filed and continued.

E. IRVINE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR UPDATE

Receive information about the Science Advisors Series, Partner Charter, and other activities.

Member Clark shared the following: numerous wildlife corridor tours in December including state agencies; Laguna Greenbelt, Inc has hired a consultant for the project who has worked on the Annenberg 101 wildlife corridor project; Laguna Greenbelt, Inc has recently received a \$10,000 grant to help fund current activities; a tour is scheduled for a UCI graduate class in environmental studies similar to ones the past two years. The UCI student tours are an excellent opportunity to present the challenges and receive their excellent comments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file and continue the item.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Orgill

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

F. REVIEW OF THE 1998 LCWP GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Authority Members reviewing the LCWP General Development and Resource Management Plans will present ideas for an addendum to update the plans.

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Authority Members will discuss and receive additional comments on additional items of inclusion in the addendum.

Chair Fegraus shared current Team activities to update these documents. A key activity was a tour of the Nix Nature Center by the Wildlife Corridor Team hosted by LCWP staff and attended by Laguna Canyon Foundation representatives. This valuable tour pointed out many exhibits within the nature center that have been added or updated and those that need repair or replacement. Visitor comments were also discussed, including the most popular exhibits. Many thanks to OC Parks for organizing the tour. The Nix Nature Center was mentioned in the 1998 General Development and Resource Management Plans but the Center was not built until 2007. An outline of the Nix Nature Center Addendum was verbally shared and will be presented in more detail at the next Authority meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Discuss and incorporate information recommended for inclusion in the Addendum to the LCWP General Development and Resource Management Plans.
2. Continue the item.

Motion to receive and file and continue the item: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to receive and file and continue the item.

G. AUTHORITY ALTERNATE MEMBER LETTER OF APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT

Discussion of the preparation of a letter of appreciation to be sent to the Authority's former Alternate Member Shari L. Horne for her service to the Authority.

It was noted that former Alternate Member Horne joined the Authority on January 15, 2015.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter of appreciation to former Authority Alternate Member Shari L. Horne.

Motion: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to authorize the Chair to prepare and send a letter of appreciation to former Authority Alternate Member Shari L. Horne.

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H. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The bylaws of the Authority require that the Authority elect a Chair and Vice-Chair annually during the January meeting to serve for a term of one year.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Nominate and select Authority Members to serve in the following positions for one year:

1. Coastal Greenbelt Authority Chair.
2. Coastal Greenbelt Authority Vice Chair.

Motion to nominate Mary Fegraus as Coast Greenbelt Authority Chair: Member Osborne

2nd: Vice Chair McCary

Unanimous vote to select Mary Fegraus as Authority Chair.

Motion to nominate Annie McCary as Authority Vice Chair: Chair Fegraus

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to select Annie McCary as Authority Vice Chair.

VII. AUTHORITY COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Authority 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 may also suggest items for the March 12, 2025 meeting agenda.

No comments or reports at this time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO MARCH 12, 2025 MEETING 4:55 p.m.

Motion: Vice Chair McCary

2nd: Member Osborne

Unanimous vote to adjourn to the March 12, 2025 Meeting.

- 2024 Addendum Part to the 1998 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park General Development and Resource Management Plans

**** Indicates we still have questions and need more research

I. Introduction

Since 1998 there have been many changes to Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (LCWP). These include newly acquired land and ownership. Currently approximately 7,000 acres of wilderness with approximately 42 miles of trails are owned by the County of Orange, State of California, Cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods. These are managed by Orange County Parks.

The public agencies, Southern California Edison and Laguna Beach County Water District, are located within LCWP perimeter but operate independently under agreements with Orange County. Multiple ownership presents challenges but also opportunities for collaboration. The intent of preserving this land remains the same as stated in the 1990 purchase agreement – “Habitat preservation and passive recreation.”

The preservation of LCWP united the preservation of approximately 22,000 acres of wilderness parks and preserves with contiguous boundaries in Orange County. This area, the South Coast Wilderness, includes City of Newport Open Space, Crystal Cove State Park, some of the City of Irvine Open Space Preserves, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, City of Laguna Beach Open Space and City of Laguna Woods Open Space, and the Newport Beach Homeowners Association land near Pacific Ridge Trail.

Art is a part of the history of LCWP and the larger Laguna community. Within the park art is used for interpretative signage, inherent in each of the Nix Nature Center exhibits, architecturally visible as the Painters’ Pier, is explicit in educational activities, and seen in collaboration with art entities such as Laguna College of Art and Design.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA), established by the 1990 Laguna Laurel purchase agreement, remains the oversight authority of the management of LCWP. In that role CGA initiated the development of this Addendum.

Include CGA Bylaws in either the Reference section or the Appendix. Provide the link to the OC Parks website for current CGA meetings/minutes and Bylaws.

II. Timeline of Preservation Actions

The following Timeline illustrates the progress of the preservation of land within the coastal canyons of Orange County.

1972 County of Orange Board of Supervisors approved the concept of a Laguna Greenbelt at the urging of Jim Dilley, a Laguna bookstore owner who formed the nonprofit, Laguna Greenbelt Inc.

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1998 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park General Development and Resource Management Plans

- 1978 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Laguna Canyon area now called the James Dilley Greenbelt Preserve (376 acres) in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- 1979 Dedication of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park through development agreement with the Mission Viejo Company and the County of Orange. Originally 4,200 acres, currently 4,500 acres.
- 1984 State of California purchased The Irvine Company land for Crystal Cove State Park – 2,791 acres of inland and coastal land
- 1988 Orange County Board of Supervisors approved The Irvine Company’s Laguna Laurel Development Plan which would have created a new community in Laguna Canyon.
- 1988 California Proposition 70 passed, allowing for the purchase of Carolyn Wood Knoll at Top of the World.

Preservation of the Carman Sandling development of “Honda Hills” – still needs research

- 1989 More than 8,000 Southern California residents participated in the Walk in Laguna Canyon on November 11th to protest the development in Laguna Canyon and to show their support for preserving the land.
- 1990 In the California November election almost 80% of Laguna Beach voters approved Proposition H, a \$20 million bond for the purchase of the land planned for the Laguna Laurel Development. This was the highest vote for a California bond measure since 1956.
- 1990 Historic Laguna Laurel Purchase Agreement between The Irvine Company, City of Laguna Beach, County of Orange and State of California to purchase the land slated for the Laguna Laurel development. The purchase agreement was in five Option payments.
- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| June 30,1991 | \$33 million | Preserved 1,286 acres |
| June 30,1992 | \$3 million | Preserved 26 acres |
| April 9, 1993 | \$4 million | Preserved 50 acres |
| October 15,1993 | \$5 million | Preserved 41 acres |

The purchase agreement ended June 30, 1995, due to a lack of funding for the 5th Option of \$33 million for 173 acres. The cities of Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Leisure World Mutuals, Orange County and Laguna Canyon Foundation approved a Joint Statement of concern for the use of the land. They continued to work with The Irvine Company to reach an agreement for the last developable Laguna Laurel parcel within Laguna Canyon approved for more than 1,500 housing units.

The Laguna Laurel Purchase Agreement also established the Coastal Greenbelt Authority. Members at that time included the landowners: City of Laguna Beach, County of Orange and State of California.

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April 1993 Dedication of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. Public access started under Managed Access for docent led tours one weekend per month.

1998 Newport Coast Development agreement with the County of Orange, adding 2,000 acres to Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. This included eventually Ridge Park, Boat Canyon and Emerald Canyon and Dartmoor.

January 2000 James and Rosemary Nix pledge \$500,000 for a nature center at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The Nix Nature Center opened to the public on March 17, 2007

2000 California Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 12) included a \$12.5 million line item to undertake projects for the South Coast Wilderness system of coastal canyons and watersheds in south Orange County, including, but not limited to, properties for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

2001 Gift by The Irvine Company to the County of Orange of 11,000 acres which included the remaining Laguna Laurel Development land (Parcel 5), 173 acres, for public open space.

2002 City of Laguna Woods purchased 10.6 acres with the first funding from the 2000 State Proposition 12 through the Coastal Conservancy. Land is leased to the County of Orange for management as part of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. This acquisition established the City of Laguna Woods as a member of the Coastal Greenbelt Authority.

2004 Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the concept of long-term leases to include land not owned by the County of Orange under the management of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. *Include chart of acquired parcels with parcel data as a reference.*

2004 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Trinity 36-acre parcel and the Wainwright 32-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds and leased the parcels to the County of Orange for management as part of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

2004 Ridge Park was dedicated as part of the Newport Coast Agreement with the County of Orange.

2006 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Decker 11.43-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds and leased the parcel to the County of Orange for management as part of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

2006 Realignment of Laguna Canyon Road from the I-5 freeway to the 73 creating a number of undercrossings that provide trail connections and improve wildlife movement to ensure diversity. The realignment unified Lakes 1 and 2 and eliminated seasonal flooding along the road.

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March 17, 2007 Nix Nature Center Dedication Ceremony led by Fifth District Supervisor Tom Wilson. Total cost of \$3.5 million for interpretive exhibits and administrative buildings (Total 3,000 square feet with 2,300 square feet of exhibit space).

2007 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Haun 10.45-acre parcel, the Jaysu 27.92-acre parcel, the Stonefield 50.37-acre parcel and the Chao 58.4-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds and leased the parcels to the County of Orange for management as part of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

2008 City of Laguna Beach purchased the SBD 10.38-acres with Prop 12 Funds.

2009 City of Laguna Beach purchased the Bunn-Moore 4.5-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds

2012 City of Laguna Beach purchased the McGraw 1.99-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds

2013 City of Laguna Beach purchased the McGehee 56.25-acre parcel with Prop 12 Funds

Important Agreements regarding LCWP – The following are agreements that impact LCWP -

1996 Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for the Coastal Subregion includes LCWP

2003 County of Orange and Laguna Canyon Foundation Agreement for the development of the Nix Nature Center and interpretive exhibits

2004 Orange County Board of Supervisors approve long-term lease agreements between Orange County and the cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods for OC Parks to manage these lands as part of Laguna Coast and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks

2006 County of Orange and Laguna Canyon Foundation Agreement for Mary’s Trail adjacent to the Nix Nature Center to serve as an interpretative and a connecting trail to existing trails

2008 County of Orange and Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) Agreement for LCF support of park projects and volunteer programs

2016 Wildland Fire Management Plan (WFMP) as part of the NCCP/HCP program

2019 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan (HREP) Update of the original 2003 HREP as part of the NCCP/HCP program

Date? County of Orange and Southern California Edison agreement to manage Edison Trail as part of LCWP

Date? County of Orange and Ridge Homeowners Association agreement regarding Pacific Ridge Trail.

Date? County of Orange and Newport Coast Development Agreement (Boat Road)

Dates Lease agreements between Orange County and the cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods for parcels acquired with Prop 12 funds.

Include in References with links to the Agreement documents on OC Parks website

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III. Existing Park Development and Ongoing Implementation

2024 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

Management Practices History

- LCWP opened in 1993 under Managed Access practices with limited access.
- Today Adaptive Management Practices guide the management of access and habitat protection. This strategy provides the ability to close and open trails, regulate visitor use, such as hiking, biking, and equestrian uses, to prevent overuse and habitat damage and allow for restoration activities. The strategy stresses the importance of Park Etiquette – stay on the trails, no dogs or e-bikes, no after-hours incursions into the park.
- Trail Maintenance and Repair – include the process
- Currently LCWP is open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to Sunset and Parking Areas 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Include in References a link to OC Parks/LCWP website

Current LCWP Management and Operations

- Plans were initially outlined through an Interim Operations Plan, then detailed under the 1998 GDP and RMP documents.
- With the inclusion of OC Parks in the Community Resources Department, there was a change in the management structure. The current OC Parks management team for LCWP includes the LCWP Supervising Ranger, Laguna Canyon Operations Manager and OC Parks Division Manager. This team is responsible for all the LCWP park staff management, operations and obligations.

Legal New Access Points – *need new Staging Areas (Parking) and Trail Access Maps and to include in References a link to OCParks website*

- At the time of the 1993 opening of LCWP there were four access points known as Staging Areas with fee parking – Big Bend, James Dilley Preserve, Little Sycamore Canyon and Willow Canyon (which replaced the Laurel Canyon Staging area noted in the 1998 General Development and Resource Management Plans). Later the Laguna Bowl Trail, multi-use access, was designated at the Laguna Bowl on Laguna Canyon Road with metered Laguna Beach street parking.
- Today access points also include:
 - Ridge Park, Gate 9, dedicated in 2004, providing entry to LCWP, Crystal Cove State Park and City of Irvine Open Space. Only street parking is available.
 - Access points from Crystal Cove State Park along Bommer Ridge Trail
 - Woods End, near the intersection of El Toro Road and Aliso Creek Road, with limited parking, providing access to the LCWP’s James Dilley section and onward to Little Sycamore Canyon using the Laguna Canyon Road undercrossing.

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- Laguna Beach Dartmoor and Poplar Streets providing public access to the southern portion of LCWP with limited street parking only.
- Stairsteps Trail has no parking available at its lower terminus but can be reached from Laguna Beach’s Alta Laguna Park with its free parking and then hiking West Ridge Trail to its upper trailhead. This trail links Aliso and Wood Canyons and Laguna Coast Wilderness Parks.
- Within the City of Irvine: Quail Hill, Shady Canyon, Bommer Canyon, Stagecoach North trails allow hikers access to LCWP.

Trails – Include in Reference a website link to the latest trails map

Today LCWP has approximately 42 miles of trails including the following new, legal trails:

New Trails

- Woods End Trail, Ridge Top, Barbara’s Lake Trail, Gravel Trail, Edison Trail, Blackjack Trail in the Dilley section of LCWP
- Bommer Ridge, Old Emerald Trail – starts near bottom of Emerald Canyon to middle of Emerald Canyon, Emerald Canyon Road – from Post 14 to back gate of Emerald Bay, Old Emerald Falls Trail, Lizard Trail
- Mary’s Trail, dedicated in 2007, adjacent to the Nix Nature Center

Renamed Trails

- BVD was renamed Old Emerald Falls Trail
- Bea Whittlesey Trail was renamed Canyon Trail

Renamed Areas

- Laguna Laurel – this was the original name of the proposed development. Laurel Canyon is a key geographic area of LCWP.
- Sycamore Hills – this was the original name of the current James Dilley Preserve.
- Parcel 5 – was dedicated by The Irvine Company to Orange County. Reference Use and Management today?

Fire Prevention

1995 the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) was established as a Joint Powers Authority which includes LCWP and adjoining parkland. Within the agreements the NCCP/HCP program has a specific Fuel Modification Plan for Willow Canyon and Little Sycamore Canyon including the Nix Nature Center.

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Provide link to Fuel Modification Plan – Natural Communities Coalition will help with documentation.

Hydrology *Include Photo of Interpretive Sign at Barbara’s Lake*

With the realignment of Laguna Canyon Road, there are now two lakes instead of the original three. Barbara’s Lake and the small pond nicknamed Bubbles Pond are now connected along their original natural alignment. Barbara’s Lake was named after Barbara Stuart, a founding member of Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

? Lake water studies have been done – dates? Laguna Greenbelt Inc did an early one

Biological Resources

A number of biological studies have been done in addition to the ones with the NCCP/HCP program.

Find and include them in the Reference section.

Include more recent study by the San Diego Natural History Museum, and on-going camera monitoring of Barbara’s Lake, the Main Corridor, and Stagecoach North conducted, monitored and catalogued by volunteers.

IV. Park Information and Signage *Include photos of various signs*

The following signs designate trail use and park etiquette. All trails have specific use designations to protect the habitat. Trail designations include Hiking Only, Multi-Use includes Hiking, Biking and Equestrian uses. E-bikes and any unauthorized motorized vehicles are not permitted on any trails. Dogs are forbidden in any part of LCWP. Camping is not permitted in LCWP. This information appears on kiosks, maps, websites and at all authorized public access sites.

Orientation Panels – *include photos – need to locate? – check with LCF*

The plein-air paintings, owned by the Laguna Canyon Foundation, and on display in the Nix Nature Center Gallery, are the originals reproduced on a series of orientation panels installed throughout the park in 2001. These Orientation Panels are at the six entrances to key trails. The panels orient visitors to the “mosaic” that is the South Coast Wilderness, introduce visitors to the unique qualities of each access point and encourage responsible park use.

The orientation signs received a second-place award in the Wayfarer Category from the National Association for Interpretation in the 2002 national interpretation competition. The development of the six orientation signs was funded by a grant from The Bren Foundation and designed by The Acorn Group and SoLa Creative.

2009 Monument Signs – *include photos*

Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) and OC Parks managed the design and implementation by SoLA Creative to create and install Monument Signs at each of the four staging areas – Dilley Greenbelt, Big Bend,

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Willow Canyon, Nix Nature Center. The project was funded by Laguna Canyon Foundation donors including James and Rosemary Nix. The LCF and County of Orange 2008 agreement provides the basis for LCF to commit financial resources to assist in park enhancements and improvements.

Art and LCWP

Art is part of the history of LCWP and the larger Laguna Community. For the past one hundred years, plein air artists have interpreted and recorded the rich wilderness landscape through oils, watercolors and other media. Through art the awareness is raised of the region's beauty and fragility. Within the park art is used for interpretative signage, inherent in each of the Nix Nature Center exhibits, architecturally visible as the Painters Pier and seen in collaboration with art education entities such as the Laguna College of Art and Design.

V. Educational Programming

Volunteer Programs

Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks sponsor volunteer training programs which are critical for the park's operations. These trainings happen upon volunteer request and/or interest. Volunteers can sign up for these trainings on <https://letsqooutside.org/volunteer/> or request training from OC Parks or Laguna Canyon Foundation staff. Introductory training (Facility Certification) is required for all volunteers in LCWP, and additional trainings are required for more specific positions, including volunteering at the Nix Nature Center, Backcountry Patrol, leading a guided hike, Wildlife Camera project, trail maintenance, restoration projects and creating new programs.

In recent years Laguna Canyon Foundation has provided more than 5,000 hours of yearly service from long-term volunteers. Volunteers are an integral part of LCWP's viability and the park's economy.

Provide website links..... LCF, OC Parks, Let's Go Outside. Laguna Canyon Foundation –
<http://laqunacanyon.org> <http://ocparks.com> <http://letsqooutside.org>

Education and Interpretive Programs

Laguna Canyon Foundation (LCF) staff and volunteers along with the LCWP Resource Specialist provide many educational and interpretive programs. LCF yearly brings more than 1,300 second through fifth grade students from Title 1 partner schools and select local schools for a day on the trail, offering field trips that follow Next-Generation Science Standards at little to no cost to the schools or students.

The OC Parks Resource Specialist at LCWP is a full-time position dedicated to resource protection and public outreach including education events at LCWP focusing on this park specifically, and include kid-friendly and family programs. Public involvement is encouraged through sponsored tours for those of all abilities, cell phone tours, helpful brochures, exhibits, videos, interactive experiences, and the "What

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Did You See Today?' posts on a whiteboard at the Nix Nature Center which can augment the camera studies coordinated by volunteers. These and other programs are ways to help the public understand they have a responsibility to observe and care for the natural environment.

Volunteers also lead educational hikes each week for those interested in such topics as bobcats, birding, seasonal plants, physical fitness, geology, bats, insects, general discovery, and holiday events that encourage them to explore the outdoors as they participate in the chosen topic of interest. These events are detailed and highlighted on the OC Parks website and on the Laguna Canyon Foundation event page where attendees must register to attend the event <https://lagunacanyon.org/events/>

Goals Moving Forward ---

- Maintain Native Plant Nursery Program managed by Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks. It provides an ongoing plant source for restoration projects. Volunteers are welcome.
- Provide website links for studies done through the NCCP/HCP program, universities, public and nonprofit organizations.
- Preserve Historical Wildlife database from camera studies. Important to continue under the direction of the Resource Specialist.
- Coordinate all studies with the OC Parks Natural Resources Team.
- Implement restoration projects as a result of studies.
- Address Question of Trail Management – how to manage large number of trail users. Recognizing the population of Orange County at the time of the park's creation, what it is now and what it might be in the future. How can we maintain the integrity of the park as the human impact increases?
- Acknowledge the importance of the existing wildlife corridors along Laguna Canyon Road. Provide regular maintenance of wildlife corridors utilizing the latest technology for wildlife corridors. Complete proper wildlife fencing along the 73 and 133 routes. Be aware of possible new undercrossing or overcrossings strategically placed such as at Big Bend and Laguna Canyon Road.
- Acknowledge the larger connections within the South Coast Wilderness parks and preserves, and the yet to-be-completed wildlife corridor connecting the South Coast Wilderness with the Cleveland National Forest.
- Continue to stress the importance of the commitment and coordination of the public agencies to keep the connections viable to their open space jurisdictions.

- 2024 Addendum Part to the
1998 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park General Development and Resource Management Plans

- Update Nix Nature Center exhibits with more interactive elements, newer technology, and in accordance with NAGPRA (*spell out this acronym*), as well as our tribal partners. Addendum Part II will specifically address the Nix Nature Center exhibits.
- Maintain the previously approved additional Park Range II position.
- Maintain Parcel 5 as the only wildlife refuge area in the South Coast Wilderness parks and preserves not impacted by public access.
- Update the Cell Phone tours.
- Continue to build on Geology information with educational aids such as the Geology Tour bags developed through an Eagle Scout project.