

DYLAN WRIGHT
DIRECTOR
OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CYMANTHA ATKINSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

JENNIFER HAWKINS, DVM
DIRECTOR
OC ANIMAL CARE

RENEE RAMIREZ
DIRECTOR
OC COMMUNITY SERVICES

JULIA BIDWELL
DIRECTOR
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT &
HOMELESS PREVENTION

STACY BLACKWOOD
DIRECTOR
OC PARKS

HELEN FRIED
COUNTY LIBRARIAN
OC PUBLIC LIBRARIES



13042 OLD MYFORD ROAD
IRVINE, CA 92602
PHONE: 866.OC PARKS
FAX: 714-667-6511

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MEDIA CONTACT

Public Information Officer Marisa O'Neil
(714) 973-6870, marisa.oneil@ocparks.com

Fire-Damaged Parks to Remain Closed Through Weekend

This week's Canyon Fire 2 burned substantial portions of Irvine, Santiago Oaks and Peters Canyon regional parks and open space areas.

(Irvine, Calif.) – The Canyon Fire 2 swept through eastern Orange County this week, burning extensively into multiple County parks, closing three regional parks at least through Monday.

Irvine Regional Park, Peters Canyon Regional Park and Santiago Oaks Regional Park still have numerous hot spots, weakened trees and other hazards that make them unsafe to enter without proper precautions. Active flare ups continued to plague the parks as late as Friday morning, and fire weather conditions are expected Saturday through midday Sunday.

Portions of Irvine Regional Park's interior are expected to be the first to open, but will require assessment and hazard removal prior to public use.

OC Zoo, OC Parks and OC Animal Care staff evacuated the zoo inside Irvine Regional Park prior to the fire on Monday. The animals have since returned, but the zoo remains closed to the public.

The Irvine Park Railroad Pumpkin Patch will also be closed at least through the weekend. The Canyon Fire 2 extensively burned natural areas in the park. Most park structures sustained minimal damage, thanks to the firefighting tactics from both ground and air.

Programs in affected areas of the Irvine Ranch Open Space have been canceled through at least the end of next week.

Some areas of the affected parks may experience extended closures to allow the land and habitat to recover, similar to the closure Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park experienced following the 2007 Santiago Fire. Once the parks are safe for staff members to enter, they can make more complete damage assessments and determine what areas can be opened to the public in the short term, and what areas will need more time.

As the extent of the damage becomes clear, OC Parks will schedule volunteer opportunities for those who wish to help the parks recover.

Information on closures, volunteer opportunities and damage assessments will be posted as available on OCParks.com, as well as the OC Parks [Facebook](#) (OrangeCountyParks), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (@OCParks) accounts.

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OC Parks manages nearly 60,000 acres of parks, historical and coastal facilities and open space for the County of Orange as part of OC Community Resources.

<http://www.ocparks.com>

