The Orange County Parks Commission welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Commission encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record prior to providing your comments. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes.

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, the Orange County Parks Commission will be conducting its meeting remotely. While there will not be a physical location for the meeting, the public is invited to observe the meeting by dialing +1-415-655-0001, using Access Code 177 685 7312 or online at the link below (Password #PARKS#)
https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ebf40c04a4a938a47c747fcac7b4a30e6

Any member of the public wishing to speak should submit the following information no later than 5pm the day of the meeting to Suchitra.Vattyam@ocparks.com or 949-923-3785:

1. The email subject line or voicemail must state the following: Request to Provide Public Comment at OC Parks Commission Meeting on specify meeting date.
2. Name of Person Requesting to Speak
3. Organization Represented or City of Residence
4. Phone Number/Screen name that will be used to access the meeting (important)
5. Specify Agenda Item Number or Topic

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting shall notify OC Parks at 949-923-3785 or Suchitra.Vattyam@ocparks.com by 5pm on the Monday preceding the meeting. Please provide your name and contact phone number or email.

All supporting documentation is available for public review at https://www.ocparks.com/about/commission under the “Agendas and Minutes” link or by calling 949-923-3785 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
OC COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Orange County Parks Commission
Duties and Responsibilities

(O.C. Codified Ordinances Sec. 2-2-19: Paraphrased)

Except as otherwise provided, the Orange County Parks Commission shall be advisory to the Board of Supervisors and to the Director of OC Parks, and shall have the power and duty:

1. To recommend to the Board of Supervisors plans and policies for the acquisition, development, maintenance and operation of the harbors, beaches and regional parks of the County;

2. On request of the Board of Supervisors, to advise the Board and make recommendations on any matter pertaining to harbors, beaches and regional parks, and any other matters referred by the Board;

3. On request of the Director, to advise on any question of administrative policy and regarding any matter to be decided by the Director under this division;

4. On appeal from an administrative decision by the Director, to act as a board of administrative review;

5. To make such investigations as it may deem necessary in the exercise of its powers;

6. To perform the duties and functions of the County Fish and Game Commission assigned by either statute or this code, and consider methods for the propagation and protection of fish and game in the State of California and County of Orange. The Commission shall be advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

OC Parks Commission Regular Meeting Schedule: First Thursday, Monthly, 7:00 p.m.
I. ROLL CALL

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

The following items on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests to pull a specific item.

A. Approve Commission minutes for January 7, 2021.

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (Items A – C)

A. APRIL FIELD TRIP

In January 2021, your Commission approved its 2021 meeting and field trip schedule. At that meeting, your Commission indicated that the field trip date and location would be selected the month preceding the field trip.

Date options for morning field trip:
  a) Friday, April 9
  b) Saturday, April 10

Location options:
  a) Whiting Ranch Burn Area
  b) Aliso and Wood Canyons Visitor Center
  c) Irvine Ranch Open Space

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Select a field trip date.

2. Select a field trip location.

B. PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Staff will provide a presentation on a proposed pilot project regarding use changes on certain trails in the County park system.
RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Support implementation of the proposed trail use designations pilot project.

C. TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE EXTENSION OF TERM

The Trails Subcommittee is a working group that advises the OC Parks Director and Parks Commission on matters related to County trails and bikeways. The Subcommittee Guidelines, approved by your Commission in 2016, schedule the Subcommittee’s sunset after five years unless otherwise extended by the Parks Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve extension of the Trails Subcommittee term for an additional five years to October 5, 2026.

V. OC PARKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

OC Parks continues to provide family-friendly virtual content to educate, entertain and support recreation while in-person programming remains on hold. The month of March will include trivia, wildlife updates from the parks and OC Zoo, and throwback posts that focus on the history of parks and the work of the archaeology and paleontology departments. Content will also feature a variety of highlights that share imagery and information about OC Parks and its facilities. This can all be accessed on OC Parks' Facebook and Instagram pages.

VI. COMMISSION COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
I. ROLL CALL

Chair Koos, Vice-Chair Muller and Commissioners Shawver, Hanson and Ashland were present. Commissioners Posey and McCusker were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Greg Stone, representing the OC Modeler’s Association, provided an update on the Association’s activities.
Andy Yun, resident of Irvine, provided comments on fish stocking at lakes in County parks.
Melanie Schlotterbeck, representing Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks, provided comments supporting the proposed Trails Pilot program.
Michael Wellborn, representing Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks, provided comments on the importance of resolving trail conflict issues.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

The following items on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests to pull a specific item.

A. Approve Commission minutes for October 1, 2020.

Motion: Commissioner Shawver
2nd: Commissioner Ashland
Approved 5-0

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (Items A – D)

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

The bylaws of the Commission require that the Commission elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the calendar year at the first meeting of that year.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Nominate and select Commissioners for:

1. Chair for Calendar Year 2021
2. Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2021

Motion: Chair Koos nominated Vice-Chair Muller as Chair
2nd: Commissioner Ashland
Approved 5-0

Motion: Chair Muller nominated Commissioner Koos as Vice-Chair
2nd: Commissioner Shawver
Approved 5-0

B. PROPOSED 2021 OC PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The 2021 Commission activity schedule is provided for review and approval.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the 2021 Parks Commission meeting and field trip schedule.

Chair Muller made a motion to approve schedule with field trip dates to be determined by the Commission the month prior.
Approved 5-0

C. CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY AND ACCESS EASEMENTS AT PETERS CANYON REGIONAL PARK

Two County park parcels associated with Peters Canyon Regional Park are proposed for conveyance and issuance of easements. These parcels do not contain recreation amenities, and portions of the parcels are located across a private residential road from the park itself. Board approval of the real estate transactions, including park abandonment, sale and conveyance instruments, and easements will reduce County financial and maintenance responsibilities and memorialize historically used accessways.

Stacy Blackwood, OC Parks Director, and Christine Long, CEO Real Estate Infrastructure Division Manager, provided information and answered Commissioners’ questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find that the subject properties are not needed for County use and approve conveyance of the two parcels of surplus property to Jack Chou.

2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the easement to Randall Evans Lake and Sarah Joyce Lake as Co-Trustees of the Lake
3. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the easement to Michael A. Waggoner and Charlotte A. Waggoner, Trustees of the Waggoner Revocable Living Trust, for the purpose of formalizing access to their adjacent residential property.

4. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the easement and waive nominal purchase fees associated with transfer to East Orange County Water District for the purpose of formalizing access to their existing easement located on adjacent property owned by the Lake Living Trust.

Motion: Commissioner Ashland  
2nd: Commissioner Shawver  
Approved 5-0

D. PARK ABANDONMENT AND CONVEYANCE OF LAND AT UPPER NEWPORT BAY

A portion of Upper Newport Bay was previously slated as part of a road extension in the County’s Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH); it currently does not contain any recreation amenities. The parcel has since been removed from the MPAH and is proposed to be conveyed to the owner of an adjacent property.

Stacy Blackwood, OC Parks Director, and Robyn Quinlan, CEO Real Estate Real Property Agent, provided information and answered Commissioners’ questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find that the subject property is not required for County use and approve actions related to park abandonment of the subject property.

2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize actions necessary for County staff to approve and execute all real estate instruments to transfer the parcel for reasonable consideration based on the market value for the property’s intended use.

Motion: Commissioner Hanson  
2nd: Commissioner Ashland  
3(Support)-2(Against)
V. OC PARKS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

OC Parks continues to provide virtual content on social media while in-person programs remain on hold. January will feature a variety of highlights, including updates and features from the parks, OC Zoo, and historical and paleontological facilities. These virtual programs and highlights can be accessed on both Facebook and Instagram.

VI. COMMISSION COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 8:52 pm
OC PARKS BACKGROUND

• **Vision**: We preserve and enhance OC Parks’ natural and cultural resources for recreation, education and exploration.

• OC Parks is responsible for habitat and wildlife protection and providing public facilities that offer safe and enjoyable recreation experiences.

• 60,000 acres of land, including approximately 500 miles of trails:
  - 350 mi off-road, wilderness trails
  - 150 mi paved regional trails
LAND MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Wilderness areas managed by OC Parks are:
  - Visited by many types of users including hikers, bikers, equestrians, trail runners, birdwatchers, etc.
  - Accessed through a number of entrances/trails from surrounding communities, in addition to parking lot(s).
  - Home to protected and sensitive wildlife and plants
- Constraints in building new trails and authorization of unsanctioned trails due to land use restrictions.
- About 45 Park Rangers oversee and patrol 60,000 acres.
- Funding for trail system improvements must compete with other priorities, as established in, but not limited to:
  - 7-Year CIP program approved by Board
  - 10-Year Asset Management Program
  - Park Master Plans approved by Board
TRAIL USE CONCERNS

• User Conflict (poor etiquette, aggression, near misses, speed, crowding)
• Safety (caused by environment: trail quality / conditions, wildlife)
• Trail overuse
• Habitat impacts (due to off-trail activity, use of closed trails, non-permitted uses)
• Insufficient enforcement resources (citations and personnel)
TRAIL USE MODIFICATIONS

• Potential measures to alleviate certain trail use concerns might include:
  o Creating one-directional trails/loops
  o Designating/limiting trails for specific uses (e.g. pedestrian-only, biking-only, etc.)
• If implemented, proposed changes would be tested on a temporary basis. The pilot period would allow for:
  o Data gathering and monitoring
  o Assessment of results/success measures
  o Analysis of future operational impacts (e.g. staffing and financial resources)
PILOT PROJECT

• Considerations applied in selecting trails that could potentially have use modifications:
  o Safety
  o Existing use
  o Feasibility
  o Connectivity for different users

• Implementation:
  o Identify multi-use trails that may be converted to limited or single-use
  o Identify trails which may be converted to one-directional or looping trails
  o Time needed to develop communications plan/public notification, signage, collection of baseline data, monitoring, etc.
  o Trail study and evaluation which includes patron surveys (before and after), monitoring, compliance metrics, and land surveyance.
SANTIAGO OAKS MAP

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS
OC Parks Commission Meeting – March 4, 2021

Peralta Hills Trail
- Single Track
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Current Use</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Trail Description (length, width)</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peralta Hills</td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.</td>
<td>Hiking and equestrian use only; bidirectional.</td>
<td>Approx. ½ mile; single-track.</td>
<td>Peralta Hills trail connects from the lower portion/main entrance of Santiago Oaks to Anaheim Hills Trail and runs parallel to Oak Trail. Bikes coming from the main park entrance travel uphill on Oak Trail to access the eastern and northeastern sections of the park towards Irvine Regional where much of the bike traffic is located. Peralta Hills is primarily used by hikers and some equestrians. Limiting Peralta Hills to hikers and equestrians only is anticipated reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding by limiting trail use to those travelling at slower speeds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SANTIAGO OAKS

Chutes Ridgeline Trail
• Single Track
• Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian. Bidirectional.
## PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Current Use</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Trail Description (length, width)</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chutes Ridgeline</td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.</td>
<td>Bikes only; downhill only.</td>
<td>Approx. ¾ mile; single-track.</td>
<td>Chutes Ridgeline connects Santiago Oaks to Irvine Regional and is primarily used by bikes going downhill to Irvine Regional. Limiting Chutes Ridgeline to bikes downhill only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. The parallel, lower trail (Chutes) connecting Santiago Oaks to Irvine Regional will still be available for multiuse, bidirectional travel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chutes Ridgeline – top, at Santiago Oaks trailhead

Chutes Ridgeline – bottom, near Irvine Regional
Yucca Ridge Trail
- Single Track
## Proposed Trail Use Changes (Santiago Oaks)

### Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification
---|---|---|---|---
Yucca Ridge Trail | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Hiking, biking, equestrian; downhill only. | Approx. ½ mile; single-track. | Yucca Ridge Trail connects Anaheim Hills to the trails in the inner canyon of the park. This trail is heavily used by all user groups. Access being limited to downhill only is anticipated to ease congestion and reduce the amount of users on the trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. Hikers, equestrians, and bikers can use the adjacent Coachwhip Trail to travel uphill.

![Yucca – top, near Anaheim Hills Trail](image)

![Yucca – bottom, near Cactus/Bumblebee](image)
SANTIAGO OAKS MAP

Cactus Canyon Trail
- Single Track
- Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian.
  Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS
OC Parks Commission Meeting – March 4, 2021
PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cactus Canyon</td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional</td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; downhill only.</td>
<td>Approx. ½ mile; single-track</td>
<td>Cactus Canyon Trail connects Barham Ridge to the trails in the inner canyon of the park. This trail is heavily used by bikes traveling downhill on berm turns. Access being limited to downhill only will ease congestion and reduce the amount of users on the trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. Hikers, equestrians, and bikers can use the adjacent Coachwhip Trail and Bumble Bee/Mountain Goat Trails to travel uphill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cactus Canyon – view of whole trail from Bumblebee

Cactus Canyon – top, near Barham Ridge
SANTIAGO OAKS MAP

Pony Trail
• Fire Road
• Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian. Bidirectional.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
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<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Trail Description (length, width)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pony Trail</td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.</td>
<td>Hiking and equestrian use only; bidirectional.</td>
<td>Approx. ¼ mile; fire road.</td>
<td>Pony Trail is one of two entrances from the South end of the park. This trail is currently highly used by equestrian riders. Limiting Pony Trail to hikers and equestrians only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding by limiting trail use to those travelling at slower speeds. Bikes are able to enter and exit the area via Santiago Creek Trail rather than using Pony Trail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pony – crossing Santiago Creek

Pony – at OC Flood trailhead
ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS MAP

Lynx Trail
• Single Track
• Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.

Cholla Trail
• Single Track
• Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.
## Proposed Trail Use Changes (Aliso and Wood)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
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<th>Trail Description (length, width)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lynx Trail</td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.</td>
<td>Bikes only, downhill only.</td>
<td>Approx. ½ mile; single-track.</td>
<td>Cholla and Lynx are parallel trails that connect Wood Canyon and West Ridge. Cholla is heavily used by both hikers and bikers while Lynx is more heavily used by bikes, with the preferred route of travel for bikes going downhill. Limiting Lynx to downhill bikes only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. As an alternate to Lynx, hikers will still be able to travel down Cholla or Rock-It trail further south.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Lynx Trail - bottom, near Wood Canyon](image1.png)

![Lynx Trail - top, near West Ridge](image2.png)
### PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (ALISO AND WOOD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
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<th>Trail Description (length, width)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cholla Trail</strong></td>
<td>Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.</td>
<td><strong>Bikes: uphill only.</strong> Other users remain bidirectional.</td>
<td>Approx. ½ mile; single-track.</td>
<td>Cholla and Lynx are parallel trails that connect Wood Canyon and West Ridge. Cholla is heavily used by both hikers and bikers while Lynx is more heavily used by bikes. Limiting Cholla bike travel to uphill only is anticipated to reduce crowding concerns and also maintain, along with the Lynx/Wood Canyon/West Ridge trails, a looped route for bikes in this area of the park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cholla – bottom third, near Wood Canyon

Cholla – near middle
**LAGUNA COAST MAP**

**Laguna Ridge Trail**
- Single Track
- Current Use:
  - Hiking and biking, Bidirectional.

**PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS**

OC Parks Commission Meeting – March 4, 2021
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Ridge Trail</td>
<td>Hiking and biking; Bidirectional.</td>
<td>Bikes only, downhill only.</td>
<td>Approx. 1 ¼ miles; single-track.</td>
<td>Laguna Ridge Trail provides access from Laguna Canyon Road to the interior of the park, connecting to Bommer Ridge. The portion of the trail nearing the Road is extremely steep. This trail is currently heavily used by bikes going downhill, and limiting it to downhill bikes only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. A nearby trail, Big Bend Trail, runs parallel to Laguna Ridge and can be used by hikers to access the interior of the park north of Laguna Ridge Trail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LAGUNA COAST MAP

Old Emerald Trail
- Single Track
- Current Use: Hiking and biking, Bidirectional.
## PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (LAGUNA COAST)

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Emerald Trail</td>
<td>Hiking and biking; Bidirectional.</td>
<td>Bikes: downhill only. Hikers remain bidirectional.</td>
<td>Approx. ¾ mile; single-track.</td>
<td>Old Emerald Trail connects Bommer Ridge Trail to Emerald Canyon Trail. It is currently heavily used by both hikers and bikers, with bikers primarily travelling downhill. As there is no comparable alternate route for hikers, multiple use is recommended for this trail. Limiting bike travel to downhill only is anticipated to reduce crowding concerns while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Old Emerald – top, near Bommer Ridge

Old Emerald – near middle

Old Emerald – bottom, near Emerald Canyon
ADVISORY BODY ACTIONS

• On December 10, 2020, the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee recommended that the Parks Commission support the pilot project with a 90-day progress update provided to the Subcommittee.

• On January 13, 2021, the Coastal Greenbelt Authority recommended that the Parks Commission support the project (comments included in their letter dated January 22, 2021).
NEXT STEPS – BASELINE DATA

- Discussions to develop trail study with Utah State University (USU), an academic institution with experience in studying biophysical / user data with the Natural Communities Coalition at OC Parks facilities.
- USU proposed study includes assessment of baseline and post-change data:
  - Drone imagery data to assess trail width and conditions.
  - User experience surveys.
NEXT STEPS – PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

• No less than one month before start of pilot project
• OC Parks will notify the public via:
  o OC Parks website
  o Onsite signage
  o Email to interest groups
  o Staff and volunteer on-site outreach, as available
NEXT STEPS – ENFORCEMENT

• Pilot project violations more easily identified by staff
  o Verbal advisement/education first month of implementation
  o Enforcement – starting second month of implementation

• Future: assessment of enforcement tools (e.g., citation fines)
NEXT STEPS – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

• Develop and finalize implementation plan-March:
  o Public Communication Plan
  o Baseline Data
  o User feedback surveys

• Present implementation plan to Trails Subcommittee-April

• Baseline trail assessments completed by consultant-May

• Roll out pilot project-June
RECOMMENDED ACTION

• Support implementation of the proposed trail use designations pilot project.
Thank you.
January 22, 2021

Regarding: Pilot Project – Trail Use Designation

Dear Chair and Members of the Orange County Parks Commission:

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The CGA members represent the park’s landowners – Orange County, Cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods, local environmental organizations, Laguna Canyon Homeowners, and other cities adjacent to the parkland. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the General Development (GDP) and Resource Management Plan (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

OC Parks staff presented the proposed trails designation pilot project at our January 13, 2021 CGA meeting. Specifically addressed were the pilot trail projects for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. Comments from our members and the public included concern about enforcement and additional staff responsibilities; trail equities established in original park documents (GDP, RMP); current trail conditions corrected before starting the project; that the education component should include signage at the top and bottom of every trail, but also as part of the Outreach use of trail monitors – volunteers from Laguna Canyon Foundation; and concerns about any disturbance of sensitive resources.

The CGA agreed that it would be appropriate to have the 90-day progress update as an agenda item for public comment before the Trails Sub-Committee or the OC Parks Commission have made a final determination of whether or not to continue the pilot project.

CGA members agreed to support the proposed pilot trail use project with the above concerns for the two wilderness parks within our focus. We look forward to further involvement.

Mary Fegraus
Mary Fegraus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority
cc: OC Parks Stacy Blackwood and Pam Passow, Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members
ORANGE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Pam Passow, Operations Deputy Director, OC Parks

DATE: March 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Trails Subcommittee Extension of Term

OC Parks manages 60,000 acres of County parkland comprised of a variety of open space, park, and coastal facilities, 150 miles of paved bikeways, and 350 miles of unpaved riding and hiking trails. To establish a body that would serve as a working group to deliberate matters related to County trails and bikeways; engage in planning an appropriately designed, operated, and maintained regional trail system aligned with OC Parks’ Strategic Plan; and provide a public forum in which to discuss these matters, your Commission approved the establishment of a Trails Subcommittee on April 7, 2016. The Subcommittee serves as an advisory body to the Parks Commission and the OC Parks Director and is comprised of two Parks Commissioners and five at-large members of the community representing various trail user groups.

The Subcommittee Guidelines, approved by your Commission on April 7, 2016, establishes the purpose, membership composition, governance, and other rules and procedures under which the Subcommittee operates. Section X.D of the Guidelines specifies that the Subcommittee shall automatically terminate five years from formation of its full membership, which was established by your Commission on October 6, 2016, unless otherwise extended by your Commission for another five-year term.

Since its establishment, the Subcommittee has engaged in a number of trail discussions and actions, including:

- Recommending the revision of the County Ordinance regulating electric or combustible motorized conveyance use in County parks to authorize use of Class I and II electric bicycles on certain paved bikeways.
- Recommending and approving the concept for the OC Parks Trail Ambassador program, which places docents at key County trail locations to supplement OC Parks resources and provide educational opportunities to the public.
- Recommending and approving a draft outline for an update to the County of Orange Trail Design Guidelines.

Furthermore, the Subcommittee is currently engaged in important and impactful discussions related to use and management of County wilderness trails. Currently, a proposed pilot project to modify existing trail use designations is underway, which may potentially reduce trail conflicts and improve visitor experience. This pilot project will require advance planning, implementation, and both trail condition and user studies, and engagement and feedback from a trails working group will be a beneficial resource during
this process. As such, OC Parks recommends extension of the Subcommittee’s term pursuant to the Guidelines established by your Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve extension of the Trails Subcommittee term for an additional five years to October 5, 2026.

Attachment: Trails Subcommittee Guidelines
I. BACKGROUND

The mission of OC Parks, a department within the County of Orange, states that “as a steward of significant natural and cultural resources, OC Parks manages and operates a system of regional parks, beaches, harbors, trails and historic sites that are places of recreation and enduring value”. The Orange County Parks Commission (Commission) was established by the County Board of Supervisors to act as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and the Director of OC Parks (Director).

OC Parks and the Commission require a working group to assist in matters involving County trails and bikeways and in planning an appropriately designed, operated, and maintained regional trail system that will achieve OC Parks’ Strategic Plan goal of maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the public and as outlined in the County General Plan.

To meet this need, the Commission, at its April 7, 2016 meeting, voted to approve the establishment of a Trails Subcommittee (Subcommittee) and the guidelines contained in this document.

II. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Subcommittee is to provide support and act as an advisory body to the Commission on matters involving County trails and bikeways.

III. DUTIES

When requested by the Commission or Director:

A. Review and provide comments and recommendations to the Commission for updates to the County’s Master Plan of Riding and Hiking Trails, Master Plan of Bikeways, and various documents and maps related to County trails and bikeways.

B. Provide input regarding the prioritization of proposed trail and bikeway connections, gap closures, acquisitions, and improvement projects during the annual OC Parks budget development process.

C. Serve as a forum for public input and communication regarding County trail use, operations, and maintenance that would facilitate a constructive balance between various trail user groups, including but not limited to hikers, equestrians, cyclists, and runners.
D. Assist with OC Parks data gathering objectives, as needed, such as providing trail counts and reporting trail issues.

E. Promote and encourage responsible trail use.

F. Provide a forum for the public to provide comments and feedback with respect to planning, design and maintenance of trail/bikeway projects.

G. Review and make recommendations to the Commission on plans and specifications for proposed regional trails and off-street bikeway improvements.

H. Review and make recommendations to the Commission on policies and procedures for trail use and management, including enforcement methods.

I. Provide recommendations to the Commission on active transportation events and special use of trails and bikeways.

J. Perform specific tasks as authorized by the Commission or Director.

IV. LIMITATIONS

The Subcommittee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Commission. It shall have no independent duties and no authority to take actions that bind the Commission or the County of Orange. No expenditures or requisitions for services and supplies shall be made by the Subcommittee.

V. MEETINGS

A. The officers of the Subcommittee shall consist of a Chairperson and an Alternate Chairperson and shall be appointed by the Commission. The Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson positions shall be a term of one year or until a successor is appointed by the Commission.

B. Meetings of the Subcommittee shall be held quarterly between the hours of 7pm and 8pm at OC Parks Headquarters, 13042 Old Myford Rd., Irvine 92602.

C. Each meeting shall be open to the public, and the Subcommittee shall give notice of its meetings and conduct those meetings as required by law.

D. A quorum constitutes more than one-half of the Subcommittee members, including at least one Commissioner, for the transaction of business at a meeting. At any regularly called meeting lacking a quorum, the members
present may constitute themselves a “committee of the whole” for the purpose of discussing matters on the agenda of interest to the Subcommittee members present, but may not take any action. The committee of the whole shall automatically cease to exist if a quorum is present at the meeting.

E. If a member is absent from two regular quarterly Subcommittee meetings in any 12-month period, the position shall automatically be vacated, and a successor shall be appointed to fill the remainder of that member’s term.

F. Any vacancy in the Subcommittee shall be filled by the Commission at its next regular meeting. The successor to any vacancy shall hold office for the balance of the unexpired term of that office.

G. Each member of the public appearing at a Subcommittee meeting shall be afforded two minutes in his or her presentation, unless the Chairperson, at his or her discretion, permits further remarks to be made. Any person addressing the Subcommittee may submit written statements, petitions, or other documents to complement his or her presentation. The Chairperson shall manage public comment and meeting duration as appropriate to accomplish the goals of the Subcommittee. If member of the public wishes to speak for more than 2 minutes and is not granted permission by the Chairperson, a Subcommittee member may make a request for additional speaking time in the form of a motion to the chair; and if the motion is seconded, a vote shall be taken to determine if additional speaking time will be granted.

H. All meetings held by the Subcommittee shall be conducted in compliance with the Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq., and its requirement that public commissions, boards, and councils and other public agencies conduct the people’s business openly.

I. All Subcommittee members shall comply with the provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974, California Government Code Sections 1090 et seq. and 87100 et seq., concerning conflicts of interest.

VI. AGENDAS

The Chairperson and Alternate Chair, in consultation with the Director, shall determine the items to be placed on the Subcommittee agenda.

OC Parks’ Trails Coordinator shall prepare the agenda for each meeting in consultation with Planning & Design Staff, Director, Chairperson and Alternate Chair. Material intended for placement on the agenda shall be delivered to the Trails Coordinator on or before 12:00 p.m. on the date established as the agenda deadline for the forthcoming meeting. The Trails Coordinator may withhold placement on the agenda of any matter that is not timely received, lacks
sufficient information, or is in need of staff review and report prior to Subcommittee consideration.

Agenda items can be initiated by the following:

Orange County Parks
Commission OC Parks Director
OC Parks Trail Coordinator

Any proposed agenda item not initiated by the Commission or Director that requires a significant amount of OC Parks’ staff time for research and preparation shall be approved by the Director prior to being accepted by the Trails Coordinator for placement on the agenda and action by the Subcommittee.

Unless otherwise determined by the Commission or Director for a particular agenda or agenda item, all Subcommittee agenda items shall be approved by both the Commissioners that serve as the Chairperson and Alternate Chair prior to release of the agenda to the Subcommittee members and public.

VII. MEMBERSHIP

The Subcommittee shall consist of seven regular members appointed by the Commission, with one sitting Commissioner serving as Chairperson. All members shall live in the County of Orange during their term on the Subcommittee.

A. COMMISSION MEMBERS

Two Commission members shall be elected to serve on the Subcommittee. One shall serve as Chairperson, and one shall serve as Alternate Chair. The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Commission.

B. OTHER MEMBERS

Five members from the community shall be selected to serve on the Subcommittee by the Commission based on a review of applications in which interested parties are asked to describe their involvement and expertise in trails and bikeways

There is a desire to establish a subcommittee that provides a balanced representation from various geographic areas of the county, as well the various trail user groups (pedestrians/hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, road cyclists) and environmental organizations. Since many existing and proposed trails are located within open space, wilderness and preserve areas, it is preferred that members have an understanding of the environmentally sensitive conditions and constraints associated with implementing trails in wildland areas.
Members of the Subcommittee (including the Commissioners) serve at the will and pleasure of the Commission. Therefore, they may, at any time, be removed from the Subcommittee, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Commission whenever, in its discretion, the best interests of the OC Parks shall be served thereby.

C. COMPENSATION

Membership on the Subcommittee is strictly voluntary and no compensation, benefits, or reimbursements are included or offered to the members (this includes parking passes/fees, park/attraction entrance fees, park use fees etc.).

Upon expiration of their term or removal from office, such members shall not be entitled to any compensation or any other benefits that may have been granted during their term.

VIII. TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for each non-Commission member shall be two years with a maximum of three consecutive terms (six years total).

The term of a Commissioner is limited to his or her service on the Commission.

Appointments and renewal of appointments to the Subcommittee shall be voted on by majority vote of the Commission during a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

IX. GOVERNANCE

A. The Subcommittee shall provide a draft agenda to the Commission at least one week prior to the Subcommittee meeting for review.

B. The Subcommittee shall provide an update to the Commission regarding the Subcommittee meeting at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting subsequent to the Subcommittee meeting.

X. TERMINATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee may terminate upon any of the following circumstances:

A. The dissolution or termination of the Commission.
B. The Board of Supervisors may, by majority vote, terminate the Subcommittee at any time.
C. The Commission may, by majority vote, terminate the Subcommittee at any time.
D. Five year review and extension: Upon formation, which shall mean the date of the Commission’s meeting where the Subcommittee has established its full membership as described herein, the Subcommittee shall automatically terminate five years thereafter unless a majority of the Commission votes to extend the Subcommittee for an additional five years. This process shall be repeated unless and until the Subcommittee is terminated.