



# Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park

30952 Oso Parkway  
Coto de Caza, CA 92679  
949-923-2265

WILDERNESS  
PARK

DAY USE: 7:00 A.M. – SUNSET | TRAILS: MAY BE CLOSED FOR UP TO THREE DAYS FOLLOWING RAIN

*Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park is a 540-acre home to a variety of native plants and animal life. Old groves of Western Sycamores and Coast Live Oaks border the park's two seasonally flowing creeks. Rolling hills of Coastal Sage Scrub and grasslands blanket the area, while wildlife abounds. A natural butterfly garden is one of Riley Wilderness Park's highlights. And horses are just as welcome here as people. Come explore Riley Wilderness Park. It's a wonderful way to spend a day.*

WHAT THERE IS AT  
SANTIAGO OAKS REGIONAL PARK.



## A BRIEF HISTORY.

Riley Wilderness Park is as rich in local history as it is in native wildlife. The first Spanish presence in the area was in 1769 when Captain Gaspar de Portola and his expedition of 63 soldiers and two priests made their way into the area in search of suitable mission sites along the California coast. Wagon Wheel Canyon, where the park now sits, was once part of the original 47,432 acres of land granted in 1845 by Governor Pío Pico to his brother-in-law, John Forster. Forster's heirs sold the land to James C. Flood and the Irish cattleman Richard O'Neill, who established one of the largest ranchos of that period. It was acquired by the County of Orange in 1983 for use as a wilderness park. The park officially opened in 1994 as General Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park, in honor of the former Fifth District Orange County Supervisor. Gen. Riley's dedicated efforts secured this park and several thousand acres of preserved and open space land in south Orange County, for this and future generations to enjoy.

## BEAUTIFUL POINTS OF VIEW.

Horned Toad and Skink Vista lookouts are the perfect places to not only catch your breath, but also have your breath taken away. The gorgeous views include rolling grasslands, stands of wooded oak groves and the southern peaks of the Santa Ana Mountains.

## SOME LIKE TO HIKE, SOME LIKE TO BIKE.

With miles of trails, Riley Wilderness Park has enough of both hiking and biking trails to send everyone home tired and happy.



## RANGER'S RECOMMENDATION.

"This park is one of my favorite places to be. It's like a little, secret hideaway in the middle of a city. There are butterflies and deer, along with plenty of peace and quiet."

## BUTTERFLIES, BUTTERFLIES AND MORE BUTTERFLIES.

Riley Wilderness Park has a one-acre garden featuring native plants that butterflies and caterpillars love. In late April and May, the garden is in full bloom and the butterflies are soon to follow. Warm days without much wind are best for butterfly viewing. The garden also has areas featuring colorful flowers that are attractive to hummingbirds and other pollinators. Other creatures that make their homes in the garden are lizards, rabbits, insects and many species of birds.



## LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO RIDE?

Riley Wilderness Park offers equestrian facilities that include four corrals and five miles of trails to explore.



## SORRY BOY, NOT THIS TIME.

We're dog lovers too, but wilderness parks just aren't the right parks for dogs. Dogs affect the indigenous population in unnatural ways. When marking their territory, dogs signal the native population that there's a predator in the area, which affects feeding and even breeding patterns. We know your dog is part of the family, but when you visit Riley Wilderness Park, please leave him or her at home.



## NATURE IS A WONDERFUL TEACHER.

Riley Wilderness Park is a great place for kids to learn about the ecology, biology and geology of our wilderness areas. The Nature Center features a hands-on classroom with interpretive displays and natural dioramas. Ranger-led hikes and specialized nature programs are available to fit the needs of students, scouts and other youth groups. Picnic areas are available near the Nature Center.



FOR INTERPRETIVE HIKES IN THE PARK, CONTACT THE PARK RANGER AT 949-923-2265.  
866-OC PARKS | [rileywildernesspark@ocparks.com](mailto:rileywildernesspark@ocparks.com) • [www.ocparks.com/rileypark](http://www.ocparks.com/rileypark)

LIKE RILEY WILDERNESS PARK? YOU'LL LIKE THESE PARKS, TOO.

ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK • CASPERS WILDERNESS PARK • LAGUNA COAST WILDERNESS PARK • LIMESTONE CANYON AND WHITING RANCH WILDERNESS PARK • TALBERT NATURE PRESERVE

OC Parks has been entrusted with the care and protection of this park. Help us preserve our county's natural and cultural resources for your and your fellow guests' future enjoyment. Please check with your Park Ranger for this park's specific rules, or see them online at [www.ocparks.com](http://www.ocparks.com).