

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 — 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Gabbard.

II. ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Ashland and Commissioners Diaz, Hanson, Warren, and Gabbard were present. Chair Shawver and Commissioner Jones were absent.

III. 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.

No comments were received from the public.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–B)

The following item(s) on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commissioner requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 7, 2024 MEETING

B. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 5, 2024 FIELD TRIP

Motion: Commissioner Hanson

2nd: Commissioner Diaz

Approved 4–0–1 (Commissioner Gabbard abstained)

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–D)

A. OC PARKS FISCAL YEAR 2024–2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation on the budget for the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff presenting on the item, presented the item, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Mylinh Tu, OC Parks Fiscal Administrator, presented the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

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Motion: Commissioner Gabbard

2nd: Commissioner Warren

Approved 5–0

B. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

Staff will provide an update to the Commission regarding the April 11, 2024 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee meeting.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff presenting on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, provided an update on the April 11, 2024 OC Parks Trails Subcommittee Meeting.

James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Commissioner Diaz

2nd: Commissioner Gabbard

Approved 5–0

C. OC PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER TERM RENEWAL

The OC Parks Trails Subcommittee (Subcommittee) has two members whose terms of membership have expired and they desire to continue their service. Staff therefore propose renewing the membership of Member Deborah Ball and Member Suzanne Martin for an additional two-year term.

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, introduced staff presenting on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Renew the membership of Subcommittee Member Deborah Ball for an additional two-year term, expiring on July 10, 2026.
2. Renew the membership of Subcommittee Member Suzanne Martin for an additional two-year term, expiring on July 10, 2026.

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Motion to renew the membership of Subcommittee Members Deborah Ball and Suzanne Martin for additional two-year terms, expiring on July 10, 2026.

Motion: Commissioner Hanson

2nd: Commissioner Diaz

Approved 5–0

D. COMMISSION 2024 MEETING AND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS AND SELECTION OF SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Staff propose to amend the Commission's 2024 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to move the third field trip of the year from October to September due to the Labor Day holiday. As part of this amendment, staff propose a field trip on Friday, September 13, 2024 with a location to be selected by the Commission.

Proposed date for a morning field trip:

1. Friday, September 13, 2024

Proposed field trip location options:

1. Orange County Modelers' Association and New Entrance for Open Space
2. Old Orange County Courthouse

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Amend the Orange County Parks Commission 2024 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to hold a field trip on September 13, 2024 and a regular meeting on October 3, 2024.
2. Confirm the field trip date.
3. Select a field trip location.

Motion to hold a field trip on September 13, 2024 at the OC Modelers' Association and New Entrance for the Irvine Ranch Open Space.

Motion: Vice-Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Warren

Approved 5–0

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Motion to amend the Orange County Parks Commission 2024 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to hold a field trip in September and a regular meeting on October 3, 2024.

Motion: Vice-Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Diaz

Approved 5–0

VI. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Pam Passow, OC Parks Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

OC Parks Summer Concert Series – Mason Regional Park and Irvine Regional Park – Thursday, July 11, 18, 25 – 5 – 8 p.m.

- Thursday, July 11 features Flashback Heart Attack with an opening performance by Tom Solis at Mason Regional Park.
- Thursday, July 18 features A Thousand Horses with an opening performance by David Rosales & His Band of Scoundrels at Irvine Regional Park.
- Thursday, July 25 features No Duh with an opening performance by Cassie B. at Irvine Regional Park.

OC Parks Sunset Cinema Series – Mason Regional Park and Yorba Regional Park – Friday, July 12, 19, 26 – 6 – 10 p.m.

- Friday, July 12 features *Trolls Band Together* (PG, 2023) at Mason Regional Park.
- Friday, July 19 features *Barbie* (PG-13, 2023) at Yorba Regional Park.
- Friday, July 26 features *National Treasure* (PG, 2004) at Yorba Regional Park.

Wilderness Access Day: Red Rock Wilderness – Saturday, July 20 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Located within OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, Red Rock Wilderness features more than 8 miles of new trails along with a scenic overlook that offers 360-degree views of the nearby iconic red rocks, Black Star Canyon Wilderness, Irvine Lake, Santiago Canyon and beyond. Visitors may provide voluntary feedback about Red Rock Wilderness through on-site participation surveys.

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Biking the Bay – Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve – Wednesday, July 24 – 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- Join OC Parks for an interpretive bike ride around Upper Newport Bay! Participants will have the opportunity to get their heart rate up and pedal around the Bay, all while learning about local ecology and history.

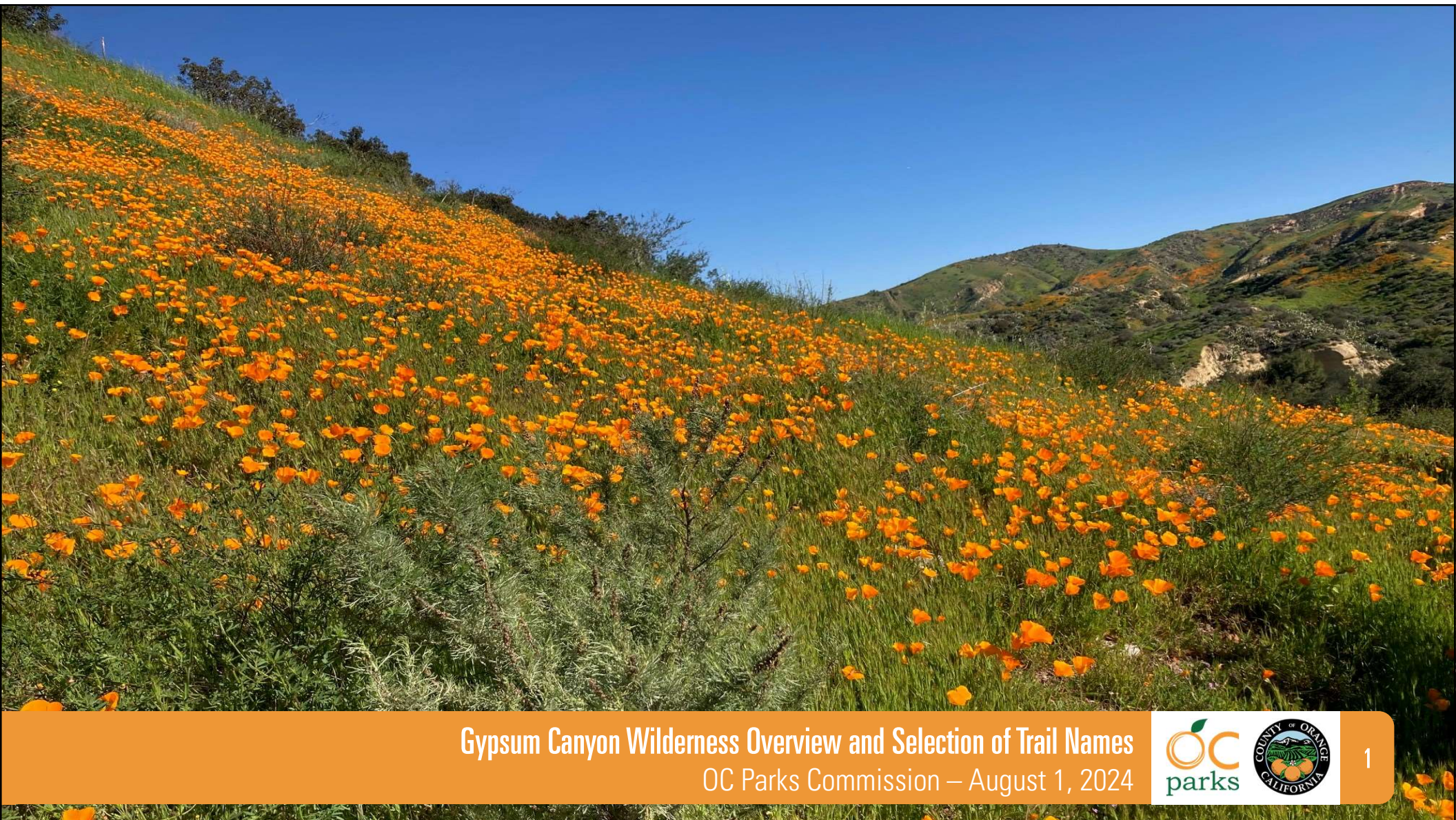
National Zookeeper Day at the OC Zoo – Saturday, July 27 – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Help us thank our zookeepers for all their hard work caring for our zoo animals! Kids activities include making thank you cards for our zookeepers and a fun craft. Our zookeepers will be giving special "keeper chats" throughout the day.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORT

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT 7:01 p.m.



Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
OC Parks Commission – August 1, 2024



Overview



- Background
- Planning & Improvements
- Trail Network
- Public Access
- Trail Naming
- Individual Trails & Lookout
- Recommended Action

Background – Location & Description

- Located in the foothills of the northwest extent of the Santa Ana Mountains, approximately where the 241 Toll Road meets the 91 Freeway
- Approximately 500 acres with six miles of new trails
- Features dramatic cobble and sandstone bluffs formed 16 to 20 million years ago
- Multiple special status wildlife and plant species
- Within Orange County Parks Foundation Easement
- Bordered by The Nature Conservancy Conservation Easement, Orange County Cemetery District, and California State Parks



Background – History

- **2014:** Donated to OC Parks by The Irvine Company
- **2015 – 2019:** Develop and complete Interim Recreation and Resource Management Plan (IRRMP)
- **2020:** Initial staging area improvements
- **2020 – 2021:** Baseline biological surveys to monitor the area's flora and fauna
- **2021:** Container plants and native seed mix planted to enhance landscaping and improve habitat bordering the staging area
- **2021:** Large-scale improvements to the staging area, including concrete hardscaping
- **2021:** Preliminary trail routing
- **2022 – 2023:** Final trails and improvements formalized
- **2023:** Open for managed public access and start of visitor surveys



Planning & Improvements

- Staging area improvements
 - Grading, new gates, fencing, and landscaping
- Trail system and lookouts
 - Kiosks and wayfinding signage



Kiosk Installation by OC Parks Maintenance Team



Parking and Staging Area for Gypsum Canyon Wilderness in 2021



Parking and Staging Area installation of new concrete ADA parking pads

Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
OC Parks Commission – August 1, 2024



Planning & Improvements

- Staging area plant enhancement
- Habitat restoration projects



Cactus Planting Project with Resource Specialist and Volunteer Team



Staging Area Plant Enhancement led by Resource Specialist



Oak Woodland Area Restoration led by Resource Specialist

Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
OC Parks Commission – August 1, 2024

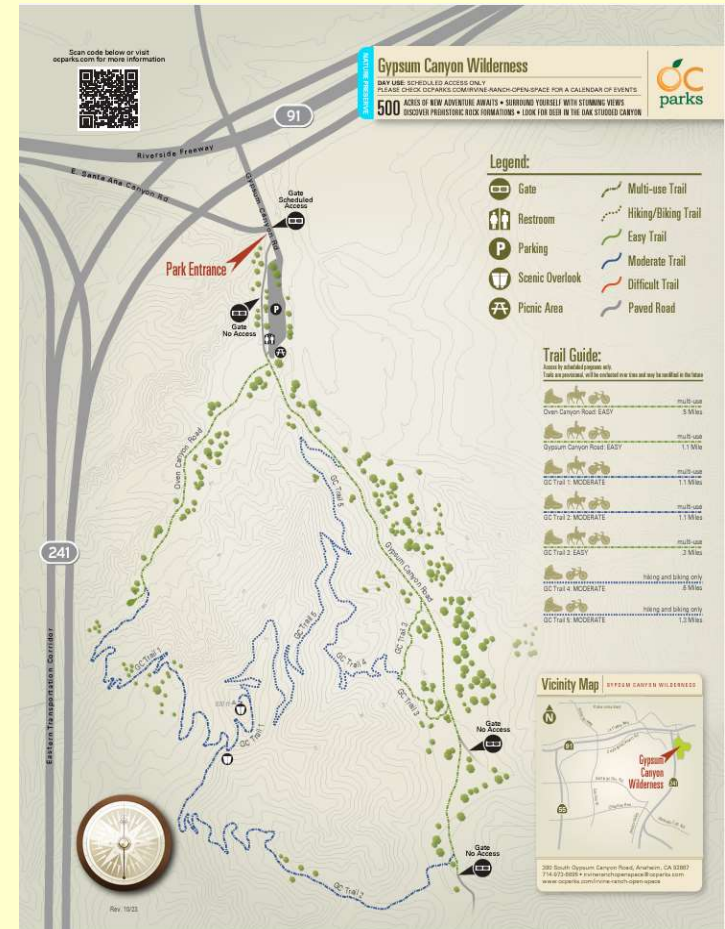


Trail Network

- Trail planning
 - Assessments from field staff as well as specialized OC Parks staff in Planning & Design, GIS, Natural Resources, and Archaeology & Paleontology



Trail Assessment by Park Ranger



Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
OC Parks Commission – August 1, 2024



Trail Network

- Trail installation
 - Combination of park staff and contracted work, including the Irvine Ranch Conservancy



Ascent on GC Trail 1

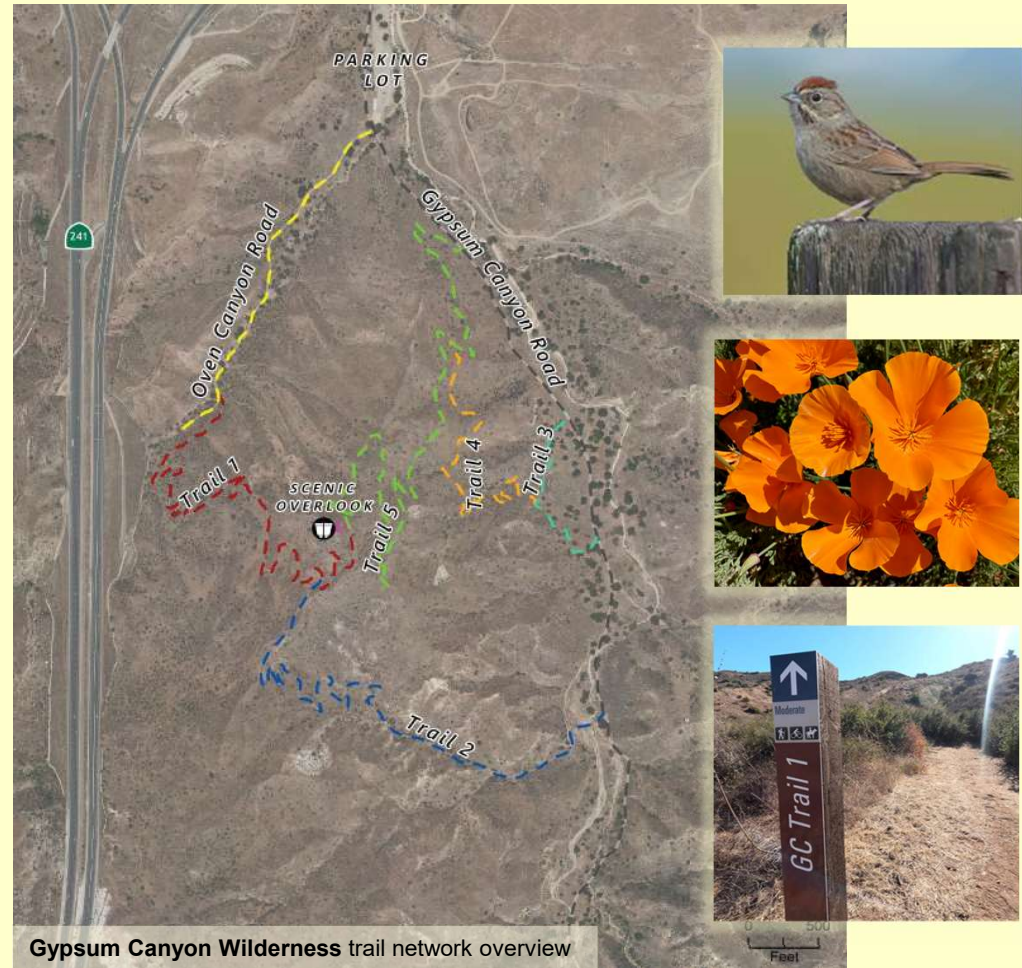


GC Trail 4

Trail Network

The Gypsum Canyon Wilderness features six miles of new trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Seven new trails, ranging from easy to moderate in difficulty, wind through native habitats that are home to an abundance of wildlife, including gray foxes, northern harriers, and cactus wrens. The park's high points provide lookout spots with sweeping views of the surrounding canyons, the Santa Ana Mountains, and beyond.

The park opened to the public in November 2023, and visitors were invited to offer naming suggestions for five unnamed trails.



Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
OC Parks Commission – August 1, 2024



Public Access

- Opened November 14, 2023
- Scheduled guided and self-guided programs throughout November–December
- Guided mountain bike and hiking programs, along with interpretation by Resource Specialists
- Beginning in January, monthly managed access the second Saturday of each month



First Guided Mountain Bike Ride led by OC Parks Resource Specialist



Ribbon-cutting Ceremony



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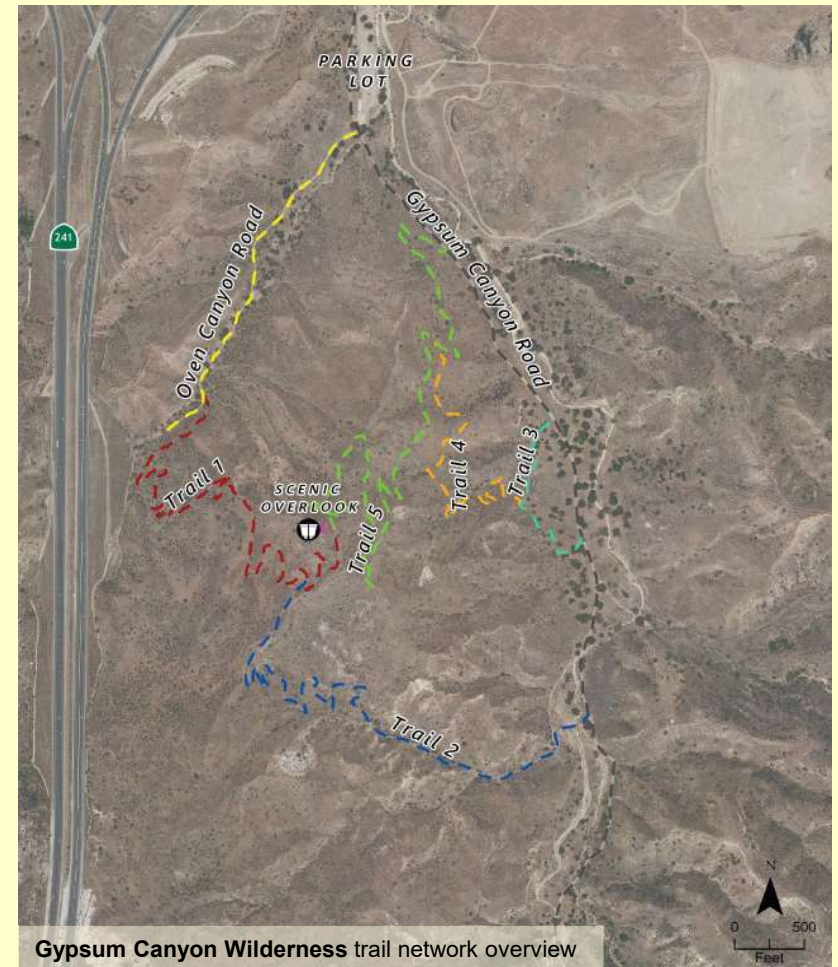


Trail Naming Process

- Gather public surveys
- Refine feedback
- Organize feedback by individual trails

Public Survey Question:

Can you suggest any trail names
or trail naming themes for
Gypsum Canyon Wilderness?



Trail 1

Miner's Trail

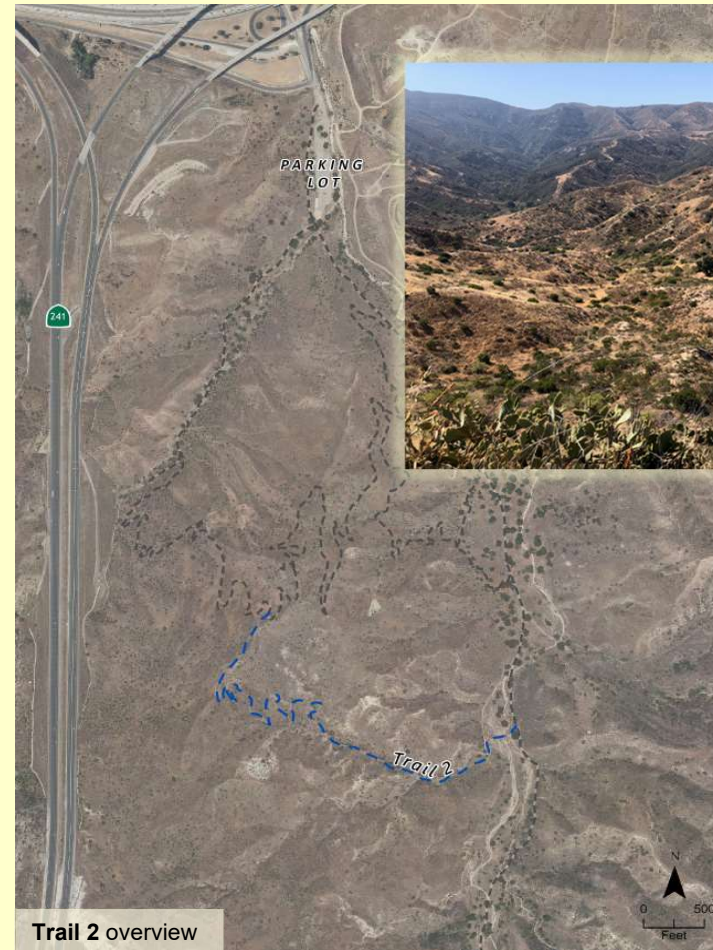


Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
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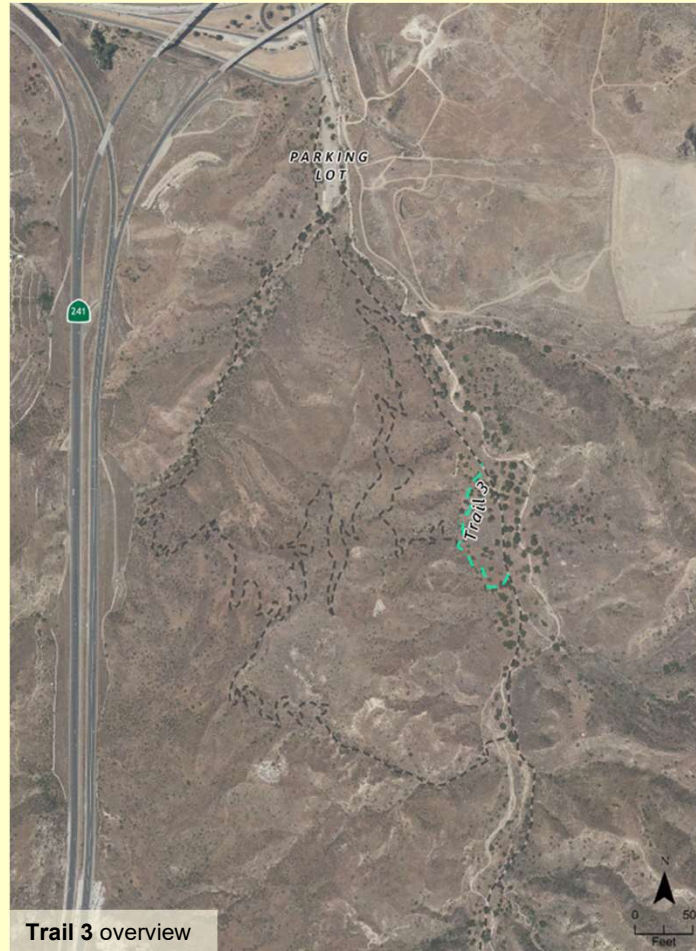
Trail 2

Vaqueros Trail



Trail 3

Cooper's Hawk Trail



Trail 3 overview



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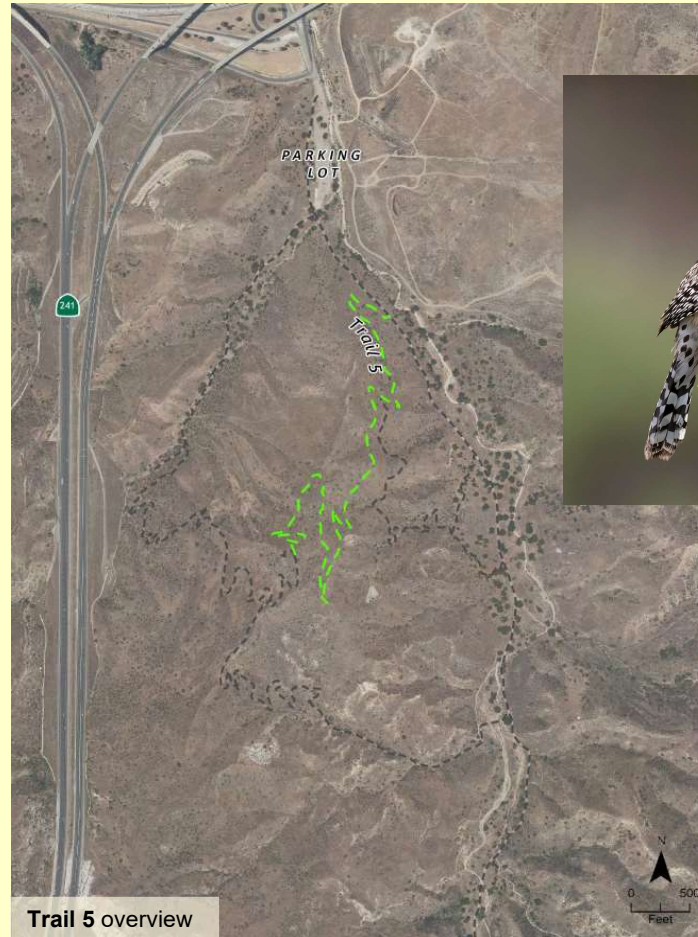
Trail 4

Prickly Pear Trail



Trail 5

Cactus Wren Trail

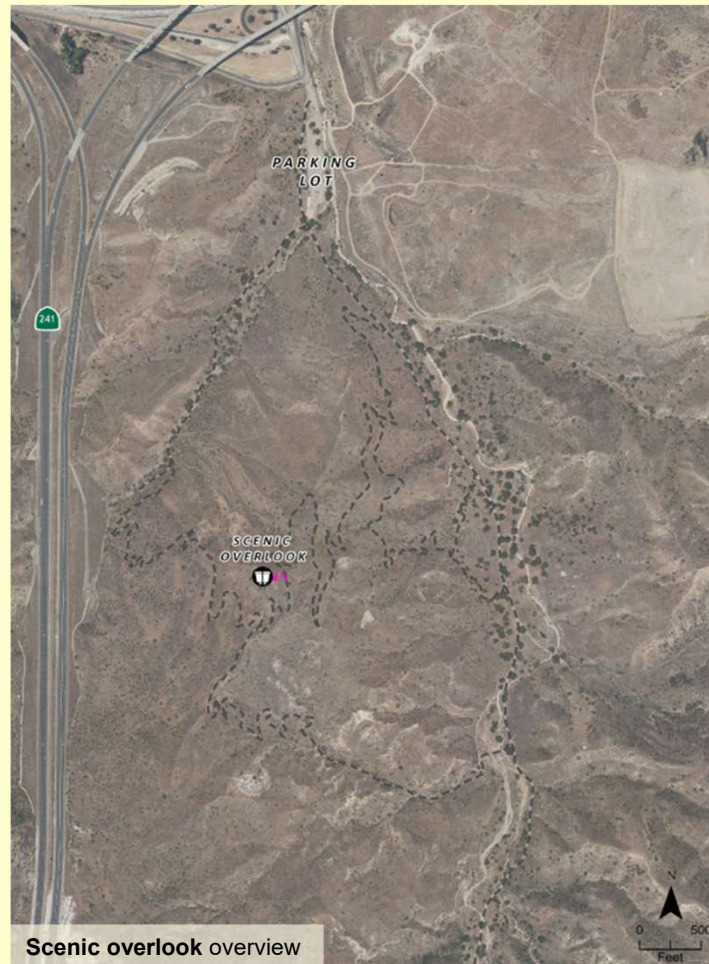


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Overlook

Apex Overlook



Scenic overlook overview



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Recommended Action

Approve the names for five trails and one overlook at Gypsum Canyon Wilderness, as recommended by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee.



Gypsum Canyon Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
OC Parks Commission – August 1, 2024



Recommended Action

Trail 1

Miner's Trail

Trail 2

Vaqueros Trail

Trail 3

Cooper's Hawk Trail

Trail 4

Prickly Pear Trail

Trail 5

Cactus Wren Trail

Overlook

Apex Overlook

