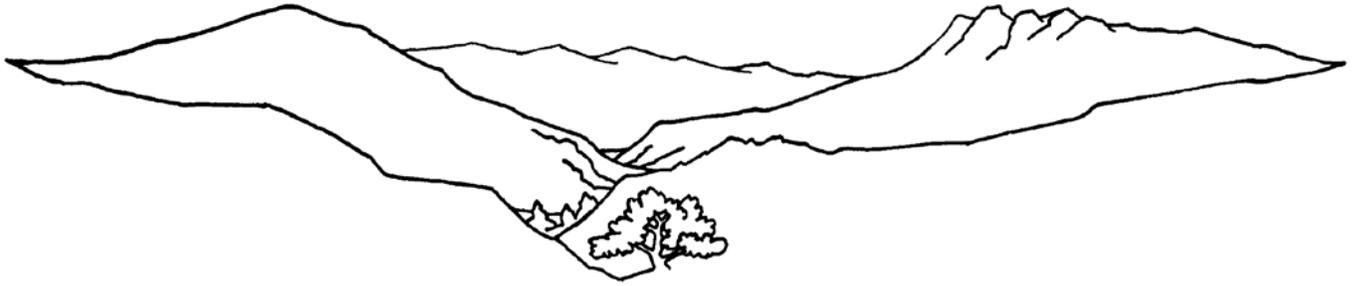


# CONEJO OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AGENCY



Wildwood Park Update  
September 12, 2017

In response to concerns from residents regarding increased visitation at the Wildwood trailhead, staff has initiated the following short and long-term actions. These are the result of coordination between the City of Thousand Oaks, Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD), and the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA). The Wildwood trailhead is located at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles.

## Short-Term Actions

1. **Gate Closure:** A private security firm was hired on June 1<sup>st</sup> open the gates by 7:00 A.M. and close them at 9:00 P.M. on a daily basis, in accordance with posted park hours.
2. **Dust Control:** An environmentally-friendly dust suppression compound was applied to the Wildwood trailhead parking lot on July 6.
3. **New Signage:** Signs have been installed in the Wildwood trailhead parking lot informing the public regarding park hours, gate closure time and locations of other nearby parking lots. Additionally, signs were placed in the adjacent neighborhood discouraging people from parking on residential streets near the trailhead.
4. **Trail Map Update:** The Wildwood Park trail map was updated to show nearby parking lots, other than the lot at the west end of Avenida de los Arboles, including Hill Canyon, Wildwood Elementary School and two lots at Wildflower Park. Notes were also added advising people to avoid parking on residential streets. Trail maps are available online as well as at trailheads.
5. **Increased Patrols and Safety Signage:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department has increased their regular patrols on Avenida de los Arboles near the Wildwood trailhead. TOPD also installed signs in the Wildwood trailhead parking lot informing the public to lock their vehicles and not to leave valuables in vehicles.
6. **Hill Canyon Creek Crossing:** City, CRPD, and COSCA staff met to discuss installing a second bridge in Hill Canyon to cross the Arroyo Conejo, bringing trail users from the Conejo Canyons Open Space into Wildwood, and keeping trail users off Hill Canyon Road. While the permanent bridge is in the planning stages,

A Joint Agency  
City of Thousand Oaks/Conejo Recreation and Park District  
2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

COSCA Rangers are scouting a crossing location where a temporary structure can be installed.

- 7. Median Improvements:** The City's Public Works Department is moving forward with median improvements at the intersection of Avenida de los Arboles and Big Sky Drive and anticipates construction will begin at the end of November. In conjunction with these improvements, directional signage to the Wildwood trailhead parking lot will be installed on Avenida de los Arboles east of Frontier Avenue and east of Big Sky Drive, to keep visitors from using Bright Star Street to access the main trailhead.
- 8. CRPD Programming:** CRPD is working on moving Outdoor Unit programs away from Wildwood Park and into other open space areas. These changes will be reflected in the winter program guide.
- 9. Trail Patrol/Ambassador Program:** When volunteers patrolling in Wildwood Park interact with open space users, they are informing them of other trails and open space around the City to encourage visitation of areas outside of Wildwood.
- 10. Publicizing Other Trails:** COSCA continues to publicize and encourage use of other non-Wildwood trails throughout the open space system. The 10 trails featured in the 2017 Conejo Open Space Challenge (an event designed to increase open space awareness) did not include any trails in Wildwood. Regular posts on COSCA's Facebook page feature non-Wildwood trails and the *Thousand Oaks Acorn* is running a series about hiking local called "Trails Less Traveled", which does not include Wildwood trails.
- 11. Social Media:** References to Wildwood Park have been removed from City, CRPD and COSCA social media outlets. These agencies are encouraging trail users to explore other open space areas throughout the City and have worked with the Chamber of Commerce, the Conejo Valley Tourism Improvement District and other organizations to limit Wildwood Park coverage and advertising. Trail user etiquette information has been circulated on social media to encourage trail users to be respectful of neighborhoods surrounding trailheads.

### **Long-Term Actions**

- 1. New Address for Wildwood:** On social media and in map applications, the main address for Wildwood Park will be changed to 10240 Hill Canyon Road in order to redirect out-of-town visitors away from the existing trailhead. This address change is contingent on the construction of trails and related improvements in Hill Canyon. The trailhead on Conejo Center Drive (near the Municipal Service Center) will also be advertised as a parking area for Wildwood in the future.