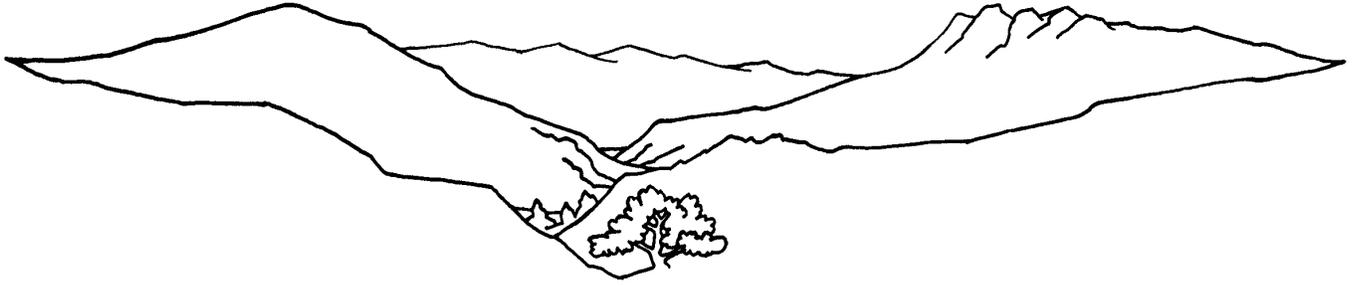


# CONEJO OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AGENCY



## Wildwood Park Update September 12, 2018

In 2017, COSCA posted an update to its website regarding actions that were underway to address issues associated with increased visitation at this Regional Park. This second update describes continued coordinated efforts by the City of Thousand Oaks (City), Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD), COSCA, and the Thousand Oaks Police Department (TOPD) to respond to increased visitation.

- 1. Gate Closure:** A private security firm is contracted with to 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:** EnviroKleen<sup>®</sup>, an environmentally-friendly dust suppression compound was applied to the Wildwood trailhead parking lot on August 15. This product is expected to be more effective than the product applied last year.
- 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. Additional signs will be installed in the lot advising visitors that overflow parking is available at Wildflower Playfields and Wildwood Elementary School, and requesting that they not use neighborhood streets for parking.
- 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 visitors to avoid parking on residential streets. Wildwood trail maps are available online as well as at trailheads. In addition, staff has initiated dialogue with the National Park Service to discuss updates to a regional trail map they maintain to discuss how Wildwood Park is presented in that document.
- 5. Increased Patrols and Safety Signage:** The Thousand Oaks Police Department patrols the west end of Avenida de los Arboles, including the Wildwood trailhead parking lot at various intervals. As deputies are available, additional monitoring of the parking lot will occur on Friday and Saturday evenings. TOPD also installed signs in the lot informing the public to lock their vehicles and not to leave valuables in vehicles. In addition, TOPD is in the process of installing cameras to monitor parking lot activity. TOPD is available to respond to issues in the parking lot that require immediate attention.
- 6. Hill Canyon Creek Crossing:** A permanent bridge providing a second crossing for Arroyo Conejo Creek in Hill Canyon is in the beginning phases of design by an engineering firm retained by the City specifically for this purpose. Construction is anticipated to be

A Joint Agency  
City of Thousand Oaks/Conejo Recreation and Park District  
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complete in the Fall of 2019. Once the bridge and associated new trails are complete, the address for Wildwood Park will be changed to 10240 Hill Canyon Road on social media and in map applications, to redirect out-of-town visitors away from the existing trailhead. The trailhead on Conejo Center Drive (near the Municipal Service Center) will also be advertised as a parking area for Wildwood in the future. In addition, the City, COSCA, and CRPD are also working with the developer of new commercial properties near the end of Rancho Conejo Road to preserve existing and construct additional trail access in this area.

- 7. Median Improvements:** The City's Public Works Department has completed median improvements at the intersection of Avenida de los Arboles and Big Sky Drive. In conjunction with these improvements, directional signage to the Wildwood trailhead parking was 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 trailhead.
- 8. CRPD Programming:** CRPD continues to move Outdoor Unit programs away from Wildwood Park and into other open space areas as feasible. As Sapwi Trails Community Park nears completion, it is anticipated that some Outdoor Unit programs will be hosted there.
- 9. Trail Ambassador Program:** Volunteers monitoring Wildwood Park continue to share information about other trails and open space around the City with visitors in an effort to raise awareness of these alternative destinations.
- 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 2018 Conejo Open Space Challenge did not include any trails in Wildwood, which was purposely done to increase awareness of other trails in the network. Regular posts on COSCA's Facebook page feature non-Wildwood trails and the *Thousand Oaks Acorn* is running an occasional 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.