

January 28, 2026
Santiago Creek
Commission Meeting

Written Public Comments

Santiago Creek Commission

Meeting Time: 01-28-26 17:30

eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Santiago Creek Commission	01-28-26 17:30	10	2	0	0	0

Santiago Creek Commission

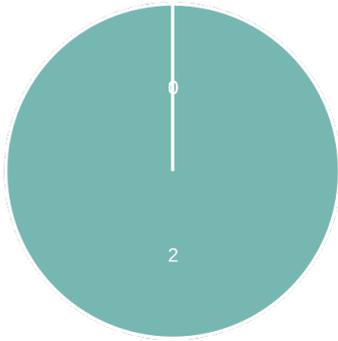
01-28-26 17:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
4.1 Review of the draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan.	2	0	0	0

Agenda Item: eComments for 4.1 Review of the draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan.

Overall Sentiment

Support (0%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (100%)



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:48am 01-28-26

p. 22 Needed Collaborations

It is suggested that Naturalist For You be added to the list of Needed Collaborations.

This information should also be included in all 3 segments and monitored regularly:

Landscapers working anywhere in the Santiago Creek Corridor should not be using pesticides, herbicides or mechanized landscape equipment that negatively impacts native wildlife habitat, causes soil disturbance, human disturbance and air, noise and water pollution. This statement should be included in all three segments of the plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joel Robinson

Bonnie Robinson

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:45am 01-28-26

Please consider these additions and modifications to the City of Orange Santiago Creek Commission Draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan:

There should be a comprehensive biological and cultural resource assessment to fully catalog what animal and plant species occur in the area and understand the current environmental conditions of all 3 segments of the

creek. From the assessment, a habitat restoration plan must be developed to guide any landscape alteration activities, such as the removal or introduction of plants or use of vegetation management equipment. Whether certain plants are considered native or non-native, existing vegetation may be supporting native wildlife species. It is critical to have thorough knowledge and recorded observations of invertebrate, bird, reptile, amphibian and mammal species that currently use the three segments. Species occurrences may vary from season to season. Without a proper understanding of the current conditions, activities such as non-native plant removal or planting of nursery stock from the wrong plant community may cause unintentional harm to sensitive wildlife species.

p. 5 Glossary of Terms

Please modify the definition of Restoration to:

Ecological restoration is the process of reclaiming habitat and ecosystem functions by restoring the lands and waters on which plants and animals depend. Habitat restoration involves the deliberate rehabilitation of a specific area to establish a functional ecosystem.

p.6 Executive Summary

It is important to be specific. Add the following bullet point:

- Protection of native habitat and associated wildlife species

p. 8 The Santiago Creek Watershed

It is suggested that the highest peaks in the Santa Ana Mountains, Santiago Peak and Modjeska Peak, be labeled on the map to provide more context to viewers of the plan regarding the source and headwaters of Santiago Creek.

p.9 Brief History

Add the following to the 3rd paragraph: Santiago Creek currently supports a large percentage of our water supply.

p.11 Mission, Vision, Values

Vision:

Include: Preserve this natural resource for its history, biological, cultural, and archeological significance

Values:

Add: Enhance the ecological function and biological diversity for the benefit of native wildlife and plants.

p. 13 Vision Statement for Segment 1

Paragraph 1

After “flows west between Orange Park Acres and Mabury Ranch” add by the Hurwitz Basin on to the recharge basins.

Paragraph 2

Insert “biological ...is to preserve this natural resource for its history, biological and archaeological significance...

Use the term “passive” rather than “low impact” (More commonly used term for this type of area)

p.14 and p.21

Label the maps on p. 14 and 21 indicating proposed projects.

p.17 Identify locations of proposed projects, such as bridges on maps

p.22 Project Description

Replace with the following: A comprehensive biological assessment will be conducted to fully catalog what animal and plant species occur in the area to understand the current environmental conditions of this segment of the creek. From the assessment, a habitat restoration plan will be developed to guide any landscape alteration activities, such as the removal or introduction of plants or use of vegetation management equipment. (This information should be included in all 3 segments.)

It is important to develop a habitat restoration plan for each segment based on the assessment before any changes are made.

From: Bonnie Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 2:33 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Cc: Joel Robinson
Subject: Revised Public Comments for Draft Santiago Creek Commission Plan with updated page numbers

We received a link to an earlier draft. Current draft has addressed some earlier concerns. Thank you! However, there are some issues we feel still need to be addressed. These comments refer to the page numbers of the updated draft. Thank you for including the Land Acknowledgement!

Please consider the additions and modifications to the current City of Orange Santiago Creek Commission Draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan:

Just as proposed for the Hurwitz Basin, there should be a comprehensive biological and cultural resource assessment to fully catalog what animal and plant species occur in the area and understand the current environmental conditions of all 3 segments of the creek. From the assessment, a habitat restoration plan must be developed to guide any landscape alteration activities, such as the removal or introduction of plants or use of vegetation management equipment. Whether certain plants are considered native or non-native, existing vegetation may be supporting native wildlife species. It is critical to have thorough knowledge and recorded observations of invertebrate, bird, reptile, amphibian and mammal species that currently use the three segments. Species occurrences may vary from season to season. Without a proper understanding of the current conditions, activities such as non-native plant removal or planting of nursery stock from the wrong plant community may cause unintentional harm to sensitive wildlife species.

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p.6 About the Santiago Creek Commission

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- Protection of native habitat and associated wildlife species

p. 11 The Santiago Creek Watershed

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p.15 In both Vision and Values

Insert "biological": Preserve this natural resource for its history, cultural, archeological and biological significance

Values:

Replace the words under "Restoration" with info from proper definition above or use these words: Enhance the ecological function and biological diversity for the benefit of native wildlife and plants.

p. 17 Vision Statement

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p.19 Project Description

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p. 19 Needed Collaborations

Include Naturalist For You in the list of Needed Collaborations.

This information should also be included in all 3 segments and monitored regularly:

Landscapers working anywhere in the Santiago Creek Corridor should not be using pesticides, herbicides or mechanized landscape equipment that negatively impacts native wildlife habitat, causes soil disturbance, human disturbance and air, noise and water pollution. This statement should be included in all three segments of the plan.

p.22 Project Description 1.9 describes what should be included in all segments, not just the Hurwitz Basin

p.27 Use wording from 1.9 instead of "Remove invasive plants." First the biological assessment then develop restoration plan and implement.

p.34 Perhaps this is the place where the nonuse of pesticides, herbicides, equipment should be included.

Thank you,

Joel Robinson and Bonnie Robinson

████████████████████

activities such as non-native plant removal or planting of nursery stock from the wrong plant community may cause unintentional harm to sensitive wildlife species.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Joel Robinson

Bonnie Robinson

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Lilibet Woolsey

From: Shari Dalal [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:35 AM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Public Comment on Santiago Creek Strategic Plan
Attachments: GN7A1849.jpeg

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [REDACTED]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Secured by Check Point

Dear Members of the Santiago Creek Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan. Santiago Creek is one of the last remaining natural riparian corridors in Orange County and plays a critical role in supporting native wildlife, improving water quality, reducing flood risk, and cooling surrounding neighborhoods. Its value extends far beyond recreation; it is a living ecosystem that sustains both our community and the region's biodiversity.

Santiago Creek provides essential habitat and movement pathways for local species including mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, gray foxes, and mountain lions moving through the Santa Ana Mountains. It also supports sensitive bird species such as least Bell's vireo, yellow warbler, red-shouldered hawk, and great blue heron, as well as native pollinators, western pond turtles, and amphibians that depend on healthy riparian vegetation and clean water. As surrounding open space continues to be lost to development, the ecological importance of Santiago Creek only increases.

Scientific research consistently shows that intact riparian habitats reduce erosion, filter pollutants, recharge groundwater, and provide natural flood protection while also buffering communities from rising temperatures associated with climate change. Fragmentation, excessive hardscaping, and recreation-first planning threaten these functions and risk permanently degrading the creek's ecological integrity.

As this plan moves forward, habitat protection and ecological restoration must be the highest priorities. Native vegetation should be preserved and expanded, wildlife connectivity protected, and all proposed changes evaluated using science-based, climate-resilient principles. Management decisions should reduce human-wildlife conflict, not increase it, and avoid activities that add noise, light, pollution, or erosion within the creek corridor.

Santiago Creek should not be treated as a drainage channel or simply a recreational amenity. The decisions made today will shape the health of this watershed for decades. I respectfully urge the Commission to adopt a plan that prioritizes biodiversity, public safety, and long-term environmental health, and that reflects the community's strong desire to protect this irreplaceable natural resource for future generations.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and stewardship.

Sincerely,
Shari Dalal

Cc: Joel Robinson [REDACTED]

Subject: Comments Regarding City of Orange Santiago Creek Commission Draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan

Dear Members of the Santiago Creek Commission,

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Thank you for your consideration,

Joel Robinson

Bonnie Robinson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E-mail correspondence, along with any attachments, may be subject to the California Public Records Act; and as such may be subject to public disclosure unless otherwise exempt under the Act.

From: Bonnie Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 11:23 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Cc: Joel Robinson
Subject: Comments Regarding City of Orange Santiago Creek Commission Draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Members of the Santiago Creek Commission,

Please consider these additions and modifications to the City of Orange Santiago Creek Commission Draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan:

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Thank you for your consideration,

Joel Robinson

Bonnie Robinson

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Lilibet Woolsey

From: susan schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 2:55 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago creek commission meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [REDACTED]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Secured by Check Point

Members,

Re: strategic planning

This feedback that I would like to see some of these changes

1. Electric vehicles like bike and scooter either need there own lane or road change to slow them down.
- 2 area under the freeway needs policing due to high homeless and drug activity
3. Request for more greenery for the wildlife and passersby travelers
- 4 it seem the creek has been coming back to life and would like this to continue
- 5 I would love to see more wildflowers

Thank you for your support to make Santiago creek a better place.

Regards
S schwartz

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Robert H [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 2:07 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago Creek Strategic Plan

There are a number of improvements that I would like to see regarding the existing Santiago Creek Bike Path.

Here is my list in order of importance:

1. Extend the Trail to Improve Recreation and Access Opportunities For the East End, connect to Santiago Oaks Regional Park (currently in the planning stage).

For the West End, connect to the Santa Ana River Trail (SART). Encourage the City of Santa Ana to extend the west end of the Santiago Creek Bike Trail to the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) in order to provide safe active transportation access for Orange and Tustin residents to; the ARTIC, Anaheim Stadium, the new OC Vibe, the proposed OC Riverwalk, and many other work and entertainment destinations.

2. Monitor & Alleviate Homeless Activity

Many residents have indicated that the homeless encampments and unsafe activities in the areas around Grijalva Park, Chapman Ave. & the 55 Freeway are the reasons they are hesitant to utilize the Santiago Creek Trail system. The Orange Police Department should be encouraged to monitor these areas even more than they currently do.

3. Improve Lighting Under the Chapman Avenue & the 55 Freeway Bridges

The number one area indicated as unsafe is the areas under Chapman Avenue & the 55 Freeway. There is currently lighting under the bridges but it is inefficient and dim which leaves the trail dark with multiple hiding spots. Many residents avoid these areas entirely unless in groups.

As an Orange resident that frequently uses the trail beginning near Hart Park, these improvements would greatly improve the quality of life for many local users of the bike trail.

Sincerely,

Robert Hendrickson
[REDACTED]
Orange, Ca. 92866
[REDACTED]

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Zak Goldman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 12:52 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago Creek Commission

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [REDACTED]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Secured by Check Point

Sending feedback regarding the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan:

My two cents:

The more trees the better, where i am near the 22 and hart park and Tustin Ave, many of the trees planted 1-2 years ago didnt seem to take, please plant more trees if possible.

Also, especially near hart park, there have been "Vagrants" that seem to congregate in the park like an encampment. I also seen many needles and trash left in these areas. Possible to police this area better and hold them accountable?

Trash in the Creek seems to be a problem, not sure what to do about it but people seem to throw trash in the creek often.

Should electric bikes be limited to a certain speed? I have seen some electric bikes speed well over 30 mph which is dangerous especially for the elderly and kids.

Thank you for you time,

Zak, living on [REDACTED]

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Kristen Norton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2026 1:56 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: re: Santiago Creek Specific Plan

Hello,

My name is Kristen Norton. I am a long-time resident of Orange and walk the Santiago Creek Trail twice each day. I am fortunate to live within walking distance of the trail and enjoy my time there. I enter the trail at Tustin and La Veta and walk to Hart Park and back twice each day. I see and exchange greetings with many of the same people each day which makes for a lovely community

I appreciate the flowing water and the wildlife that brings: ducks, songbirds, egrets, killdeer, hawks, crows, and more, along with the occasional coyote and raccoon and even a skunk from time to time.

A few things which could make the trail even better are:

- better trash removal both on the trail and in the creekbed
- prompt graffiti removal (this is actually pretty good already, but there is sometimes graffiti on the north side of the trail near the Rock Creek bridge as well as down towards Cambridge St. which stays for a while before being removed)
- herbicides should not be sprayed in the creekbed. They are certainly not good for the wildlife.
- interpretive and historical signs would be a good addition to the trail
- removing non-native plants
- planting more native species

Thank you,
Kristen Norton

[REDACTED]
Orange, CA
92866

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Feedback re: Santiago Creek improvement project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

This is the first time you received an email from this sender [REDACTED]. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Secured by Check Point

Dear Santiago Creek Commission Members,

I am submitting my input for consideration on the Santiago creek improvement project.

Concern #1: Electric Bike Safety

The safety of the bike trail, particularly in light of the increasing popularity of electric bicycles must be addressed. While I strongly support initiatives that encourage young people to enjoy outdoor activities, E-bikes can approach trail users without generating significant noise, creating unexpected encounters and can reach speeds that may be difficult to manage. It is only a matter of time where someone is going to be injured. These vehicles are no different than motor cycles and there are documented cases of traumatic brain injuries caused by E-bike collisions. Also, motor vehicles such as mini bikes continue to utilize the bike trail primarily after sunset.

Proposed Safety Recommendations

Speed Limit Implementation

Establish and clearly mark maximum speed limits for electric bicycles on the trail.
Consider installing speed monitoring signs or zones.
Create separate bike lanes.
Instead of creating their own trails, create e-bike zone for young people to utilize

User Education

Develop safety awareness campaigns about shared trail etiquette.
Create informational signage about safe e-bike usage.
Provide guidelines for responsible riding near pedestrians and dog walkers.

Trail Design Considerations

Explore potential lane separations or marked zones for different user types.
Ensure clear visibility and warning zones at trail intersections and blind corners.

Concern #2: Wildlife Feeding and Ecosystem Management

Current Issue: Inappropriate Wildlife Feeding

Ducks are being repeatedly fed unhealthy foods, primarily bread and food scraps.

Risks include:

Nutritional deficiencies for wildlife.

Potential over-breeding.

Unnatural competition among species (ducks, pigeons, other animals).

Proposed Wildlife Conservation Recommendations

Educational Signage

Install informative signs near duck habitats explaining:

Ecological impact of improper feeding.

Nutritional needs of local wildlife.

Proper wildlife interaction guidelines.

Sustainable Feeding Solution

Implement designated feeding stations with:

Healthy, approved duck feed.

Secure Donation boxes for feed purchase.

Proceeds could support park maintenance and wildlife conservation programs.

Community Engagement

Volunteer groups to help.

Develop educational workshops about the local wildlife ecosystem.

Create informational brochures for park visitors.

Collaborate with local environmental educators.

Concern #3: Rule Enforcement and Compliance Recommendations

There is an immediate need for visual enforcement

To ensure the successful implementation of safety and conservation guidelines.

Dedicated Park Monitors

Employ part-time or volunteer park rangers.

Provide friendly, educational interactions with park users.

Focus on guidance rather than punitive measures.

Enforcement Strategies

Visible presence during peak park usage times.

Clear, consistent communication of park rules.

Provide immediate, constructive feedback to rule violators.

Technology-Assisted Monitoring

Consider installing discrete cameras in high-traffic areas.

Use signage indicating monitored zones.

Develop a reporting system for repeated violations.

Additional Comprehensive Suggestions

Integrated Approach to Park Management

Create a holistic management plan addressing:

Trail safety.

Wildlife conservation.

User education.
Ecosystem preservation.

Continue Community Feedback - Include in the Orange City newspaper
Establish a regular forum for park users to provide input.
Conduct periodic surveys about park conditions and user experiences.
Demonstrate responsiveness to community concerns.

Collaborative Partnership

Engage local schools, environmental groups, and community organizations.
Develop joint programs for environmental education.
Create volunteer opportunities for trail and wildlife maintenance.

As a daily user of the trail and parks, I appreciate and support the Santiago Creek Commission in creating a safe, healthy, and enjoyable environment for all park users and wildlife.

Sincerely,
Susan Inman

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Gene Lawson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 7:22 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Feedback: Santiago Creek Strategic Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Caution: The sender name (Gene Lawson) is different from their email address ([REDACTED]) which may indicate an impersonation attempt. Verify the email's authenticity with the sender using your organization's trusted contact list before replying or taking further action.

Secured by Check Point

Hello,

As a retiree living in the city of Orange, I rely on local outdoor spaces as I do not have the financial resources for recreational travel. I regularly walk from Grijalva Park along the bike trail that runs parallel to the Santiago Creekbed.

This area provides a welcome connection to nature within our urban environment. I hope that future generations will continue to have the privilege of enjoying this space.

Plans for trash removal, replacing non-native plants with indigenous plants, and the addition of pocket parks along the creek would be welcome additions if funding is available.

Best regards,

Gene Lawson

Lilibet Woolsey

From: omalleya552 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago Creek suggestions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello

I have been using the Santiago Creek trail for 35+ years and would like to suggest to add Dog bag dispensers around Hart park and other parts of the trail Thank you Anne OMalley

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Bryce Turi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago Creek

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

My name's Bryce Turi, I live in Santiago park and jog the Santiago Creek trail a couple times a week. From about Main Street to Grijalva Park. I was told there was a meeting coming up to discuss the creek and being a local that uses the trail I thought it may be helpful to send in my two cents. I'm over the moon about the work that was done in Santiago Park, it's changed the entire vibe of creek bed trail all around that area. There's security that sweeps the area every morning shaking out anything or anyone that may cause residents or visiting families to feel unsafe. Personally I feel similar action would be very helpful along the stretch (coming from Santa Ana) from the 55 fwy bridge past the dog park and under the Chapman bridge. That whole area has become very unsafe. Just last week I was riding my bike and saw a man doing graffiti under the Chapman bridge. I went to say something to him (probably shouldn't have done that) and one of the other guys hanging out under the bridge threatened me "this is your first warning". I feel regular security sweeps of that area would be good for folks living in the area that us the trail for walking their dogs, pushing strollers and riding bikes. Honestly guys, it's getter sketchy over there. That's my two cents, hope it helps.

Sincerely,

Bryce

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Fadi Aoun [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:09 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago Creek Trail feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Santiago Creek Commission,

We wish to thank our City of Orange for improving and maintaining the Santiago Creek trail. I am one of many people who ride my bike on this trail for more than 20 years.

Would you please help taken in the account, if possible, the followings:

1. There are too many asphalt humps and dips between the Grahelva park metal bridge and Prospect. Resurfacing this section will be really appreciated.
2. Speed control the electrical and motor bikes.
3. Add more light under Chapman and 55 Fwy bridges, or replace existing lights with brighter ones.
4. Remove homeless camps off the trail.

Thank you,

Best Regards,
Fadi Aoun

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Ron Newcomb [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:00 PM
To: SoSantiago@WinnCo.com; Renee.Ybarra@OrangeUSD.org;
Adolfo.Herrera@OrangeUSD.org; Ireheis@orangeusd.org; msperakos@orangeusd.org;
Jessica.Tunney@TLCcharter.org; [REDACTED];
jKushon@OrangeDogPark.org; 'Theresa C. Berton'; [REDACTED]
Jason.Cashio@Providence.org; jlucas@OrangeUSD.org;
bPalmaMontes@OrangeUSD.org; vValencia@ActivCareLiving.com;
kAcevedo@ActiveCareLiving.com
Cc: Emily Bustamante; Jarad Hildenbrand; Matthew Lorenzen; Phillip McMullin; Sharyn
Panaggio; Heart_Mail; Lucia Zvonaru; Mike Sellers; mEcheverria@OrangePD.org;
'Addison Adams'; 'Pamela Galera'; [REDACTED]
Santiago Creek Commission; mKnight@CityofOrange.Org; [REDACTED]
Jack Morgan; rNewcomb@SoCal.RR.com
Subject: Yorba Park Safety Collab: January - Community Bike Ride
Attachments: COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE Flyer.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi All,

Re: Yorba Park Neighborhood Safety Collaboration: January – Community Bike Ride

Happy New Year!

Please join us for our inaugural community bike ride on Saturday, January 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

This will be a flat, social-pace bike ride along the Santiago Creek Bike Trail in Orange. Participants will ride from Grijalva Park to Santiago Park in Santa Ana and back (approximately 6 miles round trip). Light snacks and water will be provided at the halfway rest stop. Families are welcome.

Meet at: Grijalva Park Sports Center – Parking Lot

Important Notes: Helmets are mandatory. Event waiver must be signed prior to riding.

And as always: If you See Something, Say Something. If incidents are not reported, the Orange Police Department cannot respond. Please don't let crime go unrecorded—your report makes a difference.

We hope to see you at Grijalva Park on Saturday, January 17th for the Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance's first community bike ride.

Best regards,
Ron Newcomb

Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance

For an EMERGENCY Dial 911

Call the Orange Police Department (non-emergency) @ (714) 744-7444 #1

To report; an occupied homeless encampment, a bicycle chop shop with multiple bike parts, graffiti in progress, persons invading your business' private property, public urination, attempting to start a fire, reckless e-bike riding, discarding excess trash, and public intoxication.

Call the City of Orange's Public Works @ (714) 744-5525 or utilize Orange's 24/7 App.

To report; graffiti removal, potholes, illegal dumping, excess trash, broken public walls, broken water faucets, excess weeds/bushes/trees, homeless outreach, shopping cart enforcement, lighting issues, hazardous waste, illegal fireworks and animal control.

Reporting Graffiti

The City's Public Works has recently relaunched their Orange 24/7 App. They suggest everyone should delete the old version and download the new. Here is a quick Instagram video on how to utilize the app. <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DH6XPdFMluE/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

The Orange Police Department encourages us to also report graffiti to the police. It will be assigned to a gang detective. This can be done on the OPD's online reporting system at:

<https://www.cityoforange.org/our-city/departments/police/file-an-online-police-report>.

Lilibet Woolsey

From: Ron Newcomb [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 1:34 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Cc: 'Pamela Galera'; 'Addison Adams'; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jarad Hildenbrand; [REDACTED] Jack
Morgan; [REDACTED]
Subject: Suggestions for the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Santiago Creek Commissioners,

Subject: Suggestions for the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan

Thank you for all of your effort in developing a strategic plan for the Santiago Creek in Orange. The Santiago Creek Strategic Plan looks good overall. But, where's "**The ORANGE**" in this strategic plan?

The current plan could be applied to any creek in Southern California. The objective should be that the plan directly benefits the residents of Orange and applies to how the community utilizes the creek and trail. Before this plan is presented to the Orange City Council, I respectfully offer the following items for your consideration:

1. Add "Safety" to the Values Section (page 8)

The residents of Orange have consistently indicated that safety is their number one concern regarding the Santiago Creek and trail system. Including "Safety" as a core value would reflect the community's priority. Many residents expressed serious concerns about personal safety in Santiago Creek—both real and perceived. The locations most frequently identified as unsafe include the areas under Chapman Avenue, the 22 Freeway and the 55 Freeway.

2. Create a Cohesive and Corresponding Aesthetic

The entire eight-mile stretch of the creek should have a unified, natural, and attractive aesthetic—similar to the aesthetics already established at Santiago Oaks Park and Santiago Park in Santa Ana. This consistency in design will make the creek feel connected, intentional, and welcoming.

3. Ensure Benefits for All Residents

The City of Orange is one of the most unique communities in Southern California. The creek's strategic plan should reflect this uniqueness. The current plan appears focused on specific projects in the Orange Park Acres area and amenities geared towards residents over 50. All neighborhoods, demographics and age groups in Orange should be considered and represented equally.

Possible ways to celebrate Orange's uniqueness it not only by recognizing its historic roots, but also by providing amenities residents can enjoy now. The Commission should consider recommending developing community-oriented amenities such as: BMX tracks, access to the ducks & fishing, a remote-control car arena, more shade trees, and additional pocket parks for our young, family-oriented community.

4. Extend the Trail to Improve Recreation and Access Opportunities

For the East End, connect to Santiago Oaks Regional Park (currently in the planning stage). For the West End, connect to the Santa Ana River Trail (SART). Encourage the City of Santa Ana to extend the west end of the Santiago Creek Bike Trail to the Santa Ana River Trail (SART) in order to provide safe active transportation access for Orange and Tustin residents to; the ARTIC, Anaheim Stadium, the new OC Vibe, the proposed OC Riverwalk, and many other work and entertainment destinations.

Specific Suggestions:

The proposed strategic plan does address some of the community's needs and concerns. However, many of the Commission's recommendations for Segments 2 & 3 currently lack exact locations and logistics. With that in mind, here is a list of several specific projects, and their purpose, that would help achieve the plan's revised goals.

SECTION 1: East Orange Sphere of Influence to Villa Park Road

a. Add a Bathroom and Trash Can @ Cannon St. Trailhead (Proj. 1.2)

Add a bathroom & trash can at the Cannon St. trailhead. This trailhead is utilized by cyclist, hikers, walkers, and BMX riders. It is also the location of the propose east trail extension. Basic amenities will help make this area more accommodating to outdoor enthusiast.

b. Add a Trash Can @ Villa Park Rd. (Proj. 2.1)

A trash can and routine trash maintenance is needed on the north side of Villa Park Rd. (Santiago Cyn Rd.) & Hewes St. intersection. This spot collects excess trash that is brought here by the wind, cyclist and passing vehicles.

c. Add OC Loop Signage (Proj. 2.8)

Informative signage is needed at the south side of Villa Park Rd. & Hewes St. near the V. Montoya Nursery. Cyclists are often observed stumbling around in this area trying to locate the designated bike route to the County's OC Loop .

d. **Update the Map** (page 10)

Add Sycamore Circle and E. Stacy Lee Lane to the area map.

SECTION 2: Villa Park Road to the 55 Freeway

a. The Heart of Santiago Creek

Recognize that the Grijalva/E. Walnut Ave/Bridge area is the center of the Santiago Creek Trail system in Orange.

This area is the "Orange Plaza" of the creek with the most traffic and potential. Close to a thousand visitors utilize this

area on any given weekend. There are hundreds of walkers, joggers, cyclist and dog owners using this area every day.

But, it is also frequented by grandparents, teenagers riding their e-bikes to El Modena High School, recreational e-bikers,

BMXers, fishermen (really), duck feeders, nature lovers, quiet seekers, women walking groups and hundreds of neighbors

walking to and from Grijalva Park. This area deserves focused attention and project consideration that will benefit the way

residents utilize this prominent location.

b. Add Natural & Cohesive Plants at the Palm Avenue Trail Entrance (Proj. 2.1)

This location is barren and would benefit with more native vegetation.

c. Add a Trash Can @ Yorba Park Bridge (Proj. 2.1)

Add trash can on west side of Yorba Park Bridge near the freeway ramp. This specific area gathers excess trash due to a

nearby homeless enclave and its location next to the 55 freeway.

d. Add a Trash Can at E. Bond Ave. & Prospect St. (Proj. 2.1)

There is currently no public trash can on the Santiago Creek Bike Trail within a half of mile of this location.

e. Add a Pocket Park at the Walnut Avenue Entrance (Proj. 2.2)

A pocket park next to the creek at the Walnut Ave. entrance would benefit the scores of daily visitors to this specific area.

There are currently limited opportunities for young children along the creek trail system. A pocket park with safe playground

equipment would remedy that situation. This is also the area where residents currently can be found every day, relaxing,

fishing, and feeding the ducks.

f. Develop Trail on Creek-Side Land Below Grijalva Park, Adjacent to E. Killingsworth Ave. (Proj. 2.6)

There is an opportunity to design better access to this under-utilized flat creek-side land below Grijalva Park. It is currently

difficult to access due to the steep cliffs on the west & east sides. This acreage has enormous potential for additional trails,

gardens and nature areas.

g. Add "Wow Factors" (Branding) @ Chapman Ave & Villa Park Rd. (Proj. 2.8)

Enhance key & high-traffic trail entrances on W. Chapman Ave., and Villa Park Rd., with signature entry features to create a

sense of arrival, identity and pride.

h. Add Opportunities for Safe E-Biking (Proj. 2.9)

E-biking is becoming more popular every day. Most youths on the creek trail, in Segment 2, are utilizing electric vehicles.

This trend requires more dedicated, safe, fun, and recreational trails & opportunities. Please note: There are also safety issues

here for both riders and non-riders alike.

i. Consider Better Creek-Bed Access at the Palm Avenue Trail Entrance (Proj. 3.3)

This is where the Handy St. neighborhood currently access the creek-bed and its abundant nature.

However, the current access

slope is an unsafe steep gravel bank that people take strollers, bikes, wagons, and entire families down.

j. Improve Creek Access (Proj. 3.3)

Residents feed ducks and fish on a daily basis at the Grijalva Park bridge. However, access to these activities is currently unsafe

and difficult.

k. Consider a More Pronounced Entrance & Dirt Trails at E. Walnut Ave. & Prospect St. (Proj. 3.5)

This is where the Prospect St. / Hewes St. (3200 E. Walnut Ave.) residents currently access the creek's trail system. This area,

along with the proposed Greater Orange Community Arts Theater (GOCAT) site, is currently utilized as a makeshift BMX track and

riding trail by the neighborhood youths. Children and supervising parents, can often be found here enjoying the makeshift trails

and construction dirt piles. Possible uses for this vacant lot could include: dedicated BMX trails, a nature park, remote control car

track, community gardens, e-bike congregation area or additional picnic area.

l. Monitor & Alleviate Homeless Activity (Proj. 3.7)

Many residents have indicated that the homeless encampments and unsafe activities in the areas around Grijalva Park, Chapman

Ave. & the 55 Freeway are the reasons they are hesitant to utilize the Santiago Creek Trail system. The Orange Police Department

should be encouraged to monitor these areas even more than they currently do.

m. Improve Lighting Under the Chapman Avenue & the 55 Freeway Bridges (Proj. 3.7)

The number one area indicated as unsafe is the areas under Chapman Avenue & the 22 & 55 Freeways.

There is currently lighting

under the bridges but it is inefficient and dim which leaves the trail dark with multiple hiding spots. Many residents avoid these

areas entirely unless in groups.

n. Create a Focal Point at Yorba Park (No current project)

Add a pocket park, fountain, or statue to help transform this barren area between the bike bridge, dog park and street, into a

welcoming entrance for the Yorba St. neighborhood while also creating a visually appealing landmark for motorists on Chapman Ave.

(2200 E. Chapman Ave.)

o. Consider Purchasing the Vacant Lot at the Palm Avenue Trail Entrance (No current project)

This area will remain barren until this vacant lot is obtained by The City or developed by the owner.

SECTION 3: 55 Freeway to Hart Park

a. Add "Wow Factors" (Branding) @ S. Glassell St., and S. Tustin St. (Proj. 2.8)

Enhance key & high-traffic trail entrances on Glassell St., and S. Tustin St. with signature entry features to create a sense of arrival, identity and pride. (Proj. 2.8)

b. Create a Safe, Dedicated Trail for Students to/from Chapman University (Proj. 3.3)

Current Old Towne access routes from Chapman University requires crossing major roads without dedicated bike lanes or signals.

Students and residents often resort to unsafe alternatives.

c. Formally Request Santa Ana to Extend the Trail (Proj. 3.3)

Send the City of Santa Ana an edict to connect the west end of the Santiago Creek Bike Trail to the Santa Ana River Trail (SART).

The west-end connection to SART is critically needed, especially after recent residential growth in the Town & Country area of Orange.

Legal action may need to be considered.

d. Add Trail Access for S. Wayfield St. (S. Tustin St. & E. Palmyra Ave.) (Proj. 3.3)

Add trail access for the blue-collar neighborhoods around S. Wayfield St. This would provide direct, safe and walkable access to the

trail system and the grocery and retail outlets on Chapman Ave.

e. Add Trail Access for Santiago Creekside Estates (Proj. 3.3)

Check with the property owner regarding unlocking the gate and allowing direct, safe & walkable access to the trail system and retail

outlets on Chapman Ave.

f. Consider a Footbridge at S. Wayfield St. (Proj. 3.3)

A bridge would provide residents on the north-side of the creek safe access to the south-side trail system and the retail outlets on

Chapman Ave.

g. Add Trail Access to the 76-Gas Station and Beyond Food Mart at 684 S. Glassell St. (Proj. 3.3)

A ramp is needed on the west side of Glassell St. to eliminate unsafe, illegal crossing of this busy street by homeless individuals and

other trails users who are attempting to access snacks and bicycle amenities.

h. Consider Purchasing the County-Owned Land at 599 S. Cambridge St. (Proj. 3.4)

Consider purchasing and developing the County property at the north/east Cambridge St. creek entrance. The residents currently illegally

utilize this County-owned land by repeatedly cutting access holes. The public's daily unlawful entrance to this land is indication of strong

community demand.

i. Consider Building a BMX Track (Proj. 3.5)

Youths ages 10–18 have few designated recreation facilities along the creek. Consider building a BMX track near the south side of the creek

at the Cambridge St. bridge. (parallel to E. Lake Dr.) BMXers currently build unofficial tracks in this area which are poorly maintained and

often removed.

j. Monitor & Alleviate Homeless Activity at Cambridge St. and 22 Freeway (Proj. 3.7)

Monitor the homeless activity at the Cambridge St. and 22 Freeway bridges. The Orange Police Department should be encouraged to monitor

these areas even more than they currently do. The City of Santa Ana has been able to alleviate much of the homeless activity in the creek at

Santiago Park with their Quality-of-Life-Team (QOLT). The Santa Ana Ward 3 City Council member (Jesse Lopez) has expressed willingness to

advise Orange on how to replicate these effective measures.

k. **Consider Building a Nature Area on North/West Side S. Cambridge St. Bridge** (No current project) (590 S. Cambridge) Possible uses for this vacant area includes: a nature park, lawn bowling, bocce court, remote control car track or picnic area.

Thank you for considering these additional goals & project suggestions and for your continued work in making Santiago Creek and its trail system more beneficial and enjoyable for all residents of the City of Orange.

Sincerely,

Ron Newcomb



Lilibet Woolsey

From: Crosby Tinucci [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 3, 2026 1:54 PM
To: Santiago Creek Commission
Subject: Santiago Creek Strategic Plan Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Hello,

Thank you for investing time and resources towards improving our Santiago Creek habitats in the city of Orange.

I have read the Strategic Plan, and here are some comments:

- I support efforts to restore the creek to more natural conditions, according to recommendations made by future ecological investigations:
 - E.g., removing concrete lining from the creekbed, continuing efforts to plant native species, etc.
- As a frequent user of the creek trail throughout its three sections, as defined by the report, I support efforts to connect these trails together and create new sections of trail to pair with Class I bikeways.
 - While this may help reduce conflicts between pedestrian and e-bike users, I am still concerned about safety for pedestrians due to throttling vehicles/e-bikes.
 - How are similar cities addressing safety issues like this?
- Despite the additional cost, I am glad to see the plan provides ecological investigations before significant infrastructure changes are made.
- Over the past five years, there have been several vehicle crashes into the concrete bollards where Wanda Road dead-ends into the Santiago Creek trail.
 - What improvements can be made to visibility/infrastructure to ensure safety of both motorists and trail users at this intersection?

I am looking forward to these improvements as they roll out.

Best,
Carson Tinucci