

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023 — 6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Ashland.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver, Vice Chair Ashland, and Commissioners Hanson and Jones (arrived during Item III) were present. Commissioners Diaz and Weigand 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.

Michael Wellborn, President of Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks, commented on the need for trail safety and courtesy and requested increased management of user capacity on trails.

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 JUNE 1, 2023 MEETING

B. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE JULY 7, 2023 FIELD TRIP

*Motion: Vice Chair Ashland
2nd: Commissioner Jones
Approved 4–0*

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. MILE SQUARE REGIONAL PARK EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE I UPDATE PRESENTATION

Staff will provide a presentation on the status of the Mile Square Regional Park Expansion Project Phase I and a preview of Mile Square Regional Park Expansion Project Phase II.

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, introduced the item and the presenting staff and answered the Commissioners' questions.

Tuan Richardson, Interim OC Parks Senior Landscape Architect, presented on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Vice Chair Ashland

2nd: Commissioner Jones

Approved 4-0

B. COMMISSION 2023 MEETING AND FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS

Staff propose to amend the Commission's 2023 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to move the third field trip of the year from September to October to allow for a field trip in autumn and maintain this amendment for future years. Staff also propose amending the Commission's 2023 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to hold a meeting in December and cancel the meeting in January 2024 and maintain this amendment for future years.

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided information on the item and answered the Commissioners' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Amend the Orange County Parks Commission 2023 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to hold a regular meeting on September 7, 2023 and a field trip in October 2023.
2. Amend the Orange County Parks Commission 2023 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule to hold a regular meeting on December 7, 2023 and cancel the regular meeting scheduled for January 4, 2024.

Motion: Commissioner Jones

2nd: Commissioner Hanson

Approved 4-0

VI. OC PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Joanne Veedor, OC Parks Deputy Director, provided updates and answered the Commissioners' questions.

B. UPCOMING OC PARKS EVENTS

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Animals In My Backyard Preschool Program – OC Zoo – Friday, August 4 – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

- Class includes hands-on learning, fun crafts or activities, and meeting zoo creatures up close! Program is for 3–4 years old ONLY.

Sunset Cinema Series – Cruella – Mason Regional Park – Friday, August 4 – 6 – 10 p.m.

- OC Parks Sunset Cinema film series brings the big screen outdoors to your favorite regional parks. Friday, August 4 features Cruella (PG-13, 2021) at Mason Regional Park in Irvine. Enjoy pre-show entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. and show times at approximately 8 p.m. after sundown.

Summer Concert Series – The Aquabats! – Mile Square Regional Park – Thursday, August 10 – 5 – 8 p.m.

- Bring your family and friends to enjoy live music under the summer sky Thursday evenings at the OC Parks Summer Concert Series. Join us August 10 as The Aquabats! take the stage at Mile Square Regional Park, with an opening performance by Sailor's Songbook. All concerts are from 5 to 8 p.m., with live music starting at 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free and open to all ages.

Sunset Cinema Series – Kung Fu Panda – Mason Regional Park – Friday, August 11 – 6 – 10 p.m.

- OC Parks Sunset Cinema film series brings the big screen outdoors to your favorite regional parks. Friday, August 11 features Kung Fu Panda (PG, 2008) at Mason Regional Park in Irvine. Enjoy pre-show entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. and show times at approximately 8 p.m. after sundown.

Meet The Locals for Ages 7–10 – OC Zoo – Saturday, August 12 – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

- Class includes hands-on learning, fun crafts or activities, and meeting zoo creatures up close! Program is for 7–10 years old ONLY.

Meteor Shower in Peter's Canyon – Saturday, August 12 and Sunday, August 13 – 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

- Enjoy the evening night sky lit up by cascading flashes of meteors! The Perseid meteor shower is an annual event in the middle of

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August that produced about 100 meteors an hour. This year will be closer to a new moon, so with a quick eye, you may catch many glimpses light streaking across the sky. You'll hear astronomy folklore, search for different constellations and discover nocturnal critters that call the canyon home. Bring your own blankets and chairs to sit and enjoy the nighttime show! An optional night hike is available but will take time away from relaxing under the sky.

Nature Journaling at Santiago Oaks – Sunday, August 13 – 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

- Nature journaling is a wonderful tool for nature observations, creating lasting memories and making deeper connections with nature. Each session will cover the basics of art theory and practices, journal anatomy and maximizing your senses. Monthly prompts will help guide your eyes and ears to the wonders in nature.

Bird Walk in Irvine Regional Park – Irvine Regional Park – Wednesday, August 16 – 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- Stroll through the park searching high and low for our fluttering friends. Listen for their sweet song and hear fun associations to help you remember these birds. This program is geared for all levels, though focused for beginner-intermediate level birders. Bring your binoculars, sun protection, comfortable shoes and an eye for spotting our feathered friends!

Summer Concert Series – Queen Nation – Bluff Park at Salt Creek Beach – Thursday, August 17 – 6 – 8 p.m.

- Bring your family and friends to enjoy live music under the summer sky Thursday evenings at the OC Parks Summer Concert Series. Join us August 17 as Queen Nation takes the stage at Bluff Park at Salt Creek Beach in Dana Point, with an opening performance by Dylan Galvin. All concerts are from 5 to 8 p.m., with live music starting at 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free and open to all ages.

Restorative Bird Watching – Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens – Friday, August 18 – 8 – 10 a.m.

- Some studies have shown bird watching can have a positive impact on mental health and state of mind. Join OC Parks on the grounds of Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens for this slow-paced and accessible bird walk that will encourage bird watching practices designed to emphasize these benefits by

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connecting with nature, guided observation, building community, sharing stories, encouraging creativity and practicing mindfulness.

Tot Walk – Aliso and Wood Visitor Center – Friday, August 18 – 9 – 11 a.m.

- Join OC Parks naturalists and bring your young ones (infant to age 3) to explore Aliso's wild backyard. Take a leisurely stroll through the garden and to the creek. We will see bugs, plants and birds while exploring! OC Parks staff may even lead a game or introduce a local resident to the children. Come join the fun!

Sunset Cinema Series – Spider-Man: No Way Home – Laguna Niguel Regional Park – Friday, August 18 – 6 – 10 p.m.

- OC Parks Sunset Cinema film series brings the big screen outdoors to your favorite regional parks. Friday, August 18 features Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG-13, 2021) at Laguna Niguel Regional Park in Laguna Niguel. Enjoy pre-show entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. and show times at approximately 8 p.m. after sundown.

Wilderness Access Day: Saddleback Wilderness – Saturday, August 19 – 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- Come explore 3.3 miles of new trails at Saddleback Wilderness, part of OC Parks' Irvine Ranch Open Space, through this self-guided opportunity. Designated trails will be open for hiking, biking and equestrian use. There are multiple trail loop options which vary in distance and level of difficulty. Choices range from an easy one-mile loop to multiple figure-8 configurations for those looking to maximize their mileage. Regardless of distance, nearly all options feature scenic views including a destination vista point offering 360-degree perspectives from the mountains to the sea.

Summer Concert Series – Flashback Heart Attack – Bluff Park at Salt Creek Beach – Thursday, August 24 – 6 – 8 p.m.

- Bring your family and friends to enjoy live music under the summer sky Thursday evenings at the OC Parks Summer Concert Series. Join us August 24 as Flashback Heart Attack takes the stage at Bluff Park at Salt Creek Beach in Dana Point, with an opening performance by Tina Tara. All concerts are from 5 to 8 p.m., with live music starting at 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free and open to all ages.

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Sunset Cinema Series – Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory – Laguna Niguel Regional Park – Friday, August 25 – 6 – 10 p.m.

- OC Parks Sunset Cinema film series brings the big screen outdoors to your favorite regional parks. Friday, August 25 features Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (G, 1971) at Laguna Niguel Regional Park in Laguna Niguel. Enjoy pre-show entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. and show times at approximately 8 p.m. after sundown.

VII. COMMISSION 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 *6:38 p.m.*



Saddleback Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
Orange County Parks Commission — October 5, 2023



Overview



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

Background – Location & Description

- Located along Santiago Canyon Road between the intersection of State Roads 241 and 261 and Irvine Lake access
- Approximately 430 acres
- Four major native habitat communities
- Multiple special status wildlife and plant species
- Orange County Parks Foundation and NCCP/HCP Conservation Easements



Background – History

- 1967 – Saddleback Park open for motocross
- 1984 – Saddleback Park phases out
- 2014 – Donated to OC Parks by The Irvine Company
- 2019 – Complete Interim Recreation and Resource Management Plan (IRRMP)
- 2020 – Conduct baseline biological surveys
- 2021 – Begin preliminary trail routing
- 2022 – Initiate interim improvements and install trail network
- 2023 – Open for managed public access and begin visitor surveys



Planning & Improvements

- Baseline biological surveys
- Parking area and lookout
- Trail system
- Signage and map
- Access plan



Field staff staking a future lookout area



Planning process for Saddleback Wilderness, considering recreation opportunities, natural and cultural resources, and facility operations



Parking and staging area for Saddleback Wilderness, in 2013 and 2023

Trail Network

- Trail routing
 - Use of biological surveys
 - Subject Matter Expert (SME) assessments
- Trail installation



Sensitive resources, Catalina mariposa lilies and fossilized whale bones found during SME assessments



Trail assessment



Public Access

- Opened March 27, 2023
- Self-scheduled access several Saturdays throughout April–May
- Trial to evaluate self-scheduled user group-specific access in June
- Beginning in July, monthly self-scheduled access the first Saturday of each month



Ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome the public to the newest OC Parks facility

Trail Naming Process

- Gather public surveys
- Refine feedback
- Organize by theme for individual trails
- Trail name options presented to the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee during its August 9, 2023 Meeting
 - One trail name proposed for each of the three trails for OC Parks Commission approval



Public Survey Question:

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

Answered: 142

Skipped: 140

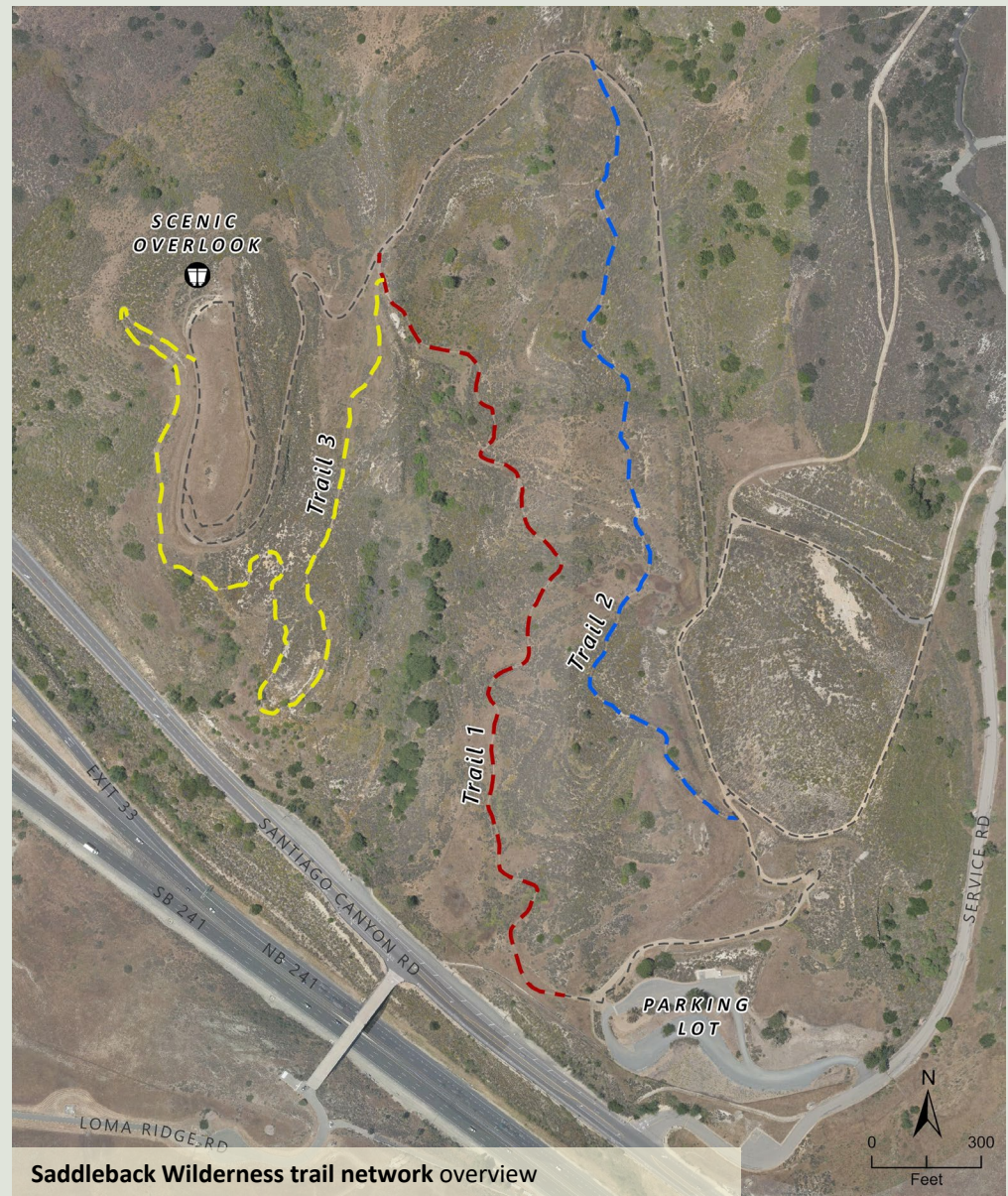
Saddleback Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
Orange County Parks Commission — October 5, 2023



Trail Network

Themes:

- **Trail 1** – Historical
- **Trail 2** – Native Plant/Animal
- **Trail 3** – Geographical



Saddleback Wilderness Overview and Selection of Trail Names
Orange County Parks Commission – October 5, 2023



Trail 1 – Historical Theme

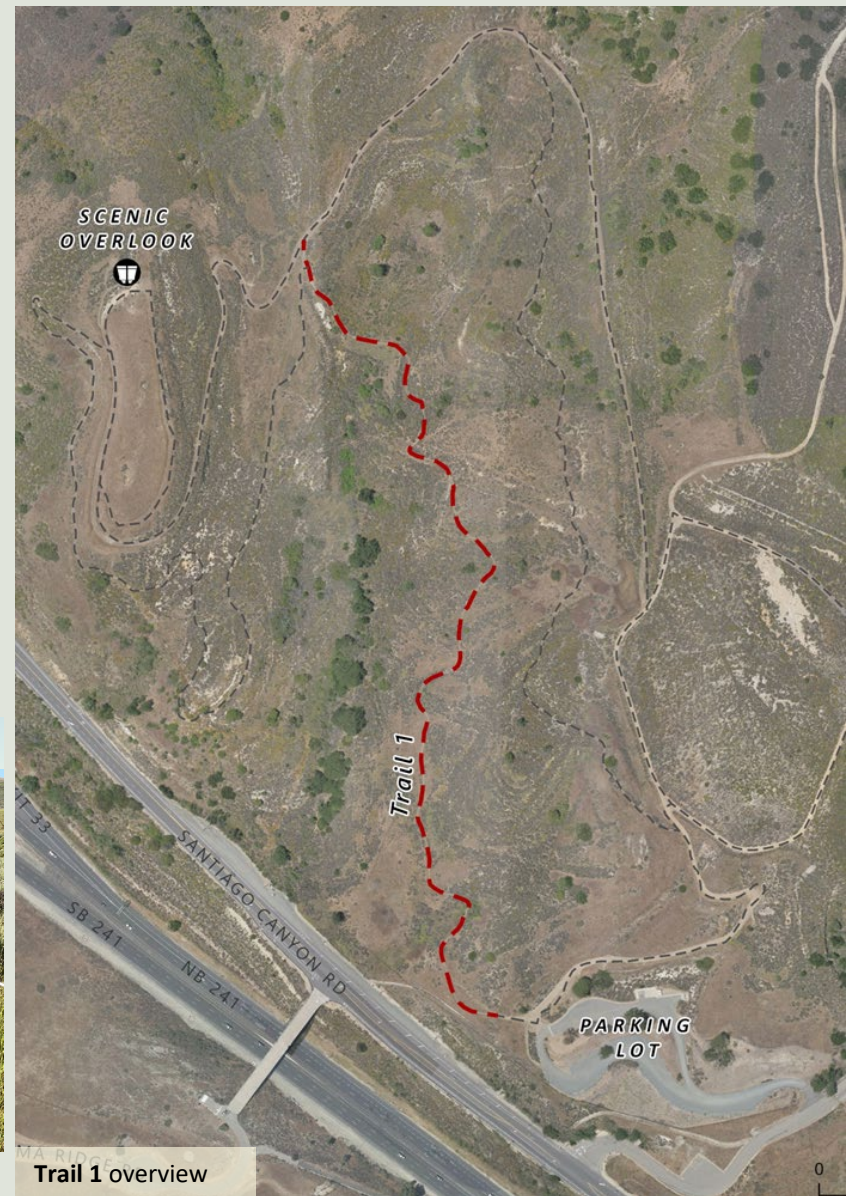


Start gate along "Trail 1" in Saddleback Wilderness, then and now



Name proposed by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee:

- Holeshoot Trail



Trail 1 overview

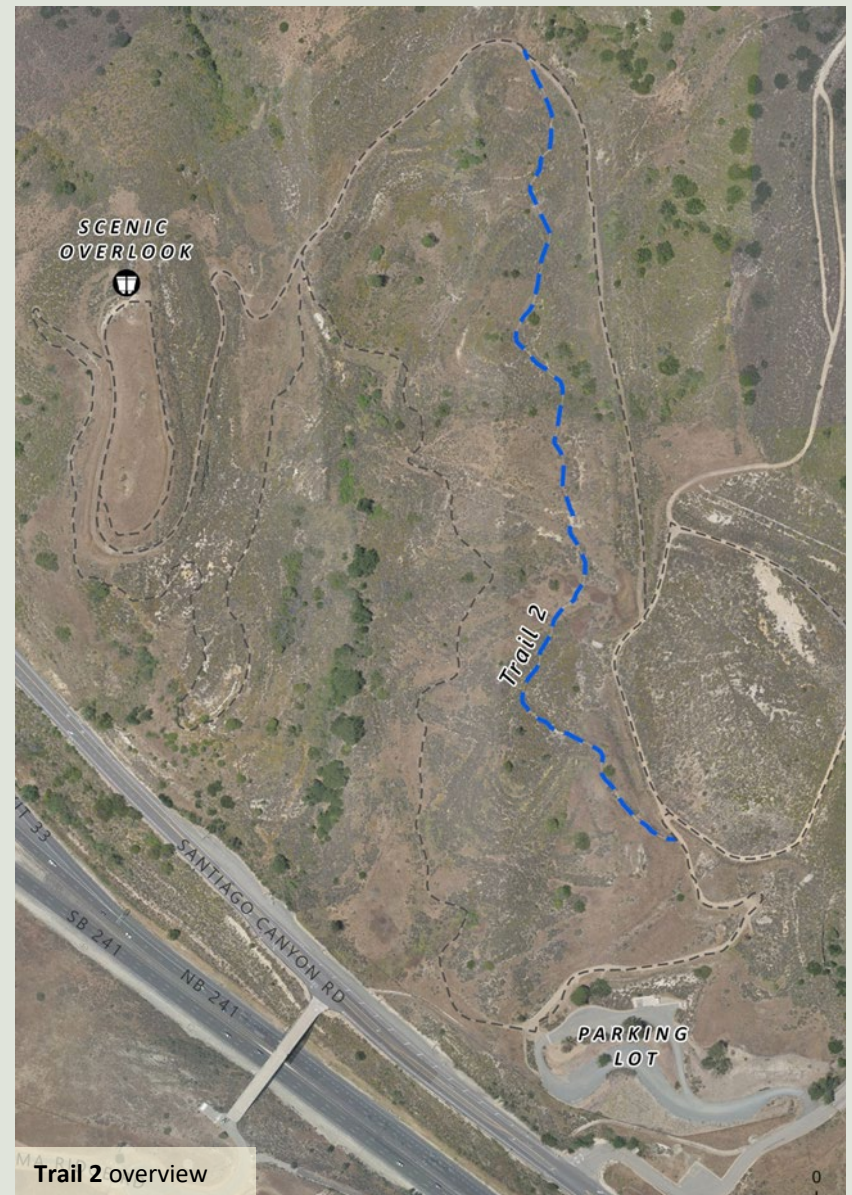
Trail 2 – Plant/Animal Theme

Name proposed by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee:

- Whiptail Trail



Orange-throated whiptails are a special status species found in Saddleback Wilderness

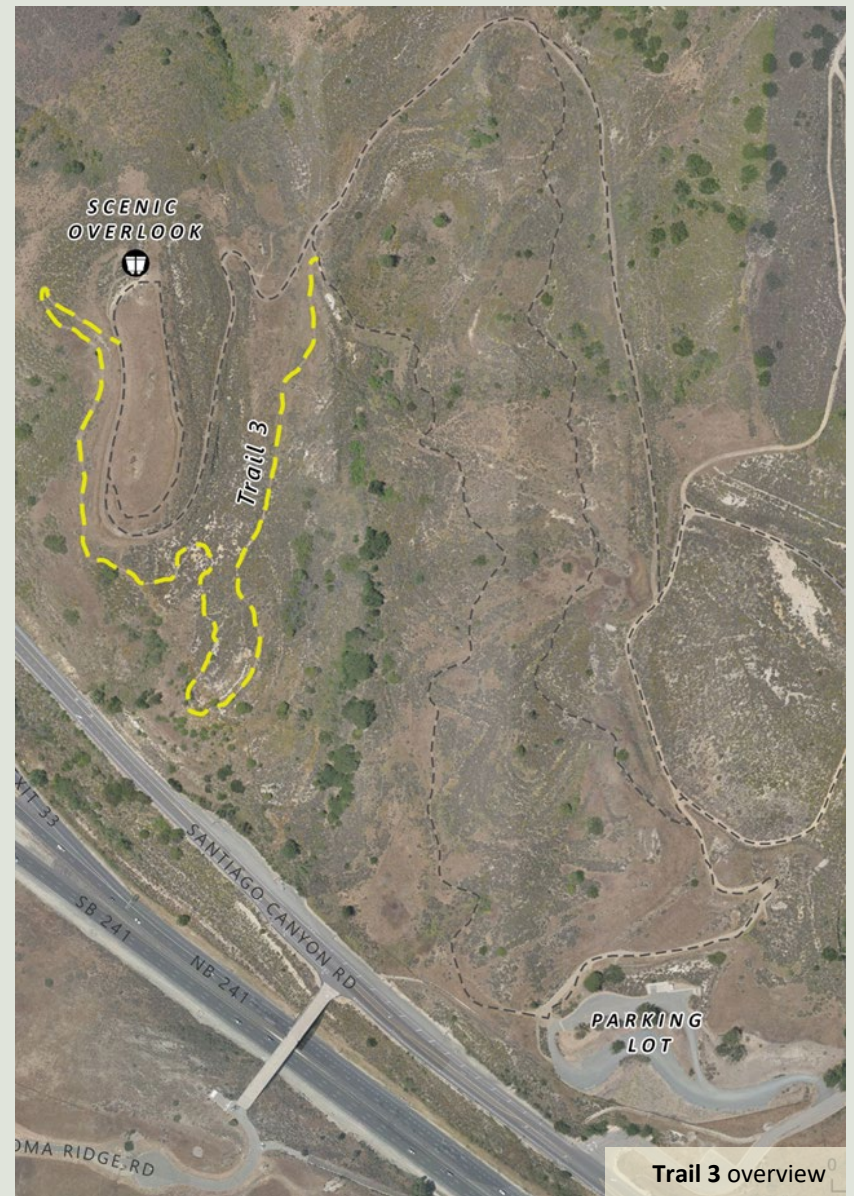


Trail 2 overview

Trail 3 – Geographical Theme

Name proposed by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee:

- Mirador Trail



Recommended Action

Approve the names for three Saddleback Wilderness trails, as recommended by the Orange County Parks Trails Subcommittee.

Trail 1 – Historical Theme

- Holeshoot Trail

Trail 2 – Native Plant/Animal Theme

- Whiptail Trail

Trail 3 – Geographical Theme

- Mirador Trail



THANK YOU



History, Nature, and Scenic Views are popular Saddleback Wilderness themes