

Santa Ana Park Naturalist Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Park Naturalist Program is to educate the public about local natural resources and the environment, improve the ecological character of Santa Ana's open space and to engage the community in park activities. The priority site for the program is Santiago Park.

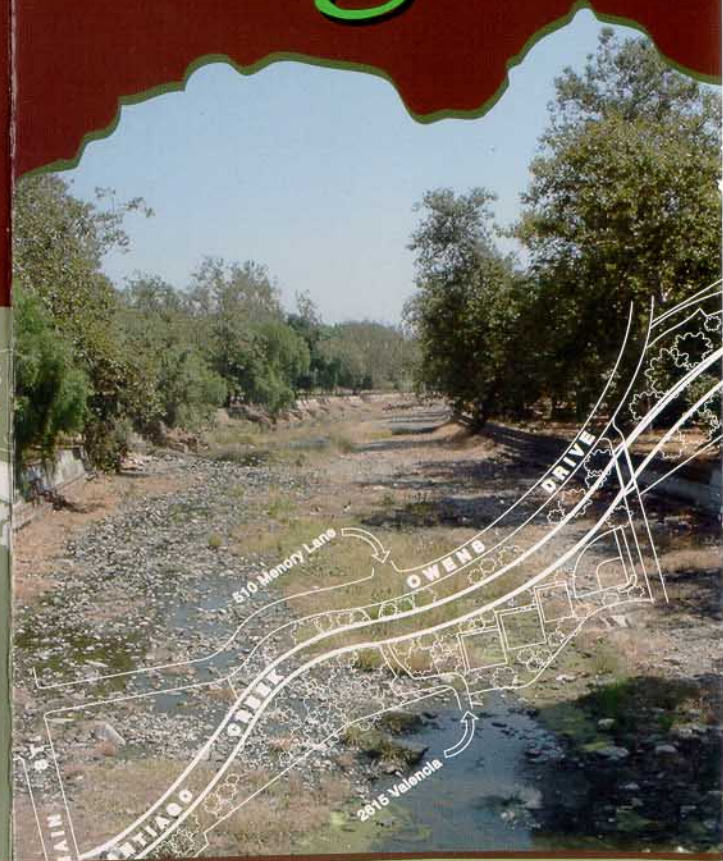
The program has three primary functions: 1) Identify, and document the natural resources of Santa Ana, 2) Use the results of the research to plan for habitat restoration and enhancement and 3) Interpret the resources through educational programs, interpretive signs and printed materials. The public is encouraged to participate in all aspects of the program.



Combining Research, Education,
and Restoration
for Healthier Parks
and Communities

Park Naturalist Office

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Recreation and Community Services Agency-M23
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Santa Ana, CA 92704
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How You Can Join the Fun:

Attend one of the activities described below or contact the Naturalist Office to schedule a Park Naturalist presentation for your next meeting or event

Self - guided Exploraton

Santiago Park, the primary location for Park Naturalist activities, has miles of trails providing opportunities for self-guided exploration. Santiago Creek is a natural corridor connecting visitors to Mainplace Mall, Discovery Science Center and open space to the east. Interpretive signs along the way entice and engage the explorer, making Santiago Park and Creek Trail a natural adventure for the first-time visitor and regular alike. Wildlife viewing is popular at the park and shaded benches and other viewing areas are provided throughout



Research

Biological Surveys

The Naturalist Program conducts plant and animal inventories, nest box monitoring and native species regeneration research.

Watershed Studies

Water quality monitoring and wetland restoration studies are just some of the naturalist program's watershed efforts. The Santiago Creek Watershed and Wildlife Center, a major new facility for the study of watersheds and urban ecology, is planned for Santiago Park.

Education/Interpretation

Community Workshops

At least four(4) hands-on workshops will be offered annually. One each will focus on wildlife or plants of the area and another will focus on Santiago Creek watershed issues. Call for dates, times and workshop themes. Workshops are appropriate for families and individuals 17 and older.



Several interactive field programs are available to organized groups and include topics such as Natural History, Watersheds and Park Ecology. Programs are available for ages 7 years and older. Call for information and to book your group for a naturalist lead program.

Ecological Restoration

Habitat Enhancement and Creation

The Naturalist program has compiled a Conceptual Habitat Restoration Plan that will guide the enhancement and restoration of native vegetation communities at Santiago Park including:
Southern Oak Woodlands
Riparian forest/scrub
Alluvial Sage Scrub
Individuals and groups are encouraged to participate in all restoration activities.

Lower Santiago Creek Restoration Project

This volunteer project is a partnership with the Park Santiago Neighborhood Association and will remove litter and debris from the creek, and enhance the riparian habitat on 1 mile of creek through Santiago Park. Eventually, the entire reach of Santiago Creek through the City of Santa Ana may be restored.

Species Reintroductions

Many wildlife species have been extirpated from Santa Ana. The Naturalist Program is working to return native species to the City's natural areas.

Creek Week

Scheduled every third week in September, Creek Week is a celebration surrounding Santiago Creek. Art contests, tree plantings, creek clean-ups and more. Call for details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for one-time and extended opportunities. Become a volunteer naturalist, Internships and research opportunities are available to students 18 years and older

