



CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING STAFF REPORT COVER PAGE

Loma Linda, CA
December 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 6. Wildwood Canyon Park Property Classification and Naming

STAFF: John Rowe, Inland Empire District, Perris Sector Superintendent and David Block, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: Classification and Naming of Wildwood Canyon Park Property as Wildwood Canyon State Park

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Department of Parks and Recreation to classify and name Wildwood Canyon Park Property as Wildwood Canyon State Park.

II. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

Inland Empire District, Perris Sector Superintendent John Rowe and Associate Park and Recreation Specialist David Block will present a report that provides an overview and recommendation of the Wildwood Canyon Park Property Classification and Naming.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report
- [Wildwood Canyon Park Property](#)
- [Wildwood Canyon Park Classification](#)
- Resolution 25-2025



State of California • Natural Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Armando Quintero, Director

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STAFF REPORT: Wildwood Canyon Park Property Classification and Naming

STAFF: John Rowe, Inland Empire District, Perris
Sector Superintendent
David Block, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, Strategic
Planning and Recreation Services Division

SUBJECT: Classification and Naming of the Wildwood
Canyon Park Property as Wildwood Canyon State Park

OBJECTIVE

To provide a detailed analysis and recommendation for classifying and naming Wildwood Canyon Park Property as Wildwood Canyon State Park.

INTRODUCTION

Wildwood Canyon Park Property is located in San Bernardino County, California, within the city of Yucaipa, along Canyon Drive, approximately 75 miles east of Los Angeles and accessible via Interstate 10. The 855-acre site, situated in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, was acquired in 2002.

Public Resources Code, Section 5019.50, requires that all units be classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) into a specified classification. The California Public Resources Code, Section 5002.1, requires that an inventory of scenic, natural and cultural features be provided to the Commission when classifying a unit of the State Park System. A Classification Report is intended to provide the Commission with the necessary information for classification as specified in Article 1.7 of the Public Resources Code.

DESCRIPTION

Wildwood Canyon Park Property encompasses Southern California chaparral, oak woodlands, and extant ranch structures; it provides designated picnic areas and 6.4 miles of multi-use trails. Permitted activities include hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use on established trails. The property contains 6.4 miles of non-motorized multi-use trails (hiking/bicycling/equestrian). In addition, 0.2 miles of paved road and 3.1 miles of unpaved road are available for recreational purposes (hiking/bicycling/equestrian). The existing trail system affords multiple viewsheds of the natural landscape. Oak



woodlands interspersed with chaparral support diverse avian and wildflower species, attracting birdwatchers and wildflower enthusiasts. A large, unpaved parking area adjacent to the main entrance accommodates approximately 200 vehicles, including provisions for horse trailers. Visitor amenities are limited to picnic tables and portable restrooms located near the main entrance and at Hunt Ranch; no accessibility features are currently provided. Notwithstanding its scale, the property affords visitors numerous opportunities to engage with the distinctive historical, contemporary, and prospective attributes of the region. Local naturalist, astronomical, trade, and tribal organizations may be engaged as community partners to enrich interpretive programming at the park.

Since the state's acquisition of the property in 2002, the Supporters of Wildwood Canyon State Park (Supporters)—a nonprofit advocacy organization—has collaborated closely with state officials to promote the site, maintain trails and fences, and secure funding for future enhancements. The group has coordinated a range of events, including equestrian rides, interpretive programs, and guided hikes, while consistently monitoring the property and reporting concerns to state authorities. Absent additional staffing or operational funding, the Supporters have been instrumental in the property's initial success as both a natural resource and a recreational venue. The park enjoys widespread community affection and robust local support.

The classification process commenced in August 2024. This classification and naming procedure incorporated opportunities for California Native American tribes and the public to submit input and recommendations regarding preferred park names and classifications. Tribal consultations were conducted with multiple tribes and resulting comments have been integrated into this document. The classification process was presented at a Yucaipa City Council meeting on June 9, 2025, followed by a public meeting on June 16, 2025, at the Yucaipa Community Center Ballroom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Department staff presented details on the classification process and outlined the options under consideration. This classification document has been posted on the Department's website and disseminated to individuals and organizations with an interest in the future of the state property known as Wildwood Canyon Park Property.

Department staff evaluated the property's resources in reference to the park classification definitions in statute and determined the State Park classification is appropriate and justified by the resource values on the property. Considerations for more extensive recreational development typical of a State Recreation Area are not supported by the limited acreage and fragile resources at the park which lacks terrain capable of withstanding extensive impacts. This consideration is also disqualifying for classification as a State Vehicular Recreation Area. Conversely, wilderness characteristics are insufficiently represented on the property even if size criteria were met.

While staff evaluations found classifications of State Reserve, State Recreation Area/State Vehicular Recreation Area or State Wilderness to be inappropriate, an alternate classification for Wildwood Canyon Park Property would be a State Historic



Park. Deeper consideration of the historic resources determined that while two buildings on the Hunt Ranch would be potentially eligible for California Register of Historic Places designations, the majority of buildings do not meet the criteria for either National or State historic designation. Therefore, classifying the entire property as a State Historic Park or designating these areas as a cultural preserve sub-unit is not recommended.

Tribal consultation and public input strongly support retaining the property's current characteristics with targeted improvements. "Wildwood Canyon" emerged as the preferred name.

NEXT STEPS

Presentation to the Commission to take action on the classification and naming of the Wildwood Canyon Park Property.

RECOMMENDATION

Understanding that the Commission has jurisdiction over the classification and naming of units of the State Parks system, The Department recommends classifying and naming Wildwood Canyon Park Property as Wildwood Canyon State Park.

COMMISSION ACTION(S)

Commission action request is for a vote to approve the classification and naming of Wildwood Canyon Park Property as Wildwood Canyon State Park.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Wildwood Canyon Park Property](#)

[Wildwood Canyon Park Classification](#)