

SANTA ANA RIVER BOTTOM WORKING GROUP PROGRESS UPDATE

Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Department

City Council
May 10, 2022

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BACKGROUND

In June 2021, Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson created a Working Group co-chaired by Ward 1 Councilmember, Erin Edwards and Ward 7 Councilmember, Steven Hemenway to attract:

1. City Investment
2. Private Investment
3. Public Awareness

On February 1, 2022, City Council directed the group to identify a public outreach process and potential funding sources for opportunities for development along the Santa Ana River and strategies for implementation.



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CHALLENGES

Challenges identified:

1. Homeless encampments
2. Fire hazards
3. Lack of awareness about the river or where to access it
4. Safety concerns
5. Lack of water in the river
6. Regulatory and jurisdictional challenges
7. Funding for maintenance of existing trail infrastructure
8. Lack of amenities



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SYNERGIZE VISION WITH RIVER EFFORTS

- Cleanups
- Enforcement
- Engagement
- Restoration
- Development



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SYNERGIZE RIVER EFFORTS

1. Cleanups with Public Safety and Engagement Team (PSET)
2. Enforcement with Park and Neighborhood Specialist (PANS) at adjacent Parks
3. Engagement with Office of Homeless Solutions
4. Restoration of the river habitat with other agencies

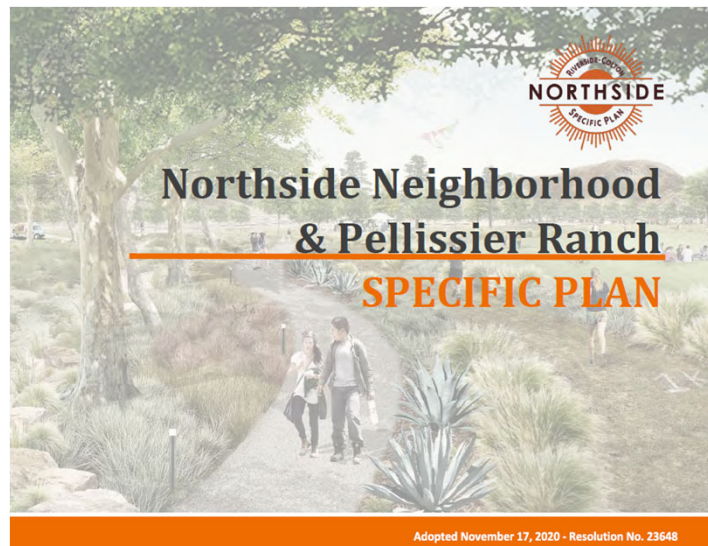


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SYNERGIZE WITH RIVER EFFORTS



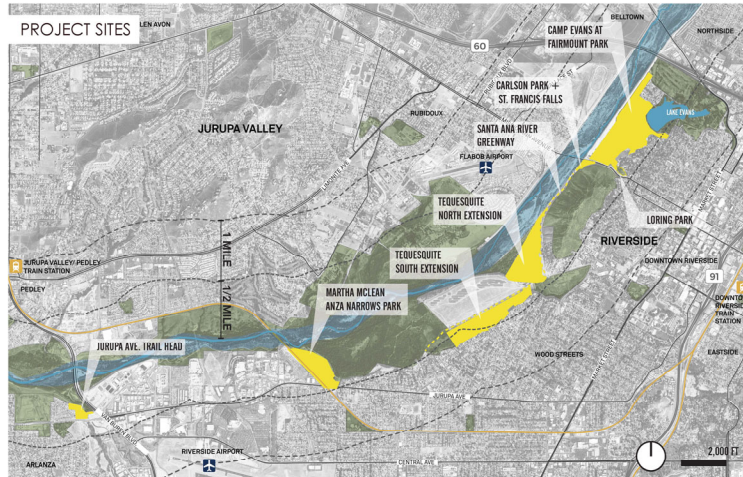
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RIVERSIDE GATEWAY PARKS

<https://riversidegatewayparks.com/>



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NEXT STEPS

July 2022:

- Establish the core technical group
- Reconvene the Santa Ana River Working Group
- Begin a baseline constraints analysis
- Outline a community engagement process
- Develop a brand

September 2022:

- Celebrate World Rivers Day on the 4th Weekend in September



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NEXT STEPS

November 2022:

- Outline short-term goals and establish a long-term shared vision

Ongoing:

- Set a strategy for funding through grants
- Coordinating with ongoing projects
- Establish a synergy of efforts and investment on cleanups, enforcement, engagement, and restoration



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan Priorities

Arts, Culture
and RecreationCommunity
Well-BeingEconomic
OpportunityEnvironmental
StewardshipInfrastructure,
Mobility and
Connectivity

Cross-Cutting Threads

Community
Trust

Equity

Fiscal
Responsibility

Innovation

Sustainability &
Resiliency

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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and file the Santa Ana River Working Group update and provide input and direction.



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