

Wildwood Watchers Fire Safe Council Recent Updates Page  
(last updated 4/22/25)

**Upper Wildwood Creek Basin Flood Control Project:** The plan was presented to the city council again on 4/14/25 (available on YouTube). The project would extend the current flood basins to the East, digging up a significant portion of the creek to create a reservoir. The area in question is on the South side of WWCR, between OVR and OGR. The project was tabled due to cost, and all bids rejected (needs \$4.1 million to proceed). Because part of the project is dependent on grant monies that will expire, this item was tabled but will come back in future meetings.

**Wildwood Canyon Road x Oak View & Oak Grove Traffic Study: DONE!**

-2/28/25: Lights at the crosswalk installed! Final tweaking and they should be operational in a few days!

-1/21/25: After several months, we still don't have the x-walk lights up. We inquired again, and here is the response we got:

*My apologies for the delayed response. The pedestrian activated crosswalk beacons have been ordered. I was hoping to have an estimated delivery date to provide you, but I have not yet heard back from the vendor. I will send another email once I have an updated delivery date, so I can provide an installation timeframe.*

-10/4/24: Glen Douglas sent an email to city staff thanking them for their work and asking for an update to the pre-approved items to be placed at the Wildwood Canyon Road crosswalk. We were told it would be a few more weeks and we should see something go up. Glen also stated that the turn lane onto OVR was incorrectly striped. We were told that they would see if they could tag onto an existing striping contract and get it fixed.

-4/4/24: Here is a short status report on completed and upcoming city actions to improve conditions for pedestrians and drivers along WWCR.

**Already Completed:**

--Deer crossing sign east of Oak Grove Road relocated to increase site distance/visibility

-- Installation of speed feedback sign in front of Wildwood City Park; subsequently relocated to westbound direction

**Future:**

On Monday night, the City Council will consider awarding a contract for the 2023-24 Annual Striping Program. We expect the item to be on the consent agenda. If approved, the striping program will include:

-- Re-fresh of existing striping at Wildwood Canyon Road and Canyon Drive (crosswalk at the state park entrance) and installation of new yield pavement markers in advance of existing crosswalk at that location.

-- Re-fresh of existing striping at the intersection of Oak View Road and Wildwood Canyon Road.

--Installation of additional double yellow striping along Wildwood Canyon Road to delineate "median" and double yellow along Oak View Road to delineate centerline (short length immediately adjacent to intersection).

In coordination with the new and refreshed striping, city public works staff will install advance warning signs along Wildwood Canyon Road and at the termination of Oak View Road.

The city budget for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, will include the cost of a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB). This is a pedestrian-activated, high-visibility sign that can alert drivers to the presence of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians crossing WWCR at the state park entrance.

-2/1/24: Members of the Wildwood Watchers ad hoc traffic committee ([Glenn Douglas](#) [Kathy Barton](#) and [Douglas Williams](#)) met with city staff to continue discussions regarding the crosswalk on WWCR, and the

intersections accessing our community. Staff shared suggestions from an independent study of the area. Some of the suggestions from both the study and our neighborhood comments were reviewed, and it was determined that the following can be accomplished now:

- digital speed sign relocated to Westbound WWCR just West of OGR
- re-striping of OVR turn pocket and double yellows
- addition of yellow lane lines on OVR near WWCR
- tree trimming around crosswalk lighting
- re-striping the crosswalk
- refresh the PED XING pavement legends

Other recommendations include larger dollar items that will require council approval. We will be addressing these soon- stay tuned!

Also of note- we saw the flashing crosswalk light was knocked down last week. It was reported that AM and was fixed before the end of the same day! Kudos to [City of Yucaipa, CA - City Government](#)

-11/15/23: City installed a traffic speed display with blinking lights for speeders on eastbound WWCR, before the crosswalk to Canyon Dr.

-10/26/23: Members of the Wildwood community met with city leaders to discuss the current traffic issues and concurrent traffic study in our neighborhood. In attendance were Kathy Barton- VP Wildwood Watchers FSC, Glen Douglas-informed neighbor, Douglas Williams- President of the Wildwood Watchers FSC, Fermin Preciado- Yucaipa City Engineer, and Katrina Kunkel- Associate Engineer.

The group started at the crosswalk over WWCR at Canyon Drive. Mr. Preciado pointed out that the city is currently undergoing a traffic study that is examining the number of pedestrians that cross this crosswalk. The counters were in place last week. CA law states that they must do it Tuesday-Thursday. We expressed our concerns that the study was not taking a representative sample- especially since Yucaipa is a tourist town and traffic over the weekends is significant. It was explained to us that this data collection is required by state law, and changes to the crosswalk cannot be completed until there is a justification via the numbers. Past lawsuits have dictated changes be based on this data for liability purposes, based on CA law. We also identified several safety issues with the crosswalk. They took note. The study is ongoing and we will have to wait to see the results before any action is taken.

\*\*Engineer Kunkel clarified the liability statement from above:

Lighted, or push button activated, crosswalks are one of the items that fall under the warrant analysis jurisdiction of the state guidelines. One of the major determining factors to meet the warrant thresholds is pedestrians volumes. Higher pedestrian counts are required to meet the warrant threshold. If the City were to install a push button activated crosswalk where the warrant was not met, we would be liable for any incident that could result at that location, because a judge would determine that the City installed the crosswalk without meeting the legal requirements.

We then moved to the intersection of WWCR and OVR. We pointed out the dangerous turn 'pocket', excessive speeds, and the fact that almost every vehicle coming down crosses over the double yellow. Restriping is an option on the table for consideration. We also spoke about the previous traffic study, and how the data was inconsistent with real life experience; i.e. the stop bar and creeping out into the intersection to see oncoming traffic vs. the picture and representation in the study. It was mentioned that the standards for building roads and intersection were much different in the 80's when the intersection was developed. The road is too narrow by today's construction standards, and the turn lane would have to be 200'+ long if it were constructed today. They assured us that they will look into every option, even out-of-the-box considerations. With most suggestions, their ability to make changes is dictated by traffic studies and CA law. We again spoke about our frustrations with the traffic study; noting this is a bypass corridor for the I-10 when there are closures or accidents, and also the increase in weekend traffic due to

our proximity to Oak Glen (apple season) etc. Again, the study is ongoing and we will have to wait to see the results before any action is taken.

Finally, we spoke about the intersection of WWCR and OGR, and the lack of turn lanes. The 'new' deer crossing sign and how it blocks the view of oncoming traffic was also discussed. We spoke about speeds of drivers coming down the hill from Hidden Meadows. We mentioned the issues with turning onto OGR when coming from the East- the cinder and dirt that naturally build up cause one to skid out and slide when trying to turn- all happening very quickly while trying and get out of the way of impatient drivers. Once again we took pictures of the bollards (traffic cones) that were left in the neighborhood following the fiber optic installation construction. Mr. Preciado assured us that he would take care of it. Overall we were appreciative that Mr. Preciado and Ms. Kunkle took time out of their day to meet us on site. They both expressed that they learned valuable feedback from us that they can take to the study to highlight areas of concern. We look forward to seeing how the study can help solve the issues.

Ms. Kunkel also summarized the meeting with some action points:

Kathy, Glenn and Douglas,

It was so nice meeting all of you in person last week.

I wanted to take the opportunity to summarize the key points in my notes from the meeting to ensure that I didn't miss any of the items we discussed.

In regards to signage along Wildwood Canyon Road, the City will relocate the Deer Crossing sign located at Oak Grove Road. We will also add the segment of Wildwood Canyon Road between Oak Grove and Mesa Grande to the list for Speed Feedback Sign rotating locations.

As discussed, the traffic control warrant analysis at Canyon Drive and the roadway geometry analysis at Oak View Road are currently being finalized. We are requesting a re-analysis of the sight distance from the southbound direction at Oak View Road. We will also discuss the possibility of utilizing weekend data for the traffic control warrant analysis, due to the seasonal/tourist increase in traffic during the weekend. Fermin and I will also look at options that can be implemented without the need of a MUTCD warrant, such as enhancements to existing advisory signs and a re-refresh to the existing edgeline striping.

As a final action, I have also put in a request with our Public Works crew to trim any trees that are overgrown in the Public right-of-way along Wildwood Canyon Road.

Please let me know if there are any items I may have missed.

I look forward to speaking with you all again soon.

Sincerely, Katrina Kunkel

-9/14/23: The BOD has sent a letter to the City Engineer requesting an on-site meeting regarding the issues below that have not been addressed.

-Friday, 9/8/23: Portions of the study have been released. See home page for links to the documents. No to stop sign at WWCR x OVR, and no to speed limit change on WWCR. There was much flawed information in both studies, but even with the correct information it still would not have changed the outcome according to the qualifications. Still pending: our 3 concerns below. We plan to meet with city leaders soon to discuss options.

-7/14/23: Received word that the study is now delayed until the end of July.

-4/28/23: The city placed counters on Wildwood Canyon Road to the East of OVR for one day. The city has stated that we should see some data towards the end of July.

-5/15/23 update: Data Counters have been completed. 1 counter & 3 speed radars. Field review completed 5/22/23.

-6/25/23: Speed patrols seen by Yucaipa Sheriffs!! 3 days in a row...

Our concerns are:

1) The Crosswalk at Canyon Dr x Wildwood Canyon Rd

-The squeeze in the road, dark canopy causes accidents, including a fatal. Speed an issue. If not approved, we would like to fundraise for a push-button, lighted crosswalk

2) The 'Pocket' turn lane from EB Wildwood Canyon Rd to Oak View Rd

-puts you into oncoming traffic, seems like one is swerving and makes WB traffic react

3) Wildwood Canyon Rd x Oak Grove Rd lack of turn lane

-Signs/poles obstruct oncoming traffic, turning from either direction onto Oak Grove Rd

1/25/23 Fatal Motorcycle vs Bicycle

2/13/23: Tree down closes road

3/3/23: Jeep off the road teetering on edge

3/3/23: DUI accident WWCR x OGR

5/31/23: Car vs Bicycle WWCR x OGR

**-Wildwood Canyon State Park Fuels Reduction Project:**

-3/13/25: Update from David Haas: Good morning Wildwood Watchers! We have our initial SERP consultation with CDFW for the Wildwood project next Friday (4/21/25). The consultation process requires a presentation to CDFW staff describing some basic details of the project. This project is as important to us as it is to your community, but the bureaucratic process is what it is. We will do everything we can to get the project approved and people working in as timely a manner as possible.

-10/4/24: There is a possible endangered bee that is holding up the process. We are awaiting more information from the entities involved.

-2/23/24: All bids have been submitted. Committees are meeting to choose the CEQA contracts.

-2/1/24: The CEQA has gone out to bid.

-1/4/24: The stakeholders met to determine the extent of the CEQA. It was agreed that IERCD can do the biological portion (time sensitive, and the remainder would be contracted out. Also the archeological portion would also be a separate contract.

-12/20/23: The burn units have been approved minus the ridge to the far west of the park.

-10/23/23: The project documents are with the State Park Superintendent. We are waiting for his approval before we can continue.

-9/26/23: On-site meeting took place at the State Park. Stakeholders included: CalFire/Yucaipa Chief Malinowski, CalFire Unit Forrester David Haas, State Park Environmental Scientist Ken Keitzer, other State Park Foresters, IERCD representatives, and Douglas Williams, President of the Wildwood Watchers FSC. Stakeholders determined Potential Treatment Units, by boundary and type for the upcoming CEQA. The goal is to plan fuel reduction while having the least effect of the aesthetics of the area.

-8/24/23: Davis Haas, CalFire Unit Forrester, has arranged an on-site meeting for the stakeholders. This is scheduled to occur mid-September. The purpose is to determine the scope for the CEQA to begin (see below):

VTPEIR (Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental impact Report) process:

- 1) Identify project: DONE
- 2) Identify potential environmental impacts: CEQA IN PROCESS (now done)
- 3) Determine Significant Impacts (done)
- 4) Avoid or Mitigate Significant Impacts (in progress)

-IECRD has voted to fund the \$100k CEQA needed to be able to do any type of vegetative alteration on public lands. We are VERY grateful for their help!

**-Wildwood Canyon Corridor Project:** Fuel reduction & breaks in and around our neighborhood.

-2/20/24: All chipper related expenditures have passed city council approval.

-10/23/23: Yucaipa City Council approved the purchase of a chipper, to be used for curbside chipping in the near future. Standby for more details.

-9/25/23: IEFSCA has sponsored a CEQA for the area surrounding but NOT including the state park. This will cover areas of city or federal lands that can have fuel reduction applied using state or federal funds. CEQA in progress.

-9/10/23 update: Community Chipping has begun! The FD held the first event at 5 Winds Ranch on Saturday 9/9/23. The attendance was about as expected for a bring-in event. There are future plans for curbside chipping events.

**-GSOB (Golden Spotted Oak Borer):** Found in Wildwood Canyon State Park in 2022. Two trees were beyond help (infested) and removed. IECRD presented information at our 6/24/23 meeting, and passed around a sign-up sheet to have homes inspected. If you are interested in a free tree inspection on your property, please get in touch!

-8/20/23: Inspections completed, no GSOB found at this time.

-7/31/23 Home inspections are beginning

-8/9/23: Several home inspections have been done. No new infected trees reported at this time.

**-PulsePoint App:** Contract created- funding pending.

-2/7/24: Chief Malinowski and Douglas Williams met with PulsePoint staff to initiate a contract. The startup cost will be \$10,500, and annual costs would be \$10,000. Chief is now meeting with the city to investigate funding sources.

-11/23/23: Melissa (Chief Malinowski's secretary) is arranging a meeting for the interested entities.

-10/23: Chief Malinowski has requested a meeting to be set up between PulsePoint and the interested parties. I have started to follow some leads with CONFIRE, as they are the entity that has paid for and installed the PP equipment in their ECC.

-9/11/23: EMS fees to head to city council on 9/25/23.

**-Wildwood Canyon CWPP Project:** (Community Wildfire Protection Plan)

**\*\*Completed 3/1/24 and posted to our website under 'NEWS' [www.wildwoodwatchers.com](http://www.wildwoodwatchers.com)\*\***

Our CWPP was completed by Marc McDonald of Fire Adaptive Solutions, LLC. The plan was funded by the Regional Fire Safe Grant through the Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council (MRFSC).

-3/1/24: CWPP Finalized and signed off by all parties!

-12/20/23: A draft was presented to the stakeholders. Once signed off, or revised per the comments, it will be presented for final signatures.

-10/27/23: Mr. McDonald has all of the required data. He is hoping to produce a draft by early December.

-8/28/23 update: Mr. McDonald flew out and spend two days looking at our neighborhood, examining the dangers that fire could bring. We looked not at individual properties, but at the community as a whole. Water pressures, radio contact, ingress/egress, etc. were just some of the items examined. Lots of pictures taken, including several drone shots. We should receive a full report in a month or so.

-8/10/23 update: Mr. McDonald is traveling out from TX to do the study. On site data collection should be done by 8/27/23.

-8/7/23: Mr. McDonald submitted questionnaires for David Haas and Chief Malinowski

-8/1/23: Mr. McDonald has scheduled a flight and will be visiting our neighborhood the weekend of 8/25.

-7/13/23 update: Payment & signatures being processed, Mr. McDonald will travel to our neighborhood and schedule a field visit soon.

**-General Updates:** The 10/22/23 meeting was another great success! Thanks to our presenters: Kayla Thompson of IERCD, Paulette Bunyapanasarn with Famers Insurance, Mike Yartzoff from JPL, and special congrats to Kylie DeJager and her family for all of their accomplishments! The Dickason's provided a great venue for the meeting, and we thanks them immensely. We counted 47 in attendance.

-The 6/24/23 meeting was a great success! A great turnout, and great presentations by all. Thanks again to the McGann's for hosting. The WWFSC is wrapping up spending \$\$ from the \$20k grant that was awarded. Some of the items purchased were: laptop, projector, screen, sound system, LED sign, generator, printer, insurance, office supplies, etc.

**-Frontier FO Road Repairs: DONE!**

-7/31/23: Road repairs begin. They are starting with OVR at the cul de sac and working their way down.

-7/24/23: Received communication from the city: Just heard from Frontier that they will be initiating asphalt street restoration work the week of August 7<sup>th</sup> throughout the city. I have asked them to start with OGR, OVR, and Limekiln.

-7/14/23: Received communication from the city, but no updates or changes.

-6/21/23. We were informed that the city's 'hands are tied' in that Frontier, specifically the contractor hired by Frontier to do the road repairs, was not doing the work. The contractor probably hasn't been paid for previous Frontier jobs (speculation). The city has not allowed Frontier to start any new projects in other areas of the city by withholding permits. We hope to get another update soon.

-3/6/23: Road Construction begins on OVR!