



Sponsorship Committee Report, April 2025

The Sponsorship Committee held a meeting to train those that have volunteered to review scholarship applications on 3/25/25 with 6 people present. We have 7 volunteers reviewing scholarship applications. **Because many of these volunteers came from my appeal at the General Meeting that we had on March 13th and are new reviewers, I decided we would benefit from a training. Therefore, we needed some extra time. Typically we get board approval at the April Board Meeting for scholarship and charity funding allocation, but this year we are asking for a board approval via email vote after our next sponsorship meeting on April 15th at 7pm where we will be making our funding recommendations for both scholarships and charities.**

We currently have 98 scholarship applications from 11 different schools. We have received 11 charity nominations from 11 different neighbors. Board-approved community grant funds have all been distributed. June General Meeting / Scholarship Award ceremony is scheduled for Saturday June 21st at 3pm at Sandy's home.

Thank you!

Stephanie Miles, First VP

FPNA Beautification Committee Board Report - April 8, 2025

- Sarah Mae Downie Park/Butterfly Garden – Chris Switzer and Beth Hoffman
 - The Wise, Wonderful Wednesday Weed Whackers continue with bi-monthly maintenance in the park.
 - New native plants were scouted, purchased and planted this week from California Native Botanical Gardens.
 - New Native pollinator and nectar plants were scouted, selected and planted to support Butterfly Garden.
 - A cement pad was laid for the historic FP monument.
 - The bench that was located there is now in storage until the monument is completed.
 - Mike Ortiz said we can get another bench before home tour; we're waiting for him to provide quote.

As a board, we need to decide who may buy the new bench and put their name on it. There have been many requests. We need a discussion on this??
- Exits and Entrances - Lina Lopez
 - On Saturday, March 22 volunteers planted on Santa Clara and 19th St. Park.
 - An eblast will be sent out for help planting Victoria and 19th Streets on April 12.
- SMD Park Heart Stones – Dave Karaffa
 - The heart stone purchased last month is still in process. Ray is having problems with his heart mold.
- Tree Committee – Debbie Wolfenbarger and Heather Small
 - Debbie has reached out to SA City arborists to look at the sycamores on Riverside because they are dying.
 - We have also asked City Arborists to examine Italian Cypress on North Park Cul-de-sac where three have recently died. This loss includes one tree that was mature (25 feet tall).
- Yard with Most Curb Appeal –
 - March homes selected were:
 - 2344 N. Riverside Dr. - Nancy and Harris were so appreciative of being chosen. They did a refresh recently, and while some of the groundcover is still growing in, the seating area is opened-up, and the garden has lovely colors throughout.
 - 2038 N. Ross - Kelly was home to accept our sign and gave all the credit to Joanne for changing out their décor each month or two to match the season or holiday.
- Utility Box Wraps – Sarah Mae Downie only
 - Jason Niede agreed to help us with wrap project, all information was sent to him, he will get back to us.
 - We are still waiting for the cost quote.
- Ivy and trash on Broadway – Beth Hoffman
 - Overgrowth of vines from Broadway I-5 South Exit Support from SA Public Works continues. Rudy Rosas, Jessie Lopez continued to correspond with Cal-Trans over the last two weeks to expedite work prior to FPNA Home Tour.

As of this writing today, Friday Morning April 4, 2025, Cal-Trans closed Southbound I-5 Broadway Exit, there is a crew of eight working to remove vines and debris from curbs and walls adjacent to the off ramp!!

A Reminder: Cal-Trans completed some removal work back in September 2024, (approximately 1,500 feet). Remaining (150 feet) vines and debris was not removed approaching Broadway and Santa Clara intersection. Ultimately clean-up effort was believed to be an inter-jurisdictional issue. Caltrans left remaining maintenance work for Santa Ana City to finish. Following our January, February and March 2025 correspondence with Councilperson Lopez and Public Works Rudy Rojas, removal of remaining creeping fig and trash removal is complete as of today.

- Santiago Creek Clean-up – 3/31/2025 Letter from Congressman Lou Correa to Army CORPS of Engineers



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Lieutenant General William H. Graham, Jr.
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
441 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Graham:

As Members of Congress representing the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (SARMP), we thank you and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for your continuing commitment to the critical work on the SARMP, including the Santiago Creek (Creek) component.

We are writing to urge you to expeditiously proceed with the Creek component of the SARMP, which was originally authorized as a flood-risk management project in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 and is funded by the Balanced Budget Act of 2018 (BBA '18). The Creek component includes the Smith Basin, the Blue Diamond Pit, and the Bond Pit (the Basins) and the Santiago Creek Channel (Channel), the portion of the Creek that runs from the I-5 Freeway to the confluence of the Santa Ana River. It is time to **immediately issue implementation guidance** for both elements of the Creek component so the Corps can finalize the design for the Basins and develop a new plan for the Channel.

Section 1311 of WRDA '24 modifies the language for the Creek component making clear that the Corps should move forward with the project subject to two modifications.¹ Specifically,

¹ Section 1311 of the WRDA '24 reads:

(a) SANTA ANA CREEK , INCLUDING SANTIAGO CREEK

(1) MODIFICATION .—The project for flood control, Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, including Santiago Creek, California, authorized by section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4113; 101 Stat. 1329–111; 10421 Stat. 4611; 110 Stat. 3713; 121 Stat. 1115), is modified to require the Secretary to treat construction of the Santiago Creek Channel as a separable element of the project.

(2) PROHIBITION .—The Secretary may not construct the Santiago Creek Channel unless such construction minimizes the impacts to existing trees in, or adjacent to, the Santiago Creek Channel.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION .—Nothing in this subsection shall affect the authorization for other portions of the project described in paragraph (1).⁷

the language **mandates that the Corps develop a new plan for the Channel that “minimizes the impacts to existing trees in or adjacent to the channel” before proceeding with construction and treat the Channel project as separable element from the Basins.** Congress’ intent is unambiguous -- the Corps must proceed with the Basins’ work **independently** from the Channel while drafting a new design for the Channel that is consistent with the language and spirit of WRDA ’24.

As noted by the Corps, and well known to the impacted community, the work on the Creek is essential for flood control purposes. As the Corps’ Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft SEA) makes plain:

[T]he need for the project is due to significant flooding along the Santa Ana River – including Santiago Creek...which has been documented since at least 1897...Unprotected banks along Santiago Creek are subject to erosion which could cause damage to residential and commercial developments along the creek.²

The sandy, gravelly slopes of the Basins are highly susceptible to erosion during storm events. Slope failures could undermine flood control infrastructure, reduce stormwater capture and groundwater recharge, and encroach on adjacent properties. “The existing slopes of the Santiago Recharge Basins require repair to accommodate the 1% AEP water surface elevation. Several locations have been identified along the basins which would require stabilization.”³ Neglecting to move forward with the project expeditiously leaves the community vulnerable and could lead to catastrophic impacts on the community, as noted in the Draft SEA.

Existing conditions at the project site could potentially exacerbate flooding risk in the project vicinity. In the event of a 100-year flood event, the lower portion of the Santiago Creek that feeds into the Santa Ana River mainstem has a potential to overflow and flood portions of the surrounding community. In the event of high flow rates along the project site, existing eroded conditions along the Santiago Creek channel may result in slope failure that could damage adjacent properties and homes.⁴

The current plan for the Creek, which was selected several decades ago, does not reflect current climate conditions or the needs of the community. The plan would drastically and permanently disrupt the area which has thousands of trees in, and adjacent to, the Channel on

(4) DEFINITIONS .—In this subsection:

(A) SANTIAGO CREEK CHANNEL .—The term “Santiago Creek Channel” means the portion of the project for flood control, Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, including Santiago Creek, California, authorized by section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4113; 101 Stat. 1329–111; 15 104 Stat. 4611; 110 Stat. 3713; 121 Stat. 16 1115), consisting of Santiago Creek downstream of the I-5 Interstate Highway to the confluence with the Santa Ana River.

(B) SEPARABLE ELEMENT .—The term “separable element” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 23 2213).

² “Santa Ana River Mainstem Santiago Creek, Orange County, California. Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration.” US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District. September 2023, page 3.

³ Ibid, 8.

⁴ Ib d, 28.

both public and private lands. The trees not only serve as habitat for countless birds, including Bald Eagles, and other wildlife and they form an indispensable noise barrier against the vehicle traffic from the Freeway. Further, given the lack of green space in the surrounding community, the wooded landscape provides an important outdoor space for these neighborhoods. **That is why it is essential to collaborate with the local sponsor, Orange County Public Works, to develop a new plan for the Channel now while BBA '18 funds remain available.**

In drought-stricken Southern California, where water capture and storage measures are being aggressively pursued, the current proposal for the Channel redirects this much needed water to the Pacific Ocean via the Santa Ana River. However, some of this damage can be mitigated by work at the Basins which play a vital role in groundwater recharge and flood risk reduction, storing over 13,000 acre-feet of stormwater and augmenting water supply for the community. Retaining additional water in the Basins is critical and the project “involves modifications to the Santiago Recharge Basins to allow for greater holding capacity during storm events.”⁵ **The Basins’ work is an appropriate and essential use of BBA’18 funds and the Corps can move forward with the work at the Basins immediately.**

We emphatically urge you to allocate funds immediately to allow the Corps to move forward with the Creek component of SARMP. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of the Creek component, which is essential to protecting our constituents.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Congressman Correa’s office at (202) 225-2965 and Congresswoman Kim’s office at (202) 225-4111.

Sincerely



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress

Chris Switzer and Beth Hoffman
Co-chairs Beautification Committee

Communications Board Report

March 2025

Website (FloralPark.com)

- New website rolled out March 8. Huge thanks to Jason Niedle and the team at Tethos for an amazing job.
- New Floral Park branding kit available
- Rearranged content after rollout (Scholarships/Charities/Grants moved to “Giving Back” page)
- Updated Event Calendar events, including linking with PayPal for ticketing to support upcoming Sock Hop
- Added online request form for Floral Park Financial Information (delivered hardcopy)
- Will be adding older versions of Agendas, Reports, and Minutes (5 years back)
- Need to discuss repository for Floral Park files

Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube)

- Awaiting intermediary contact with Marc LaFont regarding Facebook/Instagram accounts
- Will be adding additional videos to YouTube

eBlasts (Constant Contact)

- 11 eBlasts sent in March (2 General Meeting, 3 Mixer, 3 Home Tour, 2 Beautification, 1 Sponsorship)
- Will be adding Online eBlast request submittals to website in April

Newsletter/Gazette

- A layout has been designed and we will be getting it out the first part of May
- Rebranding Gazette to Newsletter since it will be less magazine style and def not as flashy. Stories will be much more concise and impactful.
- This is a work in progress and just like the website we will be refining and updating along the way. The templates we are creating should be easy for any computer savvy person to utilize in the future.
- I have not even begun to figure out sponsorship but I will get on that soon.

Neighborhood Signs

- Overlays ordered for March and September General Meetings
- Overlays will be ordered for June Scholarship/Charity Awards Presentation
- Will be adding Online Sign request submittals to website in April

Membership Report

Month of March 2025

Co-Membership Directors: Chris Rosas & Kevin Shuler

Donations:

- March Membership Donations = \$2020
- YTD Donations = \$7685
- 80 Total Donors to date, of which 72 were recurring donors (90%)

New Neighbors:

- 2003 North Victoria Drive: Atticus & Charlene Wegman (Returning Neighbors to Floral Park)

Events & Mixers Updates

- February Valentines Day Gram Donation Drive: \$10/per gram. One free gram if sign up for a Recurring Donation.
- Spring Mixer – Very well attended, and much thanks to Sarah Rose and AJ Barragan at 1908 North Flower Street!
- Summer Block Mixers to be determined by individual block captains.
- Fall Mixer August 24th from 3-6pm

Donation Initiatives:

- New neighbor baskets: All new neighbors have been welcomed.
- Membership table at every mixer.
- Membership Donation Invitation Letters to go out in 2nd Quarter to all neighbors who have not ever donated. Information, Challenge, Survey why they do not donate, and guilt.

Block Captain Updates:

- Gazette Delivery. We need to put them to work!
- Summer Block Mixers being planned.
- Block Captain Happy Hour in June.

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE
BOARD REPORT
4-8-25

The Committee has held 2 meetings, and 1 on-site to view/compare monument products to be used, since our last report.

The material presented was not to our specifications and was not accepted by the committee. We are awaiting a meeting at the contractor's site to view new samples.

The city notified us (3-24-25) that they are not able to find the requested lettering for the monuments, so the Committee is undertaking finding sources for the lettering, since we desire to have all monuments match.

We have requested a meeting with the head of Public Works, to again request that this project be completed in a timely manner.

Jim Taft, Committee member is landscaping the area around the Wier Gate at Victoria and Santa Clara, in preparation for Home Tour. Plaque to be installed regarding its historical significance.

Discussion with the Social committee is in the very early stages for our dedication ceremony, we are looking at late July early August. The funds for this would come out of our Budget, along with the plaque for the Wier Gate.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Schauwecker, Chair