



# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District  
4600 Crestmore Road  
Riverside, CA 92509**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Early Wildflowers in Riverside County May Indicate Big Blooms to Come**

*JURUPA VALLEY, Calif.* – Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (RivCoParks) anticipates a remarkable spring bloom of wildflowers throughout the County. Early blooms of California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) have already been spotted on hillsides in Temescal Valley, Lake Elsinore, and at Harford Springs Reserve in Perris, CA, among other locations. The spectacular, yet unpredictable “super bloom” seasons result in beautiful landscapes that attract visitors to outdoor areas that boast a variety of wildflowers. In Riverside County, common flowers visitors might expect to see include California poppies, common fiddleneck, California bluebells, lupin and popcorn flowers. While outdoor enthusiasts enjoy hiking and taking pictures in these areas, visitors should be aware of conservation area restrictions and safety factors.

While it is impossible to predict exactly where a high rate of blooms will occur this spring, a few RivCoParks managed locations have been prone to such displays in the past. For all locations, visitors should park in safe and legal locations, remain on identified trails, refrain from walking off trail and trampling flowers, and use provided trash cans or take your trash with you when you leave the area.

One popular past location to view nature’s beautiful display of flowers is located off of Interstate 15 in the corridor between Lake Elsinore and Temescal Valley. The best spot to view flowers in this area is from Walker Canyon Road. Please abide by all parking signs and restrictions.

Wildflower season causes one of the most dangerous driving conditions along the Interstate 15 corridor. Use caution when driving through these areas as traffic can suddenly stop while drivers are paying attention to the flower covered hillsides. Do not park on the freeway to view the flowers. It is both dangerous and illegal.



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Other potential locations for wildflower blooms this spring include:

- Harford Spring Reserve, 21470 Gavilan Road, Perris, CA
- Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve, 39400 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta, CA 92562
- Box Springs Mountain Reserve, 3699 Box Springs Mountain Road, Moreno Valley, CA 92557
- Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, 11401, Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92505

Information about each location, including rules can be found at <https://www.rivcoparks.org/open-space/>.

RivCoParks encourages visitors to recreate responsibly and enjoy outdoor activities such as wildflower viewing. Below are some additional tips for making your visit to wildflower locations pleasurable while respecting the spaces for others to enjoy after you:

- Stay on established trails and do not trample vegetation.
- Each open-space area is unique. Remain on trails, park legally in lots and on roadsides when safe.
- Many of these areas are protected for rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals. Irresponsible access to these areas is not only perilous to the protected species, in many cases it is illegal and could result in citations or fines.
- Picking flowers is prohibited. Taking pictures from a safe distance, including selfies, is legal.
- Use provided trash cans or receptacles when available. If none are provided, take your trash with you when you leave to help keep the area safe and enjoyable for others.



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- Research where dogs are permitted and be sure to keep your dog on a leash and in your control at all times. Do not leave dogs unattended, including in your vehicles as temperatures can become dangerous.
- Beware of rattlesnakes. The warming spring weather that brings forth wildflowers, also spurs activity in reptiles. Rattlesnakes (Riverside County's only potentially dangerous snake) are only aggressive when threatened. Be vigilant. If one is spotted, give it a wide birth. Rattlesnakes are an important member of the natural ecosystem and are protected from harm on County owned lands.
- Drones are prohibited except by special permit. Off-highway recreation vehicles (OHV) are prohibited.
- Remember to check weather conditions and plan for your visit accordingly, packing plenty of water and sunscreen.
- Areas that are highly impacted by visitors are subject to closure based upon site conditions. Please check the RivCoParks website for information prior to your visit.

RivCoParks offers a variety of recreation, nature and historical sites for guest to enjoy the outdoors and unique aspects of Riverside County. The full listing of locations for camping, hiking, picnicking, and interpretive programs for children and adults is provided at [www.rivcoparks.org](http://www.rivcoparks.org).

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