

## Sign Master Plan Aliso Wood Canyons Wilderness Park

*Clashes between hikers and cyclists were known to occur on steep canyon trails in this Southern Orange County wilderness park. A mecca for mountain biking, Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park beckoned outdoor enthusiasts to its 4,500 acres of woodlands and 30 miles of trails. And beckon it did. Our challenge was to reduce conflicts and cultivate a new trail ethic among trail users.*



The Acorn Group worked closely with staff of the Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks to develop a sign master plan for the park. We began by conducting a physical assessment of the Park's trailheads and signs and a visitor survey to assess visitor use and understanding of the Park's signs and messages. Results of this survey indicated that while visitors are genuinely committed to reading signs and complying with Park regulations, they are often misinformed or confused.

In 2013, we established new messages, new interpretive goals, and a new inventory of recommended media:

- Major trailhead interpretive signs that welcome visitors, identify a trail, state regulations, assist in wayfinding, and offer an interpretive element.

- Minor trail interpretive markers mounted on posts, that confirm wayfinding and offer an interpretive element.
- Interpretive panels, or “wayside” signs that move beyond facts to tell a story to connect the audience to the Park, its resources, and its coveted wilderness.

