



2026 WORK PLAN

Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council

Draft – February, 26 2026

Introduction

At the April 25, 2024, meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), senior staff from Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office presented an 18-page report approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (BOS) entitled "County of Ventura Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Policies".

As per the report, the Chair and Vice Chair of each MAC shall prepare a proposed work plan for the upcoming year that MAC members review, provide input, finalize, and recommend to their County Supervisor (Jeff Gorell). The public shall have the opportunity to review and provide input to the plan prior to finalization.

The Oak Park MAC approved its 2025 Work Plan on February 27, 2025. A mid-year Progress Report was presented at the June 26th meeting highlighting accomplishments thus far. The MAC determined that due to scope, complexity and budget, action items such as Medea Creek, Lindero Canyon monument sign, and Oak Park disaster preparedness, response and evacuation plan, need to be continued in 2026, possibly into 2027. Public awareness and communication channels such as social media and articles in the Acorn newspaper, as well as regular updates to the Oak Park Geographic Information Systems maps and Supervisor Gorell's Oak Park website are intended to be ongoing action items in future MAC Work Plans.

The Work Plan contains nine action items and is organized into two sections:

- New 2026 Action Items (Items 1 -3)
- Continued 2025 Action Items (Items 4-9)

New 2026 Action Items

- 1. Develop a list of community events and activities that celebrate the 60th anniversary of Oak Park and organize community volunteers to assist in planning and implementation.**

Oak Park was formed from ranchland owned by Jim and Marian Jordan, stars of the radio show 'Fibber McGee and Molly.' The land was purchased by Metropolitan Development Corporation in the 1960s and homes were built starting in 1966. Oak Park will be 60 years old this September.

The MAC discussed the anniversary in 2025 and felt strongly that a celebration was important to bring the community together to recognize what makes Oak Park a special place to live, raise a family, go to school, recreate, and enjoy the natural surroundings. Opportunities to partner with local schools, service groups, emergency response agencies, County of Ventura, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and other organizations could be explored as part of planning and implementing 60th anniversary events and activities.

- 2. Ronald Stark (Mr. Oak Park) Tribute Bench.**

Ron Stark is synonymous with the quality of life that residents of Oak Park have come to cherish. After moving to Oak Park from Torrance in 1968, Mr. Stark became involved in almost every aspect of the community's development. He was the Oak Park MAC's first chairperson in 1975 and served on the Council for 30 years before stepping down in 2006. He also helped establish the Oak Park Unified School District, the Oak Park Recreation and Park Advisory Board, the Oak Park Community Foundation, and the Oak Park Library.

Mr. Stark passed away on October 8, 2024, at the age of 92. Oak Park residents approached the MAC last year requesting that a tribute bench be located in a publicly accessible and visible location in Oak Park to commemorate his community service and achievements.

The MAC could collaborate with community volunteers to fund a bench and plaque and identify a suitable location that can be enjoyed by residents. An unveiling ceremony could be organized with Mr. Stark's family and friends in attendance along with local officials, Oak Park residents, school students, and the media.

3. Building Community Partnerships.

Annual budget constraints at the County of Ventura, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and the Oak Park Unified School District place challenges on the MAC to implement community projects requested by citizens. Building partnerships with local organizations, service groups and citizen volunteers is a proactive approach that engages people and creates community stewardship. Project partnerships could address for example, landscaping and the environment, neighborhood watch and public safety, broader community awareness of local services, and sponsoring local events such as Oak Park's 60th anniversary.

Continued 2025 Action Items

4. Maintain a working committee of community stakeholders to prepare a recommended long-term management plan for Medea Creek and Lindero Canyon Creek that would be implemented by County of Ventura Agencies, Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District (RSRPD), and other organizations with jurisdiction.

In 2025, representation included Supervisor Gorell's office, a MAC appointee, Ventura County Public Works Agency, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ventura County Fire Department, Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District, and Friends of Oak Park Open Space. Several site visits and discussions occurred during the year and there is general agreement among these stakeholders that the finalized management plan will present a balanced approach addressing hydrology/ flood control, wildland fire mitigation, improved health and protection of plant, wildlife, and other environmental considerations, passive recreation activities, and community aesthetics

The plan will include regulatory and enforcement procedures, and best management practices that governing agencies will oversee for all construction and maintenance activities within the creek channels and adjacent riparian lands. Additionally, the plan will include a process for agencies to provide timely notification to Supervisor Gorell and the MAC prior to the commencement of work activities.

In 2026, invitations will be extended to the Oak Park Fire Safe Council, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Wildlife for input. The proposed plan will be presented at a future MAC for community input and the Council's consideration for approval.

5. Establish a Lindero Canyon Road “Welcome to Oak Park” signage monument and planting area.

Throughout 2025, the MAC discussed having a new ‘Welcome to Oak Park’ sign monument and planting bed on Lindero Canyon Road to serve as a gateway feature to the city. The design could be similar in design to the Kanan Road median monument between Tamarind Street and Conifer Street. This action item will be continued in 2026 including the MAC’s CSA 4 budget deliberations.

6. Develop a community disaster preparedness, response, and evacuation plan for Oak Park.

Oak Park and its surroundings have experienced several wildfire events that threatened lives and caused considerable damage to residential properties and open spaces: the most recent being the Rockfield Fire (July 2024) and the Woolsey Fire (November 2018). Past flooding has also occurred on Medea and Lindero Canyon creeks. Kanan Road and Lindero Canyon Road are the only vehicular evacuation routes for the City’s 13,627 residents.

The MAC could develop a community disaster preparedness, response, and evacuation plan in partnership with key stakeholders including the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department: Office of Emergency Service, County Fire and Public Works departments, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, Oak Park Unified School District, Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District, and the public. Additional outcomes might include preparation and distribution of information flyers, posts on Supervisor Gorell’s Oak Park MAC website, and other means of public communication.

In 2025, the Oak Park Unified School District initiated its own emergency evacuation plan which they did not have before, which potentially could be incorporated into the MAC’s overall community plan.

7. Develop a comprehensive communication channel for delivering valuable information to the community, promote public engagement and provide resources on how the community may raise and get concerns addressed.

In 2025, the MAC heard from Oak Park residents about problems and concerns affecting their quality of life. These include abandoned household items left on curbsides and Medea Creek, unsightly property maintenance and derelict vehicles, illegal street parking and non-permitted oversized vehicles, unsafe and disruptive e-bike use activities, raised/dangerous sidewalks that potentially could result in trip and falls, and living with wildlife, to name a few.

The MAC actively implemented several public communication channels throughout the year to increase community awareness about applicable laws and regulations, how to report problems, and programs that Ventura County Sheriff and Fire Departments are providing to address incidents in Oak Park.

Regular articles in the Acorn newspaper, monthly MAC meeting announcements and other important Oak Park information updates were posted on the Kanan Road community board (near Tamarind Street), creation and regular information postings on Oak Park Facebook and Supervisor Gorell’s Oak Park MAC website (this was 2025

Work Plan item #7), and several presentations were provided by fire and law enforcement staff at MAC meetings including e-bike regulations, wildfire protection, and disaster evacuation (this was 2025 Work Plan item #8),. These activities will continue in 2026 with the possibility of additional new public outreach and engagement activities considered by the MAC.

8. Develop a phased program to replace the current CSA 4 irrigation system with an updated and more water efficient system that uses reclaimed water.

The existing CSA 4 irrigation delivery system is antiquated, requires constant repairs, and coverage does not reach all landscape areas. It is not water efficient and often causes hillside erosion and mud flows on sidewalks, which is a pedestrian safety concern. Expensive potable water is used in many areas of CSA 4, rather than reclaimed water.

The benefits of an upgraded irrigation system can include all-area coverage, improved visual environment, reduced budget costs for water use and replacing dead plants, and increasing pedestrian safety. Preliminary discussions with Ventura County Public Works were held in 2025 with a common ground understanding that this action item will be a costly initiative, take additional years to plan, finance and implement, and should be continued in the MAC's 2026 Work Plan.

9. Develop an online Geographic Information System (GIS) map of the CSA 4 landscape district that identifies property ownership.

The MAC regularly receives community complaints and requests for landscape maintenance and improvements in CSA 4. Lands include street boulevards and hillsides, creek corridors, parks, greenways, and open spaces. Not all landscape areas in CSA 4, however, are owned and managed by the County of Ventura and are the responsibility of others. Landscape property ownership is a "quilt work" situation in Oak Park including Ventura County, Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District, Oak Park Unified School District, water, gas and other private utility companies, private homeowner associations, and private property owners.

In 2025, the Oak Park MAC and Ventura County Public Works created an online Oak Park Geographic Information System mapping tool and website to respond to these concerns. The website is live and residents refer to it regularly [PWA Supervisorial District 2 Utility Map](#).

The GIS tool and website will require updating as latest information becomes available to improve user experience and expand the types of information being requested from residents. This item will be continued in 2026 and future years.

- End of Report -