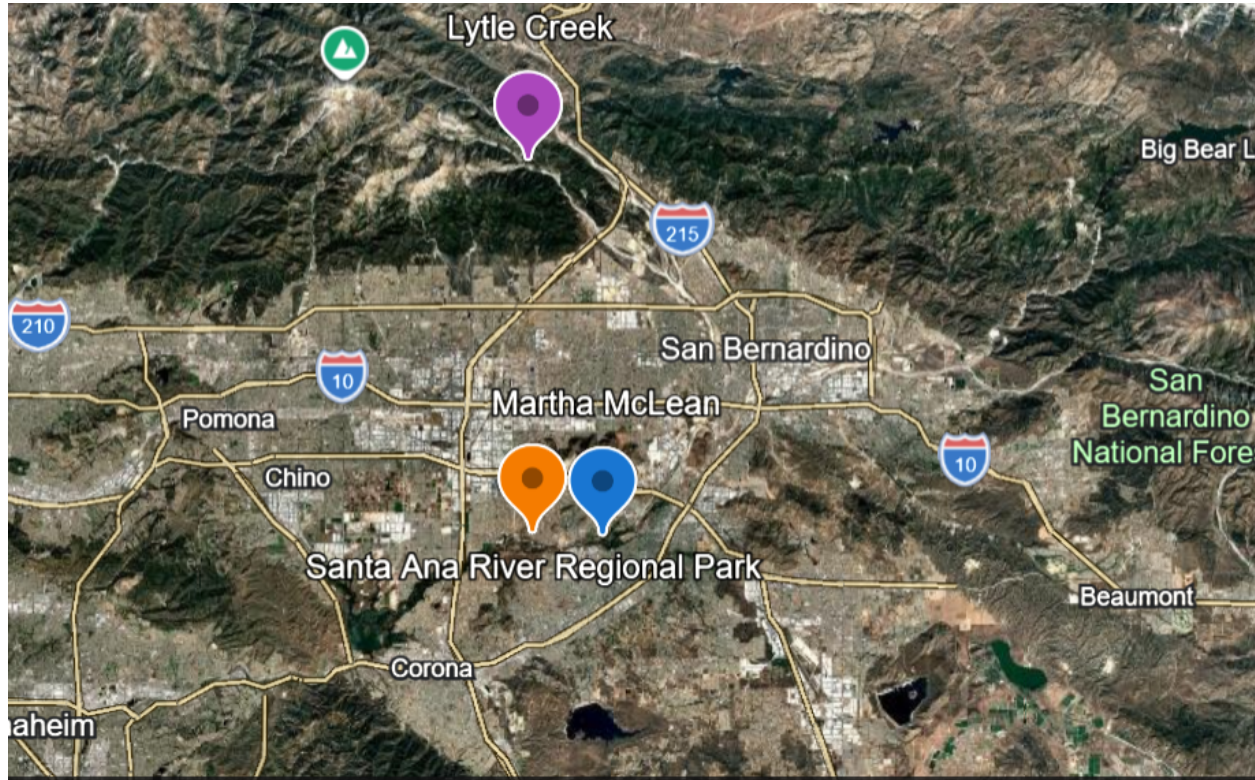




INLAND EMPIRE
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Inland Empire Waterkeeper Riverwatch Program
Riverside & San Bernardino County
January 1, 2025-September 31, 2025



Inland Empire Waterkeeper (Waterkeeper) is a grassroots, non-profit water quality organization with a mission to protect water quality and promote watershed resilience in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed. We work in partnership with groups in the public and private sectors in an effort to achieve clean, sustainable, and accessible water resources for the Inland Empire region. Waterkeeper develops and delivers impactful programs focused on advocacy, education, research, restoration, and enforcement.

The Waterkeeper River Watch Program is designed to collect human use data from popular river and creek recreation areas in the Inland Empire. The goal of this program is to develop data on human uses in the Santa Ana River and Inland Empire Creeks that can be used by state and local agencies and the public to make decisions on where to focus resources to ensure our waterways are safe and accessible for community members to recreate and enjoy. During 2025, River Watch human activity data was collected at Lytle Creek near the Bonita Falls parking lot, and the Santa Ana River at Martha McLean Park and Santa Ana Regional Park. These surveys allow us to document when people are using our waterways and what they are doing while in



these areas. The program includes gathering data for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Sanitary Survey App, which focuses on the health of waterways.

Executive Summary

- During this period, forty one riverwatch surveys were completed at three sites by three volunteers. There were thirteen riverwatch surveys completed at Martha McLean Park, twenty at Lytle Creek, and eight at Santa Ana River Regional Park.
- The waterways surveyed include The Santa Ana River at Martha McLean Park (Riverside), and Santa Ana River Regional Park (Jurupa Valley), and Lytle Creek near the Bonita Falls parking lot.
- Our Riverwatch Survey period included data from January 2025 through September 2025.
- On average per day, there were three visitors observed at Martha McLean, six at Lytle Creek, and two visitors observed at Santa Ana Regional Park. These visitors were participating in water activities that included walking along the shore, resting, and water play.



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Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park

Martha McLean Park is a forty acre park in Riverside. Martha McLean is an epicenter for outdoor recreation activities, including a popular 18-hole disc golf course, walking and biking trails, as well as the gazebos and picnic tables for family gatherings. Martha McLean is also a popular site for water recreation due to its proximity to the Santa Ana River. Riverside residents commonly recreate at the Santa Ana River during the warmer months. At Martha McLean, riverwatch surveys are conducted at the public beach area access west of the park before reaching the train bridge pillars.





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Lytle Creek

Lytle Creek is located in the San Bernardino National Forest in the San Gabriel Mountains. This area is distinguished by its chaparral habitat and riparian vegetation along waterways. Lytle Creek has become a popular recreational destination for residents of surrounding cities like Fontana, Rialto, San Bernardino, and Colton. Lytle Creek offers diverse recreational activities, including fishing, aquatic play, hiking, camping, and picnicking. Waterkeeper collects riverwatch surveys throughout the popular public access point near the Bonita Falls parking lot.





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Santa Ana River Regional Park

Santa Ana Regional Park is located in Jurupa Valley, California, and serves as a recreational destination for residents of the area. While the parking lot for the site is closed, and street parking is restricted during summer months, with its abundance of green spaces and sandy beaches, it is used for picnicking and water activities.

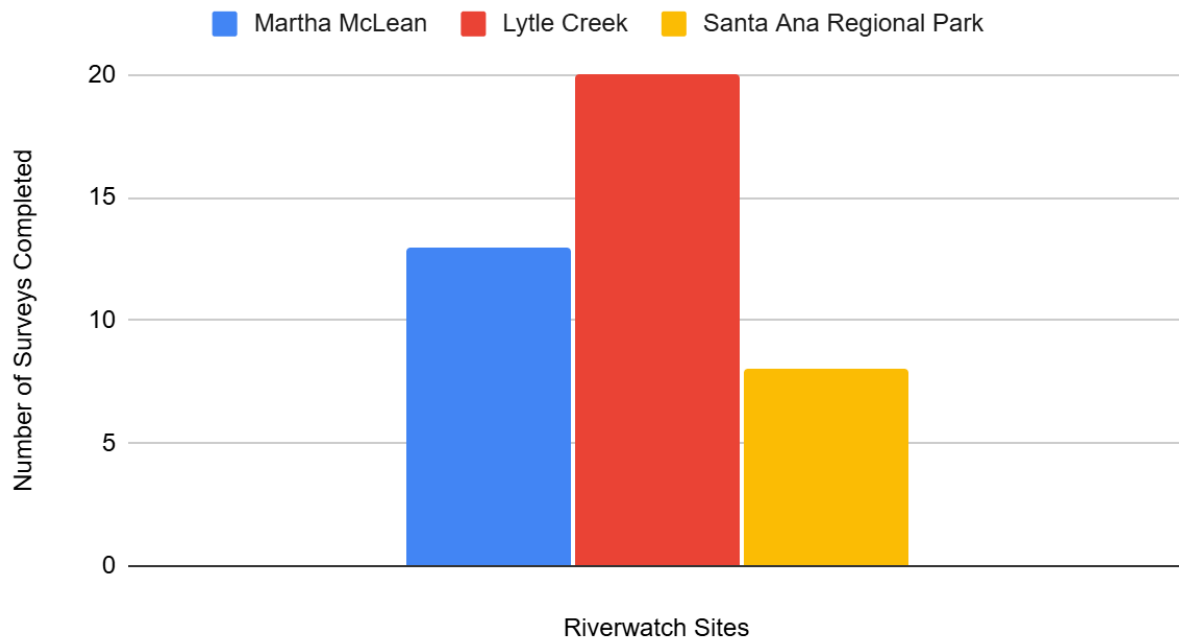




Riverwatch Survey Data July 2025-December 2025

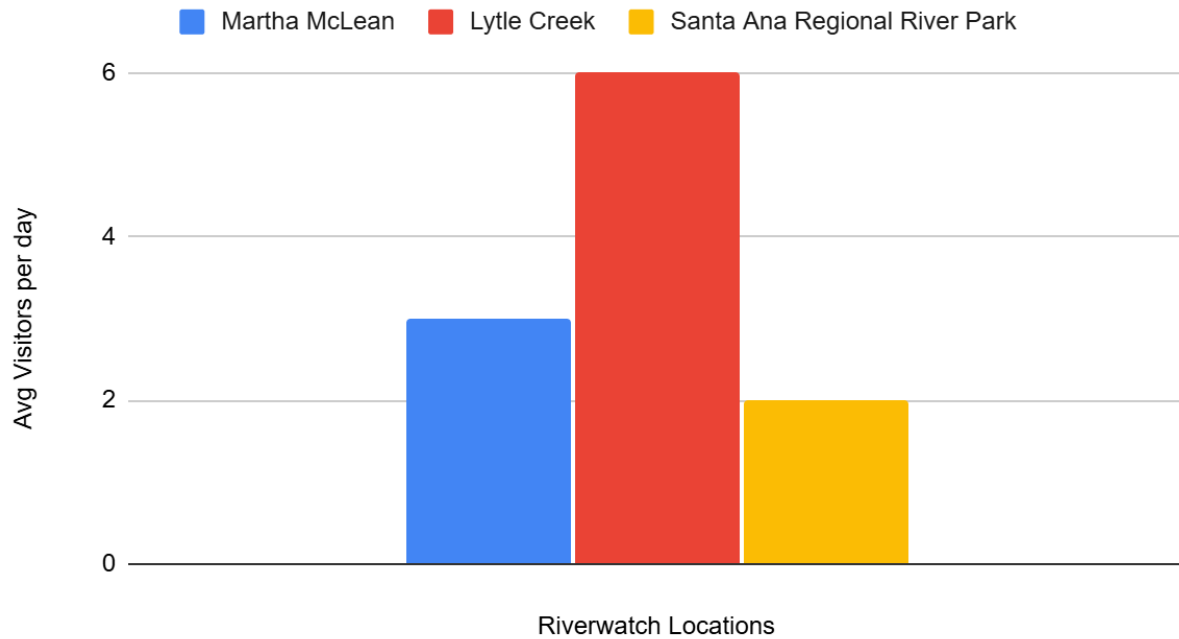
Overview

Surveys Completed at each Site

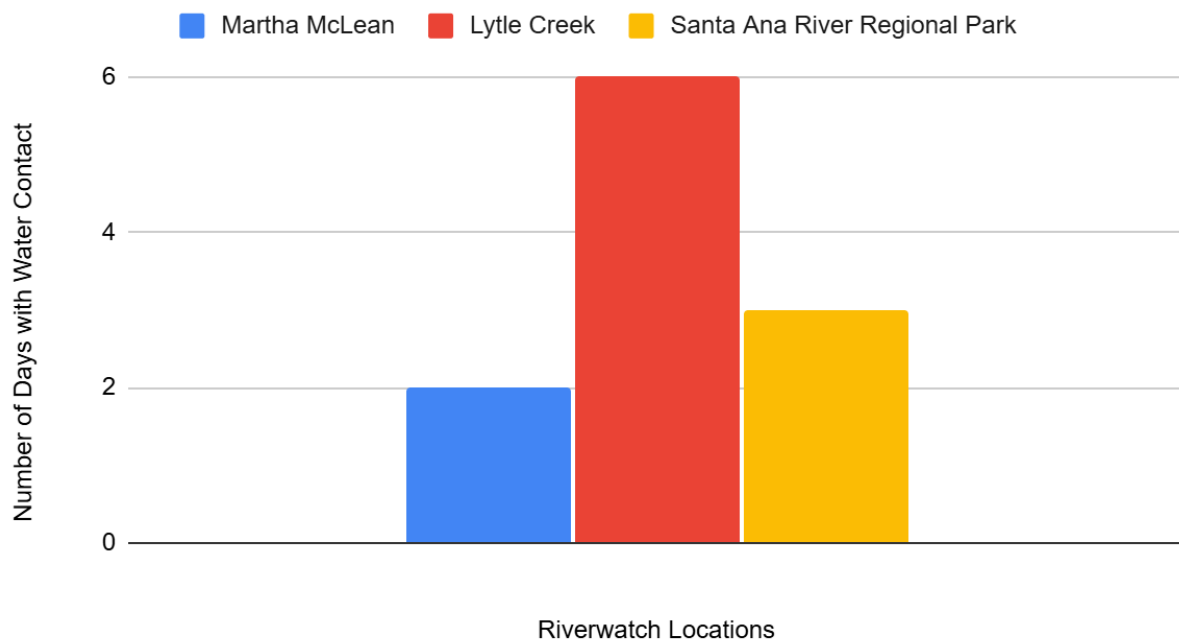




Observed Visitors at Survey Sites



Days with Observed Water Contact





Shore Activity Observations

Martha McLean: During the data collection of the Riverwatch survey, seven of those times visitors were observed to take part in on-shore activities such as walking, resting or playing. At these visits, many visitors were accompanied by domestic animals, which would be observed in the water.

Lytle Creek: During the data collection of the Riverwatch survey, fifteen of those times visitors were seen participating in one of the following activities like walking, resting, or playing. Occasionally, visitors were accompanied by their pets who were often found recreating in the water.

Santa Ana River Regional Park: During the data collection of the Riverwatch survey, six of those times, visitors were found to take part in activities such as walking, resting, or playing. At this site, horseback riding is particularly popular and visitors are oftentimes found crossing the river on their horses.

During the Riverwatch surveys, we documented in-water contact at Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park on two different occasions. At the Lytle Creek site, in-water contact was observed six times and water contact was observed three times at Santa Ana River Regional Park. Based on our observations, we recorded some of the activities to include water wading, waterplay, and resting in the water.

Next Steps

Waterkeeper will continue to expand our River Watch and EPA Sanitary surveys. We plan to expand Riverwatch surveys at additional waterways along the watershed, such as City Creek in Highland, CA, Jurupa Beach in Riverside, CA and San Antonio Creek in Upland, CA. In addition, our water quality results collected will be added to [Swim Guide](#), where the public can get information on how safe a waterway is for recreational purposes. The water quality will be monitored consistently to make updates on Swim Guide.

From January through September 2025, three interns were trained to perform River Watch Surveying. We want to thank Jeremy Neill, Isabella Meredith, Ximena Zepeda, and Marissa Garcia for their work on this project. One of the goals of the Waterkeeper Riverwatch Surveying Program is to inform the community of the recreational activities occurring at different sites throughout the watershed.