

PRESS RELEASE



FROM THE OJAI VALLEY GREEN COALITION AND THE CITY OF OJAI

December 27, 2022

CONTACT: ROBIN GODFREY, City Manager's Office
(805) 646-5581, ext.103 or (805) 220-0480 (mobile)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Program Focuses on Community Vision

Green Coalition, City Launch City Hall Campus Project

Ojai Valley Green Coalition, in partnership with the City of Ojai has launched the first phase of a year long community outreach and engagement project that will help plan for the future of the eight-acre City Hall campus. Through resident and business surveys, informational site tours and a series of round-table discussions, the Green Coalition will work with the community, subject matter experts and City of Ojai to map out possible uses for this naturally diverse site and present options to the City Council.

The City Hall Campus covers the backside of City Hall, Little House and Oak Tree House spanning from Ventura to Santa Ana streets and extending in the Middle Stewart Canyon area.

"We are extremely fortunate to have expansive natural beauty of this property literally in our backyard," says Ojai City Manager James Vega. "And there are so many ideas out there. We are working with the Green Coalition through a Community Service Grant to look carefully at its potential, and to get feedback from the community on what they want to see in this area while protecting sensitive environments."

Vega adds that the Green Coalition brings the knowledge and respect for the natural environment that is essential in conducting this type of work.

The site is home to the City pickle ball courts on Ventura St., the Demonstration Garden, Compost Program, City Hall, Oak Tree House and Little House. An old barn sits on the site, which also includes acres of open space and parking areas.

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“We are hearing from those who wish to see interpretive trails, botanical gardens, outdoor classrooms, wedding spaces, public art. . .the list goes on,” says Green Coalition Director Kathy Nolan. “By the end of this outreach and engagement phase, we will have a much clearer idea of what people want, and what is feasible in this diverse and multi-functional space.”

The Green Coalition is hosting information tours of the site on January 7 and January 28, 2023, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. to align with the release of the online survey. These events will provide an opportunity to see the area and ask questions prior to survey participation. In early spring, the results of the surveys will help to inform three World Café events at which community members can engage more focused round-table discussion of the possibilities. These events will be livestreamed. Visit <https://bit.ly/CityHallCampus> to access the survey, get more information and see a full calendar of outreach activities.

Register for the Site Tour date(s) you wish to attend.

Where: Kent Hall 111 W. Santa Ana Street, Ojai

- January 7 Saturday 9:00 – 10:30 am
- January 28 Saturday 9:00 – 10:30 am

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