

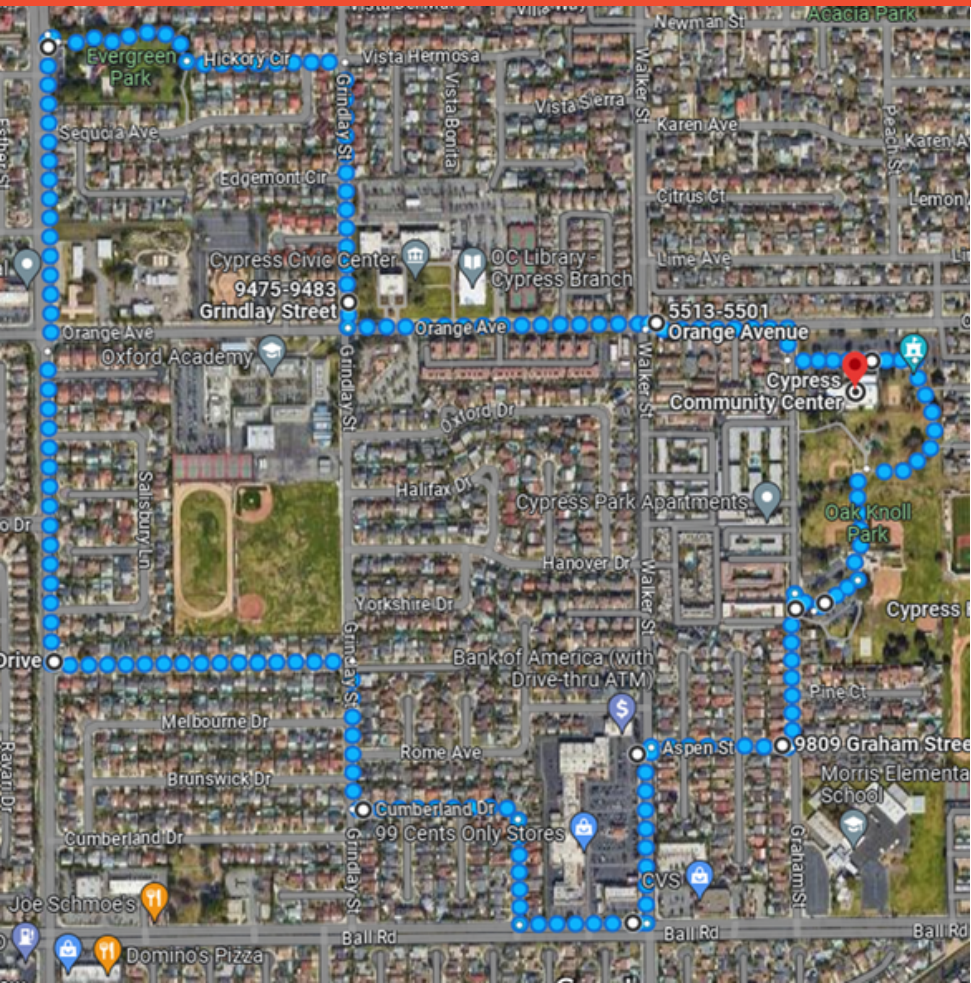


# WALKS WITH PARKS

JOURNEY TO 100

WALK #16 OF 34

CYPRESS



Orange County United Way is gearing up to celebrate our centennial in 2024. In preparation, we've embarked on our **Journey to 100**.

Join us to explore Orange County's 34 cities with our President and CEO, Sue Parks. Together, we will learn more about each city and how United Way has made an impact in our community over the years.

Here is the self-guided walking route for Cypress along with some interesting trivia about the city.

**Start and finish at the Cypress Community Center**  
5700 Orange Ave.  
Cypress, CA 90630

## UNITED WAY'S INVOLVEMENT

Orange County United Way provides programs and services in all 34 OC cities to address our community's critical needs and help our most vulnerable residents. Through our three key initiatives –United for Student Success<sup>SM</sup>, United for Financial Security<sup>SM</sup>, and United to End Homelessness<sup>SM</sup>— we are working to ensure local underserved students succeed, struggling OC families gain financial security, and our homeless neighbors find a place to call home. Caring for our community. That's The OC Way. Learn more at: [unitedwayoc.org](https://unitedwayoc.org)

## CYPRESS HISTORY

- Cypress became the 19th city in Orange County in 1956.
- Population is 50,151 (44.3% White, 38.1% Asian)
- On the land of the Tongva (Gabrieleno) and Acjachemen (Juaneño)
- In 1784, Spanish soldier Manuel Nieto was granted 300,000 acres of land by the Spanish government, which contained the area that is now the City of Cypress
- In the 1800s, Cypress was a part of the largest cattle empire in Southern California, included in 200,000 acres of ranchland owned by a man named Able Stearns
- In 1861, a great flood drowned many of Stearns' cattle and a severe drought followed – these two disasters led to Stearns going into debt and selling off portions of his land to settlers
- These settlers primarily built dairies in the area, as well as farms where they raised sweet potatoes, white potatoes, and sugar beets
- In 1938, a severe flood put most of Cypress under two to three feet of water. This disaster led to the construction of the Prado Dam
- Early in its history, Cypress had been called Waterville due to the many wells that were built in the area, and as it grew into dairy land, it became known as Dairy City
- By the late 1940s, Cypress was the third largest dairy district in the United States
- In the 1950s, Dairy City (now Cypress), Dairyland (now La Palma), and Dairy Valley (now Cerritos) were known as Moo Valley
- Cypress was incorporated in 1956 as Dairy City, but residents voted to change the name to Cypress one year later in 1957
- The name Cypress comes from the trees that were planted around the town's first school as protection against the Santa Ana winds. The name "Cypress" was used for the school, the school district, and the railroad station before it ever became the official name of the city
- In 1965, the 400-year old remains of a member of the Chumash people were found during excavation at the Old Cypress Library, which is now the Boys and Girls Club
- The Cypress Community Festival is a 41-year old annual celebration of the city – originally held in July in commemoration of the city's incorporation, it was moved to October in 2021 to be a part of Celebrate Cypress Month
- Cypress holds a Farmers Market every Saturday in the Cottonwood Church parking lot

## DID YOU KNOW?

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Orange County United Way provided emergency rental assistance to 129 Cypress households to help ensure they remained housed and financially secure during the instability caused by the health crisis.

Learn more about our work to prevent and end homelessness here: [unitedtoendhomelessness.org](https://unitedtoendhomelessness.org)