



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Franklin Canyon Park
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 10, 2014
TO: Katie Howe, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
FROM: Jewel Johnson, MRCA Supervising Ranger
RE: RPV | MRCA Ranger Services Activity Report – Inv#C13

Preserve Visitor Contacts

- April 2014 – June 2014
- 528 Patrol Hours
- 50 Interpretative Hours
- 7 Rangers patrolled the reserves during this period

Portuguese Bend Reserve

Portuguese Bend Reserve continues to be the number one destination for all user groups in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Burma Road and Ishibashi Trail are the most popular trails by all users groups. There are three main entry points into the reserve:

- Terminus of Crenshaw Boulevard
- Filiorum Reserve via Rattlesnake Trail
- Forrestal Reserve via Klondike Canyon Trail

The majority of all user groups enjoy the Reserve without conflict. Based on Ranger observations, Hotline calls, and the Volunteer Trail Watch (VTW) the following areas continue to have user group issues.

The Toyon, Landslide Scarp, Peppertree trail junction continues to have issues with unauthorized trail use. This is due in part to trail design and inadequate and confusing signage. Recommend separate trail markers instead of double stacked trail markers to reduce confusion. Toyon Trail's steep grade propels experienced and novice mountain bikers into the hiker and equestrian only Landslide Scarp Trail instead of the multi-use trail Peppertree Trail. The spur trails off Landslide Scarp and Peppertree Trails are caused by mountain bikers going down and tired hikers coming up. The widening of

Landslide Scarp Trail is due to unauthorized trail use, horses or hikers going off trail to yield to each other. Rattlesnake Trail in Filiorum Reserve to Burma Road in Portuguese Bend Reserve is another potential bike versus hiker conflict due to the steep grade. "Walk/Bike" trail signs have been installed and Rangers will continue to monitor activity.

Portuguese Bend Reserve is identified as Del Cerro Park or Filiorum because these are the two signs visible to the public when entering Portuguese Bend Reserve. We will continue to have dedicated after hour patrols to monitor afterhours activity. The majority of the afterhours activity is vehicles parking in Del Cerro Park and local residents from Rancho Palos Verdes or Rolling Hills walking their dogs. The mountain bike groups observed were organized groups. The rule sign is not reflective and the court recently dismissed "after hours" citation stating, "*Court finds sign is too small and inadequate for the area – Sign must be larger for public to easily see it.*" There are numerous "private" access trails into the Preserve and we have made contact several times with vehicle attempting to enter the reserves without authorization.

CITATIONS ISSUED

- Unauthorized Trail Use (3) Bikes
- Motorized Vehicles (2)

Forrestal Reserve

Forrestal continues to be used mostly by local residents in the morning and after work to walk dogs. Mountain bikers access Portuguese Bend via Forrestal. Large number of "Meet-up" groups discovered Forrestal as a starting point for hikes to the beach. Ladera Linda Community Center and School District sports fields continue to be used as an "off leash" dog park by local residents. No visible "Forrestal Reserve" sign.

CITATIONS ISSUED

- Dog off Leash (3)
- Issued Summons for outstanding warrant

Ocean Trails Reserve (Founders Park | RPV Beach)

We monitor Ocean Trails Reserve based on calls regarding dogs off leash in Founders Park or RPV beach. The paragliders continue to land on the public property, access an unauthorized trail behind the lifeguard stand to access and take off on a flat pad on private property that is void of all vegetation.

CITATIONS ISSUED

Founders Park

- Dog off Leash
- Radio-controlled model without authorization
- RPV Beach
- Dog on Beach

Abalone Cove Reserve (Tide Pools | Sacred Cove)

There has been a decrease in nude sunbathing/potential lewd behavior in the last 18 months due to targeted patrols and dismantling of “stone cabanas.” There is an increase of cliff jumpers due to social media and we are working with the City, Los Angeles County Fire/Lifeguards, and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department to limit the opportunities for injuries.

Dogs off leash and on the beach continue to be an issue in Sacred Cove and near the tide pools. We recommend additional signage “No Animals on the Beach.” There has been evidence of fire pits on the beach and we expect the activity to pick up during the summer. We will continue to monitor after hour activity. We have recommended the closing of the stone fire pits near the tide pools.



CITATIONS ISSUED

Abalone Cove

- Dog off Leash
- Dogs on Beach (2)

Three Sisters Reserve

This Reserve is predominately used by locals. Recommended clear signage and trail markers before the general public discovers it. There is a Filiorum Reserve sign at the Ocean Terrace entrance. Reports of early dog off leash activity.

- No Citations Issued

Filiorum Reserve

This Reserve is predominately used by locals and used as access to Portuguese Bend Reserve via Rattlesnake Trail. Recommended clear signage and trail markers before the general public discovers it.

- No Citations Issued

San Ramon Reserve

Mountain bikers temporarily moved to this reserve and built bike jumps. The City removed bike jumps in 2013 and no new bike jumps have been built. Los Angeles County Parks noticed an increase of mountain bike and motorized vehicle use on their property below Friendship Park, which now has an extensive trail system with bike jumps. They have observed mini-bikes entering Friendship Park and crossing over to San Ramon Reserve. Trail markers were installed in 2014, and closure of spur trails are recommended. We will continue to monitor.

- No Citations Issued

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

The main issue is divers, fishermen, and tourists climbing over fencing to access the beach using steep unauthorized trails. There is inadequate signage that the public views as a warning/suggestion. During Memorial Day weekend, we observed large groups on the beach below Calle Entradero parking lot, which they accessed via steep unauthorized trails, leaving behind trash and debris.

CITATIONS ISSUED

Pelican Cove

- Filming without Permit (3)
- Nudity (2)

PVIC

- Unauthorized Trail Use (Hiker/Diver)

Ranger Hotline Calls

April

- Baby Seal | Dead Seal (RPV Beach)
 - Marine Animal Rescue and Marine Mammal Care Center notified
- Bug Traps (Abalone Cove)
- Ferrari reckless driving at Trump Golf parking lot
- Removing vegetation at Vicente Bluffs
- Dogs off leash Ladera Linda lower soccer fields
- Fishing in front of the lifeguard at Abalone Cove
 - Warned and Advised (no fish in possession)
- Inquiry - Overnight parking at Forrestal | Ladera Linda (Soccer Tournament)
- Digging holes in Forrestal
 - Ranger unable to locate subjects
- Vandalized building at Ladera Linda
- Fire at Pelican Cove
 - No evidence of fire found
- Archery Range locks missing
- Evidence of homeless encampment | Indian Peak Reserve
 - Walked property for entry points | Found transient activity but no long term camp

May

- Inquiry – Abalone Cove hours
- Seal Pup | Abalone Cove
- Special Event info | Abalone Cove
- Ryan Park Restrooms closed
 - Forward information to City
- Dogs off leash | RPV Beach
- Possible Homeless Encampment | Pelican Cove
 - Found no significant evidence of camp
- Inquiry – Low tides times
- Dogs off leash Ladera Linda lower soccer fields

June

- Sewage leakage
- SUV under tree on LA County Property adjacent to San Ramon Reserve
 - LA County notified
 - Increased activity below Friendship Park
- Fishing in Pelican Cove | Lighthouse
 - Advised to contact CalTip
- Location Scout for Abalone Cove
 - Forward to Kit Fox
- Dog in distress Portuguese Bend Reserve
 - Ranger assisted removing dog from Reserve
- Inquiry | Abalone Cove hours
- Inquiry | Seaside trails designation
- San Ramon Reserve
 - Unauthorized trail use (bike)
- Diving in Pelican Cove
 - Reporting party did not leave callback number
- Rancho Caninos Dog Park
 - Broken irrigation | found no evidence

Interpretative Programs

SPRING 2014 – JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

APRIL 5th– TIDE POOL ADVENTURES

Hike with Rangers to the tide pools at Abalone Cove Reserve, and learn about the fascinating marine life.

APRIL 12th– WILDFIRES AND NATURE

Meet MRCA firefighters and learn about wildfires. Participants can try on real fire gear and try out a fire hose.

MAY 3rd – GEOLOGY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

Join us on an adventure into the past as we search out geodes and fossils of Palos Verdes with Los Serenos Docents!

MAY 17th– NIGHT HIKE-NOCTURNAL DISCOVERIES

Take a night hike with Rangers, listen to the sounds of the Preserve at night, and learn about the nocturnal animals that live there.

JUNE 7th – JUNIOR RANGER GRADUATION – 36 Graduates

OVERVIEW

Rangers encourage trail users to act appropriately and minimize negative impact to the resource by providing alternative routes, information on other reserves, and when necessary, enforcement of rules and regulations. We have seen a change in behavior by some of our Preserve visitors due to change in usage times and location of use. It is very important to reach out and engage all user groups to continue to work toward a solution that enables all user groups to enjoy their time in the Preserve.