

MEMORANDUM

Date: 2/9/2022

To: Katie Lozano, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Norma Saldaña, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

From: Senior Park Ranger Fox

SUBJECT: 4th Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Ranger Enforcement Report

PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY

- October 1 – December 31, 2021
- 3 Full Time Park Rangers patrolled the Preserve during this period
- 3 Part Time Parking Enforcement Rangers patrolled access points, educated patrons, and enforced ParkMobile Implementation on Crenshaw Boulevard

This reporting period continued to be atypical as operations continued to be influenced by the COVID-19 Pandemic and public health mandates from the State and LA County. Masks were still required for indoor activities, and where social distancing cannot be observed, regardless of vaccination status. Trail Counter data and ranger observations show an increase in public use of open spaces compared to pre-pandemic, however, use declined from the previous quarter.

Park Rangers continued to assist the public with the implementation of the ParkMobile Parking Reservation System on Crenshaw Boulevard and Park Place. Following the City's Council direction on October 5, the following modifications were implemented: a) allow same-day reservations with a cut-off one hour prior to the reservation, b) create simplified access to the ParkMobile reservation link, c) improve instructional signs, d) discontinue requiring reservations for Recreational Residential Parking Permit holders, and e) change the QR code to go specifically to the ParkMobile webpage and to work with ParkMobile to be more user friendly.



Over this reporting period, warning signage was created and installed at key trailheads to warn the public of some of the natural hazards present in open space areas. These signs will continue to be installed as needed at locations throughout the Preserve.



During the fourth quarter the City had a significant rain event that resulted in Preserve closures December 14 – 15, December 17-18, and December 23 – January 2). The Preserve also sustained significant trail damage and erosion from the rains, and trail repairs are ongoing.

Operations under COVID-19 LA County Health Department Regulations

In accordance with the L.A. County Health Officer Order, group restrictions were no longer in place for outdoor areas. However, the City does have a requirement that groups in the Preserve are no larger than 20. Individuals were still required to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are strongly recommended at crowded outdoor events, and in outdoor spaces where they gather if distancing is not possible or practical.

Trainings and Coordination:

Driver Safety (November 9):

All staff received information and training related to driver safety and awareness. This online course was provided by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority to all City employees to improve driver habits, attention, attitude, and judgement, and discuss impacts both on and off the job.

Investigating Claims & Preserving Evidence (November 17):

All staff received information and training related to investigations of accidents and incidents that take place in the workplace. This online course was provided by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority to all City employees to give an overview of typical claims and types of incidents requiring an agency investigation along with tools to improve report writing skills.

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Training for Officers and Enforcement Partners of Los Angeles County (November 17)

Park Rangers attended this half-day training to learn more about the science of managing MPA's human use data, collections, observations, and the codes and regulations related to activity within, near, or adjacent MPA's.



Marine Animal Rescue (November 18):

OSM Staff hosted and received information from Marine Animal Rescue Specialists, Inc. and Marine Mammal Care to provide staff information on what they do, and how to report or address instances when marine animals are in distress.

Traffic Control & Flagging (December 22):

All staff received information and training related to recognition of traffic hazards. This online course was provided by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority to all City employees which reviewed the recognition of traffic hazards, specific code requirements for traffic control equipment, set up and removal of traffic cones, and use of the W.A.T.C.H. Manual to properly control traffic.

Project Coordination & Emergency Work:

OSM staff help to coordinate multiple projects within the Preserve to ensure Natural Communities Conservation Plan / Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP / HCP) compliance with PVPLC, to implement trail closures and public safety measures, and to provide public notification. Below are a list of projects OSM staff helped coordinate with PVPLC, the Public Works Department, and public utilities in the fourth quarter:

- Land Movement, and other Hazards: Maintenance
(Continuous at Ocean Trails, Portuguese Bend, and Abalone Cove Reserves)
- Los Angeles County Fire Department: Trainings
(Various Dates at Del Cerro Park, Ladera Linda Park, and Portuguese Bend Reserve)
- Southern California Edison at Barkentine Trail: Routine Maintenance
(Coordination in September, completed October 7 at Three Sisters Reserve)
- California Water Company at Lower Rim Trail: Emergency Repairs
(Completed October 8 at Portuguese Bend Reserve)
- Trump National Golf Club at Southshore Coastal Trail: Maintenance
(Completed October 28 at Ocean Trails Reserve)
- Trump National Golf Club at Sagebrush Walk/Catalina Trail: Maintenance
(Completed October 28 at Ocean Trails Reserve)
- California Water Company at Vanderlip Trail: Emergency Maintenance
Water Leak due to Land Movement (November 2021 at Portuguese Bend Reserve)
- Southern California Edison at Burma Road Trail: Routine Maintenance
(Completed December 10 at Portuguese Bend Reserve)
- Southern California Edison at Coast Guard Property: Routine Maintenance
(Coordination in Fall 2021, expected completion by March 2022 at Alta Vicente Reserve)

OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:

Total Contacts: 6,637

Hikers: 5,328

Dog Walkers: 591

Cyclists: 669

Equestrians: 49

Warnings: 187

Calls for Assistance: 7 transports

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 3

Dog exhaustion & heat stress: 2

Other (i.e. underlying condition, sprained ankle): 2

Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 27 calls

**No. of violations higher than the number of calls. Some calls reported multiple violations observed at once.*

Trail Status and General Information: 9
Parking Issues: 5
Dogs Off Leash / Aggressive Dogs: 4
Maintenance: 3
Camping: 1
Use of Spur Trail / Closed Areas: 1
Fishing / Poaching: 1
Unsafe Bicycle Riding: 1
Removal of flora/fauna: 1
Lost: 1

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:

Parking Citations Issued:565 Total

By Violation:

Park by Permit – 513
Parking Lot / Preserve / Park Hours- 12
Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 32
Handicap Zone – 8
Other- 43

By Location:

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) – 399
Del Cerro Park – 125
Abalone Cove Reserve – 28
Other – 7
Forrestal Reserve – 5
Vicente Bluffs Reserve – 1

Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 26 Total

Number of violations is greater than the number of citations issued

By Violation:

Closed Area – 23
Dogs off Leash – 3

By Location:

Abalone Cove Reserve – 7
Alta Vicente Reserve – 2
Vicente Bluffs Reserve – 0
Forrestal Reserve – 2
Filiorum Reserve – 2
Portuguese Bend Reserve – 12
Ocean Trails Reserve – 1

ACTIVITY REPORT BY RESERVE:

The next section provides further information on projects, reports, and observations received by Rangers from the public, organized per Reserve. Numbers do not reflect actual number of individuals in the Reserve, rather those spoken to while on foot and/or vehicle patrols. Information does not include routine maintenance.

Abalone Cove Reserve:

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	480	99	37	8
Dogs	21	7	9	0
Biker	7	2	7	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

On October 10, Abalone Cove received a report of a missing hiker, reported by family members at approximately 11:30 a.m. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was notified and Open Space Management (OSM) staff assisted in the search of the individual. At 3:30 p.m., the individual was located, reunited with family members, and the call was cleared. No medical assistance was needed.

On November 2, Rangers observed a Los Angeles County Sheriff helicopter landing near Inspiration Point Trail in Sacred Cove. A panga boat was found in the Cove. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, United States Coast Guard, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguards, and Department of Homeland Security were on scene. Rangers watch for suspicious activity and coordinate with the appropriate agencies, and provide assistance when requested.



On November 30, the large Area Closed Beyond this Sign was repaired near Gorge 1. The base of the sign had been moved by a combination of strong winds and high tides. Below are before and after pictures of the sign.



Marine Protected Area (MPA) Report

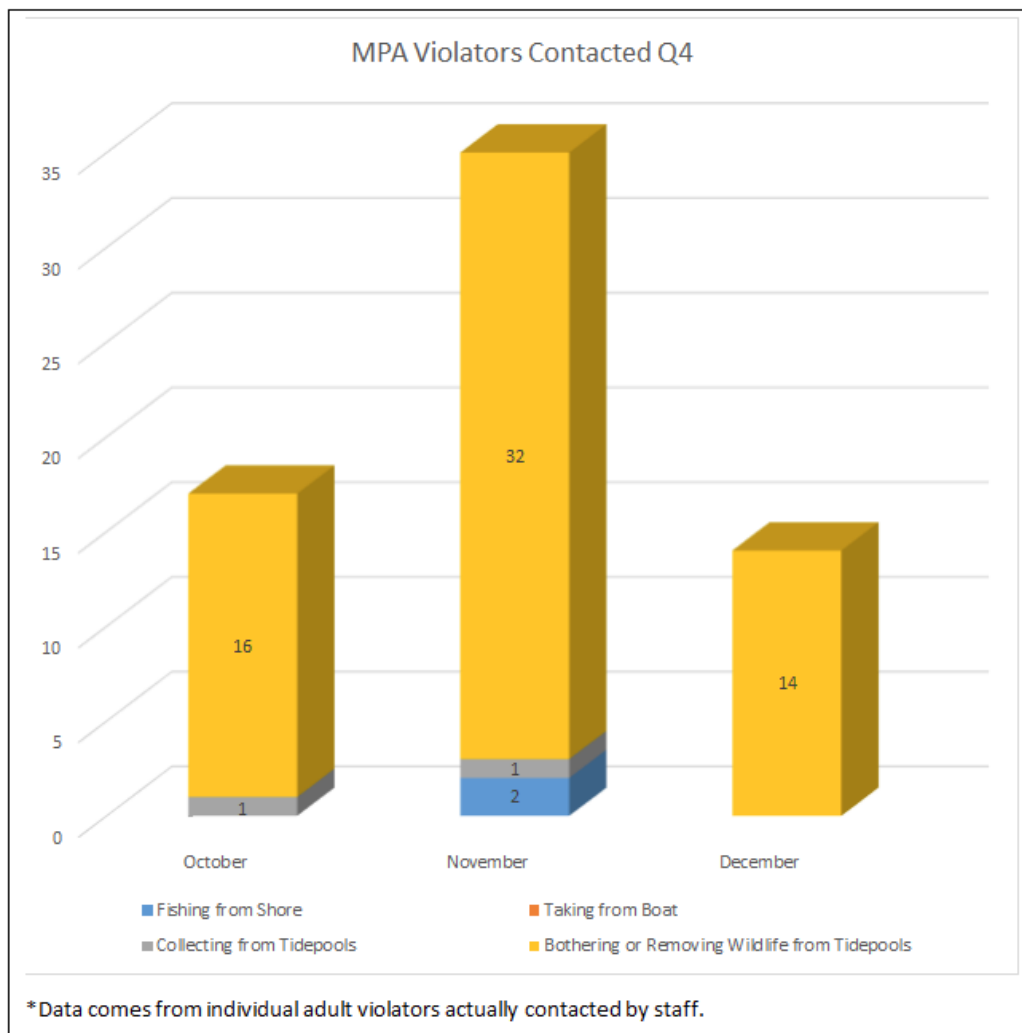
In response to an increase of poaching within the City, the OSM initiated Tide Pool Patrols to patrol the City's two MPAs, the Abalone Cove limited take SMCA and the Point Vicente no-take SMCA. June 27, 2020, was the first date of these new patrols. This report captures the data collected from October 2021 – December 2021, which is shown below.

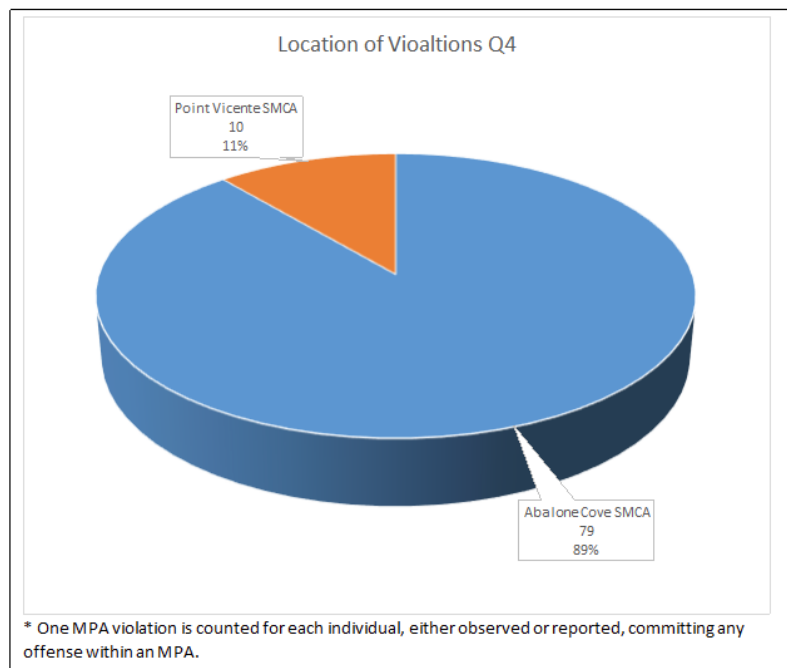
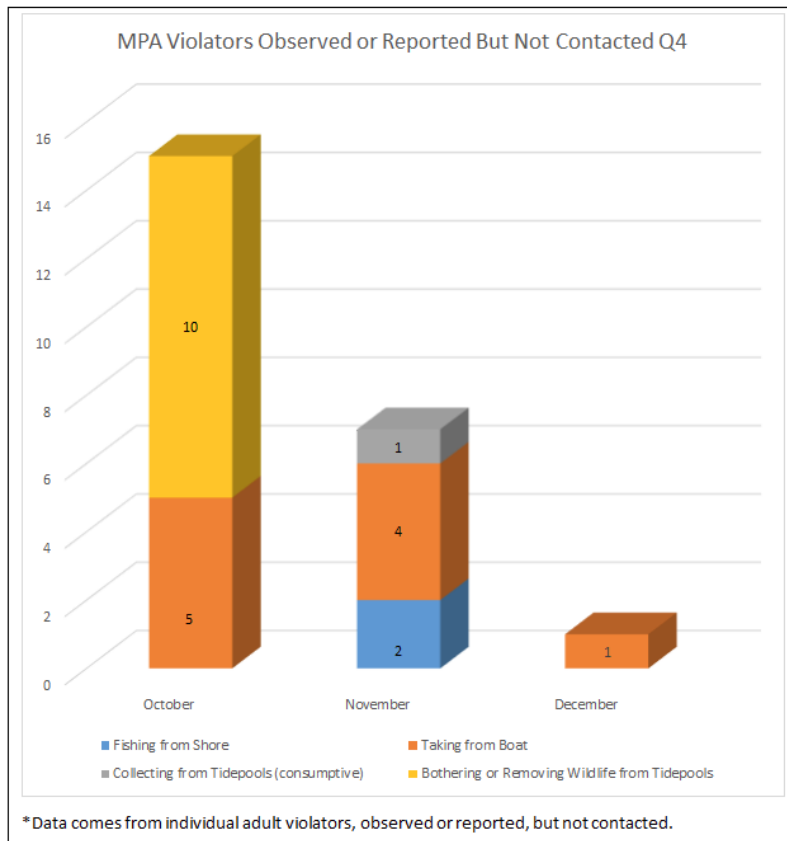
Coordination with Outside Agencies: During this time, OSM continued to coordinate with outside agencies in activities and improvements relating to our MPAs. These agencies include, but are not limited to, the MPA Collaborative, USC Sea Grant, CDFW, the LA Waterkeeper, Heal the Bay, and Terranea Resort. We will continue to work with these agencies in receiving resources, coordinating trainings, installing signage, and protecting the City's MPAs.

Signage Installation: During the quarter, staff completed installation of regulatory signage at all access points in Abalone Cove. In addition to this, old and outdated signage that was previously standing has been removed and replaced with signage depicting the most current codes. Examples of signage are shown below.



Results and Future Direction: During this reporting activity, there was a 223% increase in poaching activity when compared to the last quarter; however, when compared to the same period last year, poaching activity is down 24%. Currently, most violations that occur are people handling wildlife or removing wildlife from the tide pools for observation. Consumptive forms of take, such as rod and reel fishing and harvesting animals to be consumed, are generally uncommon. Additionally, most violations occur within the popular eastern portion of Abalone Cove, likely due to ease of access and popularity. Violations within less accessible portions of Abalone Cove and within Point Vicente SMCA are uncommon and are usually associated with boats and other watercraft. Overall, staff continue to see high compliance rates when contacting those engaged in MPA violations, with most people contacted simply being unaware of the MPAs or the laws surrounding them. For the future, OSM will continue to patrol our MPAs, with a focus during low tide events and in problem areas.





Aqua Amarga Reserve

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	2	0	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

On October 14, a Trail Ends sign was installed to inform patrons of the end of Lunada Canyon Trail in Rancho Palos Verdes. The sign was installed in response to a report of reckless bicycle users on the trail within Palos Verdes Estates. The City informed Palos Verdes Estates of the issue and installed the sign on the City's side of the trail.



Alta Vicente Reserve

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	18	2	2	0
Dog	6	0	3	2
Biker	0	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

No activity reported during this period.

Filiorum Reserve

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	33	2	1	1
Dog	4	0	0	1
Biker	5	1	0	0

Equestrian	0	0	0	0
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Throughout the month, Rangers received reports of a dirt biker entering the Reserve via Forrestal Drive and accessing trails in the Filiorum Reserve and Portuguese Bend Reserve. Rangers were unable to locate the rider(s). However, patrols were set up at their known entry points and times, to deter their presence.

On December 8, Rangers received a call from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at 6:35 p.m. from two hikers who were lost. Rangers were able to respond and were able to locate the hikers in the Filiorum Reserve. They were escorted back up via Rattlesnake Trail. Neither needed medical assistance, and they denied an ambulance. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was informed, and the call was cleared by 7:25 p.m.

On December 25, a patron reported a racoon that appeared ill. Rangers were able to locate the animal and call Los Angeles County Animal Control to provide a medical assessment.

Forrestal Reserve

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	227	31	12	2
Dog	56	0	5	0
Biker	31	3	6	0
Equestrian	1	1	0	0

E-bike riders reported in Forrestal Reserve and Portuguese Bend Reserve. The individual had been contacted by VTW several times informing them of no e-bikes permitted. Rangers have not been able to contact this individual, however, patrols focused on known times of entry.

Additionally, dirt bike riders were reported entering the trail system via Purple Sage Trail in the first half of this reporting period. Rangers posted at known times of entry and did not observe any activity. No dirt bike riders were seen in the later half of the reporting period.

On October 12, VTW found and located a "No E-bike" sign along the concrete drainage channel near Quarry Trail Reserve. The e-bike sign had since been replaced at its respective trailhead to educate the public.

Ocean Trails Reserve

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	230	34	7	1
Dog	27	14	3	0
Biker	3	0	0	0

Equestrian	0	0	0	0
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The City continued to coordinate with Trump National Golf Club to manage and maintain the closures at Coastal Switchback Trail and on the Bridge near Lakeview and Catalina Trails.

On October 30, a call was made by the public to the Los Angeles County Fire Department to conduct a cliff rescue near the eastern boundary of the Reserve. Air, land, and water units assisted in this call. Rangers assisted in escorting fire personnel on trails and clearing trails to allow for personnel to safely transport the individual for medical care.



On October 28, Bellfree Contractors completed trail improvements on Southshore Coastal Trail and Sagebrush Walk Trail, and these trails were reopened to the public. Trail improvements included removing and repairing wooden steps along the trail, creating grade dips and berms to divert the water off trail to minimize erosion, and replacing wooden posts and cable.



On November 3, a trail camera was installed to monitor activity, including entering closed areas, and removal / damage to habitat along the western section of Ocean Trails Reserve.



Portuguese Bend Reserve

	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	4,131	338	52	12
Dog	456	54	25	1
Biker	616	30	25	0
Equestrian	48	0	0	0

On September 20, Garden Trail was closed due to an emergence of erosion on the trail bed. Staff continued to monitor changes and is working with the City Geologist.

On October 2, staff received a report of water leaking from the Cal Water pipe on Burma Road Trail near Rim Trail. Cal Water was called to conduct repairs. The trail was temporarily closed until repairs were complete.

On November 1, a female transient was seen walking on Palos Verdes Drive South and later sleeping on a trailer. Rangers made contact and offered water. She refused assistance.

On November 2, Rangers contacted an individual who was marking Burma Road Trail with "RUN." The individual stated they were marking the trail



for a group no more than 20. The individual was advised not to mark trails, as it is considered damaging to facilities, and to contact the City in the future.



On November 24, a water main line broke in the evening resulting in damage to Vanderlip Trail. CalWater was notified and conducted inspections and repairs to their infrastructure. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's (PVPLC) Volunteer Trail Crew conducted trail work and made repairs, and the trail was reopened November 28.



On December 23, Staff received a report from a member of the public of a raccoon displaying unusual behavior. Staff located it and confirmed the raccoon had symptoms consistent with distemper, including excessive mucus, eyes crusted shut, and disorientation. Los Angeles County Animal Control was called and able to locate the raccoon.



On December 27, staff found a deceased peregrine falcon. Reported to the California Department of Public Health's California West Nile Virus Reporting Division.

San Ramon Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	2	1	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	1	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

On November 23, Rangers reported damage to the rock base of the Reserve monument sign located at Palos Verdes Drive East and Palos Verdes Drive South was damaged. It is suspected this was caused by a vehicle collision as there was vehicle debris and tire tracks on the hillside. The sign has been repaired.



On December 13, Rangers located an illegal bike ramp, berms, and tools used in the creation of trails. This area was in the upper section of San Ramon Reserve, off-trail. Staff proceeded to dismantle any structures and remove all items.



Three Sisters Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	3	0	0	0
Dog	3	1	0	1
Biker	0	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

No activity reported during this period.

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	204	4	2	0
Dog	17	0	0	0
Biker	6	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

In the last reporting period, the Pelican Cove Parking Lot, and facilities were vandalized by graffiti. OSM Staff installed post and cable method and notified Terranea Resort Staff to close off the parking lot after hours.



Throughout this reporting period, Rangers received reports of increased litter on the Pelican Cove Parking Lot. A request was made by Terranea Resort for increased Ranger patrols and coordination to deter litter.

Additionally, Rangers were notified of frequent e-bike riders on white bikes seen at both Point Vicente Interpretive Center and Vicente Bluffs Trails.

On October 18, Rangers observed a racoon walking along the top of the blufftop fence near Calle Entradero Parking Lot. The racoon appeared to have symptoms consistent with distemper, including crusted eyes shut, mucus, and disorientation. Los Angeles County Animal Control was called, however, the racoon could no longer be located as it had crawled into a drainage area.

On December 1, Rangers received a call from the PVPLC regarding possible poaching of at least 10 dudleya within the Reserve. Rangers notified Terranea Resort staff and all OSM Staff to monitor for any additional take within the immediate area, and along the City's coastal zones with known dudleya.

On December 14, Rangers were notified of a panga boat landing at Pelican Cove. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department responded to the call at 1:08 a.m., and assisted the Department of Homeland Security and United States Coast Guard.

Vista del Norte Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	0	0	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0

On November 2020, the Preserve Monument sign at Vista del Norte Trailhead (adjacent to the radio communications towers), was damaged when a vehicle backed into the sign. The City received witness statements and the defendant was found guilty by Los Angeles County Superior Court, and began making payments November 2021. The defendant is to pay the fees associated with replacement of the sign. The City and the PVPLC have coordinated on the design and construction of the sign, anticipated Spring 2022.

City Parks and Beaches

Rangers educated patrons in City Parks and beaches regarding the City's Municipal Code, including homeless individuals and encampments, use of drones, dogs off-leash, dog park issues related to the maintenance of Eastview's dog park, motorized bicycles, large group gatherings, unauthorized special events, and park hours.