

MEMORANDUM

Date: 7/13/2022

To: Katie Lozano, Sr. Administrative Analyst, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Norma Saldaña, Recreation Supervisor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

From: Senior Park Ranger Taylor Fox

Subject: 2nd Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Ranger Enforcement Report

PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY

April 1 – June 30, 2022

4 Full-time Park Rangers patrolled the Preserve during this period.

1 Part-time Parking Enforcement Rangers patrolled access points, educated patrons, and enforced ParkMobile Implementation on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Total Public Contacts: 8,348

On April 21st, Recreation Supervisor Norma Saldaña and Senior Park Ranger Taylor Fox were recognized by the California Recreation and Parks Society for excellence in public service. Supervisor Saldaña was recognized for her work ethic, motivating and educating her staff, and passing on her passion for natural resource protection and education to the public. Senior Fox was recognized for doing an excellent job defining the new Park Ranger Program and establishing roles and procedures to enhance productivity and customer service. Some of these multifaceted responsibilities of a Park Ranger include law enforcement, interpretation, executing trail projects, public education, and, very important public service. Congratulations Norma and Taylor!



Agency Coordination, Trainings, and Interpretive Events:

Coordination Meeting with Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC)
(Monthly): City and PVPLC staff meet monthly to coordinate Preserve operations and

maintenance, and to implement the City's Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP).

Coordination Meeting with Trump National (Monthly): In an effort to review, discuss, and complete maintenance issues in the Ocean Trails Reserve, representatives from the Recreation and Parks Department's Open Space Management (OSM) Division and Community Development Department meet monthly with Trump National Golf Club management staff.

Whale of a Day (April 9): OSM hosted a booth at Whale of a Day to share information about City trails, the Nature Preserve, and local flora and fauna. The booth saw a total of 362 visitors.

Kids to Parks Day (May 21): OSM hosted a booth at Kids to Parks Day and shared information about snake identification and rattlesnake safety while hiking in the Preserve. Public education included a rattlesnake craft.

Animal Behavior Training with Humane Society (May 24): OSM hosted the Humane Society for a training to learn about animal behavior, including aggressive dogs and recognizing signs of heat strokes in dogs.

Girl Scout Troop 3475 (May 25): Rangers met with Rancho Palos Verdes Girl Scout Troop 3475 to practice Leave No Trace Principles and learn about local flora and fauna in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.

Los Angeles County-Wide Trails Task Force Quarterly

Meeting (June 2): The City is a member of the Los Angeles County-wide Trails Task Force. Main topics of the meeting included discussion on the California Trails and Greenway Conference, networking opportunities, and a presentation on the Los Angeles County Trails Volunteer Program, among other operational updates shared by attendees.

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 together with the Preserve Habitat Manager, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC). Some of these coordination tasks include project management, implementing trail closures, public safety measures, and providing public notification. Below are a list of projects OSM staff helped coordinate with PVPLC, the Public Works Department, and public utilities in the second quarter:



Jan 3 – June 7: Burma Road Trail Project. The closed section of the trail reopened after repairs were completed by Bellfree Contractors. Work included adding rock and creating a rock wall to support the existing trail bed.

March 21-April 29: Cal Water water tank maintenance in Portuguese Bend Reserve at Burma/Fire Station Trail

March 28-July 2022: SCE and other utilities undergrounding facilities at Crenshaw Boulevard

March 28 to May 28: Public Works Department led and coordinated fuel modification efforts in various areas within and adjacent to the Preserve with Fire Grazers, Inc. Goats.

April 23: Garden Trail Repair. The trail reopened after several months of temporary closure due to erosion and land movement. Repairs were completed by volunteer trail work.

April 25-29: McGee Survey Consulting. The Public Works Department coordinates bi-annual land surveying within the Preserve to assist with landslide monitoring.

May 13 – May 17 Paintbrush Trail Temporarily Closed (PVPLC): Contractor Vehicle broke down and was blocking the trail.

June 7: Olmsted Trail Grading. No trail closures took place. Repairs were completed by Bellfree Contractors and included grading of a section of the road.

June 13: Small Fire adjacent to lower Portuguese Bend Reserve. OSM coordinated with the LA County Fire Department and SCE on a small fire.

June 26: Fire adjacent to lower Portuguese Bend Reserve. A fire ignited on Peppertree Drive and Sweetbay Road. Adjacent Reserves: Three Sisters, Filiorum, and Portuguese Bend were evacuated and temporarily closed for the remainder of the day. LA County Fire Department extinguished the fire that day and it burned approximately 4 acres. On July 2, fire reported in the same area and quickly extinguished by LAFD.

The following is a list of maintenance projects and events that transpired during the respective Quarter. Maintenance work was performed by OSM Staff, and may include litter abatement, spur trail closures, signage repairs, and tread repairs, within the Preserve and Abalone Cove Park.

Trimming	16
Installing Signs	16
Removal of Graffiti (not including instances where Graffiti was reported / deferred to GPC)	40
	87

General Maintenance

Total

159

OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:

Total Contacts: 8,348

Hikers: 7,053

Dog Walkers: 736

Cyclists: 549

Equestrians: 10

Warnings: 109

Calls for Assistance: 15 transports

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 5

Other (i.e. underlying condition, sprained ankle): 5

Emergency Evacuation (i.e. Fire): 5

Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 43 calls

Gate Unlocked / Condition: 10

Injured Wildlife: 9

Trail Status and General Information: 5

Animals on the Beach: 3

Maintenance Issue Reported: 3

Homeless Encampments: 3

Trail User Conflict: 2

Motorized Vehicle: 2

Parking Issues: 2

Use of Spur Trail / Closed Areas: 1

Lost / in Distress: 1

Tents in Parks: 1

Fire / Grills in Parks: 1

Social Media Educational Outreach

OSM Staff proactively searches social media sites for group gatherings scheduled within the Preserve to educate visitors on Preserve rules, and group size restrictions. Groups over twenty participants are not allowed in the Preserve for the purpose of natural resource protection. Over the last quarter, OSM Staff contacted 11 groups to monitor activity planned for the Preserve and to proactively provide information on Preserve regulations.

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:

Parking Citations Issued: 477

By Violation:

Park by Permit – 435
Parking Lot / Preserve / Park Hours- 12
Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 22
Handicap Zone –8
Other- 31

By Location:

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) – 268
Del Cerro Park – 185
Abalone Cove Reserve – 15
Forrestal Reserve – 2
Vicente Bluffs Reserve –0
Other Parks – 2

Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 11 Total

By Violation:

Closed Area – 4
Possession / Consumption of Alcohol – 2
Motorized Vehicles – 3
Photography without a Permit - 2

By Location:

Abalone Cove Reserve – 5
Portuguese Bend Reserve – 3
Vicente Bluffs Reserve – 1
Ladera Linda Park - 2

ACTIVITY REPORT BY RESERVE:

The next section provides further information on projects, reports, and Ranger activity/observations organized by Reserve. Trail counter data is provided for Portuguese Bend Reserve and Forrestal Reserve, where the City has placed a total of five counters combined. It is important to note that trail counters are placed at the most popular entry points, but do not cover every entry point. Park Ranger public contacts 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	624	72	19	6
Dogs	18	1	3	0

On April 4, Rangers received a report of evidence of fire (charred wood), on the beach, between Altamira Canyon and Olmsted Trail junction. Additionally, on April 7, Staff located the charred remains of a black composition book in Altamira Canyon.

On April 7, Rangers received a report of two individuals riding a Onewheel device. The individuals were seen on Beach School Trail and had been advised by OSM staff several times. Rangers were unable to verify the use of such devices upon arrival, and continue to monitor for the activity.

On April 13, Rangers observed an electric skateboard device on Beach School Trail, and had also been advised by OSM staff a few minutes prior. Rangers were able to make contact and educated the individual on the Reserve property and prohibitions of such use.

On April 22, OSM Staff installed two “No Feeding Wildlife” signs at the 30-minute parking lot located near Abalone Cove. Staff continues to observe the public feeding wildlife, including squirrels and pelicans. Staff will continue to monitor the area to educate visitors to respect wildlife and refrain from feeding them.

On April 24, Rangers contacted two individuals with an open container and consumption of alcoholic beverages at Abalone Cove Beach. The individuals were advised that alcohol is not permitted on City Parks or Preserve, including the beach and trails. Both individuals were issued a citation.



On April 29, OSM Staff was informed of an injured great horned owl. A patron had found the bird by the beach. The owl had likely fallen from a nest above and had sustained several injuries. It had also been attacked by crows, resulting in additional injuries. Staff coordinated the drop-off of the owl for medical treatment and rehabilitation.



On May 6, Staff was notified of a lost person. The individuals' father reported their family member could not be located. The individual had a history of epilepsy. Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputies were notified while OSM Staff patrolled the Reserve. Rangers were able to locate the individual in Portuguese Bend Reserve shortly after with no injuries.

A vehicle crashed into the Abalone Cove restoration area on May 14. There was some damage to habitat and irrigation.



On May 15, two rabbits were abandoned at Abalone Cove and reported by the public to Staff. The rabbits were kept safe until a new home could be located for them. It is against the law to abandon animals in City parks, the Preserve, beaches, and other recreational areas within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.



On May 18, Staff received a report of a patron who, while at Sacred Cove Beach, had his wallet stolen after leaving his belongings unattended. The individual was advised to call the Los Angeles County sheriff Department to report the incident and file a report.

On May 25, an irrigation leak was reported on Chapel View Trail near the Beach School Trail junction. The water was shut off, and OSM Staff notified PVPLC to assess potential damage and repairs to the habitat.



Bellfree Contractors began grading a section of Olmstead Trail on June 7 that has fallen into disrepair due to water erosion. No trail closures took place, and work was completed by the end of the day.

In June, Rangers observed still photography without a permit at Sacred Cove Beach. The individuals were contacted regarding the restrictions, pertaining to the City's Ordinance Chapter 9.16 still photography, motion picture and television productions.

On June 1, Staff received a report of a distressed seal. Staff contacted Marine Animal Rescue to determine next steps, and ensured the public maintained a safe distance. The seal was able to swim on its own back to the ocean without assistance.

On June 29, OSM Staff dug out and re-installed a signpost that had been found near Palos Verdes Drive South and Sacred Cove View West Trail. It is unknown when or how the sign had been removed from its initial location.



Aqua Amarga Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	10	4	0	0
Dog	2	0	0	0

No activity was reported during this reporting period.

Alta Vicente Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	12	5	2	0
Dog	4	1	2	0

On April 30, 2022 Rangers received a report of an injured owl whose cries could be heard by local bird watchers in the area. Rangers located the bird and confirmed with Los Angeles County Animal Control that the bird did not have any visible injuries. It is believed the bird was a fledgling, and no further action was needed. The bird was not seen or heard of the next day.



Filiorum Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	45	5	2	0
Dog	3	1	2	0
Biker	1	0	1	0
Equestrian	6	0	0	0

During the months of April and May, Staff received several reports from concerned members of the public hearing the sound of cats while hiking. Many believed the cats had been abandoned in the trails. Staff has educated and confirmed the presence of California gnatcatchers, whose distinctive calls may be mistaken for the sound of a cat's meow. Individuals can visit and use the Merlin Bird ID from the Cornell Lab using both photo and audio to identify birds while hiking in the Preserve by visiting: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>. California gnatcatchers are identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species, and they are protected and targeted for preservation within the Preserve.

On April 16, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department was on scene at Rattlesnake Trail responding to a call about an unconscious hiker. Rangers assisted with securing the scene and directing additional units as they arrived to assist.



Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, Fire Department, EMT, and Rangers walking up Rattlesnake Trail.

In May, Rangers found evidence of unauthorized mowing within the lower section of Filiorum Reserve and Portuguese Bend Reserve. The mowing included mustard and other grasses that had not been completed or approved by the City, or a City partner.

On May 29, Rangers received a report from both a bicyclist and hiker regarding a conflict on the trail. Per the hiker, the bicyclist was riding the bicycle on a designated walk your bike zone when they encountered several hikers on a narrow portion of Zote's Cutacross Trail. The hiker then grabbed the bicyclist, while mounted. Neither party

sustained injuries. Rangers were able to record the events from each reporting party. Neither individual wanted to press charges.

On June 21, the Eucalyptus Trail was temporarily closed due to a downed tree. The City is working with the Arborist and Public Works Department to assess the situation and reopen the trail.



Forrestal Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	792	114	2	0
Dog	144	12	3	0
Biker	49	3	0	0

Park Rangers have been assisting with the management of the Forrestal Reserve Parking Area, which opened to the public in late March, at the commencement of the Ladera Linda Community Park Project. While the park is under construction, Preserve parking is provided along Forrestal Drive, behind the Forrestal gate weekends and

holidays from 7 a.m. to one hour after sunset. Park Rangers are coordinating with City Departments and LA County Sheriff's Department to educate and enforce the parking area. During this quarter, approximately 2,237 vehicles parked on Forrestal Drive during operating hours.

On April 16, Rangers observed two bikes, one gas powered dirt bike and an e-bike heading south away from Main Sail Drive. Deputies were also in the area and were conducting a patrol when they observed the bicycles gain speed to exit the area. The riders were educated on their excessive speed and on the fact that motorized vehicles are not allowed in the Preserve.

On April 23, Rangers were notified of an injured patron with a possible leg injury. The individual stated they were riding a bicycle on the trails and had fallen. Several bystanders provided assistance to escort the injured individual to his vehicle. Additional medical assistance was denied.

On May 2, OSM Staff observed vandalism on the construction banners at Ladera Linda Community Park and damage to a wooden post on Forrestal Drive. The incident was reported to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and both the banner and post were replaced/repared.



On May 8, several carsonite signs and wooden posts were defaced with graffiti along the trail system. The public is encouraged to report graffiti for removal via the MYRPV App.



Purple text on carsonite and wooden post found on the trails in Forrestal Reserve.

On June 7, Rangers received reports of a distressed racoon. The racoon was a juvenile, located near the Pirate trailhead. Members of the public were advised to use caution and maintain distance to allow the mother to return and retrieve its young. Animal control was also notified and advised no further action would be taken at this time, as the animal was not injured.



During the week of June 15, new signage was installed on the gates at Forrestal for vehicles that may be locked in after hours. The Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline (310) 491-5775 can also be called from dawn to dusk.



On June 18, So Cal Edison responded to a report from a member of the public of a leak in on their equipment located on Forrestal Drive. Edison was able to conduct repairs and performed a transformer transfer. There were no impacts to public parking.

Ocean Trails Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	62	32	2	0
Dog	46	15	15	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

During this reporting period, OSM Staff continued to coordinate closures at Coastal Switchback Trail and the Bridge near Lakeview Trail.

Rangers have continued to patrol the beaches at Ocean Trails Reserve to monitor dogs off-leash and dogs on the beach. Trump National Golf Club Staff and Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguards have assisted in the maintenance of signage and education. Staff has seen a decrease in the number of violations observed and reported during this reporting period.

On April 7, Rangers were notified of a dead seal on the beach at the bottom of Southshore Coastal Trail. The seal was reported to the Marine Mammal Stranding Network for removal.

On April 18, Rangers were notified of a deceased coyote near Ocean Trails Reserve, along a section of the California Coastal Trail. Rangers were able to coordinate with the respective agency for pick-up.

On May 4, Park Rangers were notified by Trump National Golf Club Staff of a paraglider at Founders Park. Rangers were able to make contact with the individual and informed them of the City's Municipal Code 12.16.045 related to the prohibition of take-offs and landings within the City, including Parks, Preserve, and Beach areas.



Paraglider seen from the Founder's Park parking lot.

During the Memorial Day weekend, Rangers patrolled Ocean Trails Beach and Rancho Palos Verdes Beach to monitor usage. Seasonal lifeguards were posted at Rancho Palos Verdes Beach below Sunset Trail to monitor beach activity and water safety.

On June 12, Rangers removed a temporary shelter erected from palm fronds, acacia, and wooden posts found on Rancho Palos Verdes Beach.



Portuguese Bend Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	5,390	368	12	1
Dog	507	64	24	0
Biker	499	22	16	2
Equestrian	4	4	1	0

On April 12, Rangers were notified of a water leak from CalWater infrastructure on the upper section of Vanderlip Trail. The trail was closed while water was shut off, and crews could inspect trail conditions. OSM Staff conducted some trail work on April 13 to fill in the rutted sections, and the trail was reopened by the end of the day.



Water flowing onto Vanderlip Trail resulting in rutting on the trailbed prior to it depositing on the adjacent habitat. The picture on the right was taken after trail work was completed to reshape the grade dip and fill in ruts.

On April 17, Rangers received a call regarding a deceased coyote in Portuguese Bend Reserve. Rangers informed both the City's Code Enforcement and Los Angeles County Animal Control..

During the week of April 27, Rangers observed and coordinated with Cal Water on a water leak at the water tank located on Burma Road Trail. This was part of the Seismic Retrofit project, however, the flow of water was greater than anticipated. Water was diverted by an existing grade dip, and an additional trench was built to minimize damage to Ishibashi Trail and Burma Road Trail. During this time, A-frames were set-up and vehicles were kept off the trail to minimize damage. Equestrian, bicyclists, and hikers were permitted to walk through the area.



Water flowing down Burma Road Trail and three a-frames placed to notify the public of muddy conditions.

On April 23, Volunteers, with support from OSM Staff, repaired Garden Trail, making it possible to reopen this trail for public use. Fissures, likely caused by land movement, were filled in, adjacent lemonade berry bushes were trimmed, and the trail was manicured. Closure signage was removed, and Staff will continue to monitor the trail for erosion in the future.



Volunteers are seen above on the left using fill dirt and compacting the trail. Picture on the right depicts the condition of the trail after work was completed.

On April 24, Recreation and Parks Staff notified Rangers of two motorized dirt bikes that had entered the Preserve via Forrestal Drive. Rangers were able to make contact and educate the riders on no motorized use in the Preserve. Both riders were issued a citation and asked to walk their dirt bike toward Burma Road Trail, as this was the shortest distance to exit the Preserve.



One of the dirt bikes is pictured above, a Honda 50r.

On May 6, the temporary wooden post and cable installed at the Burma Road trailhead was damaged by a vehicle collision. A police report was submitted, and the debris was retrieved by OSM Staff. A-frames have been placed in the interim. With the assistance of the Public Works Department, the temporary cable at Burma Road Trail was secured after the installation of a wooden post during the week of June 22.



Pictures above were taken at Burma Road trailhead on March 28 during a rain closure (top) and on May 6 after a vehicle damaged the middle post that secured the temporary cable.

On May 13, a contractor's vehicle that was part of the acacia removal project taking place on Paintbrush and Ishibashi trails broke down. The vehicle was left in place over the weekend and was removed on May 16. The Paintbrush Trail was closed during that time.



On May 14, two ParkMobile reservation signs were vandalized on Crenshaw Boulevard. The signs have been replaced.

On May 26, Rangers and PVPLC staff observed a new rut that had emerged on Burma Road Trail past Toyon Trail junction. Several cones were placed to advise the public to use caution. The City will coordinate with contractors to assess and fill in the rut. On June 9, Staff observed that the camera notice sign placed at Burma Road Trail had been vandalized. The sign was repaired, reinforced, and placed higher on its metal post to deter vandalism.



On June 10, Staff reset two A-frames located near Burma Road Trail to educate the public and deter the creation of spur trails.



On June 13, Rangers received a report of a small fire adjacent to the Portuguese Bend Reserve boundary. The small fire burned cacti located by Palos Verdes Drive South in the Gateway area before being extinguished. The incident is under investigation.



On June 13, Rangers received a call from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at 8:30 p.m. regarding a vehicle in the Reserve. Rangers responded and confirmed the presence of an unauthorized vehicle driving down Burma Road Trail. The driver was cited and escorted out of the Reserve.

On June 16, Staff conducted repairs on a section of the Klondike Canyon Trail. No trail closures were required while the work was completed.



On June 23, a moped was seen exiting Burma Road Trail in the evening. The access point and time of entry are unknown. Motorized vehicles are prohibited in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. This includes electric bicycles, powered unicycles, motorized bicycles, and mopeds. The City will work closely with PVPLC to identify any habitat impacts, as a result of such use.

On June 26, a vegetation fire was reported on private property near Palos Verdes Drive South and Peppertree Drive. Portuguese Bend, Filiorum, and Three Sisters Reserves were temporarily closed as a precaution, and signage was placed at trailheads. The approximately 4-acre fire was extinguished later that day, and Reserves reopened on June 27. On July 2, the fire had reignited by debris that had smoldered and lit up. Los Angeles County Fire Department was on scene and was able to quickly extinguish it with minimal damage.

San Ramon Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	1	0	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0

During the week of April 6, Staff installed three fiberglass posts with trail signage at the intersection of Palos Verdes Drive South and Palos Verdes Drive East to direct the public on adjacent trail routes in anticipation of additional foot traffic as a result of the traffic signal.

Three Sisters Reserve

Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
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Hikers	0	0	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

No activity was reported during this reporting period.

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	116	9	3	1
Dog	12	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

Throughout this reporting period, bicycles were reported to Rangers within this Reserve. Bicycles are not allowed on trails within Vicente Bluffs Reserve. Park Rangers continue to monitor for this activity.

On Saturday, April 9, Rangers reported several instances of graffiti on the restroom facility, trash can, and walkway areas at Pelican Cove parking area. The restroom, A GPC report was submitted and pictures were taken to document the vandalism.



On April 25, Rangers observed and contacted a crew working in a section of habitat located in Vicente Bluffs Reserve. The crew had been authorized and granted access to remove invasive acacia; however, they had performed outside of their approved work area. Work was halted as they had damaged habitat. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land

Conservancy was notified and will be conducting a bird nesting survey in addition to calculating habitat loss.



Bobcat and chipper were used to remove invasive acacia trees near Vicente Bluffs.

Vista del Norte Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	1	0	0	0

An ongoing irrigation leak on the top of Vista del Norte Trail had been reported and was resolved With the assistance of Public Works Department.

City Parks and Beaches

Rangers educated patrons in City Parks and beaches regarding the City's Municipal Code, including homeless individuals and encampments, unauthorized tents and canopies, filming and photography without a permit, and unauthorized fire and bbq grills.