

MEMORANDUM

Date: 11/2/2022

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: 3rd Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Ranger Enforcement Report

PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY

July 1 – September 30, 2022

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

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

Welcome Park Ranger Haynes and Rangel!

Park Ranger Haynes and Rangel joined the Open Space Management Team as Parking Enforcement. They will educate patrons about parking issues related to the implementation of the ParkMobile parking system on Crenshaw Boulevard and Park Place. Haynes has previous experience in education, and Rangel has previous experience in the public sector.



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.

4th of July Event (July 4): OSM participated in the City's 4th of July Celebration held at Civic Center. A total of 364 participants visited the OSM booth to learn more about trails and wildlife, and to take photos with Smokey the Bear!



World Ranger Day (August 3): Recreation Supervisor Saldana and Senior Park Ranger Fox attended and represented the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Park Rangers in celebrating and recognizing World Ranger Day with colleagues throughout Southern California.



Eagle Scout Project: Davis Stern (August 6): Scout Davis Stern from Troop 378 completed his Eagle scout project at North Spur Trail in the Alta Vicente Reserve. Mr. Stern led a group of scouts installing a 20ft long and 13inch diameter culvert pipe underneath North Spur Trail to assist with water control and mitigation. He also reset up 17 timber steps and installed 3 additional steps on North Spur Trail.

Eagle Scout Project: Aaron Chee (August 20): Scout Aaron Chee from Troop 378 completed his Eagle scout project at the Abalone Cove parking turnout. Mr. Chee led a group of scouts installing a fence along the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy restoration area. Mr. Chee was able to install 19 5ft tall vertical posts and 10 horizontal posts that were 8ft long to match the existing fencing.

Eagle Scout Project: Ethan Chao (August 27): Ethan Chao from Troop 378 completed his Eagle scout project At Abalone Cove Park. Mr. Chao led a group of scouts building 6 picnic tables, and painting them with primer and brown paint. He also delineated 200ft of walking pathways park side with rock.

Los Angeles County-Wide Trails Task Force Quarterly Meeting (September 8): The City is a member of the Los Angeles County-wide Trails Task Force. Main topics of the meeting included discussion on Countywide Parks Needs Assessment Plus, and an agency spotlight on Puente Hills Habitat Conservation Authority among other operational updates shared by attendees.

Rattlesnake Safety Training and Handling (September 22): OSM hosted the Central Coast Snake Services for a hands-on training on rattlesnakes, teaching staff about

behaviors, safety guidelines, and relocation guidelines. Senior Park Ranger Fox, pictured on the right, is practicing using snake tongs to gently lift the rattlesnake from the ground to the bucket for relocation, while maintaining a safe distance.



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 third quarter:

September 1: SCE Contractor performing utility infrastructure maintenance on Portuguese Bend Reserve. No trails were closed.

September 6-21: City and PVPLC coordinated with contractor on installation of Phase IV Preserve Monument signs, which included a total of 12 new signs at Vista del Norte, Forrestal Reserve, and Ocean Trails Reserve.

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: 14

Installing Signs: 19

Removal of Graffiti (not including instances where Graffiti was reported / deferred to GPC): 13

General Maintenance: 155

Total: 204

OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:

Total Contacts: 7,768

Hikers: 6372

Dog Walkers: 670

Cyclists: 620

Equestrians: 106

Warnings: 101

Education: 733

Calls for Assistance: transports 14

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 5

Other (i.e. underlying condition, sprained ankle): 9

Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 33 calls

Parking Issues: 10

Animals off Leash: 4

Maintenance Issue Reported: 3

Motorized Vehicle: 3

Homeless Encampments: 2

Hiker in Distress: 2

Trail Status and General Information: 2

Gate Unlocked / Condition: 1

Injured Wildlife: 1

Illegal Trimming of Flora: 1

Lost / Found: 1

Use of Spur Trail / Closed Areas: 1

Illegal Dumping: 1

Fishing: 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 13 groups to monitor activity planned for the Preserve and to proactively provide information on Preserve regulations.

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:

Parking Citations Issued: 322

By Violation:

Park by Permit – 290

Parking Lot / Preserve / Park Hours- 2

Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 23

Handicap Zone – 7

Other- 21

By Location:

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) –173

Del Cerro Park – 120
Abalone Cove Reserve – 21
Forrestal Reserve – 8

Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 4

By Violation:

Closed Area – 1
Animals on the Beach – 3

By Location:

Abalone Cove Reserve – 1
Ocean Trails Reserve – 3

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 | 591 | 91 | 22 | 1 |
| Dogs | 28 | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| Bicyclist | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

On July 10, Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to a call of an injured hiker at the beach below Bow and Arrow Trail. The individual had to be transported by helicopter to a hospital.



On July 24, Staff received a report of a grill at Sacred Cove Beach. Rangers responded and saw a small group of people with a portable grill and propane tank. Staff educated the group on prohibitions on bringing in outside grills and then escorted them out of the Preserve.



On August 14, Rangers contacted two individuals who had collected rocks from the beach at Abalone Cove. The individuals were informed that this was a violation and they returned the rocks.

On August 16, Staff replaced an “Area Closed” sign that had been vandalized on Inspiration Point Trail. The protective coating had been scratched off resulting in peeling of the text underneath. The sign was replaced to ensure the text remained legible to advise the public to stay on designated trails.



On August 19, Abalone Cove staff encountered a seagull with a possible broken wing while on patrol at Sacred Cove Beach. Staff contacted International Bird Rescue and the seagull was dropped off for treatment and rehabilitation.

On August 20 and 21, Scout Aaron Chee, from Troop 378, worked with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Recreation and Parks Department to complete his Eagle Scout Project. The project included the extension of the wooden fence near the 30-minute turnout at Abalone Cove Park / Reserve. Vertical posts were installed along 100 feet of the existing fence line. The benefit of extending this fence line is that it will help keep the public from trampling vegetation in a closed area.



On August 27, Scout Ethan Choi, from Troop 378, worked with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Recreation and Parks Department to complete his Eagle Scout Project. The

project included the assembly and painting of 6 picnic tables to be added to park and delineating the nearby trails.



On September 9, one of two binoculars was stolen from the parkside. A police report was submitted.



On September 16, Staff received a report of a fallen branch on Smuggler's Trail. The branches were trimmed back and the pathway was cleared.



On September 17, Abalone Cove hosted Coastal Clean-up Day, with over 180 volunteers, and approximately 300 pounds of trash collected, the event was a success!

On September 17, Staff was notified of an injured seagull on the beach on Abalone Cove Beach. Rangers assisted in retrieval and dropped off the bird to International Bird Rescue for medical care.

On September 19, Staff identified damage to several barriers placed on the perimeter of the parking lot. There were no visible tire marks or damage to the habitat. The barriers were reset (right).



Throughout the week of September 19-26, Staff inspected and repaired ruts caused by an outside contractor's vehicle driving in muddy conditions caused by light rains on Portuguese Point Loop trail.



On September 18, Staff identified a "Caution Unstable Cliffs" sign in poor condition (left) at Sacred Cove Beach. The sign was no longer legible and had an exposed base. The sign was removed and replaced on September 26 (right).



Aqua Amarga Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

No activity was reported during this reporting period.

Alta Vicente Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

On July 19, OSM removed a couch from Alta Vicente Reserve.



On July 21, Rangers received a report of a damaged irrigation line resulting in water leaking out. PVPLC was notified and the water was shut off until repairs could be made. There was no impact to the trail.

On August 13-14, Rangers observed and contacted several drone operators who were not following the City's established drone policies. Following those discussions, the individuals stopped flying their drones.

Filiorum Reserve

| | Trail Counter | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 376,361 | 75 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog | NA | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------|---|---|---|---|
| Biker | 9,669 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Equestrian | 366 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

West Coast Arborists were on site on August 2 to cut the Eucalyptus tree that had uprooted, prompting a temporary closure of the trail. The trail has reopened as of August 2.



On August 28, Rangers found 2 plastic chairs in the right of way on McBride Trail overlooking Filiorum and Three Sisters Reserve.



Forrestal Reserve

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Trail Counter | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|

| | | | | | |
|--------|---------|-----|----|----|---|
| Hikers | 231,518 | 585 | 62 | 10 | 0 |
| Dog | NA | 144 | 5 | 8 | 0 |
| Biker | 5,851 | 52 | 9 | 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 1,440 vehicles parked on Forrestal Drive during operating hours.

On July 14, Staff installed several additional trash cans by trailheads along Forrestal Drive and the Forrestal Reserve. The trash can pictured below is located at Pirate Trail.



On July 30, a hiker reported running water on Forrestal Drive. Staff notified Cal Water to shut off the water, and the property owner was notified to make repairs that are needed.



On August 2, Rangers received a hotline call regarding an individual climbing over the chain link fence to access the Lower Ladera Linda Field. Rangers arrived and contacted 3 separate parties and advised them of rules relating to use of fields.

On August 28, Park Rangers observed and contacted 2 individuals prospecting and removing rock material from the hillside adjacent to Forrestal Drive. The individuals were compliant, educated, and returned all items to the Reserve.

During the week of September 14, contractors completed the installation of a new Preserve monument sign at Pirate Trail. The installation was part of Phase IV of the Preserve signage plan.



On September 21, Rangers received a report of a downed portable restroom, located on Forrestal Drive. Public Works Department assisted with contacting the contractor and the unit was righted by the end of the day.



On September 26, Staff received a report of barriers placed on Exultant trail. Rangers removed the rocks and wooden post deposited across the trail. There was also damage caused by etching to a nearby “No Bicycles Permitted” sign.



Ocean Trails Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 656 | 158 | 2 | 0 |
| Dog | 75 | 22 | 11 | 3 |
| Biker | 1 | 20 | 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.

On July 2, Staff received several reports of an injured seal. Park Rangers later confirmed that a group of beach visitors had assisted the seal back to the ocean, but could not confirm if it was injured. Seals are protected by both state and federal laws, and it is illegal to approach or touch them. It is recommended that the public always remain 150 feet away.

On July 7, Trump National Golf Club staff reported 2 domesticated rabbits on their property. Los Angeles County Animal Control was notified and the rabbits were removed. No other information was provided. Per the City's Municipal Code 12.16.150 RPVMC, it is unlawful to willfully abandon any animal on any city-owned property.

On July 17, Rangers received a report of a Trail Closed A-frame on Dudleya Trail. Rangers confirmed the trail was open, and no closures had taken place at this location. The A-frame was removed shortly after receiving the report from the public.

On August 29, OSM staff observed a dirt biker riding on Burma Road Trail going down Ishibashi Trail. The dirt biker could not be located again to make contact. The City also received 2 calls from the public reporting the rider on Watertank Trail. Park Rangers are actively monitoring for these violations.

On August 30, OSM staff removed a sleeping bag and 3 empty lobster traps found along the beach. All items were hauled out from the trails and discarded in an appropriate receptacle.



Contractors completed the installation of 10 new monument signs in Ocean Trails Reserve. The installation was part of Phase IV of the Preserve signage plan.



On September 25, Rangers received a report of a deceased pinniped on Rancho Palos Verdes Beach. The West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network was notified.

Portuguese Bend Reserve

| | Trail Counter | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 899,740 | 4,850 | 416 | 3 | 0 |
| Dog | NA | 456 | 44 | 27 | 0 |
| Biker | 79,697 | 563 | 35 | 11 | 0 |
| Equestrian | NA | 106 | 4 | 2 | 0 |

On July 2, a vegetation fire was reported in the same area as a previous fire on June 26. The debris had apparently reignited and began generating smoke. Los Angeles County Fire Department arrived and extinguished the fire.

On July 18, a geocache was found within the Reserve. Per the City's Public Use Master Plan (PUMP), geocaches are permitted on a limited basis as long as they take place on designated trails and do not impact sensitive habitat and wildlife. Geocaches placed off-designated trails or in sensitive areas are not allowed, and are subject to City fines.



On August 18, two females were seen entering Burma Road Trail after hours, carrying a 5 gallon bucket and unknown contents. They were then seen exiting a few minutes after.

On August 19, Stay Green crews were on Burma Road Trail conducting fuel modification in coordination with the Public Works Department. No closures took place.

On August 28, Rangers identified and reported a water leak originating from public property, adjacent to lower section of Portuguese Bend Reserve. Public Works Department was notified and assisted with contacting the respective party for repairs.



On September 1, Southern California Edison was on site conducting utility infrastructure maintenance on several locations along Burma Road Trail. No trail closures took place.



San Ramon Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

On July 28, Staff observed a tree planted within the habitat. The tree was removed, and PVPLC was notified.



On August 25, OSM staff observed 3 abandoned tools along the creek bed near Wanderer Trail. The tools, including 2 narrow shovels and 1 rock pry bar, were

removed. There was no evidence of digging, moving, or building of any structures in the immediate vicinity.

On September 2, Park Rangers were informed of two dirt bikes in the Reserve, entering from 25th Street in San Pedro. Park Rangers later observed the two same riders at the East Boundary and Sagebrush Walk Trails. Park Rangers were unable to contact the individuals before they exited the Preserve. Motorized vehicles are not permitted in the trails, and the public is encouraged to report these sightings to the Park Rangers at (310) 491-5775.

On September 6, Rangers submitted a GPC report for removal of graffiti on chevron signs and metal guard railings at the turnouts on Palos Verdes Drive East.



On September 14 and 16, Rangers conducted litter abatement along the habitat adjacent to vehicle turnouts on Palos Verdes Drive East. Rangers found and discarded 200 Whip It canisters, 50 glass bottles, 1 metal chair, and other items including food wrappers, and unidentified metal objects.



Three Sisters Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Dog | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Biker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

On July 18, Rangers identified illegal trimming and access into the Reserve. The tops of yuccas had been trimmed without the City's authorization.



On August 28, Los Angeles County Fire Department were called to assist an injured patron on the trails. The individual was escorted and provided medical care.

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 254 | 18 | 1 | 0 |
| Dog | 30 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Biker | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 |

On July 10, Rangers received a report of a motorcycle riding on Terrace Trail. Rangers were unable to locate the rider. All trails within Vicente Bluffs Reserve are designated as pedestrian only. Bicyclists, motorcycles, and other motorized vehicles are prohibited.

On July 19, OSM staff removed graffiti on a portable restroom adjacent to Calle Entradero Parking Lot.



On August 4, Staff installed three “Do Not Climb Over Railing / Area Closed” signs on the blufftop fence at Vicente Bluffs Reserve near post 660. Non-native Acacia bush was recently removed from the area.



On August 28, PVIC staff informed Park Rangers of individuals barbecuing on the trails. Park Rangers arrived to the reported location, however the violators were no longer in the area.

Vista del Norte Reserve

| | Public Contacts | Education | Warnings | Enforcement |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Hikers | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

On September 19, contractors completed the installation of the Vista del Norte regulatory sign as part of Phase IV of the Preserve signage plan. The sign had been previously damaged by a vehicle in September 2020.



2020 damage to sign



New Vista Del Norte Reserve sign

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, and unauthorized fire and bbq grills.