

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 7, 2023  
**To:** Katie Lozano, Sr. Administrative Analyst, City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
Norma Saldaña, Recreation Supervisor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
**From:** Taylor Fox, Senior Park Ranger  
**Subject:** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Park Ranger Enforcement Report

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### **PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY**

October 1 – December 31, 2022

4 Full-time Park Rangers patrolled the Preserve approximately 1,560 hours during this period.

#### **Agency Coordination, Trainings, and Interpretive Events:**

Los Angeles Countywide Trail Managers Task Force Meeting (Dec. 1): Open Space Management (OSM) Staff attended this quarterly meeting with fellow L.A. County land managers to coordinate on emergent issues and share best management practices.

3 Monthly City-PVPLC NCCP/HCP Coordination Meetings: City and PVPLC staff meet monthly to coordinate Palos Verdes Nature Preserve (Preserve) operations and maintenance, and to implement the City's Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP).

1 Monthly City-PVPLC Volunteer Trail Crew Coordination Meetings: The City's OSM Staff has begun monthly meetings with the Volunteer Trail Crew to coordinate future trail maintenance and building projects.

3 Monthly City-PVPLC Volunteer Trail Watch Coordination Meetings: The City's OSM Staff holds monthly meetings with the Volunteer Trail Watch to coordinate on public use and public education topics.

Los Angeles Water Waterkeeper (December 16): Park Rangers ride along by boat with the Los Angeles Waterkeeper Ride to coordinate operations and learn more about Marine Protected Areas off the City's coast.

Los Angeles County Vector Control (December 20): OSM hosted the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector Borne Disease Control District for a virtual training on

identification, symptoms, treatments, and preventative measures among four common vectors in RPV.

Eagle Scout Project Shubham Waldiya (October 22): Scout Shubham Waldiya from Troop 378 completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Abalone Cove parking turnout. Mr. Waldiya led a group of scouts installing a fence along the Preserve habitat restoration area.

### **Project Coordination & Emergency Work:**

OSM Staff help to coordinate multiple projects within the Preserve to ensure 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 the Public Works Department, PVPLC, and public utilities in the fourth quarter:

October 10-13: McGee Survey Consulting. The Public Works Department coordinates biannual land surveying within the Preserve to assist with landslide monitoring.

November 8 – 9: Preserve temporarily closed due to significant rain.

December 9 – 17: Abalone Cove Beach Advisory issued by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

December 11 – 14: Preserve temporarily closed due to significant rain.

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December 14 – Ongoing: Rattlesnake Gate and Fence construction began. Work stalled due to weather and resumed in January 2023.

December 23: Burma Gate bollard construction began. Work stalled due to weather and resumed in January 2023.

December 30 –January 18: Palos Verdes Nature Preserve temporarily closed due to significant rain.

The following is a list of maintenance projects and events that transpired during the fourth 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.

- Vegetation Trimming: 10
- Installing Signs: 6
- Removal of Graffiti (Additional graffiti deferred to GPC): 29
- General Maintenance: 168
- Total: 213

## **OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:**

### **Total Contacts: 5,211**

Hikers: 4,245

Dog Walkers: 521

Cyclists: 386

Equestrians: 59

Warnings: 60

Education: 399

### **Calls for Assistance: Transports 6**

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 6

### **Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 20**

Trail Status and General Information: 6

Parking Issues: 5

Animals Off Leash: 3

Gate Unlocked / Condition: 2

Maintenance Issue Reported: 1

Injured Wildlife: 1

Illegal Trimming of Flora: 1

Rock Throwing: 1

Unauthorized Vehicle on Trail / Reckless Driving: 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 5 groups to monitor activity planned for the Preserve and to proactively provide information on Preserve regulations.

## **ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:**

### **Parking Citations Issued: 179**

#### **By Violation:**

Park by Permit – 161

Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 15

Handicap Zone – 2

Other- 1

#### **By Location:**

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) –112

Del Cerro Park – 51  
Abalone Cove Reserve – 10  
Forrestal Reserve – 4  
Other – 1

**Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 10**

By Violation:

Closed Area – 4  
Dogs off Leash - 4  
Animals on the Beach – 1  
Feeding Wildlife – 1

By Location:

Abalone Cove Reserve – 4  
Ocean Trails Reserve – 4  
Forrestal Reserve – 1  
Alta Vicente Reserve -1

**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	304	42	4	3
Dogs	32	16	11	1
Bicyclist	1	0	0	0

On September 9, one of two binoculars was stolen from the park side. A police report was submitted. On October 14, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department had located the binoculars, but the optics inside were missing and had been sawed off. Staff is working on replacement unit to reinstall.



On October 18, a kitten was found near Palos Verdes Drive South by a Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy. The kitten was rescued and adopted by park patrons from Abalone Cove. It is unknown how long the kitten had been on the road, or where it may have been dumped. Abandonment of animals is prohibited per Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code 12.16.150

On October 19, Staff completed a multi-day project to cover up a spur trail that ran along the coastal blufftop fencing by the Portuguese Point Loop Trail. Spur trails are unauthorized, as use causes compaction and damages the habitat and native seedbank.



On October 22, Scout Shubham Waldiya, from Troop 378, worked with OSM to complete his Eagle Scout Project. The project included the installation of a wooden

fence adjacent to Chapel View Trail and the perimeter of the parking lot. The project included a total of 387 man-hours from 37 volunteers!



On October 27, Staff replaced older “No Animals on the Beach” signage with new signage that is consistent with other coastal locations in the Preserve, which remind visitors that animals, including dogs, are not permitted on the beach.



On November 8, Staff found three bullets tied by a string to a tree on Abalone Cove Trail. A report was made to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, and the bullets were removed from the trail.

On December 1, Rangers were notified of a rock pile formed in Sacred Cove Beach. Individuals likely used the structure to hide behind to perform illegal and/or suspicious activity. The rocks were likely moved from beach and piled up to form this structure. Staff took apart and dispersed the pile.



On December 9, Los Angeles County Lifeguards informed Staff of a Beach Advisory issued for Abalone Cove Beach. The advisory recommended the public remain out of the water due to water quality samples collected by the Public Health and Los Angeles County Sanitation District that were below state standards. Signage was placed at Abalone Cove Beach to advise the public.



### **Agua Amarga Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	10	1	0	0
Dog	4	2	1	0

Rangers received various reports of dogs off leash by several individuals and continue to patrol this Reserve to educate and enforce trail users regarding leash laws.

### **Alta Vicente Reserve**



	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	35	17	0	1
Dog	6	5	0	0

On October 10, Rangers observed domesticated rabbits along the lower section of the Reserve. A total of 20 domesticated rabbits were identified, of which 17 were captured by OSM Staff, and 3 had been deceased. It is prohibited to release or abandon animals on any city-owned property, per the City's Municipal Code 12.16.150. Additionally, domesticated pets may carry diseases that can affect local animal populations.



On November 9, Rangers observed and contacted an individual feeding wild rabbits within the reserve. Feeding wildlife is not permitted in the City. Wild animals are not pets; doing so can make them dependent on humans as a source of food, and they may become unable to survive on their own.

### **Filiorum Reserve**

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	15,298	27	4	0	0
Dog	NA	8	1	0	0
Biker	1,257	1	0	0	0
Equestrian	NA	0	0	0	0

On November 15, Staff conducted repairs to a trail counter located in the Reserve. Trail counters are a great tool to assist the City with monitoring types of use on specific trails and providing overall counts to estimate the number of visitors at popular access points.



On November 29, Staff repaired the wooden posts and rope fencing along Pony Trail. The City continues to work with PVPLC on habitat damage, spur trails, and other issues in this area.

On December 14, construction began on Rattlesnake gate and fence. No trail closures took place, however, Park Mobile Reservation Zone C was temporarily shut down to allow crews to stage vehicles and equipment. Construction has continued into the next reporting quarter, and is anticipated to complete by beginning of February 2023, weather permitting. Once completed, the hours for Rattlesnake Trail will coincide with those at Burma Rd and Forrestal Drive, and will be as follows:



### **Forrestal Reserve**

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	16,623	326	18	2	1
Dog	NA	58	5	3	0
Biker	363	39	5	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 the LA County Sheriff's Department to educate and enforce the parking area. During this quarter, approximately 892 vehicles parked on Forrestal Drive during operating hours.

On October 20, Rangers observed damage to the trail counter located on Purple Sage Trail. The sensor had been removed from the trail counter. The trail counter was able to capture ingress, but not egress, therefore providing inaccurate data on overall trail use. A police report was filed, and repairs were made with the assistance of the vendor.

On October 28, Rangers found a broken City lock at the exit gate on Forrestal Drive. The lock had been forced open. A police report was filed to document the incident, and the lock was replaced. No other vandalism took place on the property.

In December, Rangers were notified of damage to Flying Mane switchbacks, including new spur trails, and posts and cables on both sides of the trail dug out and tossed aside. Rangers will continue to monitor this area, and are coordinating with PVPLC on repairs.



### **Ocean Trails Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	305	17	1	0
Dog	29	10	8	4
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. Staff has seen a decrease in the number of violations

observed and reported; however, the public continues to report on high occurrences of violations.

On December 6, Staff removed a wooden bathtub that had washed ashore near Sunrise Trail. Staff was able to haul the item away from the beach and disposed of it in a dumpster. It is believed the item had washed ashore with other debris during high tide events.



On December 23, Rangers tagged an abandoned encampment, with no occupants found.

Trump National Golf Club staff installed new posts and cables near the bottom of Sunrise Trail to deter access to a spur trail. Spur trails are unauthorized trails that are not maintained and pose a negative impact as they fragment habitat. Rangers coordinate with Trump National Golf Club staff to ensure trail users are respecting Preserve rules.

### **Portuguese Bend Reserve**

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	37,449	2,973	170	12	0
Dog	NA	347	29	8	0
Biker	2,464	347	12	7	0
Equestrian	NA	55	8	0	0

On October 24, Rangers made contact with a repeat offender bicyclist who had previously been in violation of repeatedly riding recklessly and using an e-bike on Portuguese Bend and Forrestral trails. The rider did acknowledge use of an e-bike, but in this instance, was operating a non-motorized bicycle. The bicyclist was educated about the rules and warned not to ride an e-bike within the Preserve.

On November 1, the City received a report of damage to a “Yield” sign at the upper junction of Burma Road Trail and Ishibashi Trail, caused by a contractor vehicle. The sign was repaired and placed upright.

On November 4, Rangers received a report of spooked horses on Water Tank Trail. Two equestrians were on Vanderlip Trail and Water Tank Trail when the horses became spooked by a mountain bike rider on a non-bike trail. The lead horse ran into the wire at one of the access points into the Portuguese Bend Reserve and consequently broke the Fire Department lock. Rangers made a report of the incident and replaced the lock.

On November 26, the Los Angeles County Fire Department notified Rangers of a water leak on Burma Road Trail. Cal Water Services (CWS) was called, shut off the water, and conducted emergency repairs on CWS infrastructure, prompting the temporary closure of Burma Road Trail between Panorama Trail and Barn Owl Trail. The trail was reopened on November 27, after repairs, and additional inspections were made.

On November 28, CWS conducted maintenance and discharged water into the habitat near Burma Road Trail, which parallels Landslide Scarp Trail. No trail closures took place.

On November 28, Staff added a secondary post on the initial fence placed on the section of Rim Trail that has been temporarily closed. The bottom post had been vandalized and removed.



On November 29, Rangers received a report of two dogs off leash and unattended throughout the lower section of Portuguese Bend Reserve. The dogs were initially seen by contractors performing work on Burma Road Trail. The dogs could not be located, but it is believed they exited via Watertank Trail.

On December 23, Rangers received a report and repaired several fissures that have emerged on Klondike Canyon Trail. The trail continues to be monitored to ensure fissures are reported, and monitored with the City's Geologist.





On December 25, Rangers received a call from the Los Angeles Sheriff Department notifying Rangers of an unauthorized vehicle that drove through Burma Road Trail. Rangers responded and with the assistance of Deputies, were able to locate and stop the driver. Repairs were made to repair the entry to secure the chain at the trailhead; the vehicle was driven out by Deputies and the driver was arrested.

December 28-29, OSM Staff inspected and conducted repairs on several grade dips on Burma Road Trail. These grade dips were designed to divert water flow away from the trail to minimize ruts, which require ongoing maintenance to clear out sediment and debris.

### **San Ramon Reserve**

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

On November 11, Staff retrieved a “Chevron” sign near Switchback Trail. The sign was discarded.

On December 12, Rangers contacted an individual collecting nickel-sized white garden snails. While the snails are considered invasive, take of animals, including these snails, is not permitted. The City works closely with its habitat manager, PVPLC , to monitor



invasive species and reports such findings to other wildlife agencies, such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



### **Three Sisters Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	15	0	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

On October 21, Staff began a multi-day project to retrieve yucca cuttings that had been dumped near Sunshine Trail (dumping on City property is illegal). Staff also identified associated illegal trimming and access into the Reserve. The tops of yuccas had been trimmed without the City's authorization.



## **Vicente Bluffs Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	243	29	0	0
Dog	37	9	0	0
Biker	1	1	1	0

On October 26, Rangers were notified of a found machete near the Adopt a Plot area in the Vicente Bluffs Reserve. The tool was disposed of properly; however, the owner was not identified.



On October 27, Rangers were notified of a palm tree that had been planted by an unknown individual near Seascape Trail. Volunteers with the PVPLC had identified this palm tree as non-native, and not authorized, and removed it.



On November 14, Rangers observed a group of 10 individuals conducting a film shoot. The party was contacted and informed that a permit is required for any commercial motion picture or still photography shoots on public and private property within the City. The group ceased filming and disbanded.

On December 21, Rangers removed language on an existing regulatory panel to clarify that cyclists are not permitted within the Reserve. During this reporting period, Rangers received several reports of bicyclists, both motorized and non-motorized and continue to monitor use to educate on trail use within this Reserve.



On December 26, Rangers were notified of a vehicle on Interpretive Trail on Christmas Day. No other information was provided, and the owner was not identified.

### **Vista del Norte Reserve**

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	0	0	0	0

In November, the Sol y Mar HOA conducted repairs to the DG pathway that connects the public trails to the top of Vista del Norte Trail and Indian Peak Trail. Caution tape had been temporarily placed to advise the public not to use the pathway until the work was completed.



### **City Parks and Beaches**

Rangers educated patrons in City Parks and beaches regarding the City's Municipal Code, including homeless individuals locked in restrooms, and sleeping in playground structures, abandoned encampments, dogs off leash, drones without a permit, and photography without a permit, and after hours use.