

MEMORANDUM

Date:

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: 2nd Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Park Ranger Enforcement Report

PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY

April 1 – June 30, 2023

4 Full-time Park Rangers patrolled the Preserve approximately 640 hours during this period.

3 Part-time Parking Enforcement assisted with education and enforcement of Park Mobile Reservation System at Crenshaw Boulevard.

Agency Coordination, Trainings, and Interpretive Events:

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).

3 Monthly City-PVPLC Volunteer Trail Crew Coordination Meetings: The City's OSM Staff holds 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.

Verbal Judo Institute (May 16-17): Park Rangers participated in a 16 hour training session hosted by the Verbal Judo Institute to learn about verbal de-escalation, and verbal compliance. Open Space Management Staff also participated in an 8 hour session.

Los Angeles Marine Protected Areas Collaborative Team: The City met with representatives from LAMPACT to discuss and review operations and observations within the City's two Marine Protected Areas and share resources.

Project/Operations 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 second quarter:

March 30 – June 4: Fuel Modification Coordination with Public Works Department and PVPLC Preserve-wide.

The following is a list of maintenance projects and events that transpired during the Second 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: 65
- Installing Signs: 8
- Removal of Graffiti (Additional graffiti deferred to GPC): 35
- General Maintenance: 99
- Total: 207

OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:

Total Contacts: 7,503

Hikers: 6,578

Dog Walkers: 557

Cyclists: 299

Equestrians: 69

Warnings: 80

Education: 968

Calls for Assistance: 7 Transports

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 3

Other (i.e. underlying condition, sprained ankle): 4

Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 46

Parking Inquiry / Violation: 10

Maintenance Issue Reported: 7

Trail Status and General Information: 6

Injured Animal: 6

Gate Unlocked / Condition: 3

Animals Off Leash: 3
Wildlife Issues on Private Property: 3
First Aid Response / Rescue: 2
After Hours: 2
Transients / Encampments: 1
Electric Motorcycle / Bicycle:
Off Trail: 1
Poaching / Digging: 1
Fire / Smoking: 1

Social Media Educational Outreach

Open Space Management was featured in an RPVtv segment in May 2023. Watch RPVtv's "Around the Peninsula Springtime Edition" to learn more about the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.



Park Rangers were featured in an RPVtv segment in June 2023. Watch RPVtv's "Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly" to learn more about the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.



ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:

Parking Citations Issued: 370

By Violation:

Park by Permit – 338
Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 27
ADA Zone – 6
After Hours – 0
Other- 0

By Location:

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) –250
Del Cerro Park –86
Abalone Cove Reserve – 25
Forrestal Reserve – 5
Other – 4

Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 3

Court Dates: 2

By Violation:

Dogs off Leash – 2
Special Event Permit - 1

By Location:

Ocean Trails Reserve – 1
Portuguese Bend Reserve – 1
Marilyn Ryan Sunset Park - 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, Filiorum 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	818	134	6	0
Dogs	29	11	4	0
Bicyclist	4	3	1	0

On April 5, Park Rangers contacted and warned two individuals parking on the red, whom were seen carrying camera like equipment. The individuals had told volunteers they were filming in the area, and claimed to have a film permit. Upon contact by Rangers, the individuals failed to provide a permit, and were provided information regarding the City's permit policy for commercial filming and photography, as well as alternative parking locations. The vehicle was cited for parking in the red and the group was educated as they had not yet begun filming.

On April 5, Park Rangers received a report regarding an individual with orange chaps using a chainsaw on the beach. Park Rangers made contact with the individual and confirmed that they were attempting to cut a washed up piece of wood to modify it into a bench for the public. Rangers informed the individual about the use of power tools.

On April 9, Staff contacted a group of individuals that had taken trimmings from *Artemesia californica* from within the restoration area in the Reserve. The individuals returned the trimmings to Staff. Earlier that day, Staff had observed several trimmings of *Encelia californica* and non-native *Brassica nigra* on top of one of the trash cans by the beach. The public is encouraged to practice the "leave no trace and take only pictures" approach.



On April 5 and 6, Staff continued to trim and cut back overgrowth caused by recent rains to improve visibility of existing trails. This will help the public to stay on trails as well as to keep an eye out for potential hazards such as ticks or rattlesnakes this spring!



On April 8, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's Volunteer Trail Crew conducted additional work to continue to stabilize Cliffside Trail after recent landslides in January and in March.



On April 12, Staff cleared the perimeter of the picnic areas from tall grasses. This helps Staff and visitors keep an eye out for potential critters such as snakes!



On April 19, Staff observed a deceased rattlesnake on Olmsted Trail. Rattlesnakes are one of many species of animals you may encounter while hiking. They can be found inland and along coastal locations! Rattlesnakes are venomous; and they will defend themselves if they feel threatened. Always stay on trail (including your dog, as they too can get bit by a rattlesnake) and create distance or turn around if you do not feel safe.

On May 1, Staff received various reports of a red fox wandering the trails. As with all wildlife, use caution, and keep a safe distance. Never feed wildlife, and make sure all pets stay on the trail.

On May 1, Staff continued to weed and clear overgrowth seen on the Sea Dahlia Trail and Beach School Trail.



On May 5, a call was made to Park Rangers reporting a deceased dolphin washed ashore this week. Staff contacted several partner agencies to remove it, with little success due to logistical issues.

On May 13, Staff was notified of a vehicle break-in at the Abalone Cove parking lot. The party filed a report with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

On May 17, Staff was observed evidence of a vehicle break-in at the Abalone Cove parking lot. The party had already filed a report with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Vehicle break-ins occurred at the Abalone Cove parking lot on May 20, and 21. Los Angeles County Sheriff Department Deputies were notified and assisted those on scene.

A vehicle break-in occurred at the Abalone Cove parking lot on May 27. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies were notified, however, the reporting party refused additional assistance.

On May 27, Staff was notified of a patron with a possible broken ankle on Olmsted Trail. Los Angeles County Fire Department provided medical assistance.

On May 27, Staff reported 2 patrons in the Beach School Trail who had previous injuries or conditions that had hiked down to the beach but were unable to hike back up to their vehicles and were requesting assistance. Park Rangers were able to transport the individuals.

On May 27, staff was notified of a vehicle break-in at the Abalone Cove parking lot. The party did not want to file a report with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

On May 31, Public Works and Recreation and Parks Staff worked collaboratively to install a new commemorative bench near Via de Campo Trail.

Staff continued to clear back overgrowth along the trails, as shown in the before and after photos of the Via de Campo Trail shown below.



On June 7, Staff continued to clear overgrowth along park trails.



On June 15, Staff reported a stranded / injured pinniped at Abalone Cove closer to Olmsted Trail. The Marine Animal Rescue had been contacted and staff continued to monitor the pinniped and educate the public about safe distance. It is unknown what time the pinniped was able to return back to the ocean without the assistance of rescuers.

On June 16, Staff conducted litter abatement and took pictures of damage caused to vegetation from a vehicle collision. It is unknown when the vehicle collision occurred. Vehicle debris had remained from the crash, including the side view mirror and glass.

On June 17, Park Rangers conducted a transport of an individual suffering from heat exhaustion. The hiker was seen sitting in the middle of the trail upon initial contact.

On June 18, Staff removed two instances of graffiti along the rock walls, pictured below. Both are located at the bottom of Abalone Cove Trail.

On June 19, Staff replaced trash cans at various locations as many of these trash cans sustained damage over the last year as a result of vehicle crashes, or strong wind events.

On June 23, the Beach School Trail was temporarily closed for road repairs. The Department of Public Works led the project, while Recreation and Parks assisted with signage and trail closures. Abalone Cove Trail and Chapel View Trail were also temporarily closed while the work took place.



On June 25, Staff was notified by a member of the public of a distressed pinniped that was on Abalone Cove Beach. Several agencies were called by Staff to assist. Signage was placed to advise the public to keep their distance.



On June 25, Park Rangers were notified by Los Angeles County Fire Department of a rescue that took place at the gorge. A transient had fallen into the Gorge and had sustained minor injuries before being pulled from the water.

Aqua Amarga Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	9	1	0	0
Dog	1	1	0	0

Bicyclist	4	3	0	0
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On June 13, Park Rangers were notified of human bones found within the Reserve. Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputies had also been called and conducted an investigation. No trails were closed as this was located off trail.

On June 28, Park Rangers found a metal animal trap with a deceased ground squirrel appeared to have been trapped inside.

Alta Vicente Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	57	23	0	0
Dog	5	2	1	0

On April 18, Park Rangers secured one dog off leash, a pitbull, who had been seen following a hiker along the upper portion of the trail. After 15 minutes of searching, the owner was located. Per the owner, both dogs were in the large dog enclosure, when they jumped over the chain link fence. Both dogs ran in opposite directions, and the owner was not able to find them. One of the dogs had run towards the South Spur Trail before being captured by his owner.

On May 3, Park Rangers received a report from the dog owner that his dogs had gotten loose in the area of Upper Point Vicente Park. The dogs, described as pit bull mixes, dark brown or black, 2 with collars but no leashes. It was later confirmed that the individual had been attempting to train his dogs on how to respond to verbal cues and had been intentionally hiking off trail in / near Prickly Pear Trail. After a 2 hour search, the dogs were not located. 8 hours after the initial report was received, Park Rangers received a call regarding 2 found dogs, and requested to pick up the dogs. The dog owner could not be located or contacted, and the dogs were taken to Los Angeles County Animal Control.

On June 14, Staff was received a report of an encampment in the City Yard, located by the trails in the Alta Vicente Reserve. Staff conducted a foot patrol of several areas but were unable to identify any encampments or evidence of such activity.

On June 20, Staff temporarily closed Prickly Pear Trail while Los Angeles County Fire Department conducted a helicopter exercise at Ken Dyda Civic Center. The trail was temporarily closed between 10am to 1pm, and reopened after.

Filiorum Reserve

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	14,417	36	26	0	0
Dog	NA	4	1	0	0
Biker	1,004	2	0	0	0
Equestrian	0	0	0	0	0

On March 29, Rangers found an uprooted Eucalyptus Tree near Gary's Gulch Trail. The tree was not on the trail, and the trail remained passable. OSM Staff trimmed the feet of the branches to clear visibility of the trail as it turned 90 degrees and begins to ascend upwards towards Eucalyptus Trail.



Before (left) and after (right) clearing the debris off the bottom section of Gary's Gulch Trail



Before (left) and after (right), cutting back some Eucalyptus Tree branches near Gary's Gulch Trail.

On April 8, Park Rangers were contacted by Los Angeles County Fire Department regarding assistance for a rescue. The hiker was believed to be at Zote's Cutacross. Park Rangers provided information related to trails, conditions, and vehicle access. It was determined the individual would need to be airlifted to be transported to a hospital.

On April 23, Park Rangers assisted Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel in responding to a report of a hiker with a broken leg at Kelvin Canyon Trail. The individual was located and escorted out by paramedics.

On May 2, Staff was notified of graffiti on a stone pilaster near Crenshaw Blvd. The City reported the incident to RPVClean for removal.



On May 22, Park Rangers investigated several reports of snail bait used on McBride Trail. The findings were reported to the City's Code Enforcement Division for further action.

On May 25, Park Rangers received a call for a possible injured lost hiker within Filiorum Reserve, as the hiker hikes within 2 hour period, and it had already been 9 hours past their expected arrival time. Park Rangers had begun a search of the area to look for the individual, and was updated within 90 minutes by the initial caller that the individual had returned home safely.

On June 15, Park Rangers confiscated a small plastic cage and litter near Eucalyptus Trail. Volunteers had sighted the cage several days prior. No additional information was provided.

Forrestal Reserve

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	24,914	720	34	6	0
Dog	NA	102	12	6	0
Biker	273	44	9	1	0

On April 18, Rangers received a report of a water leak on Forrestal Drive. Park Rangers were able to confirm the location, and notified Cal Water Services of the issue. Staff at Cal Water indicated that this is likely anormal process intended to purge the air in the valve, but will make a follow-up inspection.



On April 22, Park Rangers contacted 3 young hikers seen off-trail along Forrestal Drive. The hikers were warned for being in a closed area, and were seen holding a shovel and 2 pickaxes. The group was educated about the rules within the Nature Preserve.

On May 1, Park Rangers were notified of a call made to Los Angeles County Fire Department and paramedic. A participant with the docent-led tour was feeling unwell, and requested medical assistance as they began to have trouble breathing. The individual was able to walk back to Forrestal Drive.

On May 20, Park Rangers were informed of a water main break in Forrestal Reserve near Klondike Canyon. Cal Water was contacted and was able to repair the pipe.



On May 30-June 2, Purple Sage Trail and Conqueror Trail were temporarily closed to allow contractors to perform repairs caused by the May 20 water main break.

On June 23, Park Rangers received a report from hikers who heard snoring on Mariposa Trail. Park Rangers conducted a foot patrol to ensure no individuals or encampment was within the described location. No evidence was found of an encampment or of snoring taking place.

Ocean Trails Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	495	21	1	0
Dog	23	7	4	1
Biker	0	0	0	0

Sunrise Trail was temporarily closed effective April 10. An irrigation leak caused a mudslide that impacted the top section of the trail. Trump National Golf Course Staff has been notified and repairs are anticipated to be completed by the end of the week.



On May 14, Park Rangers were notified by Trump National Golf Club security personnel about public reports of a turtle on the trails. Park Rangers conducted a foot patrol o the area but were unable to locate the turtle.

Portuguese Bend Reserve

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	43,115	4,245	520	15	0
Dog	NA	363	67	16	1
Biker	2,113	243	27	12	0
Equestrian	21	69	15	0	0

On March 29, Rangers were notified of additional water damage to an unnamed trail connecting the lower section of Peppertree Trail (near Sandbox Trail) to the lower section of Ishibashi Farm Tral (near Cherryhill Lane). The section included a gap of approximately 3 feet deep and 3 feet wide. As a result, this trail will be temporarily closed, with repairs made in conjunction with those on Peppertree Trail.



On April 10, Rangers began repairing eroded sections of existing check dams on Barn Owl Trail. The public is advised to use caution until repairs are complete.



On April 19, Park Rangers received a report of a snake on the trail that appeared to be lethargic and non-responsive. The snake was believed to have neurological damage as it

was slow-moving. After monitoring for several minutes, the snake was brought to Los Angeles County Animal Control for further medical assessment.

On April 23, Park Rangers were notified of an injured hiker. Los Angeles County Fire Department was already on scene. The injured hiker was believed to be on Kelvin Canyon Trail. Rangers assisted with escorting ambulance down Burma Road Trail to the closest location to provide medical assistance to the individual.

On April 24, Staff were notified of a water leak on Vanderlip Trail. Park Rangers confirmed there was a water main break and notified Cal Water Services to perform repairs. Vanderlip Trail and Kubota Trail were temporarily closed until repairs can be made. Closure signage has been placed at all respective trailheads. The southern section of Vanderlip Trail and Kubota trail was reopened on May 13, after repairs were made by Trail Crew members.



On April 29, Park Rangers contacted a wedding party attempting to take pictures with professional equipment on Burma Road Trail. The group was informed of the Nature Preserve status and rules, and provided alternative scenic locations within in the City that complies with the City's film permit.

Staff continued to trim back and prune overgrowth areas, primarily focused on removing mustard and other non-natives to allow the public to continue enjoying the views while providing access through trails.



On May 5, a water leak was reported at the junction of Rim Trail and Burma Road Trail. The leak was reported to Cal Water Services and repaired by the end of day. No trail closures took place.



On May 11, Park Rangers spotted a group of 5-6 mini dirt bike riders about to enter Portuguese Bend Reserve from Klondike Canyon Trail. The Park Ranger was not able to make verbal contact to educate / warn the group of use of motorized vehicles, however, the group turned around and proceeded back to Palos Verdes Drive South.

On May 15, Park Rangers were notified of an abandoned backpack found on Burma Road Trail between Eagle's Nest Trail and Ishibashi Trail. Park Rangers proceeded to search for the backpack but were unable to find it.

On May 20, Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel and Park Rangers became aware of an individual in need of assistance in the Portuguese Bend Reserve. The individual was located and brought to a local hospital.

Park Rangers continue to fill in fissures and repairs to Burma Road Trail. The public is advised to use caution and stay on the trail as there is active land movement.



On May 29, Park Rangers received a report from a resident who lost his dog, a yellow Labrador. Park Rangers requested additional information and provided a call back number. The individual was later reunited with its dog.

On June 1, Park Rangers received a report of an injured cat on Burma Road Trail. It is unknown how the cat received its injuries or how it made its way to the trail. Park Rangers contacted Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, who captured the cat for further medical assessment.

Beginning June 8, Park Rangers coordinated and directed brush clearance of trails in the Portuguese Bend Reserve by landscaping crews. Trails prioritized for clearing included trails historically used as fire roads for vehicular access by public safety agencies and higher-use trails. Due to the proliferation of non-native vegetation caused by winter storms, trail clearing will continue into the Fall. A total of 4.51 miles of trails were cleared on the following trails:

- Burma Road Trail
- Ishibashi Farm Trail
- Panorama Trail
- Klondike Canyon Trail
- Peppertree Trail
- Vanderlip Trail (partial)
- Kelvin Canyon Trail (partial)
- Gary's Gulch Trail (partial)

OSM staff continued to clear debris and inspect overgrowth along the trails.

On June 14, Park Rangers were notified by several hikers of water seen on Vanderlip Trail. A water main break had occurred, prompting the temporary closure of the Northern section of Vanderlip Trail and Kubota Trail due to damage on the trail. The Southern section of Vanderlip Trail had already been closed since the last water main break the month prior.

On June 16, Park Rangers received a report from 2 exhausted hikers having difficulty breathing on Burma Road Trail. The individuals refused medical treatment, but had been carrying a 36 pound backpack and requested assistance. It was later relayed that both individuals were with the Armed Forces and were training for basic training. One individual had not eaten earlier in the day.

On June 28, Park Rangers identified a water leak on Cal Water Services infrastructure on Burma Road Trail and Rim Trail junction. A report was made to Cal Water Services.

On June 30, Park Rangers were notified from a hiker who recommended that bicyclists should notify hikers when they are coming down the trail. The hiker reported a recent incident of a collision between a cyclist and hiker that occurred last week on Burma Road Trail when a speeding cyclist turned the corner and did not stop. The reporting party, the hiker, showed several cuts and bruises sustained from the collision.

San Ramon Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	2	0	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

Three Sisters Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	1	7	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	2	0	0	0

No issues observed during this reporting period.

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	195	24	7	0
Dog	30	20	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

On March 30, OSM Staff located a turtle crossing Calle Entradero. It is unknown whether the turtle escaped from a nearby property or was abandoned. The turtle was turned into a nearby shelter for care.

On April 28, Park Rangers patrolled the reserve to follow up on a report of homeless activity. No evidence of homeless activity was found.

On April 28, Park Rangers received a report of a broken sprinkler. Public Works Department was notified and confirmed that an individual was on scene already.

On May 18, Park Rangers were notified of individuals suspected of digging up rocks near the Pelican Cove parking lot area. There have been two instances of late-night activity seen by the reporting party.

Vista del Norte Reserve

No contacts made or issues observed during this reporting period.

City Parks and Beaches

Rangers educated patrons in City Parks and beaches regarding the City's Municipal Code, including homeless individuals locked in restrooms, amplified music, dogs off leash, photography without a permit, and after hours use.