

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 5, 2024

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: 4th Quarter Rancho Palos Verdes Preserve Enforcement Report

PRESERVE VISITOR CONTACTS SUMMARY

October 1 – December 31, 2023

4 Full-time Park Rangers patrolled the Preserve approximately 1,600 hours during this period.

3 Part-time Parking Enforcement assisted with education and enforcement of Park Mobile Reservation System at Crenshaw Boulevard and the Residential Recreational Parking Program on Park Place.

Agency Coordination, Trainings, and Interpretive Events:

2 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 Watch Coordination Meetings: The City's OSM Staff holds monthly meetings with the Volunteer Trail Watch for coordination on public use and public education topics.

2 Monthly City-PVPLC Volunteer Trail Crew Coordination Meetings: The City's OSM Staff holds monthly meetings with Volunteer Trail Crew for coordination on trail maintenance projects.

Cityworks Implementation Meetings: Open Space Management began tracking maintenance related work via Cityworks to capture labor, equipment, and materials cost, as well as assess priority levels for work in the Preserve in August 2023. Management Staff continued to meet with representatives biweekly to continue to provide feedback on operations.

Rattlesnake Safety (October 18) Open Space Management participated in a rattlesnake safety presentation hosted by Central Coast Snake Services to learn about snake identification and dispelling myths about rattlesnakes.

Los Angeles County-Wide Trails Task Force Quarterly Meeting (December 7): The City is a member of the Los Angeles County-wide Trails Task Force. Main topics of the meeting included discussion on fuel modification, stabilizing landscapes and hillsides, project grants, and trail maintenance projects. The meeting also featured a roundtable discussion from various agencies and organizations in attendance, during which representatives from Open Space Management reported on 2023 events and projects, such as the completion of multiple Eagle Scout projects and the acquisition of the Wildlife Corridor.

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 (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 2 – 10: Fuel Modification Resumed: Work previously postponed in Spring 2023 season due to active bird nesting activity resumed.

November 13 – 17: Removal of non-native trees in Alta Vicente Reserve: PVPLC began removal of non-native Acacia trees within this Reserve near Nike Trail, Prickly Pear Trail, and Alta Vicente Trail.

November 20-December 8: Removal of Non-Native Trees in Filiorum Reserve: PVPLC began removal of non-native Acacia trees within this Reserve near Pony Trail between Ford Trail and Jack's Hat Trail. The work was later postponed by the City's Geologist given proximity to land movement.

December 1-2: Temporary Trail Closure of Olmsted Trail due to land movement remediation work.

December 1: Lower Segment of Vanderlip Trail between Water Tank Trail to Gary's Gulch Trail reopened.

December 12- Present: Temporary Trail Closure of Beach School Trail due to land movement remediation work.

December 15: Terranea Resort performed rock scaling measures to inspect and safely remove any hazards along the cliffs in the area through December 15. Terranea Beach Cove and the Shoreline Access Trail from Cielo Pool down to the beach cove were temporarily closed during this time.

December 20-25: Preserve closed due to significant rain.

December 30-January 2: Preserve 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.

By Activity:

	No. of Projects
Vegetation Trimming	45
Installing Signs	17
Graffiti & Vandalism	36
General Maintenance	111
Total	209

By Location:

	No. of Projects
Abalone Cove Park / Reserve	83
Agua Amarga Reserve	2
Alta Vicente Reserve	13
Filiorum Reserve	29
Forrestal Reserve	22
Lay Reserve	2
Portuguese Bend Reserve	35
Ocean Trails Reserve	6
San Ramon Reserve	6
Three Sisters Reserve	3
Vicente Bluffs Reserve	7
Other: Marilyn Ryan Sunset Park	1

Additionally, effective August 30, the Open Space Management has begun implementation of City Works to track all maintenance work performed within the Preserve more effectively and to capture expenses, including labor and equipment.

OVERALL VISITOR CONTACTS:

Total Contacts: 2,142

Hikers: 1,818

Dog Walkers: 172

Cyclists: 136

Equestrians: 16

Warnings: 107
Education: 478

Calls for Assistance: 6 Transports

Heat exhaustion & heat stress: 0
Pet: 1
Other (i.e. underlying condition, sprained ankle): 5

Preserve Information and Reporting Hotline Calls: 40

Trail Status and General Information: 9
Gate Unlocked / Condition: 8
Parking Inquiry / Violation: 6
Lost and Found: 4
Maintenance Issue Reported: 3
Aggressive Dogs / Dogs off Leash: 2
Homeless: 2
Closed Area: 1
Poaching / Digging: 1
Cutting: 1
Dumping: 1
Camping: 1
Wildlife Issues: 1

ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY:

Parking Citations Issued: 142

By Violation:

Park by Permit – 116
Posted Temporary No Parking / Fire Lane – 24
ADA Zone – 2
After Hours – 0
Other- 0

By Location:

Crenshaw Boulevard (Portuguese Bend / Filiorum adjacent) - 40
Del Cerro Park – 78
Abalone Cove Reserve – 11
Forrestal Reserve – 12
Other – 1

Notice to Appear Citations Issued: 7*

By Violation:

Closed Area – 7

Dog Off Leash – 1

*One individual cited for several violations.

By Location:

Vicente Bluffs Reserve – 6

Abalone Cove Park / 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, 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:

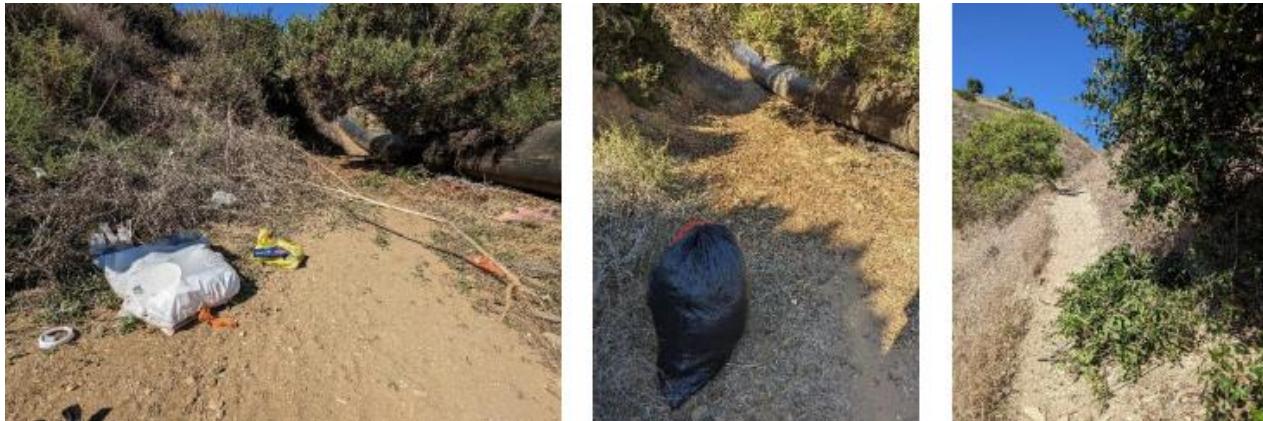
	Public Contact	Education	Warning	Enforcement
Hikers	489	84	14	1
Dogs	14	3	1	0
Bicyclist	2	2	0	0

On October 1, Staff filled in and repaired a fissure on Chapel View Trail.



On October 3, Staff continued to clear out Russian thistle (also known as tumbleweed) growing along Cliffside Trail.

On October 8, Staff conducted litter abatement and filled up a 50-gallon bag with items found along the temporarily closed section of Sacred Cove View Trail. The items were hauled out and disposed of.



On October 12, Staff removed graffiti from the backside of an informative sign on Abalone Cove Trail and from a cable housing unit on Sea Dahlia Trail. Additionally, one unauthorized decal on a traffic regulatory sign near Palos Verdes Drive South was removed.

On October 13, Smuggler's Trail was temporarily closed due to a fissure. The fissure was filled with rocks and dirt, and the trail reopened the following day. The City's geologist was notified.



On October 14, Park Rangers retrieved and discarded the remains of a piano found on Olmsted Trail.



On October 15, Staff covered up a spur trail near Olmsted Trail with vegetation to deter unauthorized use. Visitors are reminded to stay on designated trails to minimize impacts to native vegetation and wildlife.

On October 16, Staff removed graffiti on a regulatory sign on Inspiration Point Trail.

On October 17, Staff added a vegetation barrier to temporarily close access to Cave Trail. The trail is temporarily closed, and public access is not permitted.

On October 18, Park Rangers were notified of a break-in at the Abalone Cove facility resulting in damage to the window and alarm panel. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was notified and took a police report.

On October 19, Staff removed graffiti and a decal from a yellow advisory sign on the California Coastal Trail segment along Palos Verdes Drive South. That same day, Staff covered up carvings made on several trees. These carvings can make the tree prone to sickness. Staff also removed graffiti from the bridge located at the upper section of Abalone Cove Trail.

On October 23, Staff trimmed back lemonade berry bushes near Olmsted Trail to improve the line of sight towards the ocean for Los Angeles County Lifeguards.



That same day, Staff used lemonade berry bush trimmings from Olmsted Trail to cover up an unauthorized trail near Portuguese Point Loop Trail. Vegetation is used to create a natural barrier to deter and minimize habitat damage.

On October 24, Staff repaired a picnic bench located near Abalone Cove Trail.

On October 24, Staff coordinated with a Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy at the Parking Lot. The Deputy was monitoring a stolen vehicle, which was later found in Palos Verdes Estates.

On October 28, Staff repaired a fissure on Olmsted Trail. Both pictures below were taken after repairs were completed.



On October 28, Staff repaired a fissure on Smuggler's Trail.



On October 28, Staff removed two instances of graffiti from the ruins at Olmsted Trail.

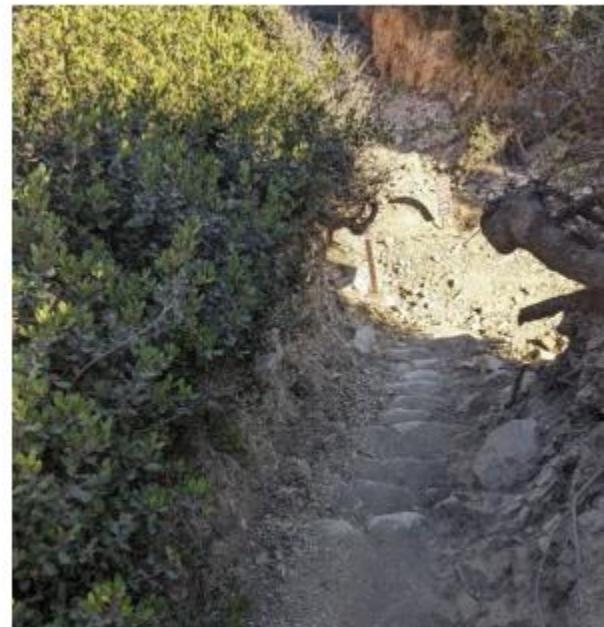




On October 28, Staff repaired a fissure on the bottom of Abalone Cove Trail.



On October 30, Staff trimmed overgrowth of lemonade berry bush along Beach School Trail.



On October 31, Staff performed work on Cliffside Trail to clean up slough material that had fallen on the trail.



On November 1, Staff replaced the lid of a trash can. The lid was broken, resulting in increased litter around the trash can and attracted animals.



On November 5, Staff removed graffiti on remnants of an old utility infrastructure near Beach School Trail.

On November 5, Staff trimmed back overgrowth of lemonade berry bush on Sacred Cove View Trail.



On November 12, Staff performed repairs on two fissures on Smuggler's Trail.



On November 12, Staff performed repairs on the bottom and upper sections of Olmsted Trail.



On November 13, Staff found and discarded an abandoned car bumper from an unknown vehicle in the parking lot.

On November 14, Staff removed thorny acacia, a non-native plant, seen growing along several areas within the park.

On November 18, Staff worked on the beach path near Olmsted Trail to repair damage caused by erosion and high tides.



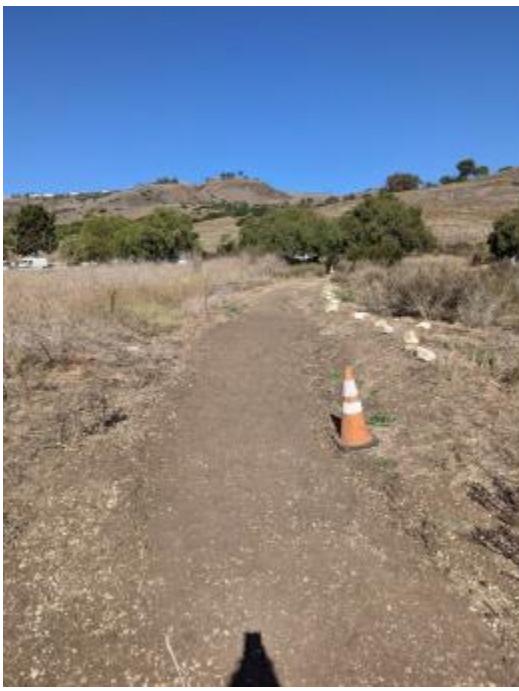
On November 18, Staff removed graffiti from the backside of a sign on Beach School Trail.



On November 18, Staff continued to perform repairs on the bottom section of Olmsted Trail to soften the incline from the beach.



On November 19, Staff repaired the tread on one of the parkside trails caused by rutting during significant rain.



On November 26, Staff performed inspections and repaired a fissure on the upper segment of Olmsted Trail.



On November 26, Staff removed Russian thistle, also known as tumbleweed from Sacred Cove Trail. The plant is both a non-native and invasive plant that grows in highly disturbed areas.



On November 26, Staff performed inspections and repaired a fissure at the bottom of Bow and Arrow Trail and Sacred Cove View Trail.



On November 27, Staff removed a pile of debris, including a pallet, multiple plants with nails, and other wooden boards at Abalone Cove Beach.



On December 7, Staff cleared out a block culvert underneath the bridge on Abalone Cove Trail.

On December 10, Staff hosted a booth at Abalone Cove beach during low tide to educate the public about the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and give out some OSM swag. Staff addressed several MPA violations in the area, including educating an individual who was repeatedly lifting an octopus out of the water and dropping it. The public was very receptive and thanked Staff for their presence, which provided protection for the beautiful and vibrant tidepools.

On December 11, Staff trimmed back overgrown lemonade berry bushes on Abalone Cove Trail. Trimmings were used to cover up an unauthorized trail.





On December 12, a section of Beach School Trail between Chapel View Trail to Abalone Cove Trail was temporarily closed to allow crews to access and perform land movement related work in the adjacent habitat. The trail is anticipated to remain closed through December 23.

On December 12, Staff removed graffiti from the stone overlook area near the 30- minute parking lot.

Aqua Amarga Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	3	0	0	0
Dog	2	0	0	0
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0

On October 10, Staff cleared out trimmings along Lunada Canyon Trail.

Alta Vicente Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	6	2	4	0
Dog	3	3	2	0

On November 3, Staff removed Russian thistle / tumbleweed along a 400-foot section of Prickly Pear Trail. The plant is both non-native and invasive and caused the trail to narrow.



On November 8, Staff removed several items including plastic lawn chairs and a discarded car battery near Prickly Pear Trail.

On November 10, Staff trimmed back overgrowth of lemonade berry bush on Alta Vicente Trail. Some of the trimmings were used to deter use of a developed spur trail, thereby encouraging users to stay on designated trails.



On December 7, Staff conducted litter abatement along Prickly Pear Trail and replanted cacti that had been pulled out of the ground.



On December 18, Staff repaired a bent u-post at North Spur Trailhead.



On December 18, Staff trimmed an overgrown sunflower bush on Prickly Pear Trail.



Filiorum Reserve

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	9,531	20	12	0	0
Dog	NA	4	0	0	0
Biker	791	0	0	0	0
Equestrian	NA	0	0	0	0

On October 6, Staff continued to trim sections of Rattlesnake Trail with overgrowth.

On October 12, Staff was notified of a fissure on Pony Trail, with an estimated 2-foot drop. The City's geologist was notified.

On November 6, Staff trimmed back low hanging branches on Zote's Cutacross Trail.





On November 8, Staff removed one instance of graffiti on Ford Trail.



On November 9, Staff trimmed back overgrowth of lemonade berry bush on Jack's Hat Trail.



On November 14, Staff removed graffiti on the stone bench on Ford Trail.



Throughout this reporting period, Staff performed inspections and repaired a fissure on Ford Trail.



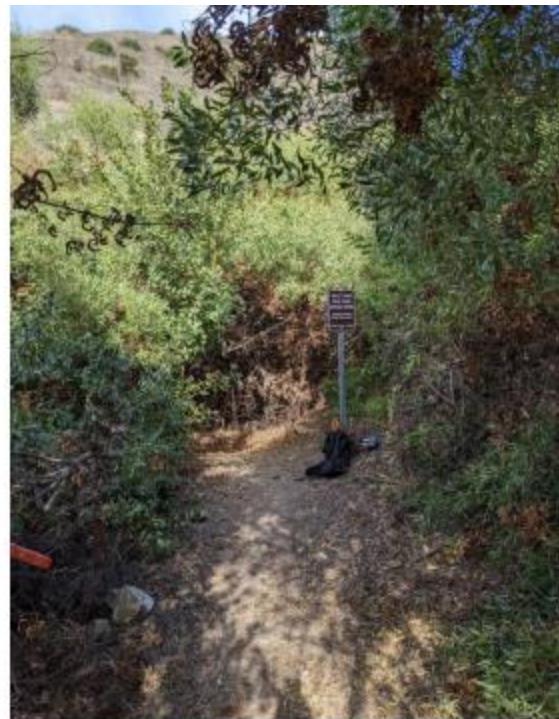
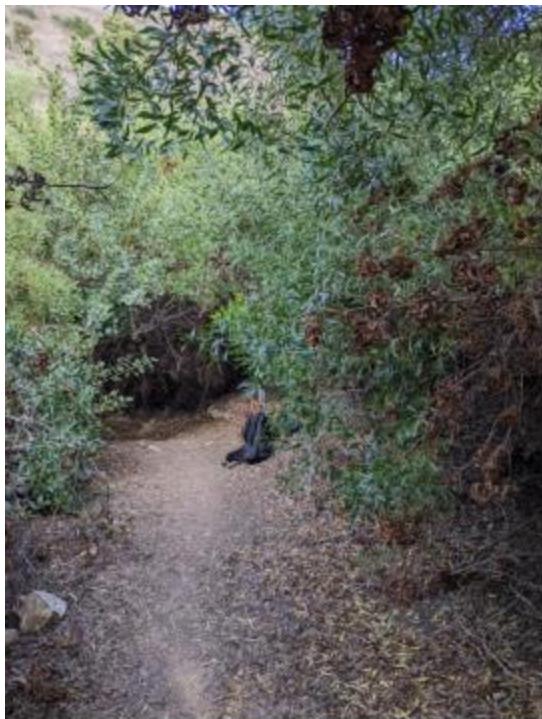
Throughout this reporting period, Staff inspected and repaired a fissure on Gary's Gulch Trail.



On November 24, Staff cleared out Russian thistle which was narrowing Zote's Cutacross Trail.



On November 29, Staff trimmed back vegetation to improve visibility of a "Walk Your Bike" sign on Zote's Cutacross Trail. Staff also removed overgrowth along Kelvin Canyon Trail.



On December 2, Staff removed two instances of graffiti on a "Walk Your Bike Zone" sign on Kelvin Canyon.



On December 4, Staff trimmed back overgrown vegetation on Eucalyptus Trail.



Forrestal Reserve

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	13,635	93	18	0	0
Dog	NA	28	3	0	0
Biker	199	7	0	0	0

On October 1, a large tortoise located at the Mainsail Drive cul-de-sac was reported to Staff. Contact information for its owner was found written on the tortoise's back, the owners were contacted, and the tortoise was reunited and brought home. The tortoise had inadvertently escaped from its home in Rolling Hills two months earlier.

Staff continued to work with contractors to remove several large tree stumps located on Mariposa Trail. Park Rangers received a report of improper disposal of cut sections of pine tree on Mariposa Trail. The trail was temporarily closed while Staff investigated. There are at least five cut sections on the trail. Due to their size and weight, Park Rangers are unable to remove these from the trails. However, they were moved to the side to ensure the trail remained passable. Staff will work with contractors to remove and properly dispose of the tree sections.



PVPLC volunteers removed old segments of chain link fencing embedded within the habitat near Purple Sage Trail. Staff assisted with disposal.



On October 18, Staff conducted litter abatement on Intrepid Trail and moved a trash can that had been moved back to the back of a nearby portable restroom.

On November 9, Staff removed several instances of graffiti on regulatory and directional signage on Quarry Trail and Basalt Trail.

On November 13, Staff dug out a protruding t-post with cement base from the trail and disposed of it.



On November 29, Staff repaired a fissure on Flying Mane Trail.



On December 2, Staff repaired sections of Mariposa Trail.



On December 6, Staff trimmed overgrown sections of Mariposa Trail.

On December 10, Park Rangers repaired the tread of Klondike Canyon Trail for improved vehicle access.



Ocean Trails Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	90	20	0	0
Dog	9	1	1	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

On November 2, Staff retrieved six lobster traps that washed ashore and several wooden posts that were discarded on Rancho Palos Verdes Beach.



On November 9 and 19, Staff received multiple calls regarding the unauthorized removal of closure signage at Catalina Trail. Park Rangers escorted several individuals off the temporarily closed area and reinforced the signage. Additionally, Trump National Golf Club personnel were notified to reinforce the fencing material. For the most up to date information on trail closures, visit rpvca.gov/trailalerts or contact the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve Hotline 310-491-5775.



On November 15, Staff removed a blanket, a large pallet, a damaged A-frame, and other miscellaneous items found on East Portal Trail.



Portuguese Bend Reserve

	Trail Counter	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	26,301	1,043	243	57	0
Dog	NA	104	28	9	0
Biker	1,369	127	53	19	0
Equestrian	0	16	3	0	0

Park Rangers trimmed back brush at six locations in Portuguese Bend Reserve to allow survey markers to be accessible to surveying crews. Due to heavy rain throughout the year, survey markers needed to be cleared of brush for land surveyors.

Park Rangers performed maintenance on a section of Landslide Scarp Trail to compact and level part of the trail tread.



On October 9, Park Rangers assisted PVPLC Trail Crew repair the tread on Burma Road Trail at the Rim Trail junction.



Park Rangers continue to monitor land movement and impacts on Preserve trails. Ishibashi Trail has shown additional signs of movement and was repaired by the PVPLC Trail Crew.



Based on recommendations by the City's geologist, several trails in the Portuguese Bend Reserve have been temporarily closed due to the potential for hazardous natural conditions associated with increased land movement observed in the greater Portuguese Bend landslide area. A map and list of the trail closures can be viewed at <https://www.rpvca.gov/1007/Trail-Conditions-Alerts>

On October 26, Park Rangers installed temporary fencing at Klondike Canyon Trail for the temporary closure.



On October 31, Park Rangers installed temporary fencing at Ishibashi Trail for the temporary closure.



On November 10, additional trail closures in the Portuguese Bend Reserve included portions of Peppertree Trail and Ishibashi Farm Trail. These trails were closed until further notice for public safety due to the potential for hazardous natural conditions associated with the active landslide, such as land movement, sink holes, unstable trails and surfaces, erosion, steep cliffs, and falling rocks.



On November 11, the PVPLC Trail Crew and Staff performed repairs on the lower section of Vanderlip Trail. The trail had been previously damaged with rutting up to 5 feet deep caused by several water main breaks in the area. The trail was reopened on December 1, after geologist review. This segment allows connectivity between Portuguese Bend Reserve and Filiorum Reserve.

Cal Water installed several signs to advise the public who to contact in the event a water leak is observed in the Portuguese Bend Reserve.



On November 27, Staff and PVPLC Volunteer Trail Crew inspected and repaired a fissure on Peppertree Trail.



San Ramon Reserve

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

On November 1, Staff removed several instances of graffiti on the Reserve Monument sign and traffic regulatory signs.

Three Sisters Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	6	2	0	0
Dog	0	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

No issues observed during this reporting period.

Vicente Bluffs Reserve

	Public Contacts	Education	Warnings	Enforcement
Hikers	68	1	0	6
Dog	8	0	0	0
Biker	0	0	0	0

Throughout this reporting period, Park Rangers continued to monitor the temporary barricades near Golden Cove area.

On November 9, Park Rangers received a report of damage to the wooden fencing at Seascapes Trail. The fence had wood rot and had collapsed. Caution tape was placed to caution the public and a work order was submitted for Public Works Department to repair the posts.



On November 18, Park Rangers were notified by Los Angeles County Sheriff Department of a paraglider and in a closed area near Golden Cove parking lot.

Vista del Norte Reserve

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

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 special events without a permit, improper disposal of vegetation trimmings, trespassing on construction zones, capture and release of snake in park facility, camping on the beach, dogs off leash, after hours use of lights near the Preserve, and found chainsaw on public trails (later returned to owner).