

PVPLC/City Preserve Management Team Meeting Minutes

9:30 a.m. Thursday, September 4, 2014, Community Room

In Attendance: Acting City Manager Carolynn Petru, Recreation and Parks Department Director Cory Linder, Community Development Deputy Director Ara Mihranian, Acting Maintenance Superintendent Andy Winje, Administrative Analyst Katie Lozano, MRCA Supervising Ranger Jewel Johnson, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Deputy Tammy Bouse, PVPLC Executive Director Andrea Vona, PVPLC Conservation Director Danielle Lefer

Preserve Maintenance

- Review of Active Habitat/Trail Projects (PVPLC/PW/RP/CD)
 - San Ramon Reserve trail connector to Friendship Park (PW)-Trail enhancements are under review.
 - Vista Del Norte/Crestridge Project Trail Connection (CD)-This trail is under construction.
- Review City Preserve Maintenance Logs (RP/PW)-Team reviewed logs (attached). PVPLC will look into potential maintenance needs in Forrestal Reserve at Cool Heights near Pirate Trail and at Flying Main Trail (mostly ropes and cable). Acting Maintenance Superintendent Winje clarified that the City's contract with L.A. County Animal Control includes dead marine mammals, and their protocol is to bury them. PVPLC reported large amount of debris from an abandoned homeless encampment in Vista Del Norte Reserve (uncovered after fire). Public Work will clear debris. Public Works will evaluate level of service to porta-potties with increasing Preserve use.
- Review of Keeper Reports (PVPLC)-Management team decided to begin reviewing Keeper reports pertaining to spur trails in Portuguese Bend Reserve to help management team's concentrated efforts to reduce spur trails.
- Trail Crew Projects (PVPLC)-The Trail Crew has completed a training class at White Point Nature Preserve, and is working to obliterate spur trails off of Rim Trail. They are also providing recommendations on the Vista Del Norte trail connector, and they will begin work on Toyon Trail in the fall. In addition, PVPLC staff has done some maintenance work in Forrestal Reserve.
- Unauthorized/Spur Trail Closures (PVPLC)
 - Inventory/Master Plan for Spur Trails-Director Lefer will bring the current Preserve unauthorized trail map to the November meeting. Director Vona added that the majority of unauthorized trails in the Preserve are marked as closed.
 - East Sacred Cove Trail Closure-This closure is complete.
 - Rim Trail Closure of Duplicate Trails-PVPLC's Volunteer Trail Crew is working on obliterating these duplicate trails.
- Signage (Regulatory/Welcome/Trail Markers, etc.) (PVPLC/PW/RP)
 - Preserve Decal Replacement (PVPLC)-All decals have been placed. Complete.
 - Monument Signage, Entry Kiosks, and Welcome Signage (PVPLC/RP)- These are dependent on HCF Grant Funding. (see update below)
 - Hours of operation signs at Portuguese Bend Reserve gate (top of Burma) and Rattlesnake Trail (RP/PW)-Deputy Bouse requested that the RPV Municipal Code be added to signs. Management team approved signs, and Analyst Lozano will order them and Public Works will install. Preserve Rule signs will remain in their current locations.
- Preserve Gate Locks (PW)-Abalone Cove and Forrestal Gates continue to be a problem; PVPLC and City are being locked out. Public Works and R&P are looking into a better locking system.
- GIS Overlays: Archaeology Sites & Porta-potties (CD)-Director Rojas is working with GIS staff to complete this. Deputy Director Mihranian will check to see if dewatering wells have been mapped.
- Cell Tower on Palos Verdes Drive South near Narcissa Drive (RP)-Director Linder will follow-up with Public Works to confirm proposed site is not in the Preserve, and does not affect sewage pipes.
- Grant Contracts/Agreements (PVPLC)
 - Los Angeles County-PVPLC is ready to begin work. Part of the grant was used for connectivity to the new donor recognition site at Del Cerro Park. Other potential projects could include

- trail connectivity projects, closing the new spur trail system off of Vanderlip Trail, and creating a connector trail from Three Sisters Reserve to Upper Filiorum Reserve.
- o HCF Grant Contracts- Deputy Director Mihranian reported that the City Attorney is reviewing the grant, particularly for deed restrictions. Review is anticipated to be complete within the next two months.
- o Upcoming Grant Opportunities (ALL)-No discussion.

Preserve Operations

- Lomita Sheriff's Department involvement in Preserve presence (SD)-Deputy Bouse reported that Operation Surf and Saddle will resume in two weeks, and that L.A. County Sheriff staff will be available to assist with Abalone Cove Reserve needs in the interim. She also invited Director Linder to the October Volunteer Equestrian Posse meeting to talk with volunteers and discuss help and involvement in the Preserve.
- Review City Preserve Public Use Logs (RP/MRCA)-(logs attached) Analyst Lozano and Ranger Johnson reviewed incident logs for the past quarter. Activity continues to increase at Abalone Cove Reserve, and the City is researching parking costs and an ordinance prohibiting cliff jumping. The City has added extra staff and is looking at improving signage for no animals on the beach. Director Linder indicated that the Abalone Cove Task Force (consisting of L.A. County Fire, L.A. County Lifeguard, L.A. County Sheriff, MRCA, and the City) has formed to increase safety at the Reserve. L.A. County Sheriff staff will follow up on a homeless encampment in the bushes west of Tovemore Trail/Pelican Cove. Rangers will follow up on a homeless encampment near the bottom of Vista Del Norte Reserve. Analyst Lozano will follow up with Rolling Hills on a report of someone hitting golf balls from their private property into the Reserve. Mountain bike use is popular in an area of San Ramon Reserve with no designated trails, and no signage. The City will sign the area as closed. This area is directly adjacent to private property and an L.A. County-owned section of Friendship Park used by mountain bikers and off-road vehicles. MRCA has been in contact with L.A. County, and they've communicated that they are working to manage the issue. Management Team will agendize this issue for November meeting to create a plan to manage the area/issue.
- Review Ranger Reports (RP/MRCA)-(quarterly report attached) Ranger Johnson reviewed the MRCA quarterly report for the period of April-June 2014. She also indicated that overall, compliance is good and people are respectful of the rules and are enjoying the Preserve. She clarified that large numbers of Meet Up groups are parking using Forrestal Reserve as a starting point to hike down to the Abalone Cove Reserve Beach Complex (Inspiration Point, Sacred Cove, Portuguese Point, and Abalone Cove). She also pointed out that rangers are seeing fewer hang gliders, but more ultralight planes in the area. She mentioned that the City has cement-filled the stone structures previously used as fire pits at Abalone Cove Reserve with cement, however, people continue to have bonfires in Altamira Canyon which is more hidden. Better signage is needed prohibiting dogs on the beach at Sacred and Abalone Coves. The large Filiorum Sign placed at entry to Three Sisters is misleading, and might lead Three Sisters Reserve visitors to think they are in Filiorum Reserve. PVPLC clarified it was placed as part of a grant requirement, however the time period requirement for which it needed to remain may be complete, and they will look into whether it can be removed. The Management Team concurred that monument signage indicating to visitors the specific Reserve they are visiting will help resolve the confusion, and the HCF Grant is earmarked for this purpose. Members of the management team will visit Filiorum Reserve to help resolve trail marker confusion leading up to private property areas.
- Review of Volunteer Trail Crew and Rapid Response Team Reports (PVPLC)-Volunteer Trail Watch reports will be generated once new web portal/reporting system is in place.
 - o Volunteer Trail Patrol Web Portal Review (PVPLC)-No discussion. (*Danielle please help – was there discussion? Thanks!*)
- Agua Amarga encroachments (CD)-No update.

- Vicente Bluffs Reserve beach access (RP/PW)-Analyst Lozano will work with Public Works on ordering and installing new signs (indicating “area closed” and “no beach access”), and then the management team will visit the area to consider additional solutions.
- Stair Use at Filiorum Reserve (RP)-Stairs are commonly used for recreation; however they are not part of the Preserve, nor are they City property. Management team will visit site to consider solutions.
- Vanderlip Drive/public accessing private community via authorized trails (ALL)-Analyst Lozano will schedule management team visit with concerned residents.
- Trespassing beyond the Packsaddle Trail (CD)-Rolling Hills resident is encountering a large number of Preserve users trespassing on her private property from Packsaddle Trail. In addition, there are several spur trails leading into Rolling Hills in the same area. Ranger Jewel will visit area to further assess. Management team will consider solutions.
- Enforcement priorities (ALL)-MRCA Rangers will continue their current enforcement priorities, including busy Portuguese Bend (including hot spots of the Toyon/Peppertree Trail intersection and the spur trail closures off of Ishibashi Trail, and new trails being created in the Peppertree area), and the coast (in particular Abalone Cove and Sacred Cove).
- Volunteer Trail Crew and Rapid Response Team Priorities (ALL)-MRCA Rangers asked for Volunteer Trail Watch members to help rangers document and understand use in the lesser patrolled Filiorum and Three Sisters Reserves, and to try to find out what time people are using the newly created spur trail system off of Vanderlip Trail in Portuguese Bend Reserve.
- Preserve Activity/Use Master Calendar-Analyst Lozano will begin maintaining a master calendar of Preserve activity (mostly maintenance, special events, and similar activities) for the management team. Ara will recirculate the project sheet used by PVPLC and the City to report on upcoming activity/work in the Preserve.

Preserve Public Forum Meeting (ALL)

- Discuss date and format-Scheduled for October 1st at 6 p.m. at City Hall Community Room, located at 30940 Hawthorne Blvd.

Next Meeting: Oct. 2nd @ 9:30 a.m.