

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
NATURE PRESERVE QUARTERLY PUBLIC FORUM  
FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

The forum began at 6:08 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room, 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard.

**ATTENDANCE**

City of RPV: Ara Mihranian – Community Development Deputy Director  
Katie Lozano – Recreation and Parks Administrative Analyst  
Laura Just – Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority Park Ranger  
PVPLC: Adrienne Mohan – Conservation Director

Analyst Lozano thanked the group for attending and explained that the purpose of the forum is to share information on Preserve projects and public use, and to solicit public feedback.

**Preserve Maintenance**

Review of Active Habitat/Trail Projects including Trail Crew activities – Director Mohan shared that the Volunteer Trail Crew has been making improvements to Zotes Cut Across Trail and Sunshine Trail. They have built a retention wall on Kelvin Canyon Trail, and are working with the City on the remediation of Toyon and Peppertree Trails.

Director Mohan also indicated that PVPLC planted approximately 10,000 plants in the Peacock Flats area this past fall/winter with the assistance of Americore. PVPLC Field Operations Technician Damian Morando worked on weed control in restoration areas, and has been working on spur trail closures near the following trails: Lower Rim, Ishibashi, Burma, Gary's Gulch, Klondike Canyon, Barn Owl, Olmstead, Conqueror, and Rattlesnake.

Toyon/Peppertree Remediation - Analyst Lozano reported that the City has been remediating Toyon and Peppertree Trails. City staff have been teaming up with community volunteers and guidance from PVPLC's Volunteer Trail Crew. Work is taking place every Saturday in February, and the first Saturday in March. Work includes narrowing and delineating the trails, planting habitat, and creating a traffic calming/seating area with signage at the Toyon/Peppertree/Landslide Scarp Trail intersection. The public is encouraged to come out Saturdays and have some fun.

Preserve Signage Plan – Director Mohan reported that PVPLC has been working with a consultant, made possible through grant funding, to design monument and entry signage for the Nature Preserve. The City has been involved in the process.

City Preserve Maintenance Logs – Analyst Lozano shared that the City logs maintenance conducted in the Preserve, and they are available at the sign in table. Maintenance patterns have remained consistent, and this quarter there were several instances of graffiti removal and some dumped mattresses and bed springs removed from the Preserve by City Preserve staff.

### *Public Comments/Questions*

Paul Faulk introduced himself as a Palos Verdes Loop Trail advocate and asked that the City install signage along trails within the City and Preserve that delineate those trails as part of the larger Loop Trail. He also asked the length of time PVPLC leaves irrigation infrastructure in place.

Deputy Director Mihranian indicated that the City is interested in delineating the Loop Trail, and that he would work with Mr. Faulk on the artwork and signage. Rather than large separate signs in the Preserve, Loop Trail decals would likely be added to existing trail markers.

Rod Jensen commented that animal proof garbage cans are needed at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park, because animals are getting into existing cans, and spreading trash around.

Peter Shaw indicated that the porta potty on Burma Road at the water tank is in drastic need of maintenance, and would benefit from a more frequent maintenance schedule and an upgrade because of the frequency of use. He also commented that a couple expressed concern to him that PVPLC was watering plants during the drought.

Analyst Lozano indicated that the City would look into the porta potty.

Director Mohan shared that PVPLC waters newer restoration areas for a period of time to establish the plants, and that PVPLC is moving away from less efficient above ground sprinklers to drip irrigation. She also shared that irrigation is left in place for approximately 5 years, and that PVPLC is currently removing irrigation from Three Sisters Reserve.

### **Preserve Operations**

Preserve Enforcement/Ranger Report – Ranger Just reported that use patterns have remained the same, and that there is a lot of use on the trails.

Enforcement Contract Transition – Analyst Lozano reported that the City is transitioning Preserve enforcement contracts; in July, the City will contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for enforcement in the Preserve. City staff and the Sheriff's Department are in conversation regarding the new contract, which will double enforcement hours in the Preserve. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Rangers are assisting with the transition and knowledge transfer.

Recreation and Parks Staff Presence in the Preserve – Analyst Lozano indicated that Recreation and Parks will begin staffing the Preserve at the level of 75 hours per week. The Department believes this additional staff will provide a presence for public education and enforcement that is missing the Preserve and will have a very positive effect on user behavior, public safety, and resource maintenance and preservation.

City Preserve Use Logs – Analyst Lozano shared public use logs that the City keeps. Public use issue patterns have remained the same. There are issues of dogs off leash, and a couple reports of homeless encampments and afterhours Preserve use.

Review of Volunteer Trail Watch Reports – Director Mohan reported that the Volunteer Trail Watch members have been spending time in the Preserve, and common issues reported include public education, vegetation clearing, spur trail closures, and dogs off leash.

Volunteer Trail Watch Recent Graduation – Director Mohan indicated that 13 individuals recently graduated and will begin hiking in the Preserve as Volunteer Trail Watch members.

#### *Public Comments/Questions*

Mike Jost shared that he is a mountain biker and has been experimenting with different bells on his bike so that other users are not surprised by his presence. He indicated that equestrians he has encountered and with which he had discussed the bells have liked them.

Eva Cicoria shared the concern that mountain bikers would use the bells as an excuse to speed, assuming the ringing was an adequate warning to other users to get out of the way, rather than using established yielding procedures. She also finds the sound of the bells annoying.

Peter Shaw expressed that he would support the use of bike bells if they reduce confrontation, especially with the increasing number of people in the Preserve using headphones. But he admitted that the ringing could become annoying.

Director Mihranian shared that all points are noteworthy, and he indicated that a City bike bell had been decided against during the Public Use Master Plan Process, and for that reason, the City would not be implementing a bike bell program, but that Preserve users are welcome to use them.

#### **Preserve Interpretive Activities**

PVPLC-led Nature Hikes – Director Mohan reported that PVPLC docents lead nature hikes, and in March, they will lead a hike through Agua Amarga Reserve.

Upcoming Volunteer Days and Events – Director Mohan shared that PVPLC is beginning a Greeters Program, whereby volunteers will greet and educate Preserve visitors entering the Preserve at key entry points.

Los Serenos de Point Vicente Nature Hikes – Analyst Lozano indicated that docents lead monthly nature hikes through the Preserve, and that a calendar is available on the City's website and the front table.

*Public Comments/Questions*

Paul Faulk shared that he is a Los Serenos Docent, and the group has been having great success with their 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Program, which is grant funded and helps at risk youth visit Abalone Cove and Forrester Reserves to compliment nature science topics at their schools.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.