

**CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES**  
**NATURE PRESERVE QUARTERLY PUBLIC FORUM**  
**APRIL 20, 2016**

The forum began at 6:05 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room, 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard.

**ATTENDANCE**

City of RPV: Sean Larvenz – Public Works Maintenance Superintendent  
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. City and PVPLC staff introductions were made.

**Preserve Maintenance**

Review of active habitat/Trail projects including Trail Crew activities – Director Mohan shared that the Volunteer Trail Crew has been improving Sunshine Trail (making steep trail sustainable), Kelvin Canyon Trail (retaining wall), Zotes Cut Across Trail (improving equestrian access), and has successfully experimented with planting using Groasis boxes.

Unauthorized/Spur Trail Closures – Director Mohan shared that that Field Operations Technician Morando has been closing spur trails off of Burma and Smugglers Trails. Americore and volunteers have worked to close spur trails off of Flying Mane and Quarry Trails in Forrester Reserve, and in Portuguese Bend and Abalone Cove Reserves.

Toyon Peppertree Remediation: Analyst Lozano shared that this project is complete. Over the course of Saturdays in February and March City staff, volunteers, the PVPLC Volunteer Trail Crew, Palos Verdes CORBA, local Boy Scout Troops and an Eagle Scout teamed up to recreate this trail and plant native habitat. The Trail Crew and PV CORBA assisting design the trail with traffic calming and safety measures. It was a great exercise in team work, and the City will irrigate the plantings until they are established.

Preserve Signage Plan: Director Mohan shared that PVPLC has been working with consultant Hunt Designs and City staff on Preserve entry signage, and the signage will be presented to City Council in early June for approval.

City Preserve Maintenance Logs: Analyst Lozano shared that the City logs maintenance requests and reports, and makes this log available at the agenda/welcome table for public review and discussion.

Abalone Cove Closure: Maintenance Superintendent Larvenz shared that due to unstable cliffs and the potential for falling rocks, part of the Abalone Cove tide pools will be closed indefinitely.

*Public Comments:*

Eva Cicoria commented that the Volunteer Trail Crew's work on Sunshine Trail is great. However the top of the trail needs signage. She also commented that the public is curious about the groasis boxes on Toyon Trail.

Diane Smith expressed concern about maintenance at Ocean Trails Reserve. Specifically, signage is in poor shape and there is a lot of graffiti. She also shared that she thought the Via Capri homeowners were given inadequate notification prior to PVPLC beginning habitat restoration work in Alta Vicente Reserve. She also expressed concern with the way her comments at a previous meeting were reflected in the minutes.

Analyst Lozano responded that the City and PVPLC will improve notification to any neighbors that directly abut future restoration areas prior to work beginning. She also shared that the City is excited about the maintenance and public use improvements anticipated with the department's new Preserve staff, and that special attention is being paid to Ocean Trails Reserve. She also requested any requested modifications to the minutes be sent to her directly.

Eva Cicoria recommended prominent signage on Abalone Cove Beach to demarcate closed areas of the Abalone Cove tide pools.

Maintenance Superintendent Larvenz responded that the City is working to create signage on the beach that will resist destruction by the tides.

Kurt Loheit inquired as to whether the Volunteer Trail Watch is available with stationary "patrols" to assist with the Abalone Cove closures because the interpretive element tends to be helpful rather than relying solely on signage.

**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. The majority of violations are dogs off leash.

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 80 hours/week of enforcement in the Preserve. City staff is meeting with the Sheriff's Department to work on the transition, and Mountains Recreation and

Conservation Authority Rangers are assisting with knowledge transfer and to help make a smooth transition.

Recreation and Parks Staff Presence in the Preserve – Analyst Lozano indicated that City Council late last year allocated additional staff to the Nature Preserve, and that the department continues to put the program together. The program is currently staffed at 75% and training, and the department anticipates being staffed at 100% and dedicated to patrol in May. She 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 that the City logs public use concerns received from the public, and makes this log available at the agenda/welcome table for public review and discussion.

Review of Volunteer Trail Watch Reports – Director Mohan reported that the Volunteer Trail Watch members have submitted 163 reports over the last three months, and this includes 197 hours of time spent in the Preserve.

#### *Public Comments:*

Melody Colbert commented on recent confusion over when the Preserve was opened and closed during the rainy weather.

Analyst Lozano shared that there was confusion, and that the City is working to improve its closure and notification process.

#### **Preserve Interpretive Activities/Other**

Trail Naming Opportunities- Director Mohan shared information on donor opportunities by which donors may rename trails within the Nature Preserve. She also shared a list of trails available for renaming, and trails not available because of the cultural or historical value.

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

Upcoming Volunteer Days and Events – Director Mohan shared that PVPLC will hold a volunteer day April 30<sup>th</sup> at Alta Vicente Reserve.

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 at the front table. The City has also begun monthly Volunteer opportunities at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center's Native Plant Garden adjacent to Vicente Bluffs Reserve.

#### *Public Comments/Questions*

Volunteer Trail Watch member Kaori Nomoto shared that while on patrol, her dog was attacked by an off leash dog, and she'd like to confirm that rangers patrol the Preserve during peak use times.

Analyst Lozano responded that the City has full ranger coverage on weekends to cover peak use times.

Melody Colbert indicated that she is part of the Palos Verdes Horsemen's Association, and would appreciate collaboration working to update maps. She also commented on the importance of relaying any trail name changes to emergency responders for public safety.

Director Mohan responded that PVPLC will work with PVPHA on updating maps, and Analyst Lozano confirmed that the City will work with the Fire Department and L.A. County Sheriff to notify them of trail name changes and Preserve access points for public safety.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.