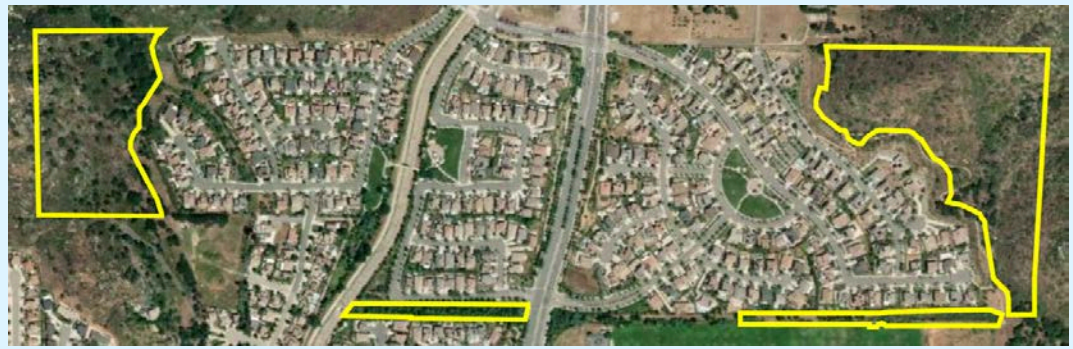




**SAN DIEGO HABITAT CONSERVANCY (SDHC)**  
**MANAGES THE EUREKA SPRINGS PRESERVE**



**EUREKA SPRINGS PRESERVE**  
**CITY OF ESCONDIDO**

Please contact SDHC if you have any questions about the purpose and restrictions associated with the preserve, or if you would like to report any illegal activity within the preserve. We appreciate your willingness to support our stewardship activities and to help protect the natural resources and beauty that surround your home.

Contact:  
 Vince Rivas, Habitat Manager  
 Don Scoles, Executive Director  
 (619) 365-4839  
 sdhc@sdhabitat.org  
 www.sdhabitat.org

**LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

As the managers of the Preserve, it is SDHC's responsibility to ensure that the habitat is healthy and free of disturbances for the plant and animal species that rely on these natural resources.

SDHC's management duties include:

- Monthly Monitoring & Reporting
- Vegetation Mapping
- Special Species Surveys
- Invasive Plant Control
- Trash Removal
- Fence & Sign Inspection
- General Coordination
- Public Outreach



**Forget-Me-Not**  
 Photo by Ron Wolf

**SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**Habitat and Plant Communities**

The biological open space at Eureka Springs is comprised of 4 parcels consisting of uplands habitat and wetland habitat. The upland habitat is primarily Diegan coastal sage scrub (DCSS), DCSS/chaparral transition, and coast live oak woodland. The wetlands habitat occurs along Ryan Creek (a tributary of Escondido Creek) which runs along the southern boundary of Eureka Springs and includes such plant species as Mexican rush and San Diego marsh elder. These sections were subject to a 5-year mitigation and monitoring program. Protection of

the preserve is not only important or the entire San Diego ecosystem but also improves the beauty and serenity of your neighborhood, providing a visual buffer typical of the topography and vegetation unique to Carlsbad.

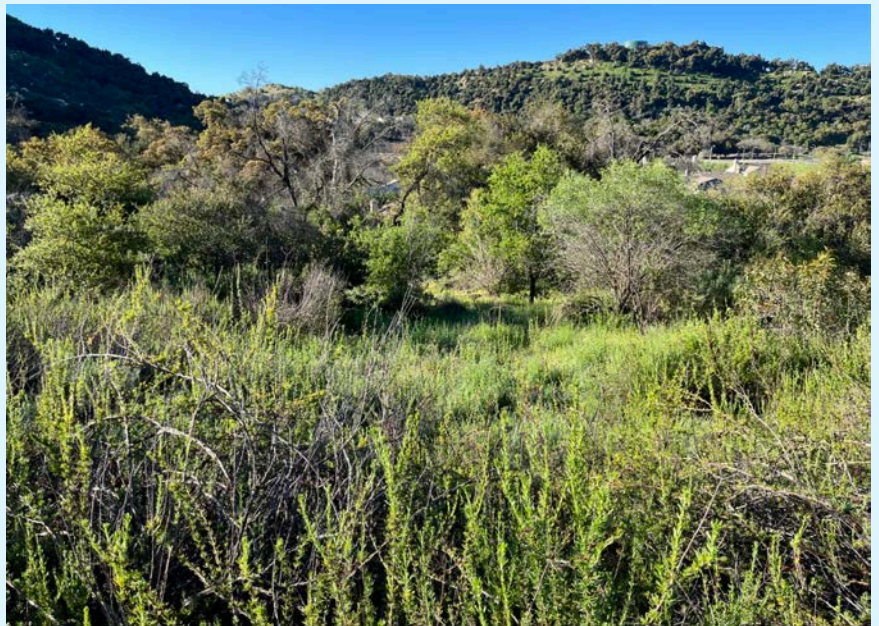


**Bobcat**  
 Photo by Gavin Newton

**Sensitive Wildlife Species**

A number of sensitive species occupy or forage over the preserve, including species considered to be threatened or endangered by state and federal wildlife agencies, such as orange-throated whiptail, Cooper's hawk, coastal California gnatcatcher, rufous-crowned sparrow, San Diego marsh elder, and Engelmann oak.

Your home is near the Eureka Springs Preserve! Development of the Eureka Springs residential development resulted in the loss of sensitive habitat and species, natural resources that are considered important to our local ecosystem and regulated by the County of San Diego, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As a result, these impacts were mitigated for by preservation and enhancement of natural resources within the Eureka Springs property. A total of 36.21 acres of habitat was preserved, including the creation and enhancement of wetland habitat, the creation of oak riparian woodland and coast live oak woodland with the planting of oak trees.



**CONNECTION TO SAN DIEGO ECOSYSTEMS**

The Eureka Springs Preserve is part of a larger system of preserved natural habitat in San Diego County. The Preserve is located adjacent to an important habitat linkage area identified within the City of Escondido's Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (MHCP) Subarea Plan as the "Northeastern Habitat Area Biological Core and Linkage Area."



**White Sage**  
 Photo by George Sherman



**Cedar Waxwing**  
 Photo by Kim Smith

## 2024 PRESERVE UPDATE

During this management year, SDHC focused on assessing the health of the oak trees within the preserve. Specifically, we inspected coast live oak trees for signs of pests, such as the invasive Goldspotted Oak Borer beetle, and potential diseases. Fortunately, no signs of such pests have been observed; however, we are working with San Diego State University, to analyze plant tissue and soil samples that we collected for signs of pathogens.



### RATTLESNAKE INFORMATION AND SAFETY

The preserve is home to many species that are part of our local ecosystem. It is possible that some of the animals living in the preserve will make their way into the developed area surrounding your residence. The southern Pacific rattlesnake, red diamond rattlesnake, and speckled rattlesnake are the only local snakes in the San Diego region that are venomous to humans. An average adult rattlesnake is about 2½ feet long, but can grow to as large as 4 to 5 feet in length. These



rattlesnakes are light gray or brown and shed their skin about 3 to 4 times a year, usually getting a new rattle segment each time. Rattlesnakes eat rodents such as mice but also forage on birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The benefit they provide in rodent control far outweighs their potential danger to humans. Please respect them from a safe distance and let them do their job.

### WATCH OUT FOR RATTLESNAKES

In case of emergency, call 911 or go directly to a hospital.



## PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

### Access and Pets

Access to the preserve is prohibited due to the sensitive nature of the habitat and the species that dwell and forage there. Hiking, biking, camping or any human recreational activity is strictly prohibited. Dogs and cats are prohibited in the preserve. Please respect the natural condition of the open space ecosystem and enjoy it from afar to ensure that these resources are around for all time. Be sure to stay on the designated walking trail found along the eastern preserve parcel.



### HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PRESERVE

#### Trash & Hazardous Materials

Please help keep the preserve healthy by disposing of trash in receptacles. If you see trash along or in the preserve, help us out by disposing of it or calling SDHC to address it. Hazardous materials, including vehicle fuel and oil, household cleaning products, paints, and solvents are extremely detrimental to the health of the preserve. Please call SDHC if you observe illegal dumping or signs of hazardous materials in the preserve.

#### Use Humane Pest Control

Poisonous chemicals such as rodenticides used at your home can have an indirect harmful effect to wildlife that live in the area. Whether consumed by target pests or other native mammals, such as squirrels or skunks, these poisons can cause secondary poisoning when the poisoned animal is consumed by predatory species, such as coyotes or owls. In an effort to protect wildlife within the preserve, please consider more humane forms of pest control.



#### Volunteer Today!

Help protect the preserve by joining us in the field to remove non-native plants and trash, and learn about the sensitive resources in your community.



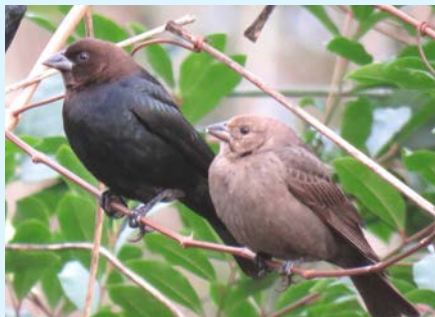
## BIOLOGICAL THREATS

### Invasive Plants

Native plants in the preserve are sensitive to invasive species. Invasive species are not native to the San Diego area and if left unchecked will choke out native species, drastically decreasing the biodiversity and health of the ecosystem we are trying to preserve. A large part of our role is to control and remove the invasive plant species that continue to invade the native habitat. SDHC requests your assistance in making sure that ornamental plants or exotic species are not discarded into the native habitat, and that any houseplants are kept within your property to avoid introducing new invasive species. To the right are some of the common invasive plant species within the preserve and their impacts.

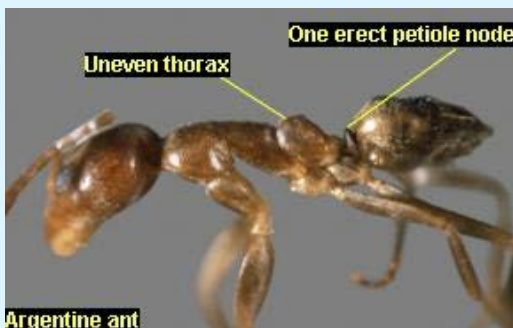
### Invasive Pests

In addition to the invasion of nonnative plant species, invasive animal species can cause harm to our native flora and fauna as well. Some of the pests found within the region include; brown-headed cowbird, which uses nest parasitism to outcompete and reduce native bird species; shot hole borer beetle; which can decimate mature forests by farming fungi within trees; and the Argentine ant; which you can help us to control!



**Brown-headed cowbird (male and female)**  
Photo by Patricia Pierce

A small but detrimental pest, the invasive Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) is known to eat the young of various species including birds, rabbits and snakes. They alter entire insect communities and spread bacteria and viruses through their waste. Argentine ants range from light to dark brown, they measure about 2.2 to 2.8 mm long, and their antennae have 12 segments. We are monitoring the infestation in the preserve and will be installing control measures. Neighboring residents can help by controlling ants inside your buildings with a commercially available boric acid solution (see <http://www.kmantpro.com>). Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding pest management.



**Argentine ant**  
Photo from University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

Below are the common invasive plants found within the preserve that we are working to remove. Control of each species requires a unique treatment method, such as hand removal or treatment with a specific herbicide. For additional information please visit Cal-IPC.

### NATAL GRASS



PHOTO BY RON VANDERHOFF

Annual grassland herb that primarily propagates by seeds, which are readily windborne. Large seed production displaces native vegetation and prevents species from regenerating.

### PAMPAS GRASS



PHOTO BY NEAL KRAMER

Large perennial grass that produces up to 100,000 seeds with each plume that are widely dispersed by wind and develop without fertilization and quickly colonizes bare ground.

### MUSTARD



PHOTO BY ZOYA AKULOVA

Annual herb that grows and spreads quickly. Uses allelopathic chemicals that prevent germination of native plants. Widespread populations can increase the frequency of fires in chaparral and coastal sage scrub.

### SALT CEDAR (TAMARISK)



PHOTO BY NEAL KRAMER

Tree or shrub that is commonly found along streams and freshwater shores. Associated with a dramatic change in geomorphology, ground water availability, soil chemistry, fire frequency, plant community composition, and native wildlife diversity;

### RUSSIAN THISTLE



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Large, bushy summer annual that can be grows quickly in disturbed areas. Typically disperses seed after senescence by breaking off and tumbling in the wind. Dry individuals can create fire hazards and be an impediment for traffic.

### SLENDER MYOPORUM



PHOTO BY JAMES BAILEY

Perennial shrub that grows quickly, growing to 4 to 6 inches tall and spreads to 5 feet or more with well-branched stems and closely spaced narrow leaves. Fast growing groundcover can quickly exclude native vegetation in habitats.