



SAN DIEGO HABITAT CONSERVANCY (SDHC)

MANAGES THE SEA CLIFF PRESERVE

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:

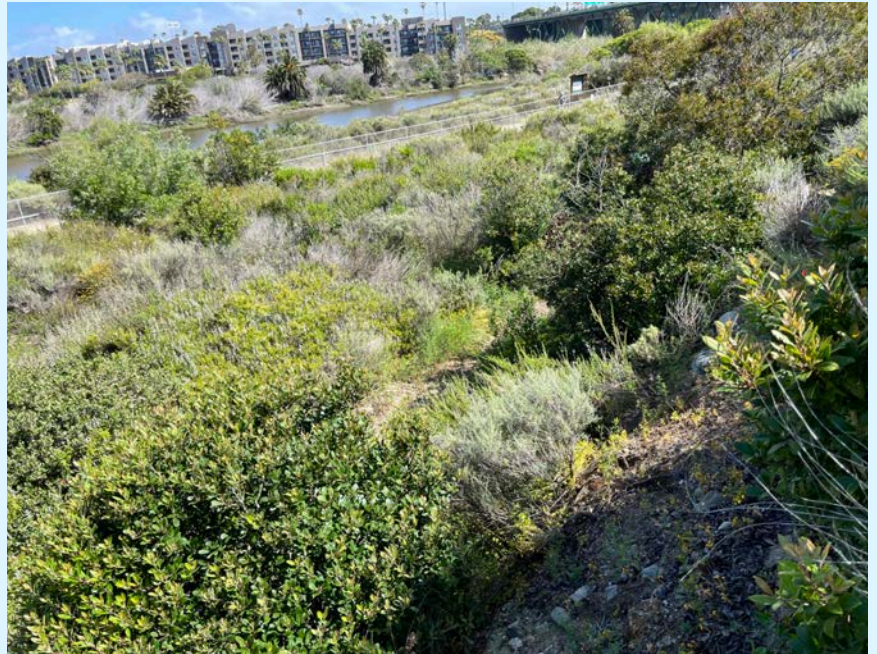
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SEA CLIFF PRESERVE

OCEANSIDE

A total of 2.9 acres of sensitive habitat (Diegan coastal sage scrub and open water) located South of the San Luis Rey River. The area was preserved since the development of the Renaissance Terrace residential community resulted in the loss of sensitive habitat and species, natural resources that are considered important to our local ecosystem and regulated by the City of Oceanside, California, Department of Fish Wildlife, and U S Fish Wildlife Service. As a result, these impacts were mitigated for by the preservation and enhancement of natural resources within the preserve.



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
- Rare Plant Surveys
- Invasive Plant Control
- Trash Removal
- Sign Inspection
- General Coordination
- Public Outreach



Harford's Sulphur
 Photo by BJ Stacey

SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Habitat and Plant Communities

The preserve protects a number of sensitive habitats including, Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, and mule fat scrub. The health and integrity of these habitats are critical to ensure the sustainability of threatened and endangered species. Protection of the preserve is not only important for the entire San Diego ecosystem but also improves the beauty and serenity of your neighborhood.

The preserve provides a visual buffer around Renaissance Terrace, typical of the topography and vegetation unique to Oceanside. We respectfully request your cooperation and assistance in preserving these wonderful resources.



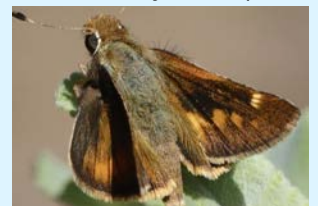
San Diego Ambrosia
 Photo by Vince Rivas

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 the coastal California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo. The preserve also contains sensitive plant species, including sticky dudleya, San Diego marsh elder, spiny rush, and the federally endangered San Diego ambrosia.

CONNECTION TO SAN DIEGO ECOSYSTEMS

The preserve is part of a larger system of preserved natural habitat in Oceanside and locally, serves as part of a regional corridor for coastal California gnatcatcher. The preserve is part of a regional vision to link open space preserves throughout the area and is within the County's Multiple Habitat Conservation Program (area). The City of Oceanside is considering setting a goal of establishing a preserve system of at least 2,420 acres. The MHCP focuses more regionally, setting a broader goal of establishing a preserve system of over 20,000 acres throughout the Cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Solana Beach, and Vista.



Umber Skipper
 Photo by David A. Wittrock

2024 PRESERVE UPDATE

This past year, trespasser activity has continued to be an issue in the preserve with areas of cleared vegetation, trash pollution, and vandalism to preserve signs. SDHC remediates these issues as soon as possible as continues to work with local authorities to prevent unauthorized access of the preserve.



In an effort to conserve the endangered San Diego Ragweed, SDHC has worked with contractors and volunteers to control invasive plant species growing within populations. Nonnative plant species continue to encroach on this rare plant, threatening to displace it from the ecosystem. We will continue to work to protect it to ensure its existence and the species that rely on it.



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.

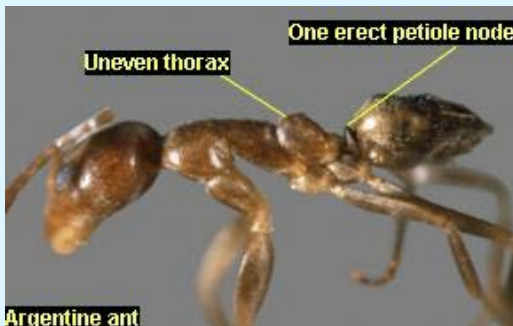
Invasive Pests

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.

BLACK 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.

BERMUDA BUTTERCUP



PHOTO BY JEAN PAWEK

Perennial herb that grows in a variety of coastal habitats. Originally introduced from South Africa as a landscape plant. Does not produce seeds, but is difficult to remove due to its persistent underground bulbs.

FENNEL



PHOTO BY NEAL KRAMER

Perennial herb that can exclude or prevent native plant establishment and can alter the composition and structure of many plant communities. Outcompetes native species for light, nutrients, and water

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;

AFRICAN ASPARAGUS FERN



PHOTO BY P. ROULLARD

Rhizomatous perennial vine that creates shoots that can form dense mats that limit light levels and then die back in the summer, creating a fire hazard. Form dense tuberous mats underground, preventing other plants from accessing soil moisture and nutrients.

SWEETCLOVER



PHOTO BY BARRY BRECKLING

Annual herbaceous plant native to Eurasia. Quickly colonizes disturbed sites, such as along trails and roadsides. Negatively impacts native grass and forb recruitment and growth.