



MSCP Management Actions Report

JANUARY 1, 2015 — DECEMBER 31, 2015





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Introduction

The **MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (MSCP)** can only be successful through informed management of conserved lands. Management in support of the City of San Diego's (City) MSCP Subarea Plan is performed by the City's Park and Recreation, Public Utilities, and Environmental Services Departments. The City often partners with other public agencies, schools, environmental consultants, and non-profit groups to complete additional management tasks.

This report will provide a summary of the management projects undertaken on conserved City-owned lands in 2015 including mitigation, enhancement and restoration, invasive species removal, access control, trash and debris removal, enforcement, abatement of homeless encampments, and volunteer events. Environmental education is also a vital part of our natural resource stewardship and is included as management because positive experiences in nature encourages communities to protect and care for their local natural parks.

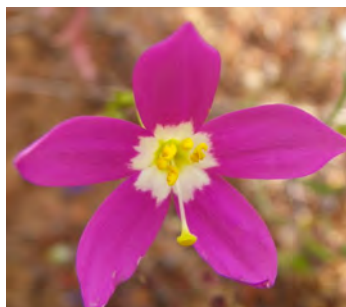
Park Rangers, Pesticide Applicators, Ground Maintenance Managers and Workers, Biologists, Planners and Nature Center Directors work together and are dedicated to management of the City's Open Space Parks and Preserves. Those staff not only protect the native species and habitats that occur within each Park, but also provide educational opportunities for Park visitors. Thousands of people visit our two nature centers each year and hundreds of children participate in environmental education through partnerships with local schools, nature programs, guided walks, and interpretive signs and kiosks.

Two new biologists were added to the Park and Recreation Department's Brush Management Program: these biologists survey the brush management areas in advance of work and identify sensitive resources for avoidance and protection. In 2015, Park and Recreation Brush Management Program completed 636 of brush management along urban-wildland interface.

We thank you for your interest in San Diego's conserved lands, and invite you to take a look at the projects that we worked on in 2015. And please take a moment to review our incredible list of partners on the last page!



Fire poppy, 2015



Canchalagua, 2015



Star lily, 2015



Management Actions: At-A-Glance

Trails Management

- * Nearly 2,000 native plants installed to protect and restore habitat adjacent to trails
- * New trails opened in Del Mar Mesa Preserve and several miles of unauthorized trails closed for restoration and wildlife corridor area
- * New trails opened in Black Mountain Open Space Park, including initiation of construction of the ADA-accessible Trail for All People
- * Continued management of 17 active restoration sites for Public Utilities related to maintenance and emergency access for water and sewer line projects

Education

- * Over 85,000 people visited Mission Trails Visitor Center and Tecolote Nature Center
- * At Mission Trails Regional Park alone, 4,173 adults and 2,411 children participated in Ranger-led walks and hikes
- * Nature Club, organized by Park Rangers acting as nature mentors, explores different parks each month for children ages 8-12
- * 17 schools from preschools to universities, including schools from Los Angeles and Tijuana, took field trips to visit Open Space parks and preserves

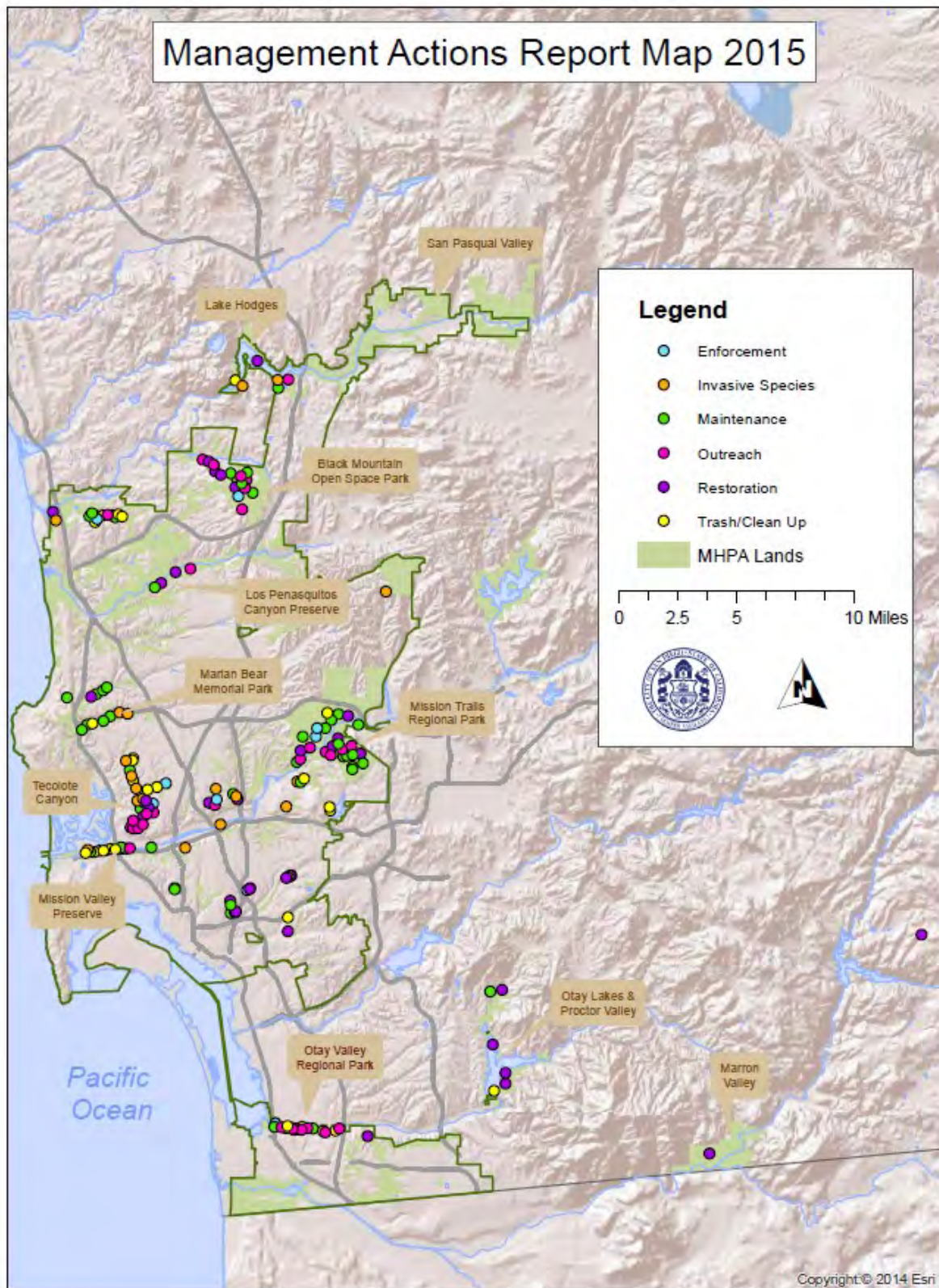
Invasive Weed Management

- * Two City Pesticide applicators treated invasive weed species at an average of 11 preserves per month
- * Park Rangers, volunteer weed groups, and crews completed 60 additional treatments targeting 32 different invasive species
- * City staff pesticide applicators treated nine locations with MSCP-covered San Diego thornmint for invasive purple false brome using the Conservation Biology Institute protocol
- * Restoration completed at Chollas Creek with nearly 50 tons of invasive plants removed from site since 2012

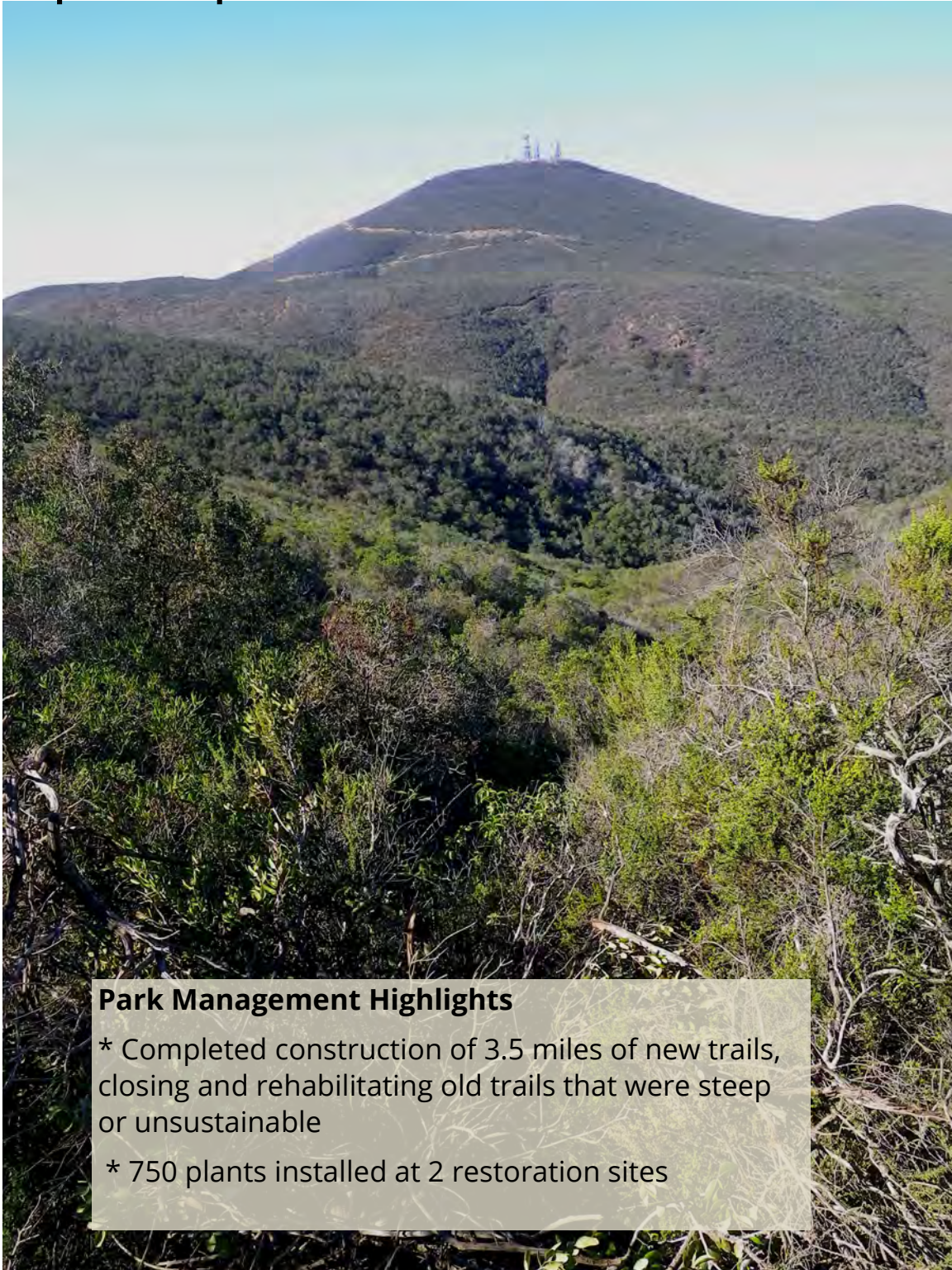
Beautification & Enforcement

- * Nearly 35 tons of trash and non-native plant material removed from open space areas, averaging over 15,000 pounds per month
- * Over 300 active or abandoned homeless camps cleaned, averaging 25 per month
- * Partnered with 7 non-profit organizations and over 4,500 volunteers on 21 cleanup and park beautification events
- * Routine weekly watershed inspections to evaluate access control, trash abatement, and posting or replacement of signs at all Cornerstone Lands

Management Actions: Map



Black Mountain Open Space Park



Park Management Highlights

- * Completed construction of 3.5 miles of new trails, closing and rehabilitating old trails that were steep or unsustainable
- * 750 plants installed at 2 restoration sites

BLACK MOUNTAIN PARK is located west of I-15 and harbors habitat for California gnatcatcher as well as several other sensitive species. Black Mountain also provides a natural experience for nearby residents with trails, viewpoints, and interpretive information.

Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance, fence and sign repairs—Monthly
- Interpretive walks and other programs through the “Ranger Adventure Hike” Program—Monthly
- Completed 1.2 miles of new trail connecting Miner’s Midge Trailhead and Glider Port Trailhead; volunteer work crews organized by San Diego Mountain Biking Association—January
- Educational film documenting the history of soaring at Black Mountain—January
- Volunteer event with 50 Israeli Girl Scouts to expand restoration site in Lusardi Canyon, in an area that burned in the Bernardo Fire—March
- Illegal camp inspected and removed—May
- Hosted 2 mountain bike events and one trail run event—April and May
- Cleared and began tread improvements for 2.3 miles of new trail at Nighthawk and Little Black Loop with help from American Conservation Corps (ACE) and San Diego Mountain Biking Association —October - December
- Assisted “I Love a Clean San Diego” event at East Lusardi Creek drainage—December
- Began construction on the ADA-Accessible Trail for All People at the Miners Ridge Trailhead—December



Park Rangers, ACE crew, and San Diego Mountain Biking Association volunteers restoring closed areas and building new trails to implement the Natural Resource Management Plan



MSCP Covered Species

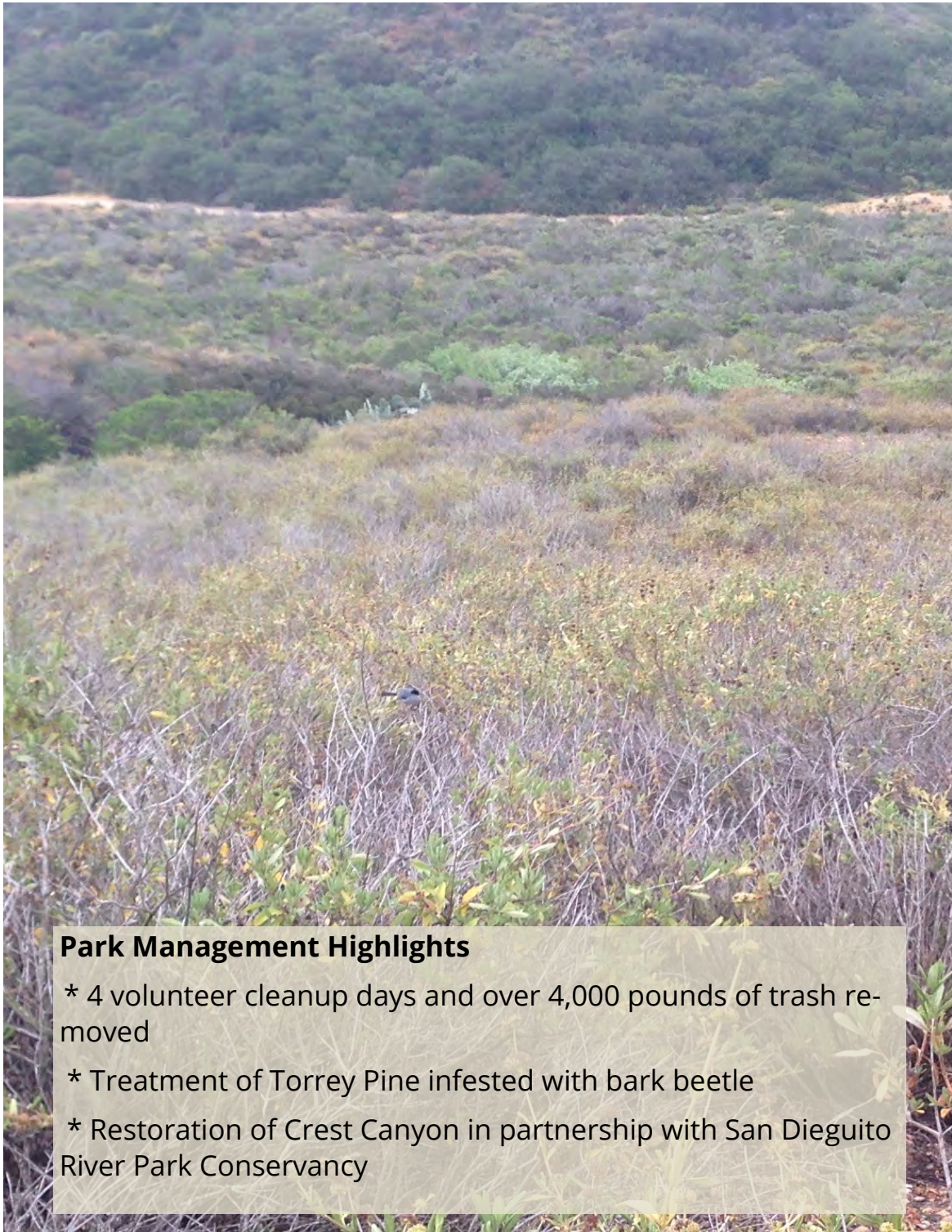
- Held cactus wren habitat restoration volunteer work parties—January
- Sprayed to manage non native grasses and forbs at San Diego thornmint site using protocol developed by Conservation Biology Institute—February, March
- Initiated restoration of native grasslands and coastal sage scrub to provide habitat for California gnat-catcher and cactus wren at the Santa Luz Grasslands site—Monthly



View of Santa Luz Grasslands Restoration Site



Crest Canyon & Gonzales Canyon Open Space



CREST CANYON and **GONZALES CANYON** are located in coastal North County and are home to numerous sensitive species. Crest Canyon connects to the San Dieguito Lagoon and offers trails through native scrub habitat dotted with the rare Torrey pine.

Management Actions

- Performed park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Held a volunteer cleanup day around the Sworn Way Trailhead and creek crossing—January and February
- Initiated restoration in Crest Canyon in partnership with San Dieguito River Park Conservancy—January
- Hosted a park beautification event in Gonzales Canyon—March
- Hosted I" Love A Clean San Diego" event at Gonzales Canyon with over 60 volunteers that removed 3,000 pounds of trash, debris, and stolen property—April
- Assisted Friends of Gonzales Canyon on a cleanup event at Sword Way; removed a truckload of trash and other debris—May
- Dismantled illegal BMX track and removed large items in the Lagoon Trail area of Gonzales Canyon—May
- Removed approximately 300 pounds of trash near Torrey Highlands Dog Park in Gonzales Canyon—June
- Assisted with Gonzales Canyon cleanup event—September
- Worked with Girl Scout troop on trail sign project at Gonzales Canyon—September
- Worked with Boy Scout on kiosk for Eagle Scout Project in Gonzales Canyon—September
- Dismantled abandoned homeless encampment in Crest Canyon—September
- Worked with American Conservation Corps on trail improvements in Gonzales Canyon—October
- Worked with a contractor on Torrey Pines Loop reroute at the Torrey Highlands Dog Park in Gonzales Canyon; project to start in Jan 2016—October - December
- Coordinated restoration activities following repair of encroachment in Crest Canyon—December

View of Restoration in Crest Canyon



MSCP Covered Species

- Removal of Torrey pine infested with five-spined ips beetle to prevent spread to healthy unaffected trees in Crest Canyon—February

What Happened to the Torrey Pine Tree by the Staircase?

This past winter (2014-15) the large Torrey Pine tree adjacent to the staircase died. The tree was found to be infested with the California Five Spined Engraver Beetle (*Ips paraconfusus*). This is a native insect that in small numbers does not harm the Torrey Pine. The beetles will bore into the tree, feed on the cambium, and lay their eggs in the bark. In normal years, the tree is able to sustain the beetle's presence.

Unfortunately, the current drought has weakened the tree and reduced the Torrey Pine's ability to resist the bark beetle infestations. This was the only Torrey Pine tree to die at Crest Canyon this winter. In order to prevent the spread of the beetle to other nearby trees, the dead tree was removed and taken off site to be disposed of. We also had success using a pheromone trap to control the spread of the beetles.



Torrey Pines State Reserve is also battling beetle infestations. This past year, the Reserve has lost as many as 100 mature trees (approximately 2% of population). During the late 80's and early 90's the combination of a severe windstorm and three-year drought resulted in the mortality of approximately 850 trees (approximately 12% of the population) due to bark beetle infestations.

If you have any other questions or if you think you've come across an infested and dying Torrey Pine in Crest Canyon, please contact Ranger Joe DeWolf at jdewolf@sandiego.gov.

Flyer produced by Park Ranger staff to inform public of the pest beetle and the protection of Torrey Pines in Crest Canyon



Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve



LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE is an urban natural resource-based park that functions as an east-west wildlife corridor through the heart of San Diego. This area is visited frequently by recreationalists and makes nature accessible to local residents. Citizen interest in the preserve led to the development of the well-known Friends of Los Peñasquitos Preserve and the San Diego Tracking Team.



New ranger station opened December

Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Repaired fences and trail near the waterfall—March
- Removed invasive plants throughout the preserve—March
- Retrieved 200 feet of kite line from the preserve that was tangled high in the branches on a hillside posing significant threat to birds in the area—March
- Completed south main access road restoration with assistance of SDG&E—May
- Restored and repaired bridges after rain event—May
- Painted over graffiti under various bridges—June
- Moved in to the brand new ranger station on the corner of Black Mountain Road and Mercy Road—December
- Prepared for upcoming El Niño rain events by clearing out drainage channels—December

MSCP-Covered Species

- Sprayed to manage non native grasses and forbs at San Diego thornmint site using protocol developed by Conservation Biology Institute—February, March

Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Mountain Preserves



Park Management Highlights

* Adoption of Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Natural Resources Management Preserve by City Council in September

DEL MAR MESA and **CARMEL MOUNTAIN** are MSCP core biological areas north of Los Peñasquitos Preserve. Known for their vernal pool habitat, the areas also support migratory birds and large mammals such as mule deer.

Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Coordinated with fence contractor to install fencing on the west boundary of Del Mar Mesa Preserve; continued effort to maintain fencing following episodes of vandalism—March-July
- Opened new trails on Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa following City Council approval of the Natural Resources Management Plan. Installed new signage and fencing in order to direct visitors to the new trails and away from closed areas—August
- Added overtime park ranger patrols to enforce the new trails plan- October - December
- Restored a portion of Del Mar Mesa in the core habitat area and wildlife refuge known as Tunnel 3; supervised Alpha Project on restoration of the tunnel and installed container plants near the entrance—November

MSCP-Covered Species

- Chaparral Lands Conservancy continued grant-funded vernal pool restoration with monthly maintenance of newly created vernal pools—Monthly



Map of Del Mar Mesa showing newly opened trails and closed portions of the preserve for wildlife refuge and habitat area

Mission Trails Regional Park



Park Management Highlights

- * 5 Peaks Challenge kicked off in November: approximately 950 people completed the challenge by mid January 2016
- * Regular patrols and maintenance of signs and native brush to rehabilitate illegally created trails in East Elliott
- * Explore Mission Trails Day attracted over 2,500 visitors
- * Hosted students from Tijuana for cross-border educational opportunity

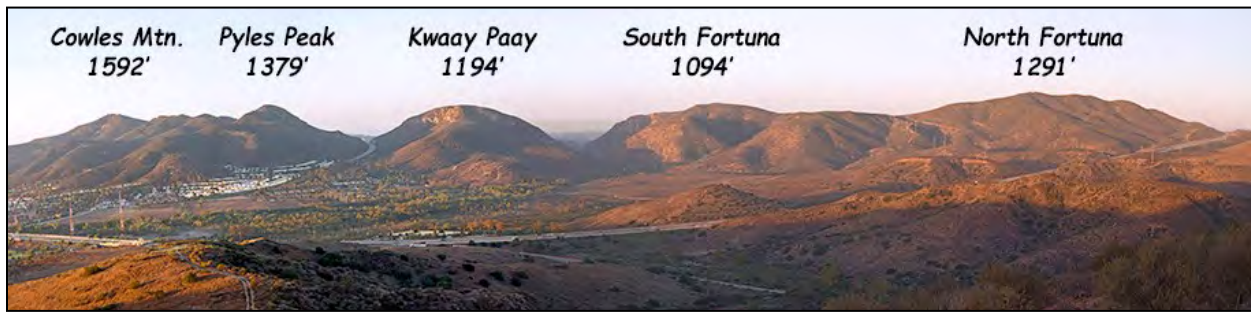
MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK is the largest and most well-known open space park in San Diego. The park provides ample space for wildlife, including large mammals, and also harbors a diverse cultural history.

Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Maintained signs and performed trail brushing to close illegal trails in East Elliott—Monthly
- Completed exotics treatment covering over 35 different species of invasive plants—Monthly
- Rehabilitated 3/4 miles of trail, which included installing 40+ rolling-grade-dip-drains, installing 10 steps, and closing unauthorized trails—January
- Supervised AmeriCorps trail restoration project, which included installing jute netting, reseeding, planting, scarifying soils, and weeding at Cowles Mountain—January
- Planted 100 native plants in a habitat restoration site in the southeast corner of the grasslands in partnership with AmeriCorps and Spreckles Elementary School—February
- Rehabilitated 1.25 miles of Pyles Peak Trail with AmeriCorps crew, which included installing 30 rock steps, 10 timber steps, 50 drains, clearing brush, closing unauthorized trails and general tread work—February, March
- Removed 12 unauthorized BMX jumps at North Deer Field—February
- Participated in the “Natural History Museum Family Days” event for the Coast to Cactus exhibition debut; park rangers set up and staffed a booth—March
- Hosted students from a school in Tijuana, Mexico, for cross-border educational opportunity—March
- Led a volunteer Navy group at East Fortuna Staging Area which focused on weeding, spreading mulch, and cleaning up trash—April
- Worked with volunteer group of 15 Boy Scouts for maintenance around the Kumeyaay Campground—April
- Posted code compliance violation and removed tent and other debris related to encampment on Kwaay Paay Peak—May
- Coordinated volunteer day for trail work on Cowles Mountain—June
- Prepared and presented camp fire program with 85 participants—June, July
- Transplanted 20 laurel sumac sprouts for the park’s nursery which will be replanted as needed in the park for restoration and trail closures—July



Park Ranger leading group of students from Tijuana, Mexico on an educational walk



Management Actions, continued

- Planted 27 native plants around the Kumeyaay Lake Campground—July
- Park Rangers spoke on a television program about plant and animal survival adaptations—July
- Led a volunteer crew for invasive plant removal, seeding, laying 200 feet of jute netting and planting 48 native plants—October
- Led a volunteer crew to install boulder barriers at the beginning of Kwaay Paay Trail; work also included seeding and planting 100 native plants—October
- Kicked off “5 Peaks Challenge” to promote the variety of trails at Mission Trails; kick-off event attracted public, press, and City Council Members—November (photo above)
- Repaired 5 sections of fencing and transported additional materials to top of Kwaay Paay in preparation for additional maintenance—November
- Prepared and initiated extensive artichoke thistle treatment at West Sycamore—November, December
- Worked with volunteer crew on trail maintenance at Bushy Hill Drive—December
- Led monthly trail crew in setting 100 feet of jute netting, planting 80 plants, installing 4 timber steps, and improving 50 feet of tread on Kwaay Paay trail—December
- Planted 25 plants and installed 4 signs on Kwaay Paay Trail—December
- Assisted Atlas Tree Service to eliminate hazards at Old Mission Dam—December
- Hosted Arbor Day with 40 participants at the Visitor’s Center—December
- Posted and cleaned up known transient encampments—December

*City Pesticide Applicators
spraying artichoke thistle in
West Sycamore Canyon*



MSCP-Covered Species

- Enforcement of trail closures in East Elliott including physical barriers and patrols to reduce incidence of illegal off-trail activity for protection of sensitive habitat including many sensitive plant species—Monthly
- Sprayed weeds in San Diego ambrosia site east of Kumeyaay Lake Campground; 2015 is the 5th year of this successful treatment program at this site—January
- Sprayed to manage non native grasses and forbs at San Diego thornmint site using protocol developed by Conservation Biology Institute—February, March



Fenced off area protecting San Diego thornmint population

Outreach and Education

The Visitor Center at Mission Trails Regional Park attracted more than 66,000 visitors in 2015.

Mission Trails Regional Park offers many volunteer opportunities for maintenance, restoration, and invasive species management. On average, over 75 people volunteered each month in 2015.

Park Rangers lead an average of 521 adults and 301 children on Guided Interpretive Walks per month.

Additional regular education programs are available for multiple grades and focus on the history and biology of the Park:

- K-2nd Grade: Introduction to Animals and Habitats

- 3rd Grade: Kumeyaay Culture

- 4th Grade: Mission History

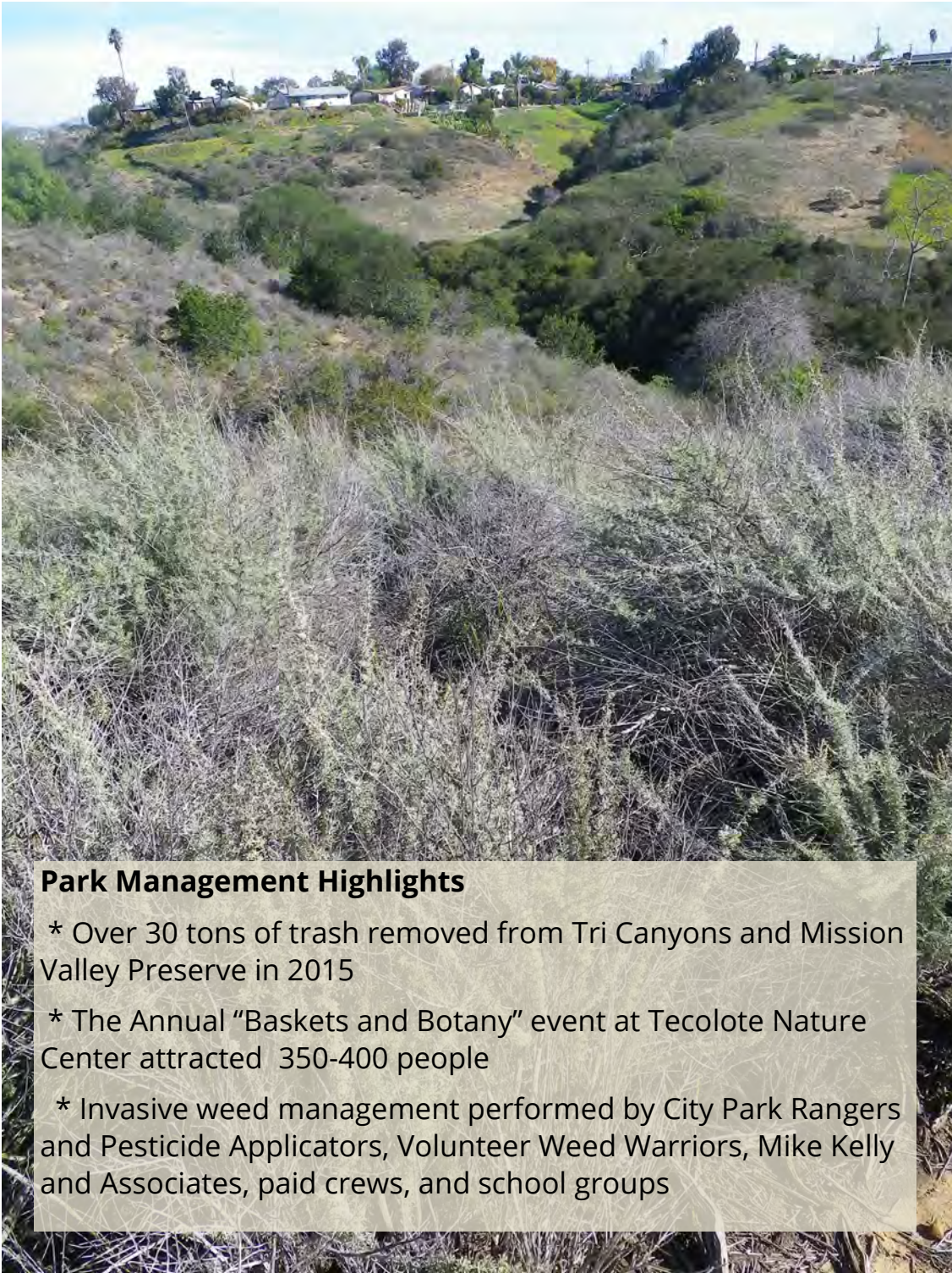
- 5th Grade: Ecology and Biodiversity



Aerial view of the Visitor Center courtesy of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department



Tri-Canyons and Mission Valley Preserve



Park Management Highlights

- * Over 30 tons of trash removed from Tri Canyons and Mission Valley Preserve in 2015
- * The Annual "Baskets and Botany" event at Tecolote Nature Center attracted 350-400 people
- * Invasive weed management performed by City Park Rangers and Pesticide Applicators, Volunteer Weed Warriors, Mike Kelly and Associates, paid crews, and school groups

The **TRI-CANYONS** area includes Tecolote Canyon Natural Park, Marian Bear Open Space Park and Rose Canyon Open Space Park. Though located in an urban setting, these canyons provide opportunities for residents to enjoy nature and host many native habitats and species. The **MISSION VALLEY PRESERVE** is located in the San Diego River Floodplain within the Tri-Canyon Parks. The Preserve contains primarily riparian scrub and forest habitat and provides habitat for the federally endangered least Bell's vireo.

The Tecolote Nature Center received 19,000 visitors in 2015.

Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Removed an old SDG&E transformer from the creek in Tecolote Canyon—January
- Removed several transient encampments in Tecolote Canyon with help from Mormon elders—January
- Coordinated with San Diego Police Department on several transient camp sweeps in Mission Valley Preserve—January, February, March, May, June
- Removed palms from riparian habitat in Tecolote and Rose Canyons with help from volunteers—February
- Investigated a report of illegal grading in Tecolote Canyon and forwarded report to code enforcement—February
- Partnered with Alpha Crew on various projects throughout Tri-Canyon Parks, including trash pick up, invasive species removal, and cleanup of transient encampments—February, March
- Completed an inventory of all bridges in Tri-Canyons and provided information to City Engineer—March
- Worked with 20 volunteers from the Key Club to improve the Native Plant Garden in Rose Canyon—March
- Partnered with Mike Kelly & Associates to treat sprouts of Canary Island St. Johnswort following initial treatment in 2014—March, April, June
- Worked with San Diego Police Department to clear and remove homeless encampments in Tecolote Canyon; during this effort, 2 people were arrested for illegal lodging with stay away orders, and following the sweep, it took 35 man-hours to clean up the large encampment—March
- Met with the Friends of the Mission Valley Preserve to discuss fencing to be installed to close off unauthorized trails near the YMCA—April
- Hosted the annual “Mesa College Canyon Cleanup Day” in Tecolote Canyon with over 125 volunteers; their work filled two 20-yard dumpsters with trash and debris—April
- Repaired, installed, and maintained foot bridges throughout the Tri Canyon Parks—May
- Supervised Probation Crew to perform transient camp cleanups in Mission Valley Preserve—June
- Coordinated volunteer group for “Creek To Bay” cleanup event focusing on Tecolote Canyon—June

Management Actions, continued

- Designed and installed a new trail map installed at the kiosk located near the Mission Valley YMCA—September
- Worked with a volunteer for remodel of a sign at the kiosk near the YMCA—October
- Supervised Alpha Project and worked with San Diego River Park Foundation on several large cleanup events—September, October, November
- Hosted a Family Day at the Tecolote Nature Center with approximately 200 people attending—June
- Worked with Eagle Scout on park bench and trash can container project—June
- Hosted field trips for the Jewish Community Center Preschool, Bayside Community Center, and The TIEE Youth with Autism Volunteers—July
- Hosted the “I Love A Clean San Diego” cleanup event with volunteers working near Mt. Etna and the Nature Center—September
- Coordinated with a local artist for interpretive signage at the Nature Center’s native plant garden—September
- Gave an educational talk for the Trail Life, Troop CA3723, Hawk Patrol—September
- Hosted a volunteer event where students worked to remove invasive castor bean in Tecolote Canyon—October
- Hosted a professor and students from University of San Diego for a tour of the Nature Center and the native plant garden—October
- Worked with youth volunteers to spread mulch and plant native plants at the Gardena entrance to Tecolote Canyon—November
- Hosted Cabrillo Camp kids to plant 18 native plants in Tecolote Canyon—November
- Supervised Alpha Project for removal of homeless camps in Tecolote Canyon; 3 trucks of trash and debris were removed from the canyon—November
- Worked with a volunteer on a variety of projects in Tecolote and Marian Bear including removal of trash from a creek, mulching cut vegetation for use in native revegetation, and installation of signs—November
- Hosted a field trip for kids from the Empower Charter School—November
- Worked with volunteer weed group to remove 100 pounds of castor bean seeds from Tecolote Canyon—December
- Sprayed herbicide on castor bean and other invasive plant species along the Battle Trail in Tecolote Canyon—December



Before (left, Sept 2014) and after (right, July 2015) photos of portion of Tecolote Canyon where Canary Island St Johnswort was treated

Management Actions, continued

- Worked with volunteers and County Probation Crew to remove palm fronds from Tecolote Canyon—December
- Oversaw boy scouts and parents on an invasive weed removal work day in Tecolote Canyon—December
- Worked with volunteers to remove over 30 Mexican fan palms from the creek in Marian Bear Memorial Park—December
- Planted native trees in Tecolote Canyon along the Battle Trail—December
- Directed Alpha Project to clear palm fronds from the Mission Valley Preserve in an area with chronic homeless encampments—December
- Targeted pesticide application of palm trees in Mission Valley Preserve and Tecolote Canyon and removal of debris associated with them—December
- Performed trail maintenance with assistance from Alpha Project in Rose Canyon—December
- Held an “Arts and Activities Program “at the Nature Center which attracted 12 toddlers and their parents—December
- Hosted Cabrillo and Allied Gardens Winter Camp field trips at the Nature Center—December
- Welcomed students and staff from Longfellow Elementary School during field trip—December



Volunteer cuts seeds from castor bean plants (above). Ranger hauls bags filled with castor bean seeds out of Tecolote Canyon (right).



Urban Canyons



Park Management Highlights

- * Posted and removed 89 active and abandoned homeless encampments in urban canyons
- * Hosted two “Nature Play” events in partnership with San Diego Children and Nature

URBAN CANYONS within the Multi-Habitat Planning Area are found throughout the City of San Diego. Although small and subject to intense pressures, many continue to support native plants and wildlife. In fact, many of the large canyons are habitat for the sensitive California gnatcatcher and cactus wren. Management actions can counteract edge effects from development to maintain the habitat provided by these canyons.

Stewardship Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Coordinated and led the ongoing effort to prevent homeless encampments and clean up active or abandoned encampments with volunteers, Alpha Project, San Diego Police Department, and Urban Corps. From January - December 2015, a total of 89 active or abandoned homeless encampments were posted and cleaned from urban canyons—Yearlong
- Hosted 31 volunteers for work on weeding, brush trimming, and trash pickup in Chollas Creek—January
- Led 12 volunteers working on trail repairs, weeding, and trash pickup in 34th Street Canyon—January
- Removed trash and invasive plants with assistance from San Diego County Probation at Rancho Mission Canyon—February
- Supervised 30 volunteers in Ruffin Canyon for installation of 100 native plants, along with weeding and placing protective cover on newly planted plants—February
- Led a volunteer group of 20 people to plant 100 native plants in 34th Street Canyon—February
- Hosted 25 volunteers for trail repair and trash pickup including palm frond removal in Maple Canyon—February
- Coordinated volunteer work group to remove a large concrete cylinder from Chollas Creek—February
- Completed restoration project in Chollas Creek. Project started in 2012 with removal of trash and homeless encampments. Over the course of the project, nearly 50 tons of non-native vegetation was removed from the site. Completed project restored 4.03 acres of riparian and upland habitat—March
- Installed 100 native plants, invasive removal, trash pickup, trail maintenance and restoration site watering in Chollas Creek—March
- Hosted 50 volunteers at San Diego River for Arundo removal and trash cleanup—March
- Coordinated with 51 volunteers for planting 100 native plants in 34th Street Canyon—March
- Supervised 60 volunteers on removal of palm fronds along with general weeding and trail clearing in Ruffin Canyon—March



Senior Park Ranger installing new sign in one of the Urban Canyons

Management Actions, Continued

- Hosted a “River Day” youth event at Fenton Parkway—March
- Supervised a San Diego County Probation Crew in weeding and installation of 120 native plants in Juniper Canyon—March
- Prepared a nature program for Outdoor Adventures at Manzanita Canyon—March
- Removed palm fronds from Navajo Canyon with assistance from San Diego County Probation Crew—March
- Led volunteer groups for weeding and maintenance of restoration sites in Ruffin Canyon, University Heights, and Juniper Canyon—April
- Partnered with I Love A Clean San Diego for a homeless encampment sweep—April, May
- Removed invasive palm trees from Chollas Creek—June
- Hosted a cleanup event in Emerald Hills for the “Coastal Cleanup Day”—September
- Hosted “Nature Play” events in partnership with San Diego Children and Nature to invite children to create, explore, and connect with nature—September, December
- Replaced bridge in Rancho Mission Canyon—October
- Coordinated homeless encampment patrols and cleanups with the City’s Environmental Services Department and Alpha Project—October, November
- Fixed trail erosion problem in Maple Canyon—November
- Supervised trash pickup and weed removal by Alpha Project—November
- Hosted volunteers from SDSU on a cleanup event in Ranch Mission Canyon—November
- Assisted San Diego Canyonlands on grant-funded projects in Manzanita Canyon and 47th Street Canyon—November
- Performed remediation work at Pottery Canyon; canyon reopened in December—November, December

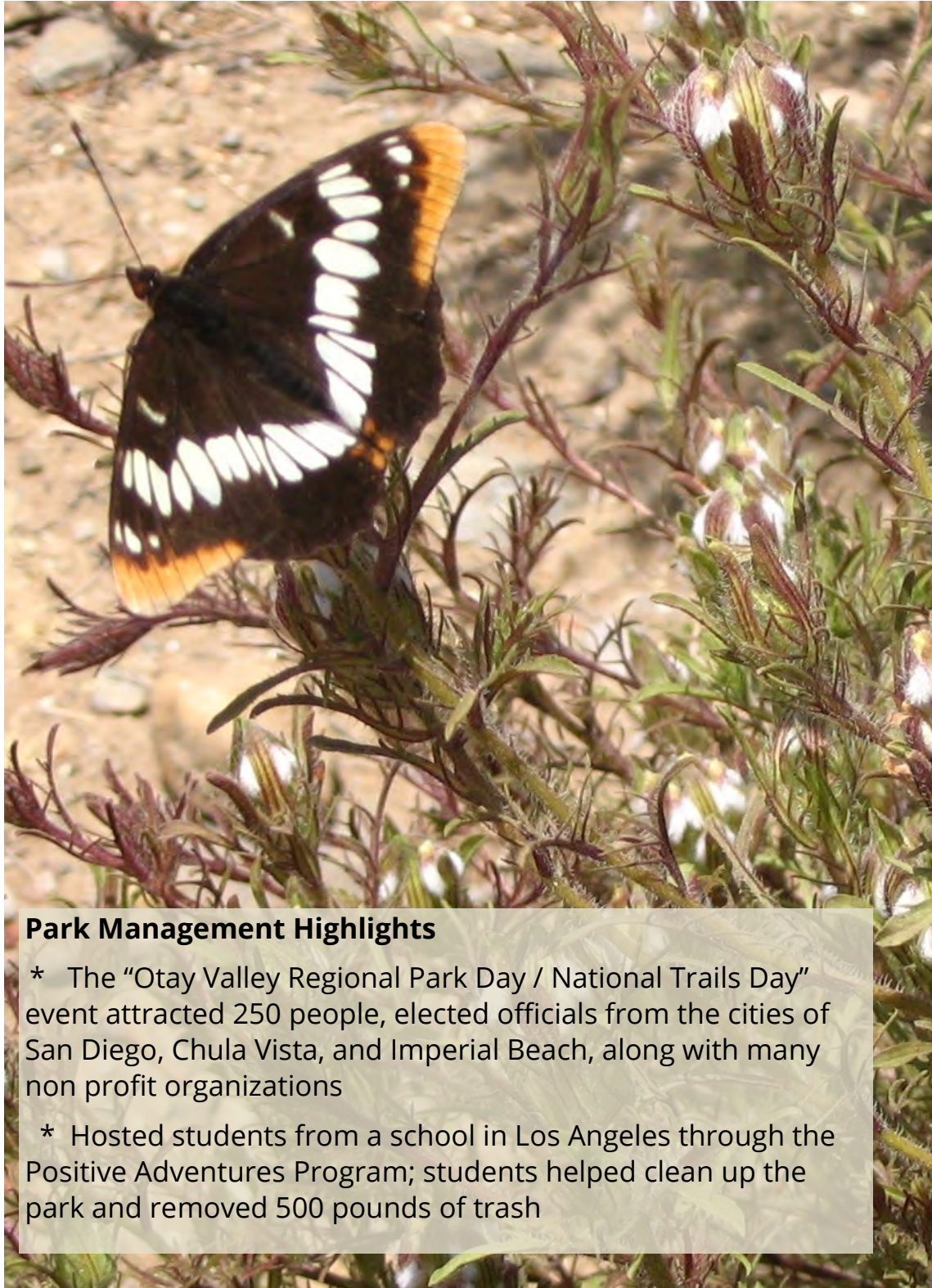


View of restoration project with youth volunteers assisting Park Ranger





Otay Valley Regional Park



Park Management Highlights

- * The "Otay Valley Regional Park Day / National Trails Day" event attracted 250 people, elected officials from the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, and Imperial Beach, along with many non profit organizations
- * Hosted students from a school in Los Angeles through the Positive Adventures Program; students helped clean up the park and removed 500 pounds of trash

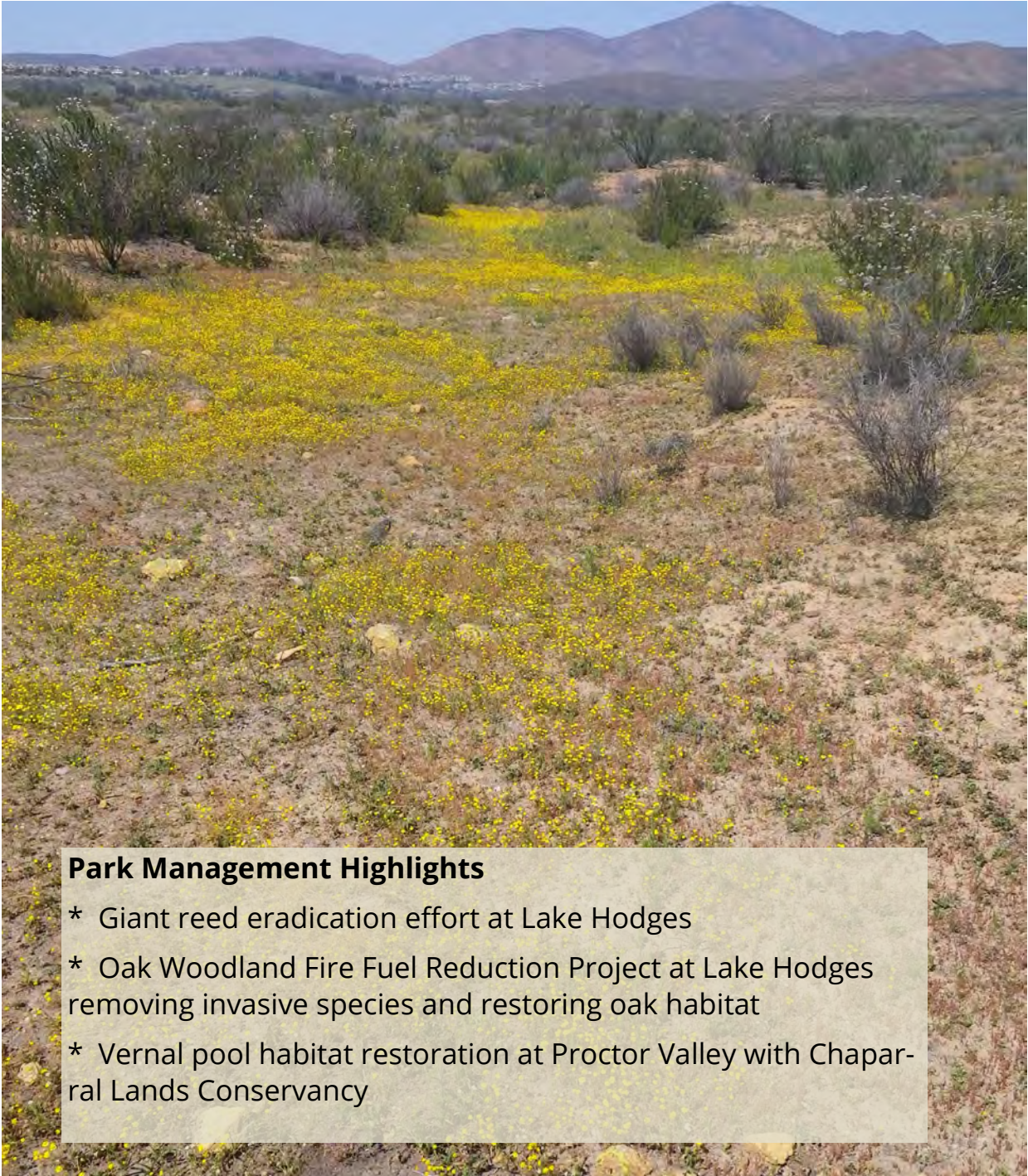
OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK (OVRP) is an east-west corridor surrounding the Otay River in southern San Diego. The park supports least Bell's vireo and rare native plants, such as Orcutt's bird's-beak.

Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Coordination with San Diego Police Department, Chula Vista Police Department, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Park Rangers on the removal of chronic law-breaking transients in the park; staff has been successful in obtaining stay-away orders for many of the chronic offenders—Monthly
- Supervised San Diego County Probation Crews and Center for Employment Opportunities on repairing segments of trails; work involved repairing segments of trails by removing debris and armoring with rip-rap and other erosion control structures—Monthly
- Worked with Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) crews on removing old homeless encampments, trash cleanup, and other work to help beautify the Park—Monthly
- Provided an educational talk to members of the Sierra Club Hiking Group—March
- Supervised a crew from San Diego Urban Corps on painting over graffiti under major bridges in the park—March
- The “Otay Valley Regional Park Day / National Trails Day” event attracted 250 people, elected officials from the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, and Imperial Beach, along with many non profit organizations—June
- Presented to a small group of Boy Scouts and their families at the Ranger Station—June
- Hosted over 60 young day campers and 8 recreation leaders from a nature camp; provided educational talks of the parks natural and cultural resources, and helped the kids connect by supervising trash pickup and removal—July
- Led 20 volunteers during the “I Love A Clean San Diego” cleanup day; the effort resulted in removal of 500 pounds of trash and 100 pounds of recyclables—September
- Partnered with WildCoast on an outreach program for students from the Pilgrim School of Los Angeles as part of the Positive Adventures Program; provided educational talk and interpretive walk of the park’s natural and cultural features—October
- Coordinated with the non-profit Safe Routes to Nature Program for an educational walk and talk for students from Juarez Elementary School and from Finney Elementary School—October, November, December



Cornerstone Lands



Park Management Highlights

- * Giant reed eradication effort at Lake Hodges
- * Oak Woodland Fire Fuel Reduction Project at Lake Hodges removing invasive species and restoring oak habitat
- * Vernal pool habitat restoration at Proctor Valley with Chaparral Lands Conservancy

CORNERSTONE LANDS

General Management Actions

- Routine weekly watershed inspections to evaluate access control, trash abatement, and posting or replacement of signs at all reservoirs (Barrett, El Capitan, Hodges, Morena, Murray, Otay, and San Vicente) and other Cornerstone Lands (Proctor Valley, San Pasqual Valley, Pamo Valley, Marron Valley)

Eichenlaub Ranch

- Restoration efforts by San Diego Gas & Electric as part of the Sunrise Powerlink Project included non-native plant treatments (e.g. yellow star thistle), and restoration of construction sites—Monthly

Lake Murray

- Partnered with I Love A Clean San Diego, San Diego River Park Foundation, and Friends of Lake Murray on two trash cleanup events—March and September

Lake Hodges

- Partnered with I Love A Clean San Diego on a cleanup event with volunteers removing 1000 pounds of trash
- Performed work for the Oak Woodland Fire Fuel Reduction Project including invasive species removal and oak habitat restoration—Monthly
- Closed trails and installed fencing—Monthly
- Planted oak trees in partnership with Del Dios Habitat Protection League and Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon—Annual Event
- Partnered with San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and Mission Resource Conservation League for eradication of giant reed with foliar treatments, cut stump and biomass removal
- Partnered with San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research for coastal cactus wren habitat restoration—Monthly

Otay Reservoirs

- Held “Creek to Bay” cleanup where volunteers assisted with trash pick-up—May
- Maintained bat houses on dam and artificial burrowing owl habitat—Monthly
- Performed restoration efforts in the upper Otay Riparian habitat—Monthly
- Partnered with San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research for seed collection as part of an on-going California Plant Rescue Initiative

Proctor Valley

- Chaparral Lands Conservancy continued vernal pool habitat restoration project—Monthly
- Repaired fencing and ORV barrier—As Needed

Marron Valley

- Partnered with San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research for seed collection as part of an on-going California Plant Rescue Initiative—Yearlong

Thanks to our Partners!

- Allied Gardens Recreation Center
- Alpha Project
- AmeriCorps
- American Conservation Experience
- Atlas Tree Service
- Bay Park Nature Walks
- Bayside Community Center
- Boy Scouts of America
- Cabrillo Recreation Center
- California Native Plant Society
- Cambridge Elementary School
- Camelback Group
- Chula Vista Home School
- CEO - Center for Employment Opportunities
- CETYS High School in Tijuana
- Chaparral Lands Conservancy
- City of Chula Vista
- City of San Diego - Police Department
- Conservation Biology Institute
- County of San Diego
- Del Dios Habitat Protection League
- Donovan Crew
- Eagle Scouts
- Empower Charter School
- Finney Elementary School
- Friends of 47th Street
- Friends of Arroyo Canyon
- Friends of Chollas Creek
- Friends of Juniper Canyon
- Friends of Mission Valley Preserve
- Friends of Lake Murray
- Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
- Friends of Navajo Canyon
- Friends of Rose Canyon
- Friends of Ruffin Canyon
- Friends of Tecolote Canyon
- Friends of University Heights Open Space
- Girl Scouts of America
- Groundworks Chollas
- High Tech High
- Holmes Elementary School
- I Love a Clean San Diego
- Jewish Community Center
- Juarez Elementary School
- Kate Sessions Elementary School
- Key Club
- Longfellow Elementary School
- Mesa College
- Mike Kelly & Associates
- Mission Resource Conservation League
- Mormon Missionaries
- Ocean Discovery Institute
- Outdoor Adventures
- River Partners
- Safe Routes to Nature
- San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
- San Diego Audubon Society
- San Diego Canyonlands
- San Diego Cooperative Charter School
- SDG&E
- San Diego Natural History Museum
- San Diego Management and Monitoring Program
- San Diego Mountain Biking Association
- San Diego River Park Foundation
- San Dieguito River Park Conservancy
- San Diego State University
- San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research
- Sierra Club
- Sky Hunters
- Spreckles Elementary School
- The Institute for Effective Education (TIEE)
- Trail Life USA
- University of San Diego
- Urban Corps of San Diego County
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Navy
- WildCoast
- YMCA

Thank you for your support
of natural open space within the City of San
Diego!

For questions or to volunteer, please contact:

Kim Roeland
MSCP Biologist
(619) 685-1308
kroeland@san-diego.gov

