

Happy Trails

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California bumble bee



Volunteer Opportunities

Trail volunteering is a great way to have fun, keep fit and learn about our natural environment, all while making a lasting contribution that benefits the community for generations. If you are interested in becoming a trail volunteer in the future, please call 442-339-5725 or check the city's website for volunteer event dates and times at www.carlsbadca.gov/trails. Please remember to wear gloves, closed-toe shoes and sunscreen. Water will be provided.

Species spotlight:

Coastal California gnatcatcher

While you're out for a walk, keep your ears open for a high-pitched kitten-like meow coming from the bushes. It's most likely the coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally threatened species that can be found within Southern California's coastal slopes consisting of coastal sage scrub.

This is a high priority species for the City of Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan; its federal listing in 1993 is one of the reasons the city developed the plan, which allows continued economic development while also protecting our natural resources.



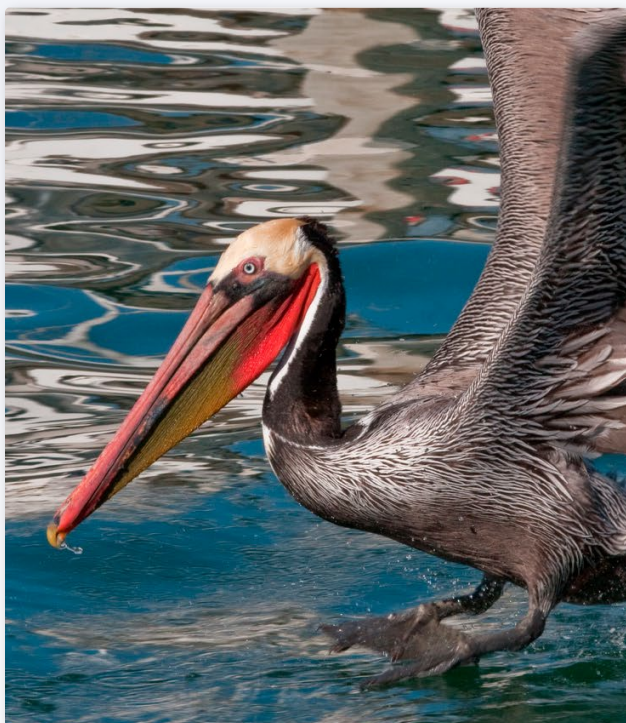
Featured habitat:

Coastal sage scrub

Coastal sage scrub is the quintessential habitat of California's coastal areas, and likely the habitat you see the most of in the City of Carlsbad. This habitat commonly consists of California sagebrush, California buckwheat, black sage, white sage, California encelia, and lemonade berry. Not only is coastal sage scrub home to the high priority coastal California gnatcatcher, it's also a priority habitat for Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan.



PRESERVING native plants and wildlife



The City of Carlsbad has set aside nearly 6,200 acres of open space as preserves for native plants and wildlife through the Habitat Management Plan.

The plan was created to guide sustainable development, conserve native habitat, allow for wildlife movement and permanently protect 47 rare plant and animal species within the city.

The goal is to preserve 6,478 acres of natural open space after all development in the city has occurred. So far, the city has achieved 96% of that target! The city's preserves include wetland habitats, such as aquatic marsh and willow scrub, and a variety of upland habitat types, such as coastal sage scrub, native grasslands and oak woodlands.

To learn more about the city's preserve system and the work being done to protect and preserve native habitat, visit the city's [Habitat Management Plan webpage](#).

PROTECTING OUR HABITATS

from Ward's Weed

While hiking you have seen signs notifying you about the Ward's Weed Eradication Program.

What is Ward's Weed?

Ward's weed is an invasive plant species that was originally discovered in Carlsbad in 2008. It is a plant in the mustard family that has small yellow flowers with four petals and purple veins. Like most species in the mustard family, Ward's weed plants produce a staggering number of seeds, enabling this species to spread very quickly, sometimes growing as a thick mat that chokes out all other plants. Humans and animals can unintentionally spread Ward's weed to other areas because the seeds are in a "sticky" seed pod on the plant stems, which easily attaches to shoes, clothes and animal fur. Once the rainy season starts, the seeds will burst out of the pods and start to grow. Because this is an annual species, within one year, the plants die off, leaving behind dry, highly flammable twigs that resemble dried tumbleweeds. But even after the plants die, Ward's weed can continue spread from seeds that hide in the soil and remain viable for many years.

How can it be treated?

Despite the ability for Ward's weed to spread very quickly, the Ward's Weed Eradication Program has successfully kept the invasive species at bay. Prior to initiating the program, the Center for Natural Lands Management and ACS Habitat Management spent 10 years conducting field trials to identify the most effective and least toxic methods for eradicating Ward's weed. Hand pulling, mechanical removal and a variety of organic and synthetic herbicides were ineffective. Finally, it was discovered that a pre-emergent herbicide, which prevents the seeds from sprouting, was found to be quite successful in controlling Ward's weed and is safe to use around native plants.

Because Ward's weed is relatively new invader, it has not been found outside of San Diego County, and 98% of the known locations are found in Carlsbad. In 2019, the city assembled a regional stakeholder group, secured grant funding, and initiated the Ward's Weed Eradication Program. **Phase 1**, a two-year intensive treatment, was extremely successful. The success of the program is continuing in **Phase 2**, where "hot spots" are being treated and monitored. The most problematic areas that may hinder eradication, are in locations near irrigation. The irrigation creates a growing season year-round for the invasive species because seeds in the soil can continue to germinate without having to wait for the rainy season. The city will continue to monitor Ward's weed and work with regional partners and future funding opportunities.

As hikers, we can do our part by making sure that we and our hiking buddies, both two legged and four legged, stay on the trails. Also, check your clothing and remove seed pods before leaving a hiking area.





Featured Photo

California bumble bee (*Bombus californicus*). This long-tongued bee can be found throughout coastal California, Oregon, and Washington and eastward into the Rocky Mountains

Volunteer Trail Captains

Arroyo Vista/Villagio – Curtis Wilbur
Batiquitos Lagoon North Bluff – VACANT
Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park – Sue Irey
Coastal Rail Trail – Yovanni Maldonado
El Fuerte/Bressi Ranch Trail – Buck & Janet Carter
Harbor Drive – Craig Kirk
Hidden Valley Trail – Brian Stadnik
Hosp Grove – Gary Nessim and John Rodenhausen
La Costa Glen – Ed and Tricia Cerda
La Costa Southern Preserve – April Frieda
La Costa Valley – Debbie Phipps
Lake Calavera – Paige DeCino, Terry Parsons
Melrose 53-Filoli Circle/ East Ridgeline – Slader Buck
Old Rancho Santa Fe Road – Richard L'Heureux
Rancho Carrillo – Ramesh Sirsi (East) Sally & Will Willis (West)
Ridgeline/La Costa Trail – Don Stapp
Robertson Ranch – George Cornell
The Crossings/ Veterans Memorial Park – Shane Hohnstein
The Ranch/Santa Fe Trails – Alvaro Villamizar
Village H / Hidden Canyon Park – Tim Campbell
Village H South – Gerald Rea & Wanda Stiles

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Citywide Trails Program Mission Statement

“Provide a trails system that ensures the recreational and leisure needs of Carlsbad residents while supporting the protection and preservation of open space in accordance with the City of Carlsbad General Plan.”

The logo for the City of Carlsbad Parks & Recreation. It features a stylized graphic of three curved lines in green, yellow, and blue, resembling a sun or a flower, positioned to the left of the text. The text "City of Carlsbad" is in a large, blue, serif font, and "Parks & Recreation" is in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it.

City of
Carlsbad
Parks & Recreation

442-339-2826
www.carlsbadca.gov/trails