

Urban Corps Habitat Services Management on Carlsbad Preserves Presented at the Annual Public Meeting March 9, 2021

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Urban Corps of San Diego County History and Mission of “Learning, Earning, Conserving”

- Founded in 1989
- Nonprofit Organization that is a Local Conservation Corps Certified Annually by the State-run California Conservation Corps
- Charter School for young men and women (ages 18-26) to earn a high school diploma
- On-the-job training that assists with job placement, and career development



Corpsmembers at Work in the Carlsbad Preserves



Preserve Management

- Urban Corps Habitat Services Currently Manages 17 Preserves Totaling 356-acres within 7 Jurisdictions (County of San Diego, City of Carlsbad, City of Oceanside, City of Escondido, City of Imperial Beach, City of Santee, and City of San Marcos)
- 5 of the 17 Preserves are in the City of Carlsbad
 - City Ventures Preserve (8.3-acres)
 - New Crest Preserve (0.04-acre)
 - Southern Preserve (55.2-acres)
 - Paseo Del Norte Preserve (1.4-acres)
 - Poinsettia Place Preserve (11.5-acres)

New Crest Preserve

August 2016



February 2020



The New Crest Preserve burned during the Poinsettia Fire in May 2014 but has since recovered.

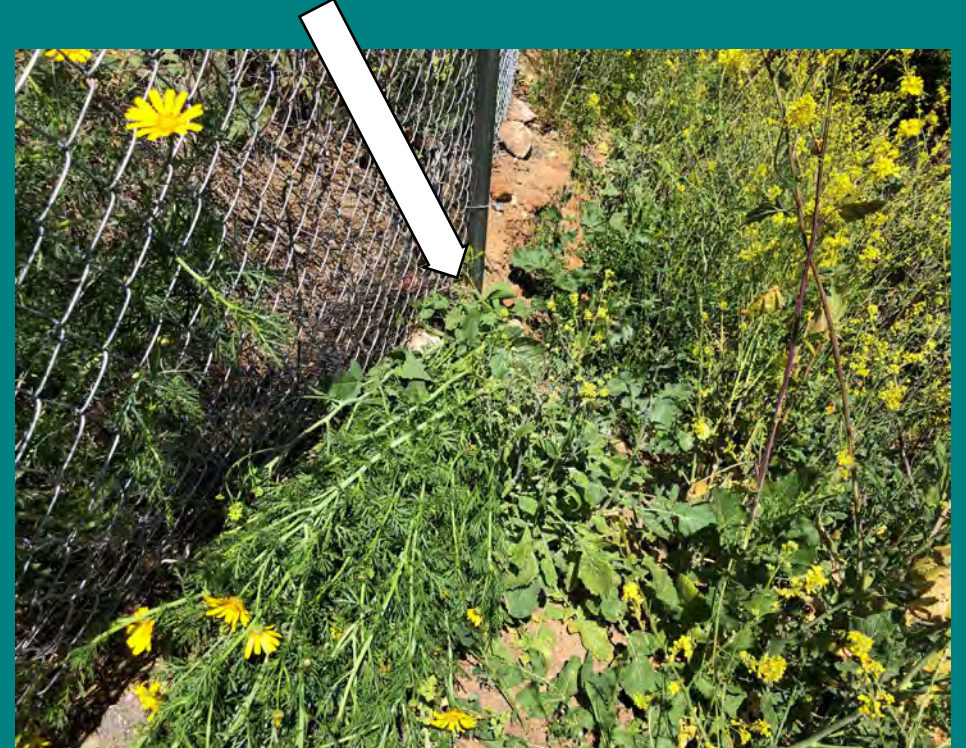
New Crest Preserve

Only one sensitive plant species and one sensitive wildlife species have been noted within this 0.04-acre preserve. The sensitive wildlife species is the Orange-throated Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*) and the sensitive plant species is the Wart-stemmed Ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) which is pictured below.



To protect these two sensitive species and the Chaparral habitat in which they occur, Urban Corps Habitat Services management priorities at the New Crest Preserve include:

- Trash pickup
- Weed removal of non-native, invasive species such as Crown Daisy and Mustards



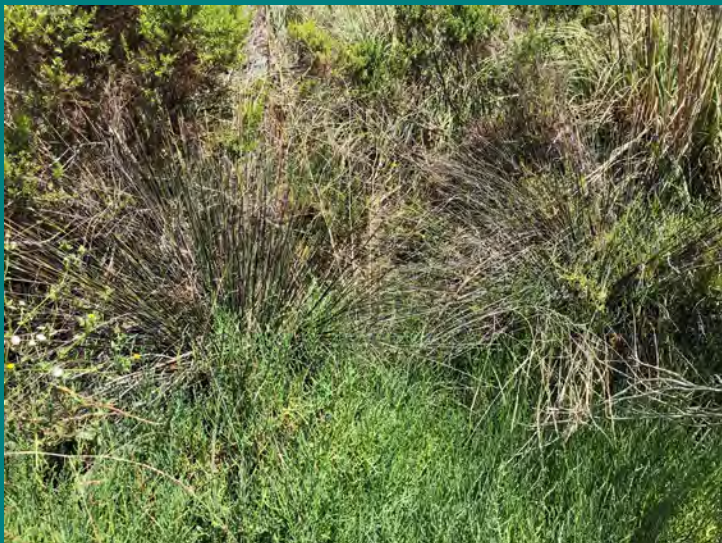
Paseo Del Norte Preserve

Two Sensitive Plant Species Protected:

San Diego Marsh Elder (*Iva hayesiana*)



Southwestern Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*)



The primary maintenance task required to protect the two sensitive plant species within the Paseo Del Norte Preserve is the removal of non-native plants, such as Iceplant and Pampas Grass (seen below).



Poinsettia Place Preserve

Two Sensitive Wildlife Species Protected:

California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)

Orange-throated Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*)

Four Sensitive Plant Species Protected:

Summer Holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*)

Del Mar Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*)

Nuttall's Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*)

Wart-stemmed Ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*)

****Interesting Biological Monitoring Results in 2020****

The Poinsettia Place Preserve burned in the May 2014 Poinsettia Fire. Prior to the fire, only 11 Wart-stemmed Ceanothus were documented within the preserve. In 2020, 290 Wart-stemmed Ceanothus were counted within the preserve! Below is a photo of this sensitive plant in fruit in late March 2020.



Poinsettia Place Preserve



Acacia Removal From Southern Maritime Chaparral Habitat

City Ventures Preserve

Two Sensitive Wildlife Species Protected:

California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)

Orange-throated Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*)

Four Sensitive Plant Species Protected:

Del Mar Sand Aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia* var. *linifolia*)

Nuttall's Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*)

Ashy Spike-Moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*)

Southwestern Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*)

Del Mar Sand Aster –
828 Individuals Counted in 2020



City Ventures Preserve

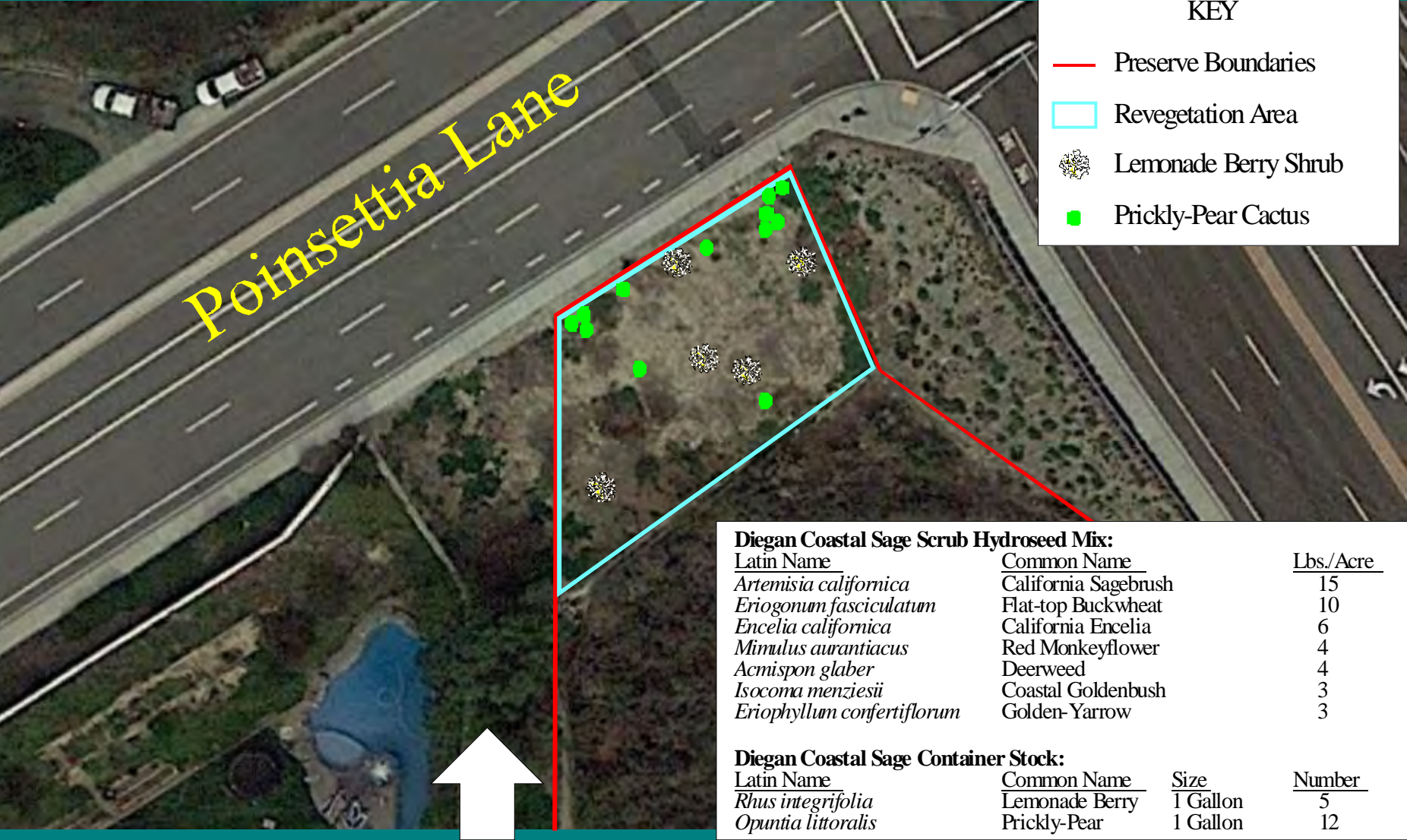
To protect the two sensitive wildlife species and four sensitive plant species within the City Ventures Preserve, habitat maintenance activities include:

- Periodic brow ditch cleaning
- Weed removal of non-native, invasive species such as Creeping Myoporum and Fountain Grass
- Vegetation trimming along the sidewalk



City Ventures Preserve

0.13-Acre Voluntary Habitat Restoration Area



Scale: 1-inch = 40-feet

City Ventures Preserve 0.13-Acre Voluntary Habitat Restoration



The 0.13-acre restoration area is checked during the general site visits for weeds and success of the hydroseeding and container planting efforts. Of the 12 Prickly-Pear Cacti planted in 2018, 9 of those 12 were doing well in 2020. Of the 5 Lemonade Berry planted in 2018, 3 of those 5 were still alive in 2020. Sprouts from the hydroseed included California Encelia, Coastal Goldenbush, California Sagebrush, and Flat-top Buckwheat.

Southern Preserve

- 55.2-acres
- Two habitat types: Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub and Non-Native Grassland
- Four sensitive wildlife species:

California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps* ssp. *canescens*)

Southern Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

- Three sensitive plant species:

San Diego Goldenstar (*Bloomeria clevelandii*)

California Adolphia (*Adolphia californica*)

Ashy Spike-Moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*)



Ashy Spike-Moss



San Diego Goldenstar



California Adolphia

Southern Preserve

Non-Native Grassland Habitat



The Non-Native Grassland habitat within the Southern Preserve contains a predominance of weedy, non-native grasses, such as Bromes and Oats with scattered native shrubs (pictured at left) and perennial, native bunch grasses (shown above).

Southern Preserve

Use of Non-Native Grassland Habitat by Mule Deer in 2020



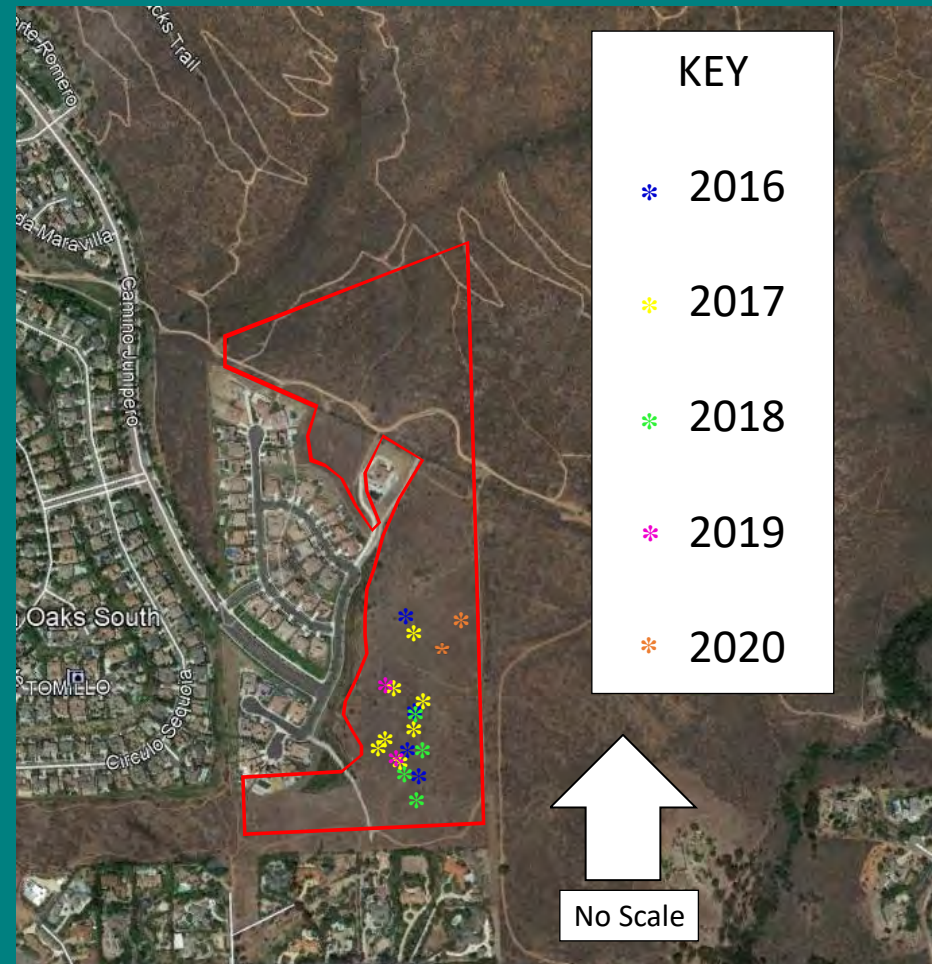
Base Photo Source: ©2020 Google; Imagery Date 8/13/2018

Scale: 1-inch = 1,000-feet

Southern Preserve

Use of Non-Native Grassland Habitat by Grasshopper Sparrows 2016-2020

The Grasshopper Sparrow is a small, ground-nesting bird found exclusively in grassland habitat. This species is considered a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Grasshopper Sparrows have been seen and heard in the southeastern portion of the Southern Preserve for the last five years between the months of March and June (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020).



Southern Preserve

Removal of Artichoke Thistle from Non-Native Grassland Habitat



Thank you!

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