

Urban Corps Habitat Services Management on Carlsbad Preserves Presented at the Annual Public Meeting February 16, 2022

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

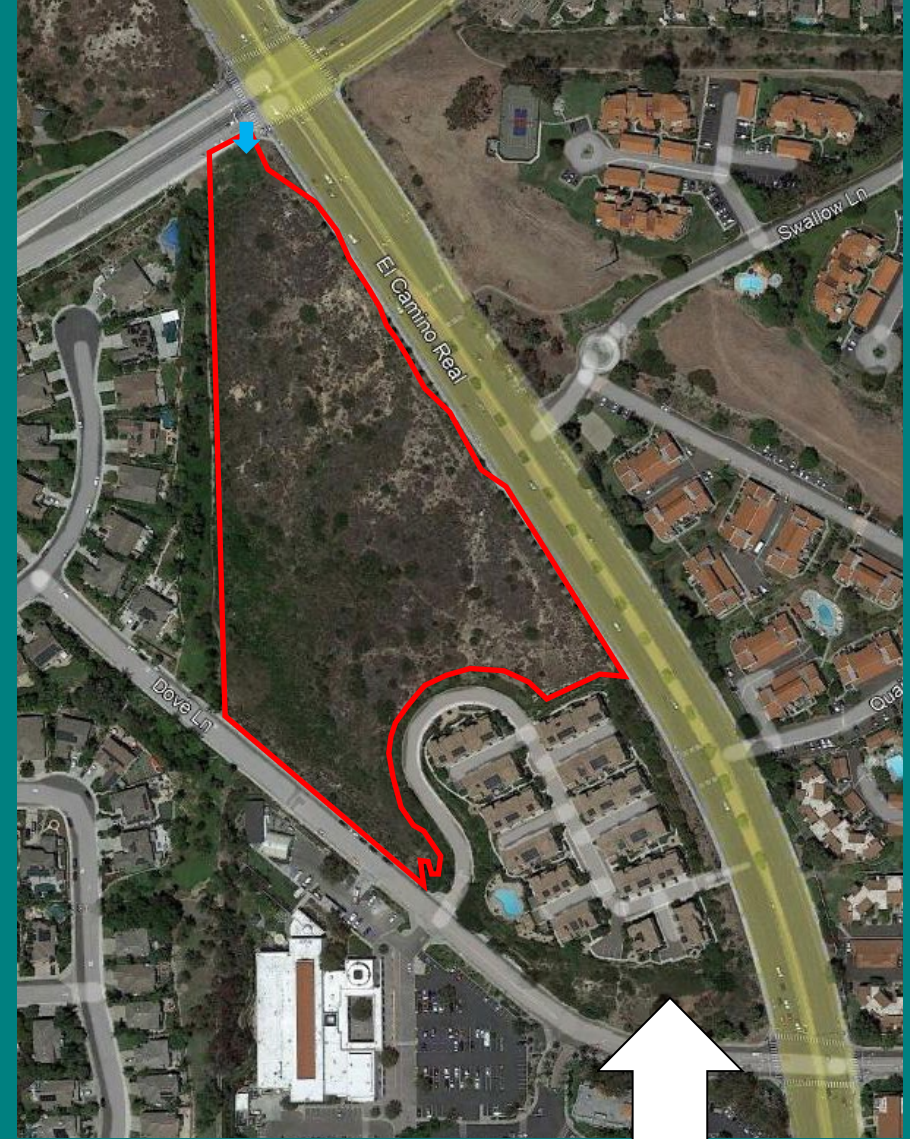
- Founded in 1989
- Nonprofit Organization that is a Local Conservation Corps Certified Annually by the State-run California Conservation Corps
- Charter School for young men and women (ages 18-26) to earn a high school diploma
- On-the-job training that assists with job placement, and career development



Preserve Management

- Urban Corps Habitat Services Currently Manages 19 Preserves Totaling 392-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)
- 6 of the 19 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)
 - Morning Ridge (20-acres) – NEW

City Ventures Preserve – 8.3 Acres



No Scale

City Ventures Preserve

To protect the sensitive habitats and the sensitive wildlife and plant species that occur within the preserve, habitat maintenance activities in 2021 included:

- Removal of illegally dumped landscape cuttings
- Weed removal of non-native, invasive species such as Creeping Myoporum and Tree Tobacco



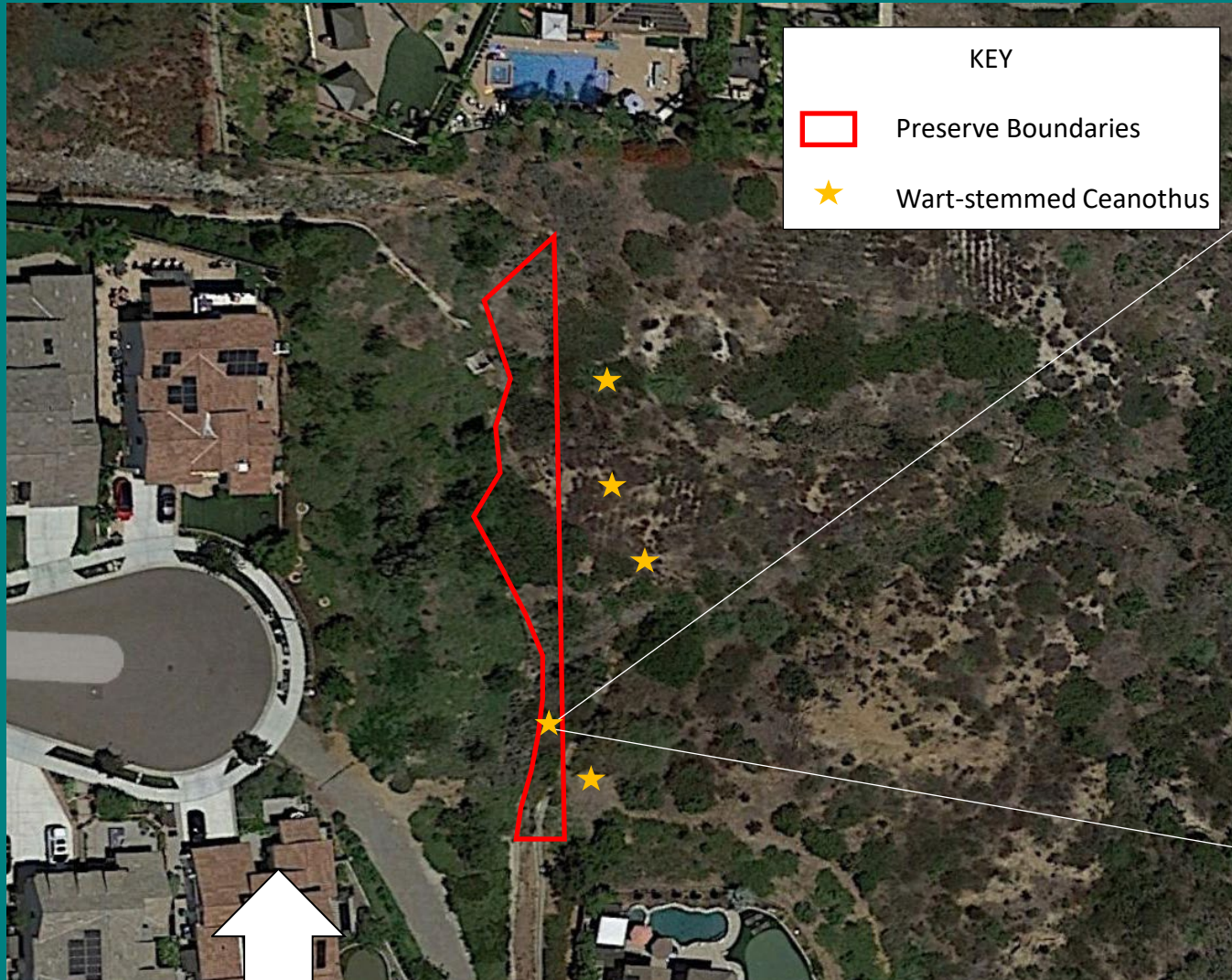
City Ventures Preserve

0.13-Acre Voluntary Habitat Restoration



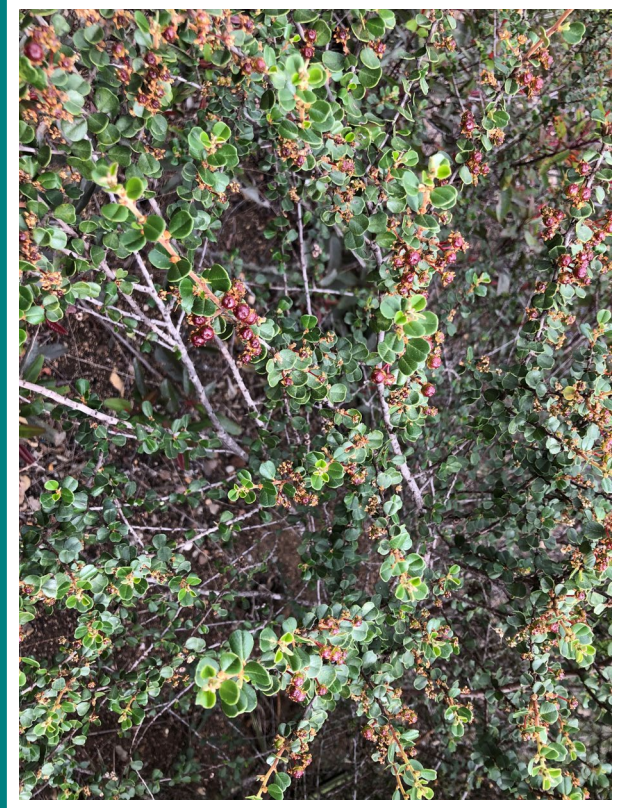
The 0.13-acre restoration area is checked during the general site visits for weeds and success of the hydroseeding and container planting efforts that occurred in 2018. The central photo shows one of the twelve planted Prickly-Pear cacti surrounded by the non-native, Creeping Myoporum. The outer photos show Corpsmembers carefully hand cutting the Creeping Myoporum away from the native plants within the habitat restoration area.

New Crest Preserve – 0.04 acre



KEY

- ▭ Preserve Boundaries
- ★ Wart-stemmed Ceanothus



No Scale

New Crest Preserve

August 2016

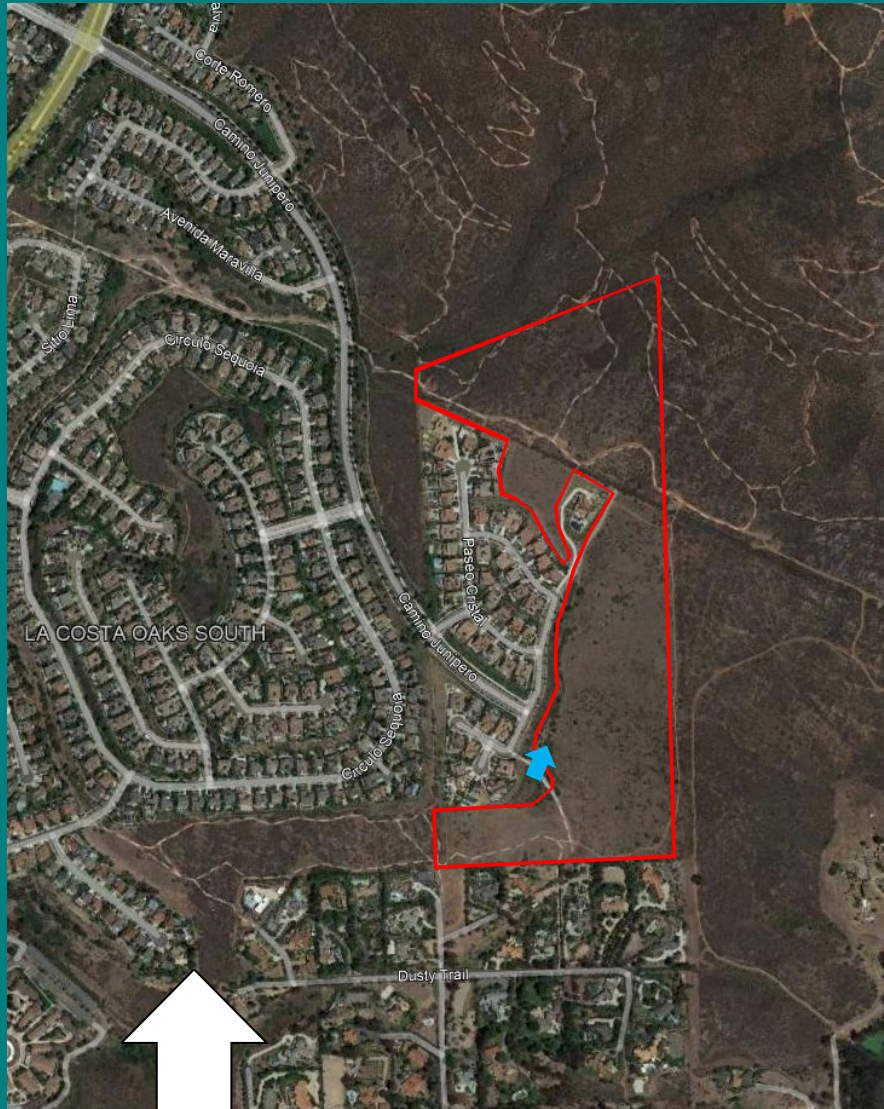


April 2021



The Southern Maritime Chaparral habitat at the New Crest Preserve burned during the Poinsettia Fire in May 2014 but has since recovered.

Southern Preserve – 55.2 Acres



No Scale



Southern Preserve

Non-Native Grassland Habitat – A Sensitive Habitat

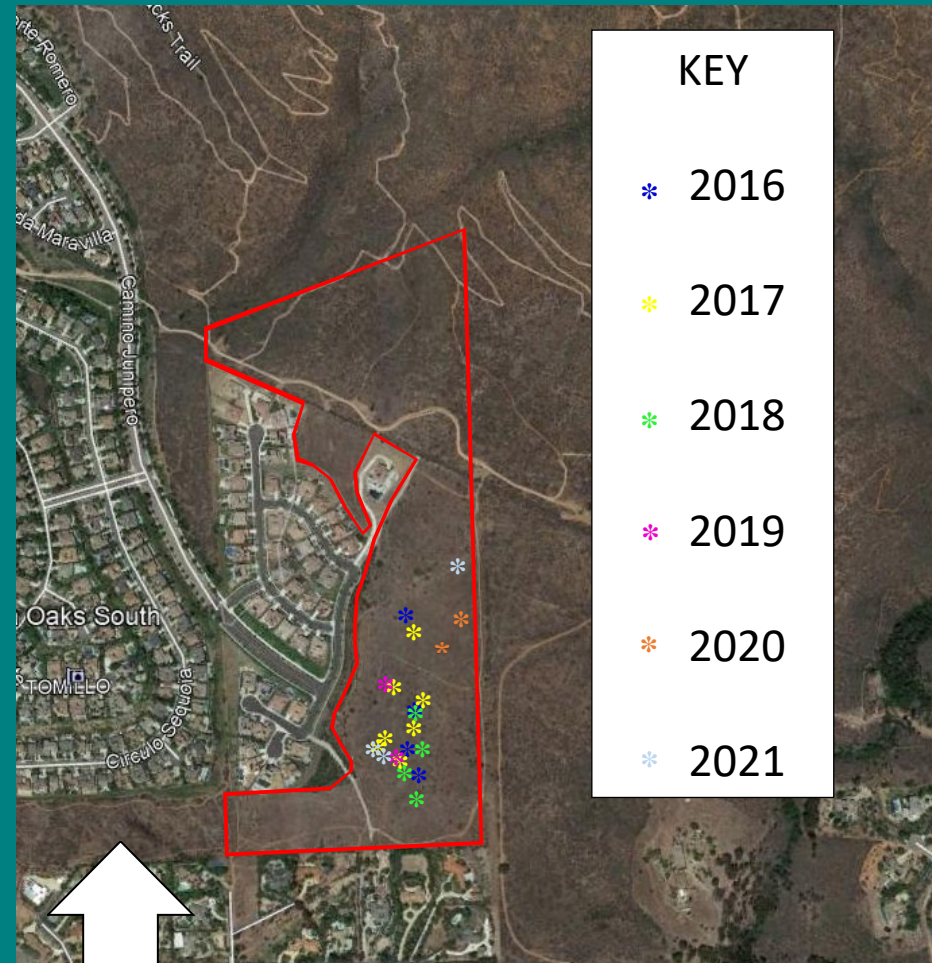


The Non-Native Grassland habitat within the Southern Preserve provides habitat for two sensitive wildlife species, the Mule Deer and Grasshopper Sparrow. Mule Deer “beds” within the grassland habitat are shown in the photo to the left. Above is a “game trail” through the grassland utilized by Mule Deer as evidenced by pellets and tracks.

Southern Preserve

Use of Non-Native Grassland Habitat by Grasshopper Sparrows 2016-2021

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 six years between the months of March and June (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021).



No Scale

Southern Preserve

Artichoke Thistle – A Major Threat to the Non-Native Grassland Habitat



Paseo Del Norte Preserve – 1.4 Acres



No Scale



Paseo Del Norte Preserve

Two Sensitive Plant Species Protected:

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

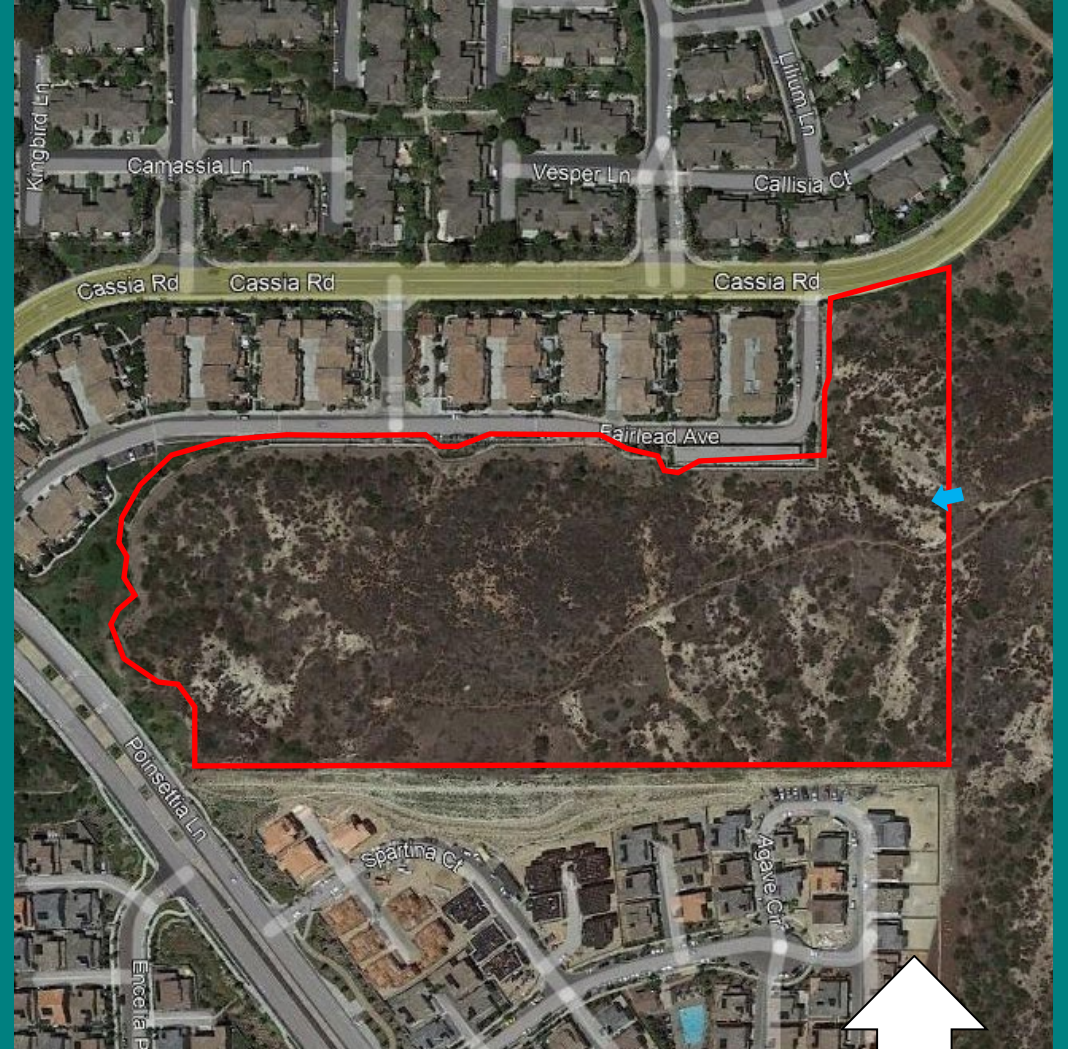


During 2021, the maintenance tasks required to protect the two sensitive plant species within the Paseo Del Norte Preserve were the removal of non-native plants, such as Pampas Grass (shown above), and the monitoring of the construction within the adjacent Caltrans right-of-way (shown to the right).



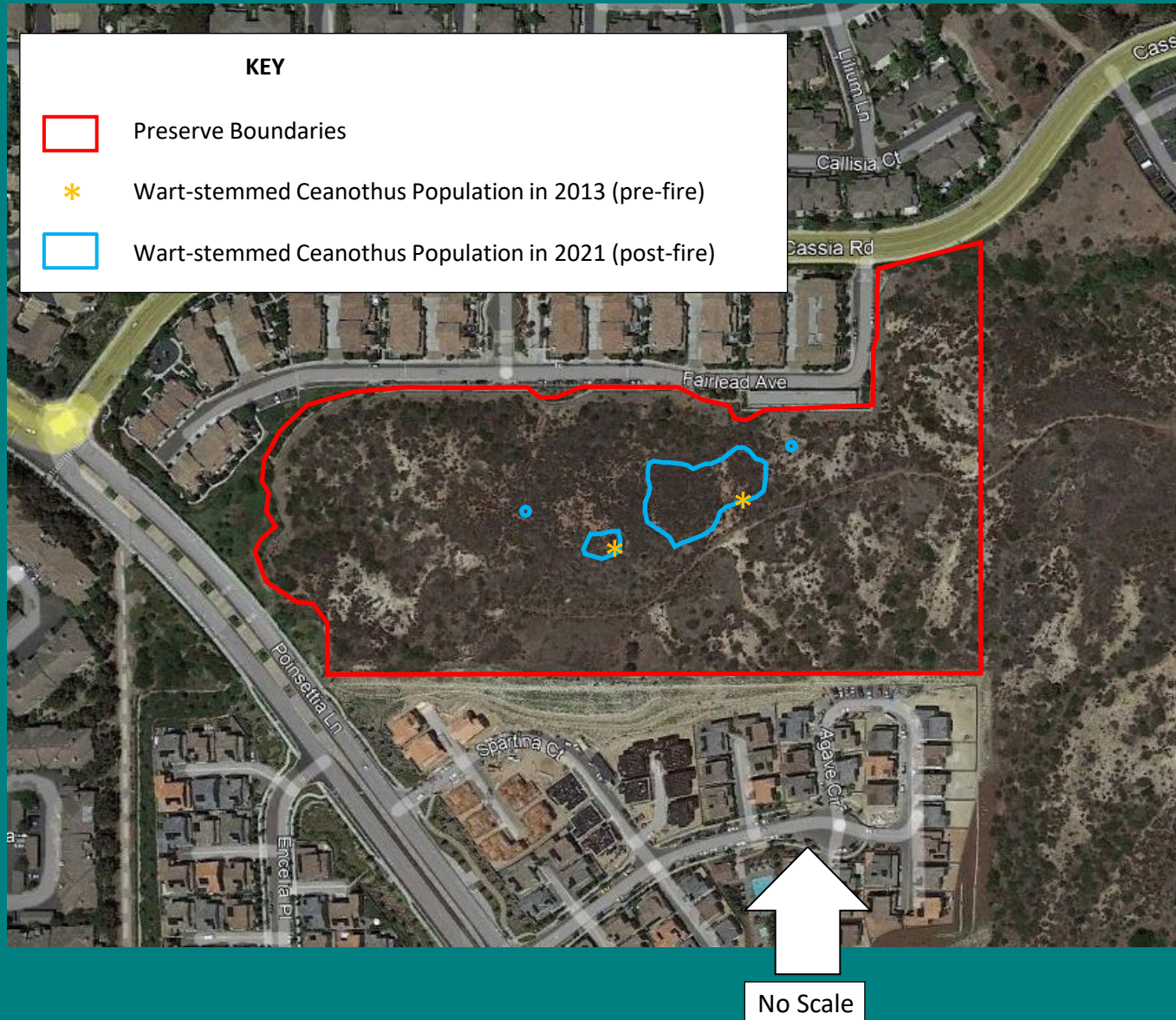
San Diego Marsh Elder (*Iva hayesiana*)

Poinsettia Place Preserve – 11.5 Acres



No Scale

Poinsettia Place Preserve – Wart-stemmed Ceanothus



Interesting Post-Fire Biological Monitoring Results

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 2021, 254 Wart-stemmed Ceanothus were counted within the preserve. This number is down from the 2020 count of 290 individuals. Presumably as certain individual Wart-stemmed Ceanothus sprouts thrive and mature, others will get crowded out and die until a stable, full-grown population is reached. Plans for 2022 include updated mapping for this species and another count of the population size.

NEW - Morning Ridge Preserve – 20 Acres

The Morning Ridge Preserve will begin to be managed by the Urban Corps of San Diego starting in 2022. In perpetuity funding for the preserve maintenance was turned over from the HOA to the San Diego Foundation in fall of 2021 to ensure the long-term preservation of the site.

STAY TUNED



A Few More Photos of Our Hardworking Corpsmembers in the Carlsbad Preserves



Thank you!

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<https://urbancorpsd.org>

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