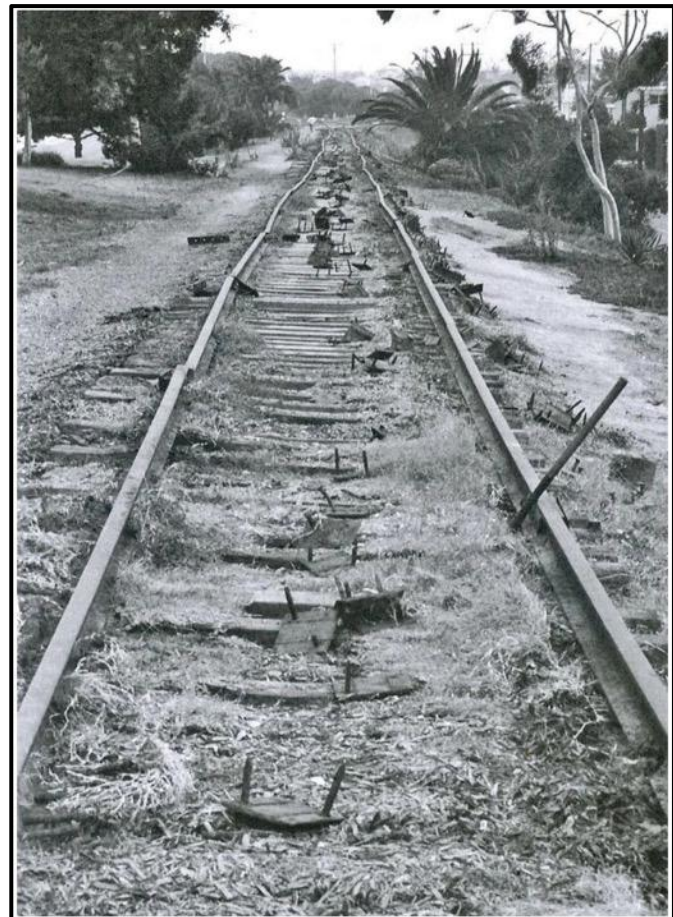




Presentation to Hermosa Beach Parks & Recreation Commission: Rewilding the Hermosa Valley Greenbelt Rewilding

September 2023



The Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way in Manhattan Beach in an undated photo, probably from the 1980s. (Photo courtesy Jan Dennis collection)



Happy Hour with History: Hermosa Valley Greenbelt Rewilding

- Overview of South Bay Parkland Conservancy (SBPC)
- Hermosa Valley Greenbelt Rewilding Project
- Closing remarks
- Q&A

Feel free to ask questions at any time!





South Bay Parkland Conservancy Background

SBPC Formation

- 501(c)3 - Non-profit formed in 2004
- Originally formed to turn Redondo powerplant property into parkland and wetlands

SBPC Mission

- Preserve, enhance expand parkland in South Bay

SBPC Strategic Thrusts

- Restore and expand native habitat
- Establish Redondo Beach Community Garden
- Influence public policy
 - Pro – public parkland, recreation, and open space
 - Pro – Urban forests and native plants
- Educate the public





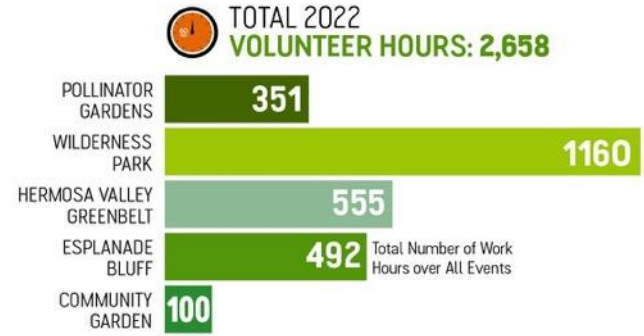
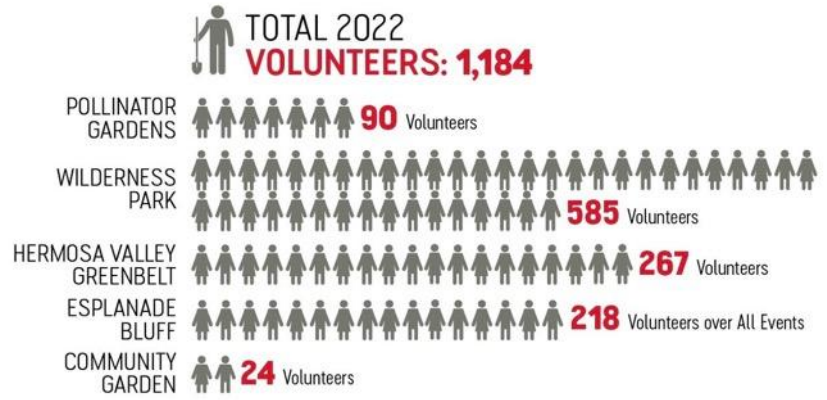
SBPC Planting Projects

- Alondra Park Island – Lawndale
- Hermosa Green Belt – Hermosa
- Fort Lots-O-Fun – Hermosa
- Herondo Park – Redondo
- Old Salt Lake/Powerplant Site – Redondo
- Esplanade Bluff Garden -Redondo
- Esplanade Bluff Restoration - Redondo
- Wilderness Park Restoration - Redondo
- Alta Vista Community Garden - Redondo
- Alta Vista Elementary School Demo Garden - Redondo





2022 - SBPC by the numbers





2023 - SBPC by the numbers mid-year



2023 IMPACT TO DATE



1,937
Plants in
the Ground



2,329
Volunteer
Hours



89
Events



954
Volunteers

2023 mid-year Greenbelt Stats

- 888 Plants
- 11 Events
- 163 Volunteers
- 328 Hours



Rewilding Hermosa Greenbelt

- History of the Greenbelt
- Why rewild the Greenbelt?
- Where are we at?
- Where are we going?
- What's so bad about iceplant?
- The amazing monarch butterfly
- Saving the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly

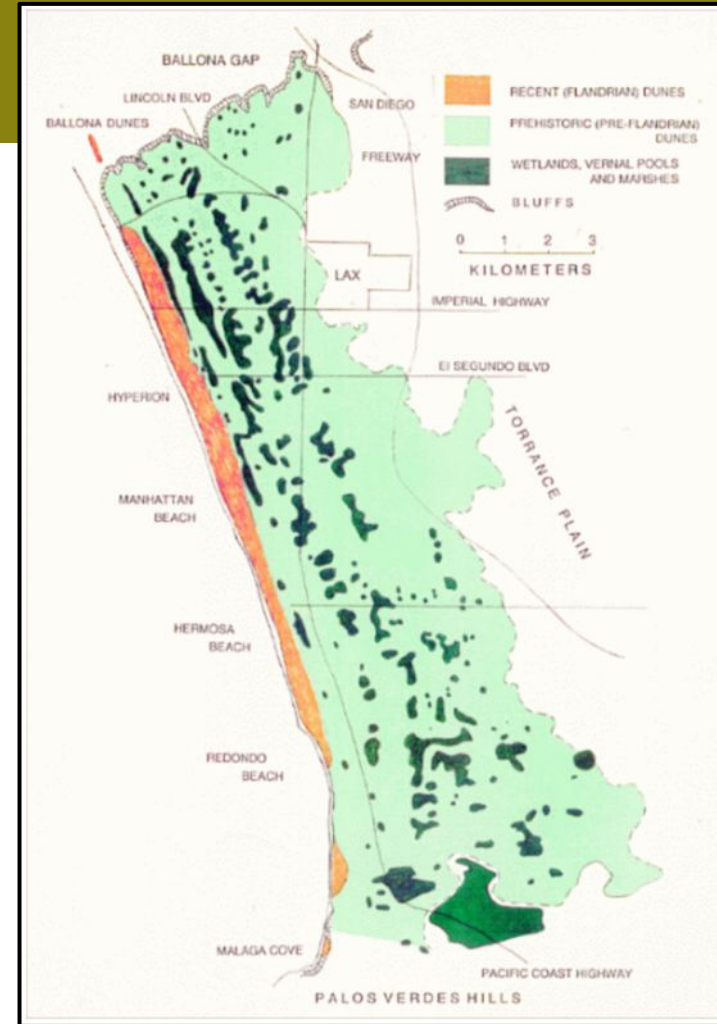




Hermosa Greenbelt - History

Pre-settlement Hermosa Greenbelt area was historically part of a coastal dune system

- Sand and very loamy soil
- Habitat was coastal sage scrub
 - Plants that could survive in sandy, salty environment
 - Beach sand verbena (*Abronia umbellatum*)
 - Seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*)
 - Beach evening primrose (*Camissonia chieranthifolia*)
 - Goldenbush (*Ericameria ericoides*)
 - Several lupines
 - California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica* var *maritima* – yellow with orange center)
 - California sunflower (*Encelia californica*)
- Habitat was decimated by development
 - Sand is found 6" to 18' deep
 - A few native plants still naturally exist nearby

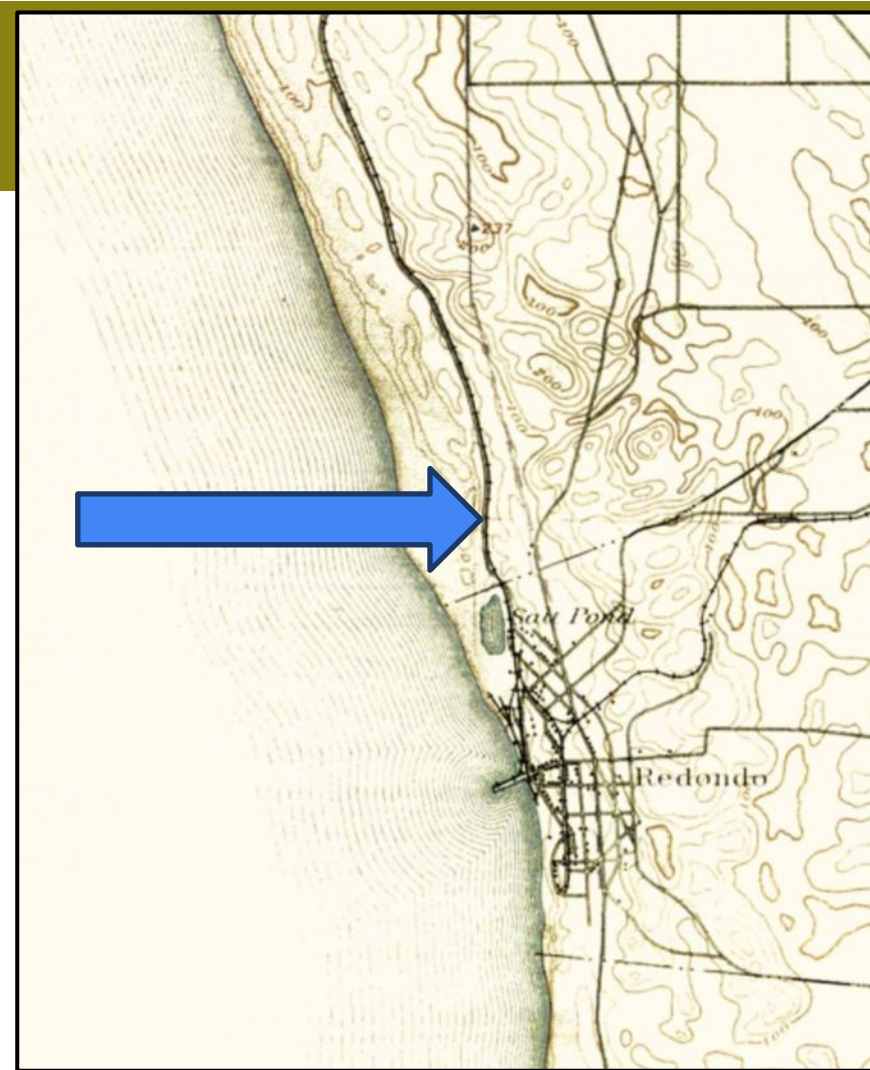




Original railway

1896 topographical map shows Santa Fe train route through Hermosa, behind Salt Lake, to Redondo pier

- Opened 1888
- Train largely carried lumber to build LA from Redondo (former Port of LA)
- Also had passenger service from LA
- Formally abandoned in 1983
- Tracks pulled up in 1986
- 1988 - Hermosa voters approve measure for city to pay for ROW. City buys 19 acres for \$7.5M





Why rewild the greenbelt?

Project Goals

- Provide critical corridor to connect endangered El Segundo blue butterfly populations
- Provide native pollinator plants for overwintering monarch butterflies
- Improve overall ecological value of greenbelt habitat
- Instill community stewardship in improving and maintaining greenbelt
- Provide education to community on value of native plants and habitats





Connect ESBB populations



Hermosa Valley Greenbelt is the ONLY corridor that can connect ESBB populations to the north and south



Saving the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly

Endangered species, endemic to our specific area

- Size – fingernail size
- Breeding season – May to July
- Population locations
 - PV
 - Redondo bluffs
 - Chevron refinery (El Segundo)
 - LAX Preserve
 - Ballona Wetlands
- Host plant – Seacliff buckwheat (*Erigonum parvifolium*)

Goal: Link ESBB populations

- Expand and link habitats for genetic diversity and population growth
- SBPC working Redondo Bluffs and Hermosa Beach Greenbelt
- Bay Foundation planting habitat in Manhattan Beach
- **CONCERN: Gap between bluffs and Greenbelt – El Segundo Blue will only migrate ½ mile max**

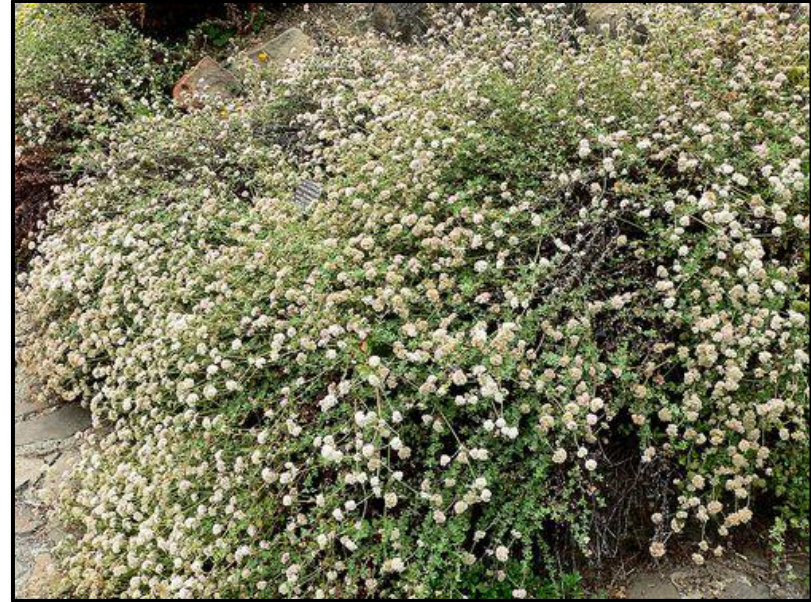




El Segundo blue butterfly – Why endangered

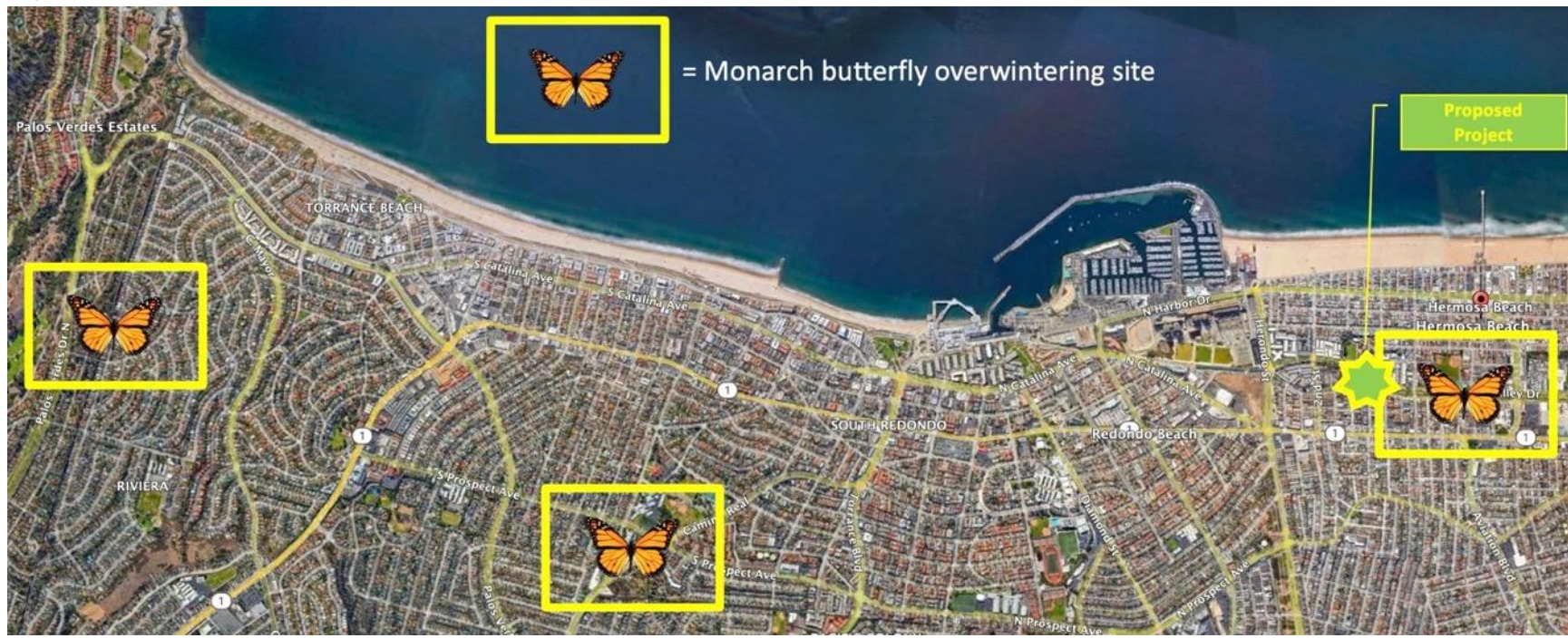
El Segundo blue butterfly is dependent on seacliff buckwheat

- ONLY Host plant = seacliff buckwheat (*Erigonum parvifolium*)
 - Host plant is the plant where the butterfly lays eggs and which the caterpillars can feed on
- Seacliff buckwheat has been wiped out by development and invasive plants such as iceplant





Pollinator plants for overwintering monarch butterflies

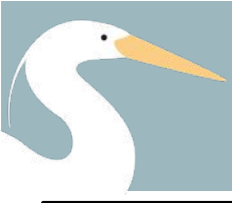


= Monarch butterfly overwintering site

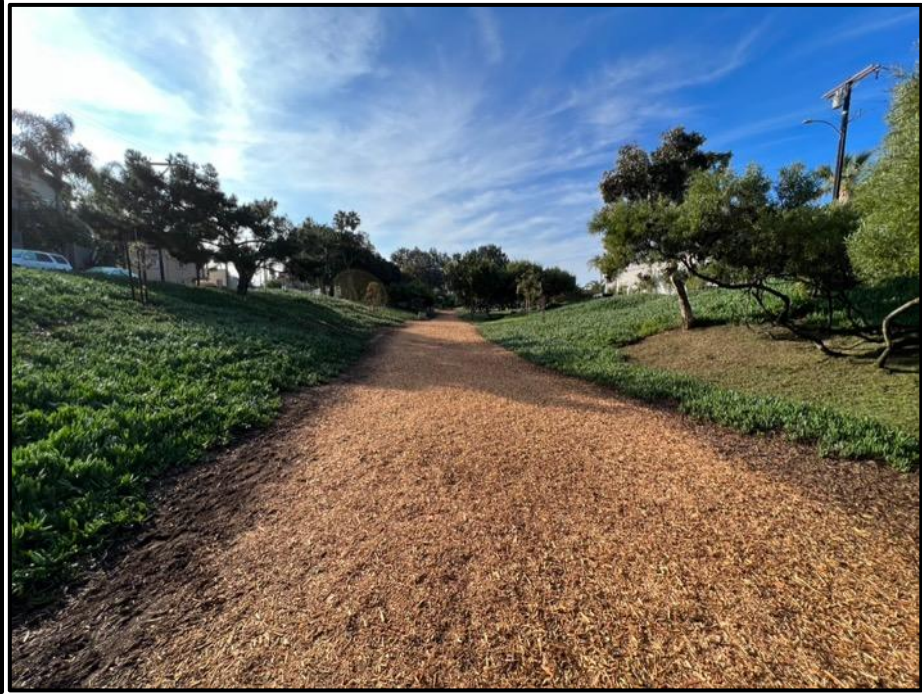


Proposed Project

Monarch butterflies that overwinter on the greenbelt need pollinating plants that bloom from late Fall to early Spring



Reduce invasive monocultures – increase ecological value



Replacing invasives with native plants will increase ecological value and biodiversity



What's wrong with iceplant????

Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) history

- South African plant
- Turn of century - Planted by railroads and then DOT
 - Stabilize soil
 - Fast spreading
 - Low maintenance
 - Drought tolerant



Iceplant monoculture on Green Belt



What's wrong with iceplant????

Iceplant is invasive

- Grows fast – 3 feet per year
- Spreads wide – single plant 150 feet
- Forms deep mats that block sunlight
- Easy propagation – seeds, plant segments
- Changes soil chemistry

Iceplant reduces biodiversity

- Kills out native plants essential to local wildlife
- Cover, water consumption, and soil chemistry prevents native seeds from sprouting
- Establishes a monoculture that supports limited wildlife
 - Not host plant for native fauna
 - Limited flowering season – summer/fall
 - Fewer flowers per square yard



Iceplant monoculture



Native habitat biodiversity



What's wrong with iceplant????



Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) is natural host for zero native insects or butterflies



Seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*) hosts 44 species of native insects and butterflies



What the greenbelt project is not

Not replacing all exotic and invasive plant species

- Not replacing mature exotics – trees, shrubs, flowers
 - Eucalyptus trees critical to overwintering monarchs
- Not replacing all invasives
 - Patches of ice plant and nasturtiums will always remain
- Grant application was to cover about 50% of current greenbelt





Hermosa Valley Green Belt Project Overview

Overview

- Original funding – anonymous local resident
 - Received city approvals in May
 - Started in June 2022 – 2nd to 6th Streets
- Selected by Leadership Herondo for their project
 - Complete planting four sections between Herondo and 2nd Street
- Applied for \$1.9M grant from Coastal Conservancy
 - Survived first round cuts; site walk
 - 50% of the whole Hermosa Greenbelt





Hermosa Valley Greenbelt – Plant Palette

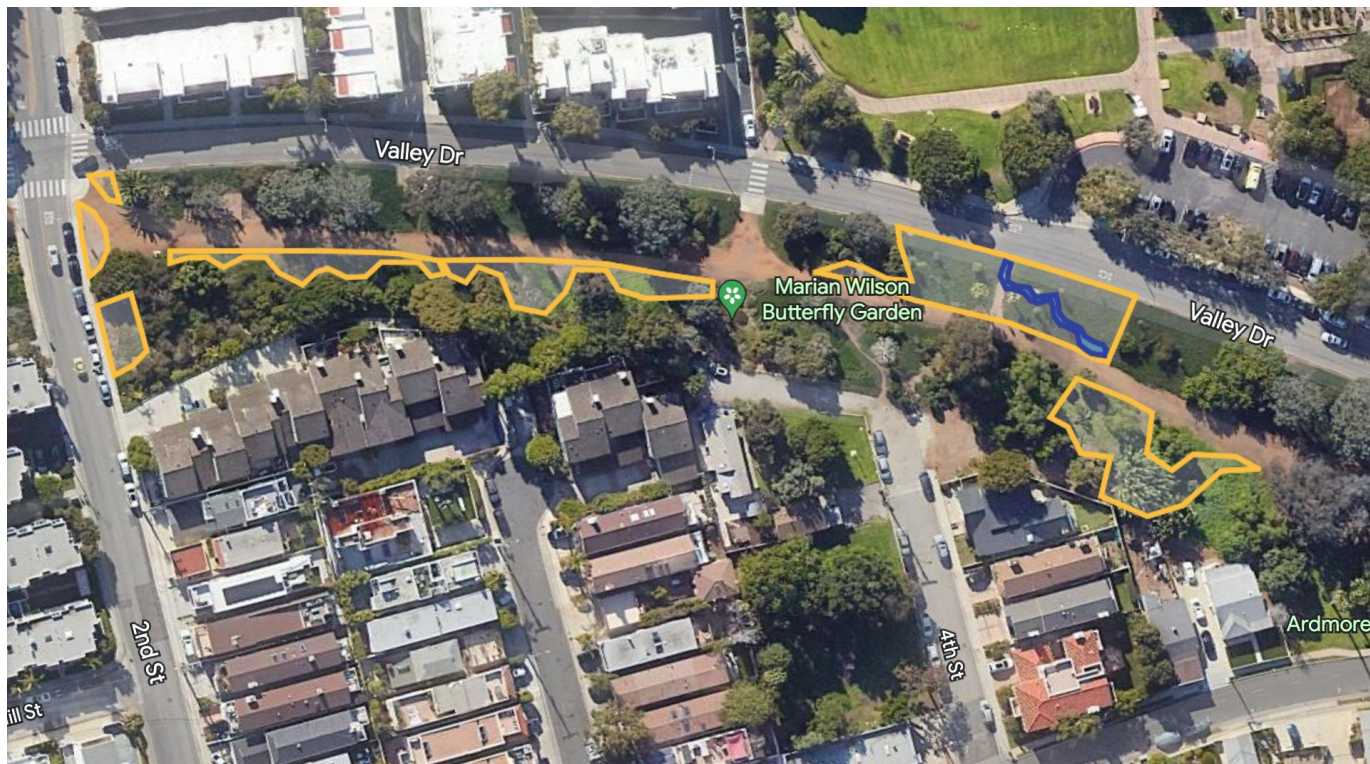
Plant	Notes
Seacliff buckwheat	El Segundo blue host
California sagebrush	
Bush sunflower	
Coast goldenbush	
Cleveland sage	
Black sage	
Purple sage (leucophylla)	
White sage	
Hummingbird sage	
Deerweed	
Bladderpod	
Lanceleaf liveforever	Succulent
Orangebush monkeyflower	

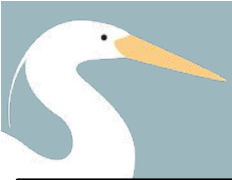
Plant	Notes
California fuchsia	
California morning glory	
Fuchsia flowered gooseberry	
California buckwheat	
CA coastal wildflower seeds	
Douglas iris	
Common sandaster	
Narrowleaf milkweed	Monarch host
Toyon	
Lemonade berry	



2022 First Funding

- Started with three sections on 2nd Street
- Added largest section across from South Park
- City requested weedy patch near 5th Street
- Filled in eastern edge connecting sections
- Some complaints about iceplant
- South park cut through traffic





2022 Community Engagement





2022 Grow Out



June 20, 2022



May 2023



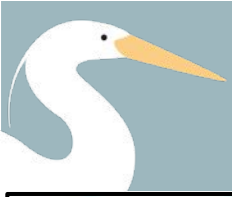
2022 Grow Out



June 20, 2022



April 2023



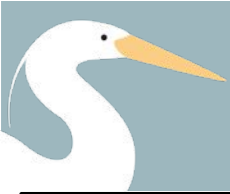
2022 Grow Out



July 31, 2022



April 2023



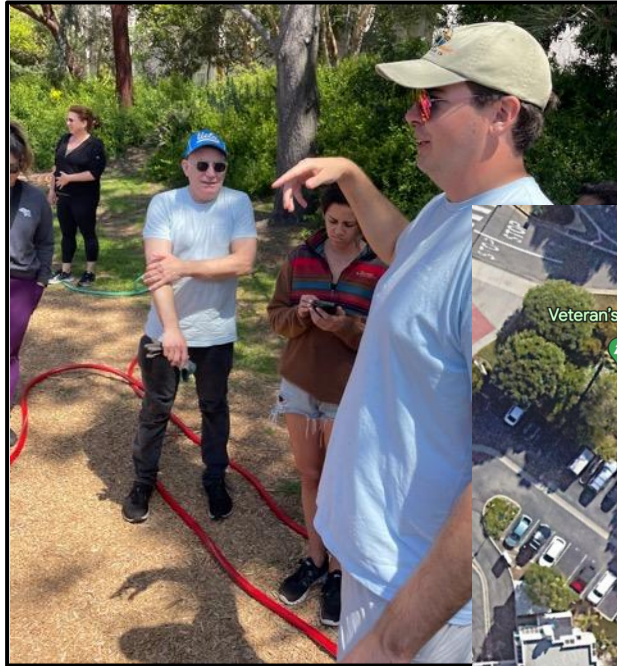
Hermosa Green Belt – Mini Super Bloom





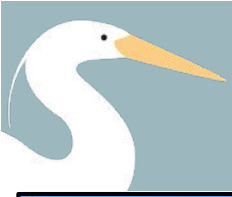
Leadership Hermosa Project 2023

- Leadership Hermosa selected Greenbelt Rewilding as their project
- Led by James Lenihan and Brian Katz
- Raised money from the community
- 4 sections between Herondo and 2nd Street
- Coordinate with concerned condo residents
- Used city landscaper contractor to remove iceplant



James Lenihan
and Brian Katz
Leadership Hermosa
Project Leads





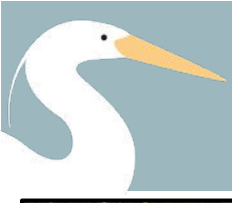
2023 Leadership Hermosa



Section A



Section B



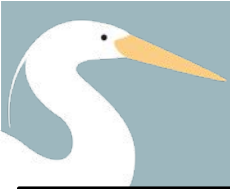
2023 Leadership Hermosa



Section C

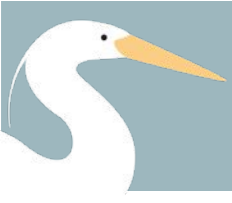


Section D



2023 Community Engagement



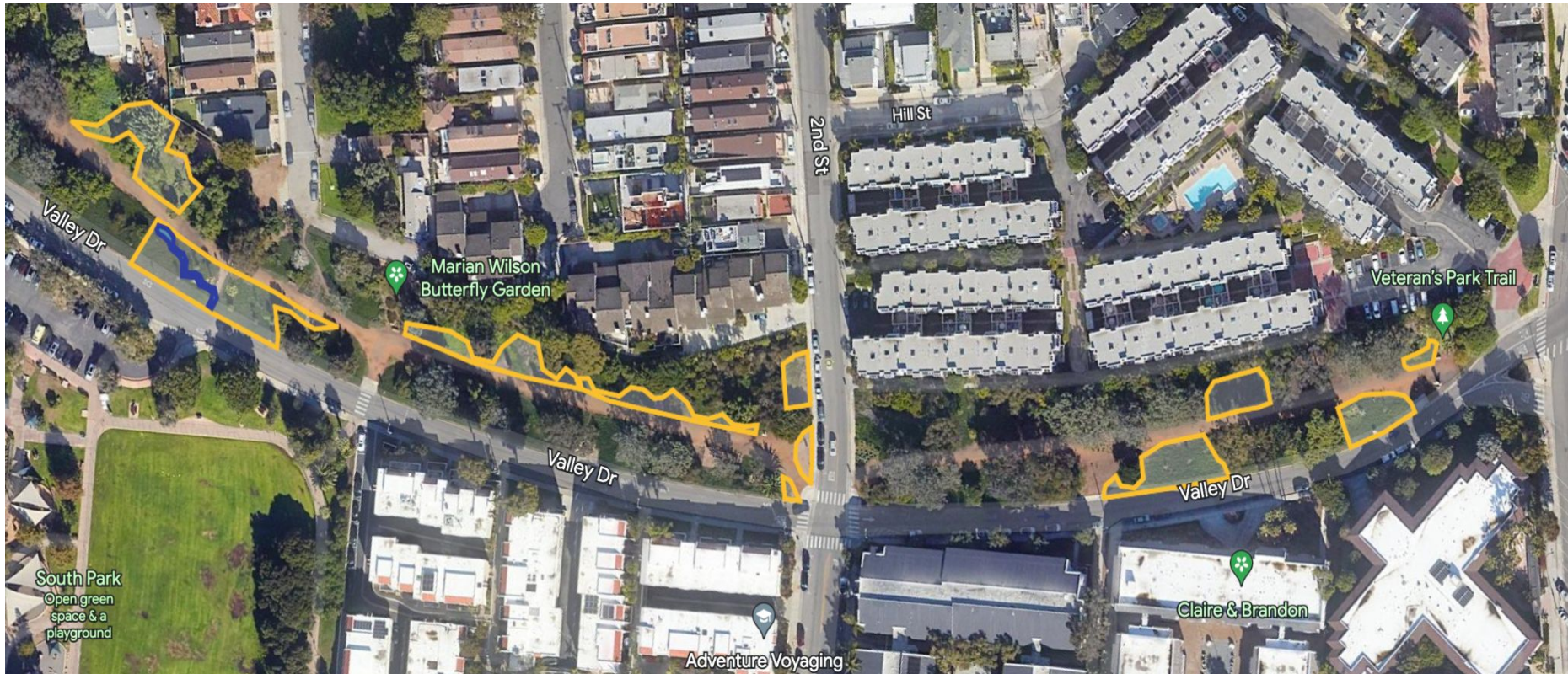


2023 Community Engagement





Hermosa Valley Greenbelt – Planted to date





Hermosa Valley Greenbelt – What's Next?

- Weeding and maintenance
 - Every other Saturday, 10-2pm
 - Seasonal trimming
- Irrigation check with Public Works: propose retrofits
- Another \$7500 from anonymous donor
 - Expand to new areas with specific focus
- Interpretive sign
- Coastal Conservancy Grant
 - Site visit completed
- Other grants
- Donations





We need you!

All our projects happen because of volunteers just like you and are funded by donations and grants

- Donate
- Buy and wear our stylish SBPC-branded items
- Volunteer
 - Weeding/planting
 - Project lead
 - Staffing events
 - **Become and SBPC project lead** or docent
 - Become a student ambassador
- Spread the word!
 - Get your group to donate or volunteer
 - Tell your neighbors and friends
 - Bring your family to an event
- www.southbayparks.org
 - To find volunteer events or donate





Q&A



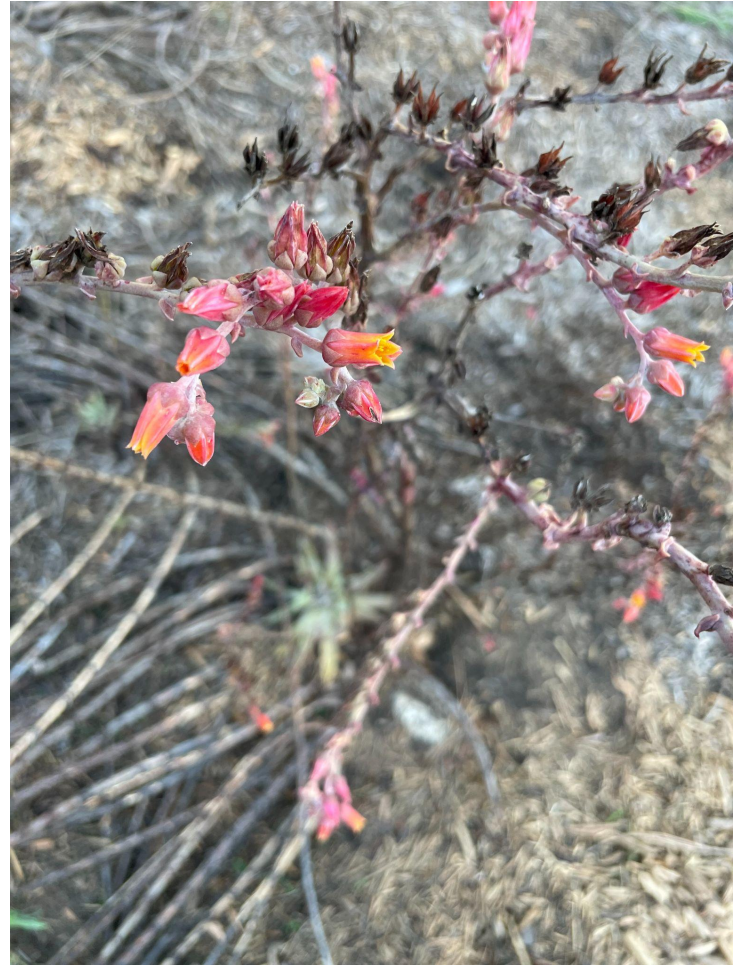
















THANK YOU!

With the support of the community, local schools, and organizations we look forward to expanding our programs to reach every city in the South Bay.

southbayparks.org

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