

# Outdoors

in Orange County

Chino Hills State Park

Chino Hills State Park Photo: Melanie Schlotterbeck, Barn Owl Photo: CanStockPhoto.com

## GLOBAL WARMING, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

By: Melanie Schlotterbeck

Global Warming. We've heard so much about it, but what does it mean? And more importantly, how do we stop it?

The quick background on global warming is this: The sun emits energy, in the form of light waves, that go through the Earth's atmosphere and warm the planet. Some of those light waves get absorbed into the land and seas, some bounce off the Earth and leave our atmosphere. Other light waves get trapped in the atmosphere creating an invisible blanket that keeps our planet at the temperature that supports humans, plants and animals. This is known as the natural greenhouse effect.

The Earth's atmosphere is mostly made up of nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. The problem lies in that there are too many of those heat trapping gases (aka greenhouse gases - GHG) in the Earth's atmosphere. Essentially, the naturally occurring greenhouse effect is being exacerbated by human activities. For example, our reliance on fossil fuels is one reason there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Another example of a GHG emitter is a stationary source like factories, homes and businesses. Therefore, more CO<sub>2</sub> means more of those light waves are being trapped in the atmosphere that produce a warmer climate - and a warmer climate means a changing planet.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's largest body of climate scientists, anticipates an increase in the average temperature of the Earth by 10°F by the end of the century. Changes in the earth's temperature means warmer land and seas, which will greatly influence our weather across the world, influence the spread of disease, change our agricultural productivity, increase wildfires, and much more.

A warmer climate also means less snowpack and glaciers. Melting sea glaciers won't make sea level rise - do the experiment yourself. Put an ice cube in your "filled to edge" drink and see if your drink overflows after the ice cube melts - it won't. Instead, what we do need to worry about are the land-based glaciers -- the ones

that aren't currently "resting" in ocean. Those land-based glaciers hold a lot of water that is not currently being "counted" in the ocean water. As the climate warms, those land- and sea-based glaciers will melt, but only the land-based glaciers will add to the amount of water in the ocean. It's this addition of "new" water that will increase sea levels and change our coastlines.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair stated in September 2002, "We know that if climate change is not stopped, all parts of the world will suffer. Some will even be destroyed." So how do we stop global warming? There are many ways to stop global warming and highlighted here are two of those opportunities, while to the right are ways you can personally help stop global warming.

First, support the protection of natural lands will help tremendously. Open space is not a source of GHGs. In fact, natural lands actually sequester carbon from the air. Therefore, the more land we protect as open space the better it is for curbing climate change. This is one reason Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks is working diligently to complete its Green Vision Map, shown on the inside of this newsletter, which could protect another 31,000 acres as permanent open space.

Second, encourage your city to become a "Cool City." To date 1,003 cities globally have made a commitment to stopping global warming by signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Follow the lead of other Orange County Cities like Irvine, Laguna Beach and Santa Ana.

Third, support state and federal climate change legislation. Governor Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature got everyone's attention when, in 2006, he signed the world's most progressive global warming law - AB 32. The law requires the state to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Federal climate change legislation will be written this year and by letting your Congressional representatives know how important passing this legislation is, will help!

There is no one solution that will stop global warming -- it will take everyone pitching in!

### 15 EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

This is just a short list of ways you can reduce your own carbon footprint.

1. Join FHBP and its allies to reduce sprawl and protect important natural lands.
2. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs.
3. Use your own reusable grocery bags.
4. Turn your lights off when you leave the room.
5. Combine your errands into one trip.
6. Print on both sides of the paper.
7. Take public transportation one day a week.
8. Set your thermostat to 78°F.
9. Keep your tires properly inflated.
10. Carpool to work and school.
11. Stop your junk mail ([www.41pounds.org](http://www.41pounds.org)).
12. Take a non-stop flight.
13. Install energy efficient appliances.
14. Buy recycled products.
15. Drive the speed limit.



### IN THIS ISSUE...

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MOMENT IN TIME

GREEN VISION MAP & GROUP UPDATES

### UPDATE ON MEASURE M

The Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Measure M includes \$243.5 million for habitat impact mitigation. An Environmental Oversight Committee (EOC) has been established to create the process by which properties can be acquired and restored as mitigation for the freeway impacts. At the May 2008 meeting, the EOC adopted FHBP's Green Vision Map as a place to start in identifying potential acquisition sites. OCTA will be working with FHBP and others to document other potential sites soon.

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# The Tail of Two Cities...

## Two Case Studies on How Open Spaces Can be Protected

When it comes to funding conservation opportunities in Orange County, a few local jurisdictions aren't waiting around for the funding to dribble in from the state. Instead some cities are creating their own funding mechanisms. Two innovators include the Cities of Santa Ana and San Juan Capistrano, see below how each are working to preserve open space.

### Santa Ana

By: Eduardo Cisneros

In a city that is ninety-eight percent built out, and offers only 0.9 acres of park space for every 1,000 of its people, green space for recreation and physical activity is a scarce resource for the Santa Ana community. Residents are limited in their access to safe and nearby parks. Schools with green fields and sports facilities can be found in virtually every neighborhood, but, are unavailable for public use. With limited open space opportunities, youth in Santa Ana are increasingly straying towards gang and other criminal activity.

In an effort to address the severe lack of open space and the countless social and health-related issues associated with it, Latino Health Access, a local nonprofit organization is advocating for a measure to fund the shared use of schools as community school-parks outside of school hours. The group is proposing a sales tax increase to pay to keep school grounds open, provide youth sport and gang prevention programming, as well as, provide funding for increased police personnel.

Latino Health Access has partnered with The Trust for Public Land and is working with the City of Santa Ana, the Santa Ana Unified School District, and police agencies to advance the Santa Ana Safe Neighborhood, Safe Park and After-School Recreation Measure, a half-cent sales tax that would generate approximately \$13.5 million annually.

We know from polling that 3 in 5 voters would support a potential half-cent sales tax measure to make school grounds available after hours as safe places for recreation. Support for the proposed measure stems from a desire to provide constructive activities for youth that keep kids safe and out of trouble with gangs and drugs. Polling also shows Santa Ana voters are enthusiastic about investing in safer parks and recreational activities for local youth. To learn more contact Latino Health Access at (714) 542-7792.



Santa Ana residents are forced to travel to parks outside the city for recreation.

### San Juan Capistrano

By: Derek Ostensen

Like many cities in Orange County, San Juan Capistrano is experiencing significant development pressures for its last remaining agricultural and open space lands. Commercial and residential development has expanded at a rapid rate in the City, causing impacts to numerous trails, equestrian facilities and open space areas.

Faced with an uncertain future for their historic and picturesque open space, the City Council and residents of San Juan Capistrano have initiated a broad-reaching effort to safeguard their natural and cultural heritage.

In 2005, San Juan created a formal Open Space Committee to assess the preservation opportunities in the City and develop strategies by which to fund, acquire and restore lands with important environmental or public benefits. A major recent success in their effort came with the acquisition of a 109 acre property proposed for development by the Shea Company. The \$2.1 million conservation purchase nearly tripled the amount of open space in the northwest area of the City and safeguarded key habitat, public trails and riparian corridors.

With significant other open space under threat of development, the City is pressing forward with their visionary conservation effort and strongly considering a \$20-30 million bond measure in the near future. The bond would fund further activities to protect important open space, recreation areas and water quality and would serve to attract matching funds from other state, federal and private grantors. With over 74% of residents polled supporting the concept, San Juan's open space future is looking green and the City's effort is potentially a model for other communities interested in preserving their remaining natural lands. To learn more contact the City of San Juan Capistrano at (949) 493-1171.



San Juan Capistrano has great opportunities for open space acquisition.

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## A Moment in Time

### Orange Coast River Park Gala A Success!

By: Jean Watt

We are fortunate to have rivers running through Orange County communities. In various stages of 20th century flood control cementing, rivers are

becoming more precious for benefits including habitats and recreation. The Santa Ana River (SAR) is the longest river in Southern California and we are appreciative of The Wildlands Conservancy's SAR Renaissance resulting in Vision Plans by cities along the river. FHBP's Orange Coast River Park Committee (OCRP) honored these visions at a Gala celebrating a "Moment in Time" when restoration of our green heritage and rivers is vital.

The Gala, held at the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy's (HBWC) new facility showcased the new educational center, Wildlife Care Center, and OCRP native plant nursery. These represent a culmination of 20 years of hard work by Conservancy members.

Inspirational speakers included Huntington Beach Mayor Debbie Cook, Costa Mesa City Council member Katrina Foley, and Newport Beach Mayor Pro Tem Leslie Daigle. Dennis Baker presided and Gordon Smith of the HBWC welcomed everyone to the new facility. A special presentation was given by the Honorable Marian Bergeson,

former Orange County Supervisor as well as State Assemblymember and State Senator. This presentation (shown right) was of a plaque honoring the late Robert G. Fisher whose inspiration led to the efforts toward the OCRP and restoration at the mouth of the river.

We thank our sponsors for this event including HBWC; The Wildlands Conservancy; Newport Banning Ranch LLC; Surfrider Foundation, Newport Beach Chapter; Moffat & Nichol; and Catherine and Robert Waters. We also thank Congressman Campbell for a certificate honoring the "Moment in Time" celebration of progress.



Melanie Schlotterbeck

### Birds of a feather...

Be a part of Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks.

Help our practical, realistic projects make Orange County a better home for all of us.

Your help, large or small, is deeply appreciated.



**Yes!** I want to help Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks.

FHBP contributions are tax-deductible. Donors receive newsletters and other information on our conservation activities. Please check the category you wish:

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Please clip and mail to: FHBP, P.O. Box 9256, Newport Beach, CA 92658

## Canyon Recovery Underway with Help

The Inter-Canyon League (ICL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the canyon's unique way of life. Formed in 1969 in response to devastating floods and mudslides, the ICL took a leading role after the Santiago Fire, providing a variety of services to residents and coordinating with many agencies. During the past six months, the ICL has been actively involved in disaster recovery and erosion control. The ICL received almost \$300,000 in grants to clear dead, dying and hazardous vegetation. Recovery for those who lost their homes has been greatly facilitated by a \$1 million donation. Staffed totally by volunteers, the ICL supports all efforts to protect the canyon's visual and natural beauty.



ICL Volunteers

Visit: [www.InterCanyon.org](http://www.InterCanyon.org)

## Orange County Cultural Sites

CCRPA formed in 1998 in response to the accelerating development in Orange County and the loss of a number of significant archaeological sites, including a coastal village and cemetery dating to 9000 years ago. These sites are of immeasurable importance to American Indian descendants and they are an important part of the heritage of our nation. Members include Native Americans, archaeologists, history and archaeology buffs, and people who care about environmental justice. Working with The Irvine Company 100 acres of the 6,000 year old Tomato Springs site will be preserved. Currently, we are working to save Panhe, the ancestral home of the Juaneno/Acjachemen of San Juan Capistrano and the 8,500 year old coggled stone site at Bolsa Chica.



Tomato Springs

Visit [www.CCRPA.com](http://www.CCRPA.com)

## Pacific Flyway Gets Help

1999 "Outdoors" headline: "WANTED! A Better Reputation for Southern California. We destroy land so recklessly that potential allies write us off. A new group fights to restore our name." The new group was the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP), a partnership working to restore our wetlands heritage. There was a precipitous fall of waterfowl populations in North America between 1970 and 1985. In 1986, the U.S. and Canada (Mexico in 1994) agreed to raise waterfowl populations to 1970 levels. This meant restoring wetlands on the Pacific flyway including Orange County. Each of the five SCWRP counties has a local Task Force and our OC Task Force works to restore our wetlands and needs your help.



Banning Ranch

Visit: [www.SCWRP.org](http://www.SCWRP.org)

## Out of the Ashes, Education Happens

As the 2007 wildfires ravaged California, it was a frightening time for all. Rancho Soñado, an Orange County Department of Education environmental education program site, operated by Inside the Outdoors®, is now teaching on trails that were burned. Out of the fires came opportunity to learn. The fire represented the chance for students to visit a burn area and see how important fire is to certain ecosystems. Fire ecology at Rancho Soñado is one California-content standards based programs offered by Inside the Outdoors. Traveling Scientist®, Field and School, Outdoor Science School, and Community Programs provide the opportunity to explore the nature.

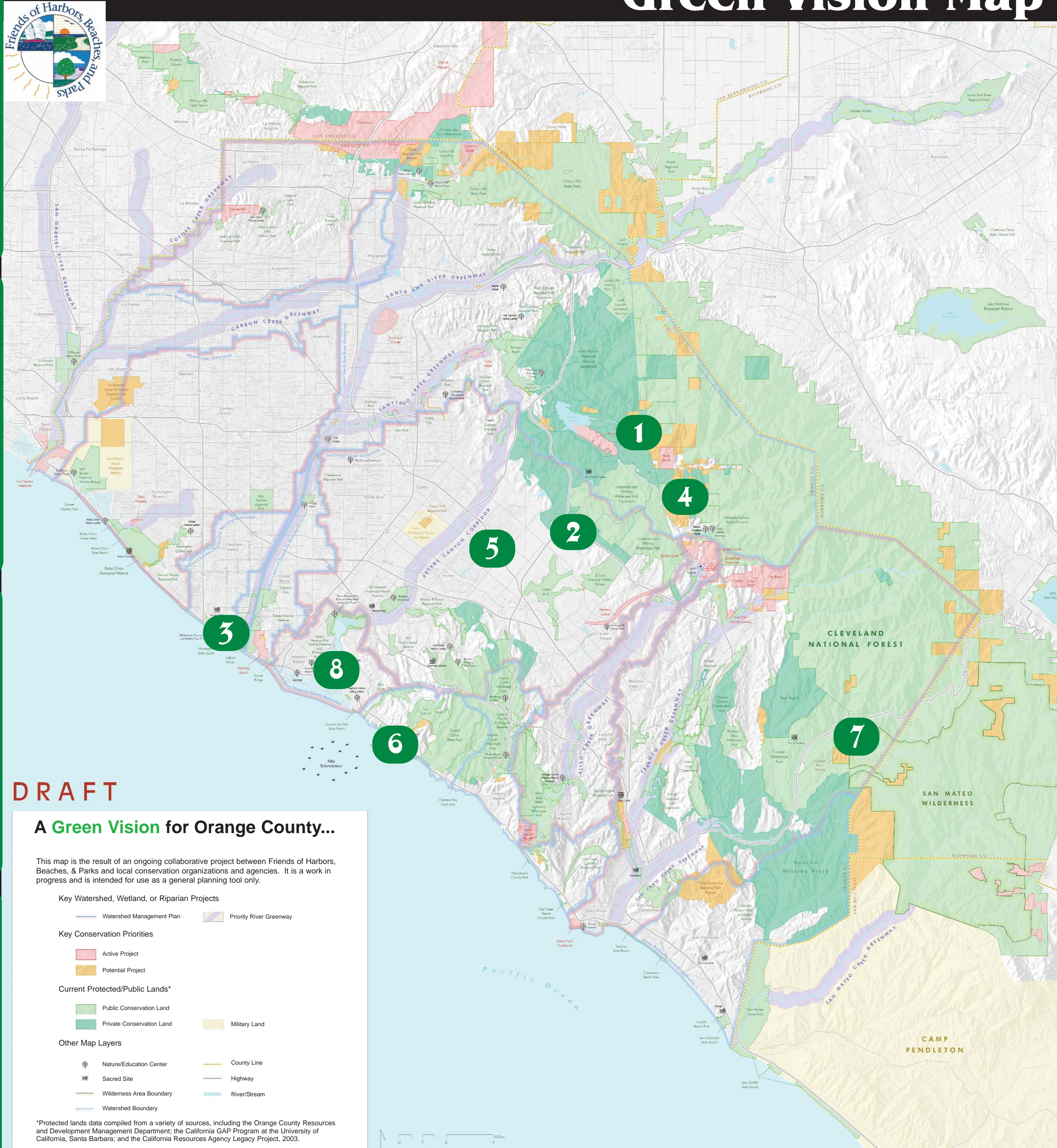


Rancho Soñado

Visit: [www.INSIDEtheOutdoors.org](http://www.INSIDEtheOutdoors.org)

## Orange County

# Green Vision Map



## Spring Bloom in Orange County



Wildflowers in Bloom

Education about, appreciation of, and conservation of our priceless heritage of native plants are the goals and joy of the California Native Plant Society. California native plants are important to our landscape and wildlands because they are adapted to our hot, dry Mediterranean climate, require less water to survive, and they are bright and colorful! The activities of the chapter for members and the general public include: native plant sales for your garden; monthly general meetings with fascinating speakers every 3rd Thursday from September through June at the Duck Club in Irvine; guided field trips to Orange County and other nearby wildlands; and much more! To become a member go to [www.CNPS.org](http://www.CNPS.org).

Visit [www.OCCNPS.org](http://www.OCCNPS.org)

## Progress at El Moro



Crystal Cove State Park

For many years now, a high priority for Friends of Newport Coast, has been working to open up all of Crystal Cove State Park to the public. Recently, we came several steps closer in the El Morro part of the Park, formerly occupied by the trailer park. The first step was the tenants finally vacating after resisting for years. Now, the State Parks Department has signed contracts for converting the area to provide 60 public campsites, a picnic area, an outdoor amphitheater and two hundred parking spaces for beach visitors. This conversion should be completed in the next 18-24 months and then the Park will truly be open to the public.

Email: [FernPirk@yahoo.com](mailto:FernPirk@yahoo.com)

## Mountains Ecosystem Expedition



Santa Ana Mountains

The Santa Ana Mountains Wild Heritage Project is finishing a film documentary of the Santa Ana Mountains Ecosystem Expedition, which was completed in April of 2008. The primary goal of the documentary is to capture the visual character of the range with a focus on scenic beauty, rare species, and human impacts. It is also meant to encourage the surrounding communities towards active stewardship of the range. The documentary will be accompanied by a report, which will include species lists, recommendations for management, and opportunities for preservation. The Project's crew includes Patrick Mitchell, Joel Robinson, Kirk Pickler, and Chelsea Tran.

Visit: [www.Naturalist-For-You.org](http://www.Naturalist-For-You.org)

## Restoration & Education in the Bay



Upper Newport Bay

The mission of the Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends is to preserve and restore the ecosystems of Upper Newport Bay, educate the public about the ecological value of the Bay and its watershed, and help ensure compatible public use. We provide staff, volunteer and financial support to OC Parks, Department of Fish and Game, the City of Newport and California Coastal Commission. We coordinate and conduct educational programs, including kayak and canoe tours, and community-based restoration projects. We participate in planning within the 154-square mile Newport Bay Watershed, and provide support for integrated, adaptive management.

Visit: [www.NewportBay.org](http://www.NewportBay.org)