



The Nature Center includes an Exhibit Hall where visitors can learn about the history and ecology of the area and view taxidermy of resident and visiting animals including migratory birds. Surrounding the Nature Center are gardens with examples of native and water-wise plants from the Preserve and throughout California.

Docents lead 2 hour tours for pre-schoolers through adults from October through May by reservation.

On site facilities include restrooms in the Nature Center, drinking fountain, a gift shop (open limited hours) and a small picnic area.

The Madrona Marsh is within walking distance of Wilson Park and the Del Amo Mall



Madrona Marsh

Nature Center and Preserve

3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance CA

310-782-3989

DOCENT TOURS

Pre-school -Adults

The Madrona Marsh is one of the last vernal marshes in Los Angeles County. A docent led tour provides an opportunity to step back in time when the entire area from Wilmington to Marina del Rey made up an extensive wetland system. Presently the Preserve covers approximately 50 acres of natural habitat for a variety of native plants and animals.

**Produced by Friends of Madrona Marsh
revised 2023**

**Join the Friends and support the
Madrona Marsh for future generations.**

**Visit our website
friendsofmadronamarsh.com**

How to Prepare for a Tour

Docents conduct tours that cover general information and student study tours related to grade level California Earth Science Standards.

Docents do not have scripted tours; they have a conversation with their group based on participants' observations, ages and interests.

The Preserve is a natural habitat, home to many species. All visitors are expected to understand that they are in an area where all life is respected.

The wild life a visitor may encounter includes birds, insects, amphibians (frogs) and reptiles (lizards and snakes).

Our mammals are primarily nocturnal and are best observed through taxidermy and study skins in the Exhibit Hall.

In the Native Garden and throughout the Preserve visitors will see native plants that have adapted to our Southern California climate.

What to wear: closed toe walking shoes, a hat with a brim, sunscreen and long pants.

The charge for student study tours is 50 cents per student. There is no charge for TUSD schools.

Special Interests

Water Lab

A 30 minute add-on water lab is available by reservation for up to 20 fifth grade and older student groups. Students use stereo and compound microscopes to observe small and microscopic aquatic animals living in our Preserve water.

Modular Wetlands System

The Preserve has a bio-filtration system which cleans street runoff entering a City Sump. An age appropriate explanation of this system may be offered during tours.

Migratory and Resident Birds

The Preserve is situated on the Pacific Flyway which is the main migration pathway for western birds. Approximately 50 species of birds are residents of the Preserve and many more stop for food, water and rest on their migrations.

Restoration

On Saturdays throughout the year, volunteer groups help restore habitat by planting native plants and removing non-natives in the Preserve. This helps students fulfill their community service requirements. Registration is required. Visit the City of Torrance Web site, and complete a short term application form under volunteering.

How to Schedule a Tour and What to Expect

Call the Nature Center 310-782-3989

Tours are available by reservation October -May, Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00.

There is a .50 per child fee for School Study Tours. There is no charge for Torrance schools.

Maximum total group size is 60 people. Student tours must include a minimum of one adult for every ten students.

Large groups are divided into smaller groups of 10-15 depending on the age of the participants.

Student study tours are aligned with the California Earth Science Standards by grade level K-5.

During the tour, participants will visit the Native Gardens, Nature Center and Preserve.

Tours are dependent on the availability of docents. Check out the virtual tour at friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

