

## About the Madrona Marsh Preserve

The Madrona Marsh is one of the last remaining vernal marshes in Los Angeles County. A vernal marsh is a depression in the land flooded by runoff water from surrounding upland slopes. Vernal means “spring”, thus by connotation the marsh is fed by winter and spring storms. After the rainy season passes, evaporation, percolation, and transpiration reduce the water depth by about one fourth inch per day. Most years, by the end of August, the wetland is dry and remains dry until the next rainy season. The soils of the Preserve are fine sand silt and clay. The Preserve is a back dune habitat within the Greater El Segundo Sand Dune System. The fine sand particles of this ancient dune system have been carried from the coastal dunes by winds for thousands of years.

## History of the Marsh

The Madrona Marsh is a remnant of an extensive wetland system that once covered the area between Wilmington and Marina del Rey. The vast wetlands contained a diverse ecosystem of rivers and creeks, sloughs, and marshes of tule, cattails, and other herbaceous plants. Alongside were woodlands and forests of willow, sycamore, and cottonwood that produced an overstory in these wetland habitats. The area supported a myriad of animals, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

In the years since European settlers arrived in California, development has removed virtually all of our wetlands. Migratory waterfowl populations are 50% of what they were in 1900. Many species are designated as threatened or endangered.

In 1971, the Friends of Madrona Marsh, a nonprofit organization, together with others, worked to save the Marsh. The Friends of Madrona Marsh have served as stewards of the Preserve since 1974.

## Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

**Open Tuesday - Saturday  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Closed Sundays, Mondays and during inclement weather.

The community's long-term dream of a Nature Center came to fruition on April 28, 2001. The facility is an education and interpretive center for the Madrona Marsh Preserve's natural resources and places the preserve within the regional context. The Nature Center is a place where the wonders of nature can be explored and enjoyed by all ages within the community. For group tours and more information, please visit:

**[www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com](http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com)**



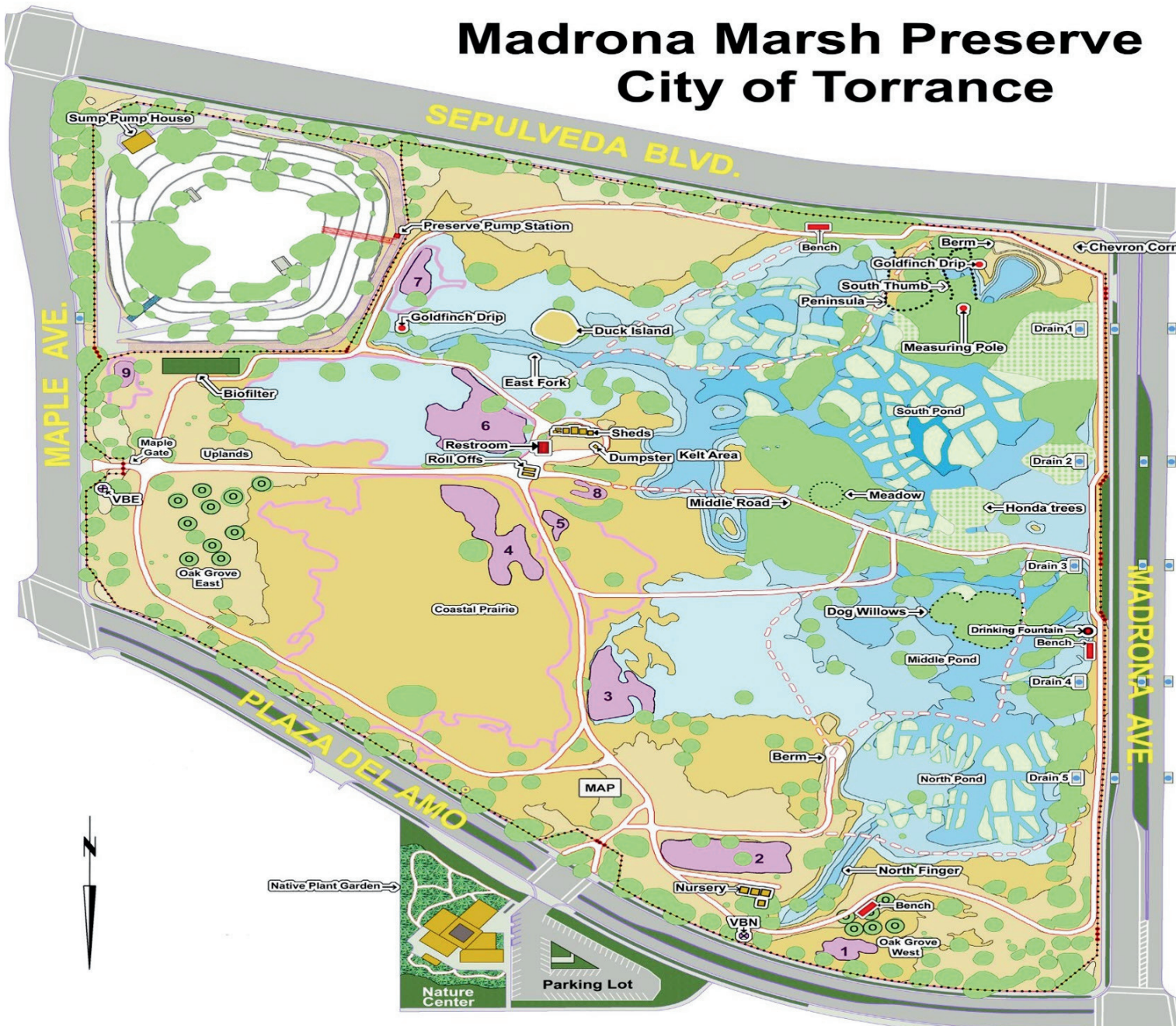
3201 Plaza Del Amo  
Torrance, CA 90503  
(310) 782-3989

# Madrona Marsh Preserve



## Self-Guided Tour

# Madrona Marsh Preserve City of Torrance



## Observations

- ☐ **Ducks and Coots** on the water during the spring and winter
- ☐ **Red-winged Blackbirds** in the tules during the spring and winter
- ☐ **Finches and Warblers** in the willows during the spring, fall, and winter
- ☐ **Meadowlarks and Kingbirds** in the upland and grassland during the spring, fall, and winter
- ☐ **Hawks in the eucalyptus** all year  
Frogs by the water during the spring, summer and fall
- ☐ **Butterflies** in the upland and wetlands during the spring, summer and fall
- ☐ **Dragonflies** by the water during the spring throughout the Preserve during the fall
- ☐ **Grasshoppers** for the upland during the spring, summer and fall

## Legend

Vernal Pools

Vegetation

Pathways