



Friends of Madrona Marsh

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

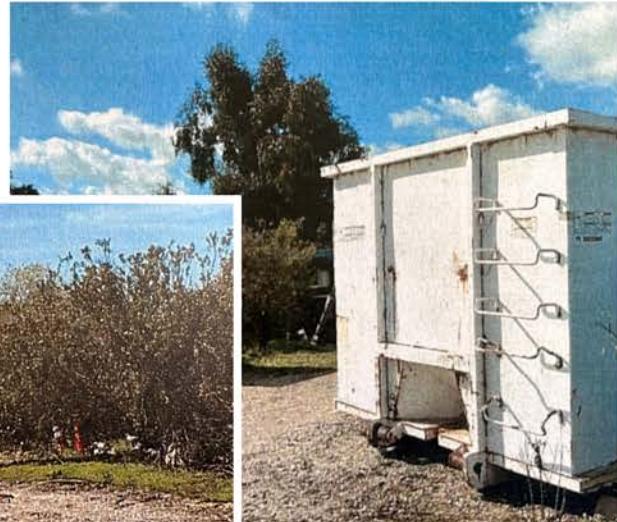
Supporting Nature Since 1974

All of the projects, supplies and materials presented in this report were created, accomplished and funded through a partnership between the City of Torrance and the Friends of Madrona Marsh.



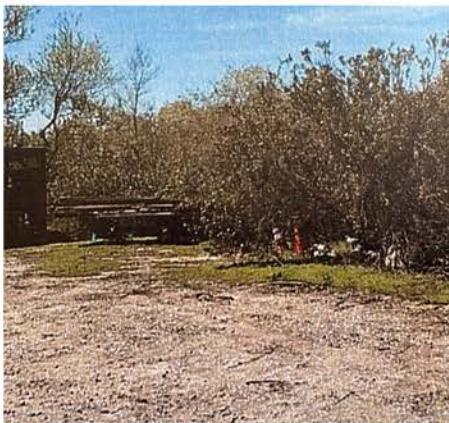
Entrance Signs

The Friends installed directional signs on all four corners of the Preserve to assist visitors in finding the entrance.



The Preserve Expands with New Habitat

The roll-off and dumpster were moved off the Preserve thanks to the efforts of the Friends and the city staff. This created approximately 500 square feet of new habitat. That isn't a lot if you're human but it's a vast area if you're a lizard, spider, lady beetle, bird or any of the other plants and animals that call the Preserve home.



Nature Festival



Nature Festival activities pictured: Native Plant Society, Turtle and Tortoise Society, making seedballs, and what lives in the Preserve water. Not pictured: docent tours, story time, and life cycle puppet shows. Local organizations hosting information booths included: the Sierra Club, South Bay Parkland Conservancy, Audubon Society, Gardena Willows, Marine Mammal Care, and International Bird Rescue. Over 600 guests participated in the many activities.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Scooby
Beloved
Animal Ambassador
2008-2025

Goodbye to a Friend

Scooby arrived at the Nature Center 17 years ago as a gravely injured baby gopher snake. Though her injuries prevented her return to the wild, she found a new calling here at the Marsh—educating visitors and inspiring curiosity about our local wildlife. Over the years, she touched the lives of thousands of children and adults, helping many see snakes with new appreciation and respect. We are deeply grateful for her service, her gentle presence, and the lasting impact she made on our community. Scooby will always remain part of the heart of Madrona Marsh.

Seed Donations to Altadena

Madrona Marsh staff and volunteers collected and processed seeds to donate to the Altadena Seed Library to assist them in restoration efforts following the devastating Eaton Canyon fire. We sent telegraph weed, California buckwheat, and California bush sunflower. Students from Parnassus Preparatory Academy, a hybrid-homeschool in the South Bay, assisted us in collecting the telegraph weed during their field trip at the end of January.

Science Expo

The Friends added professional-grade equipment to the Nature Center Lab, which was used in the following 2025 student research projects.

Evaluating Tree Species for Carbon Sequestration at Madrona Marsh

Eknoor Kaur
West High School

Evaluating the Impact of Water Quality on *Eriogonum parvifolium* Seed Germination

Osvaldo Madera
CAMS

Evaluating the Efficiency of *Schoenoplectus californicus* in Reducing Eutrophication and Toxicity in Different Freshwater Sources

Anika Savai
PV High School

Growing For Our Future: The Native Plant Initiative

Emily Hwang and Chloe Spurlock
Torrance High School



Annual Study of Seasonal Water Quality and Invertebrate Biodiversity in Two Urban Wetlands of Torrance

Luke Scaroni
Humboldt University

Analyzing Water Quality in Five Stormwater Basins in Torrance, California

Kaylin Lee
University of California, Berkeley

Evaluating the Effect of Salinization on *Daphnia magna* as a Keystone Species and Bioindicator in the Madrona Sump and Amie Basin

Daniel Huang and Amy Kim
PVP High



Thank You Sarah

We said farewell to **Sarah Nodding**, longtime director on the Friends Board. Sarah scheduled docent tours and likely sent thousands of students and teachers on study tours of the Nature Center, gardens and Preserve during her years of service. The docents hosted a luncheon for Sarah to send her off on new life adventures.

Songs on the Marsh

Special performances by The Drum & Louis Robles featuring the songs of Native Californians. Hosted by the City of Torrance and the Friends of Madrona Marsh.



Scholarship Awards

Generous donations to The Friends supported scholarships for three local high school students.



Eknoor Kaur

Accepted at UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside and CSU Long Beach. She plans to major in biology and pursue environmental sciences. Eknoor donated 75 hours of service to the Madrona Marsh.



Osvaldo Madera

Accepted at Duke University. Osvaldo is planning to study biology and, "Lead the battle against the effect of climate change" Osvaldo contributed 560 hours of service to the Preserve.



Emily Hwang

Accepted at UC Berkley, UC Davis and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Emily plans to work on "Creating a Sustainable Future". She contributed 98 hours volunteering at the Preserve. Emily did restoration and was an Advanced Restoration Crew member.



Madrona Marsh Partners with the South Bay Parkland Conservancy

The Conservancy, with the support of many dedicated volunteers, is restoring native habitats throughout the South Bay. The Madrona Marsh is sharing our nursery with the Conservancy so they can grow their own plants and expand their work. www.southbayparks.org

The 2025 Numbers

22,515 visitors explored the Preserve in 2025.

47 people took Saturday nature walks with a docent.

1,783 students participated in study tours with docents.

215 visitors explored the Preserve after dark on docent-led Night Hikes.

12 outreach events were hosted throughout the community.

3 students were awarded scholarships.

764 visitors came for special events.

636 participated in Saturday Science.

84 guests enjoyed Songs on the Marsh.

168 visitors explored the heavens at Star Parties.

291 children and parents came for Nature Story Time.

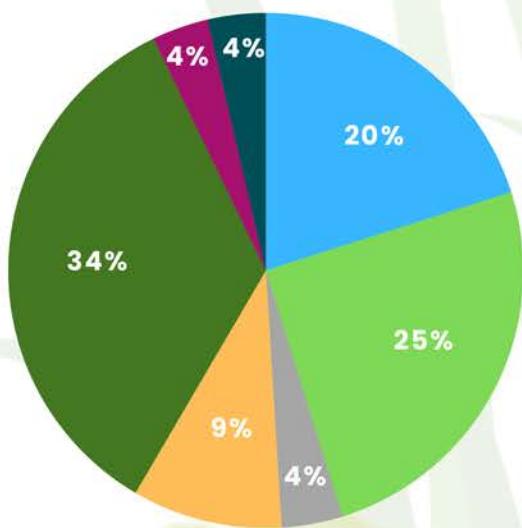
1,198 children and parents attended the long-time favorite, Friday Fun.

And 72 of our youngest visitors, aged 3 months to 3 years old, came for Tyke Hikes.

Volunteers donated 9,948 hours of service to the Nature Center and Preserve valued at \$397,920

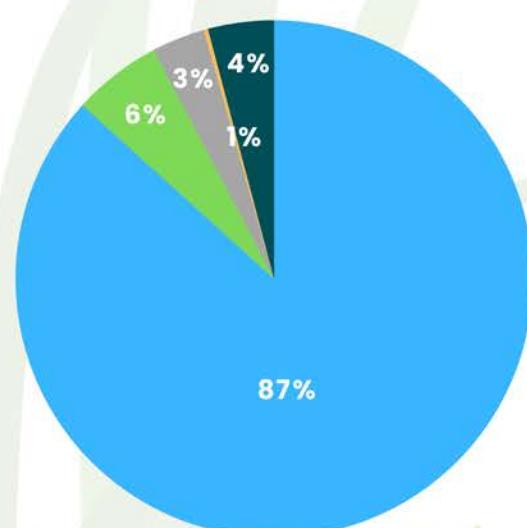
Expenses

- Carpet
- Admin
- Insurance
- Software/Website
- Restoration
- Education
- Scholarships



Income

- Individual Donations
- Memberships
- Corp Donations
- Fundraisers
- Scholarship



In 2026, watch for ... the Nature Festival in April, a website renewal, and a survey advising staff and the Board as we plan for renovating the exhibit hall.