

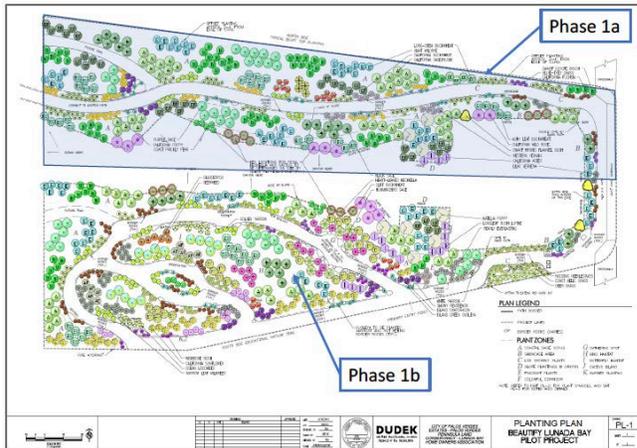


BEAUTIFY LUNADA BAY PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Plants Growing, People Walking at Phase 1a Site



Phase 1a of the Beautify Lunada Bay project was completed in February. Phase 1a is located on the north side of Lunada Canyon, across the canyon from Lunada Bay Elementary School, and the area now has a stone-lined, decomposed granite trail, and 300 new, drought-tolerant native plants. Volunteers surrounded the new plants with mulch.

Users of the new trail have been very complementary of the new look and the ability to walk, jog, or push a baby carriage, along the trail—even in wet weather.

The project includes installation of a drip watering system for each plant, and the water lines have an outlet every 18 inches. Those outlets, and of course the recent rains, have encouraged the growth of lots of weeds along the waterlines between the native plants—and those weeds are growing great in the newly disturbed soil.

A purpose of the pilot is to learn what works best and apply those lessons learned to Phase 1b. So, a lesson learned from Phase 1a is that

we should use a drip water line on Phase 1b of the project that does not have a water outlet every 18 inches. To further discourage weed growth, we're considering using thicker mulch. We want to significantly reduce the need for weeding and give the natives a good head start.

We expect the new plantings will need our assistance (and irrigation) for maybe three years to become established. Experts tell us that substantially less weeding should be required as we move forward. Despite the weeds, most of the new native plants, each identified by a flag, seem to be faring well so far.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), a partner in the project, is scheduling monthly volunteer days for weeding the site, the first was held in early March, and about 20 volunteers made

a dent in the weeds. The next volunteer day is set for Sunday, April 8. Individuals wishing to contribute their weeding skills to the Beautify Lunada Bay effort are encouraged to visit the Land Conservancy's volunteer site, <https://pvplc.volunteerhub.com/>, and sign up.

Another way to keep weeds at bay is for individuals or groups to adopt an area for weeding, and as you'll see below, one Peninsula group has already stepped up to the challenge. We want the community to be involved in this fun project in a beautiful location, and this is a good opportunity for students to earn service credits. Want to adopt an area? Please see our web page for contact information: <http://blb.lbhoa.org>.

Realtors pick spot to Weed

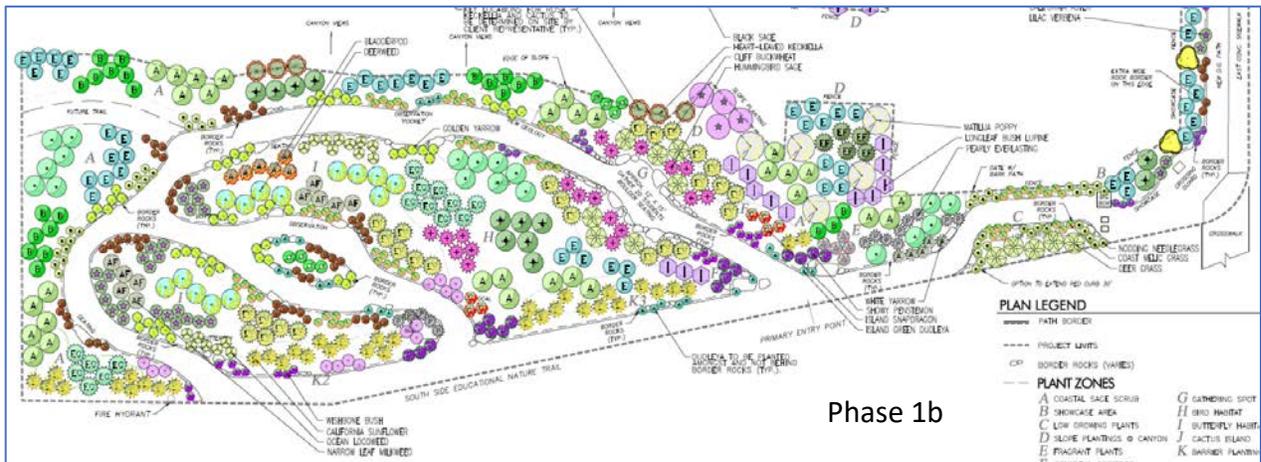


The Palos Verdes Peninsula Association of Realtors (PVPAR) has adopted an area of the Beautify Lunada Bay project for weeding. The realtor weeding team will be led by Christi Carrillo of Palm Realty Boutique. Carrillo expects that as many as a dozen realtors will be involved in the project.

“Thanks to the rains and the drip water system, we have a good stand of weeds to be pulled,” said Bill Ailor, BLB project leader and VP of the Lunada Bay Homeowners Association. “We sincerely appreciate PVPAR’s support of the BLB effort to help beautify our community. Their work will help assure that the new native plants get a good start.”

Photo: Christi Carrillo (right) and **Marla Virgin**, Executive Vice President of PVPAR (left) with BLB-provided weeding tools. BLB volunteers Barb Ailor (center left) and Connie Smith are also pictured.

Phase 1b: The Outdoor Classroom



The recent rains have also delayed our start of Phase 1b of the BLB effort—creation of the outdoor learning spaces for the elementary school directly across from Lunada Bay Elementary School. Our plan was to begin preparing the site (requires using a tractor to remove the top layer of material) on March 1, but it rained. We moved that work to March 16—rained again.

Once we get started, the plan is to scrape the site, then lay out the trails, outdoor classroom areas and boulder locations. Then a contractor will install the main and feeder lines for the watering system and put the boulders for student seating in place.

After that, we plan to have volunteers install the stone borders for the trails, install the decomposed granite trail-bed material, and plant the plants. We'll send out a formal schedule for all volunteer activities as the weather allows. Watch the volunteer site for opportunities to help.

On the Funding Side...



PVHS Student Receives Grant to Support BLB Habitat Restoration

Austin Nash, a Senior at Palos Verdes High School received a grant of \$1,000 from the National Geographic Society to support acquisition of native plants for the outdoor classroom area across from Lunada Bay Elementary School. The grant also covers costs of publicizing and organizing a planting day, where students at the school and their parents will be invited to plant the new native plants.

Thank you, Austin, for your initiative and support of the BLB project!

Photo: Austin Nash (left) presents National Geographic Society check to Bill Ailor, BLB Project leader.

----- Background -----

The Lunada Bay Homeowners Association initiated the Beautify Lunada Bay (BLB) Project in 2014 to restore the habitat and improve the appearance of areas in Lunada Bay. The project will replace the seasonal weeds or bare dirt with drought tolerant native plants that will remain less than three feet tall and be attractive year-round. The project will also upgrade existing walking paths by adding stone borders and decomposed granite.

After meetings with local residents, BLB planners developed plans for Phase 1 of the effort: a demonstration garden on a 1-acre site across from

Lunada Bay Elementary School (see figure). Plans for that site were developed in concert with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), a local nonprofit organization that grows native plants and restores open space on the Peninsula.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates gave its enthusiastic support and is providing boulders, stones to line the paths, mulch, and water for three years to assure the plants get a good start. Please see the LBHOA web page (blb.lbhoa.org) if you'd like more information.

----- BLB Steering Committee -----

Bill Ailor, Project Leader; VP, LBHOA Board
Barbara Ailor, Resident
Peter Bena, LBHOA Board
Jane Biggeln, Resident
Marlene Breene, LBHOA Board
Christi Carrillo, Palm Realty Boutique
Kapil Dheeriya, PVHS Student
Brittany Goldsmith, PVPLC

Karen Merickel, Resident
Adrienne Mohan, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Austin Nash, PVHS Student
Connie Smith, Resident
Kristin Sweet-Pekarek, President, Lunada Bay Homeowners Association (LBHOA)
Robert Wynne, LBHOA Board