



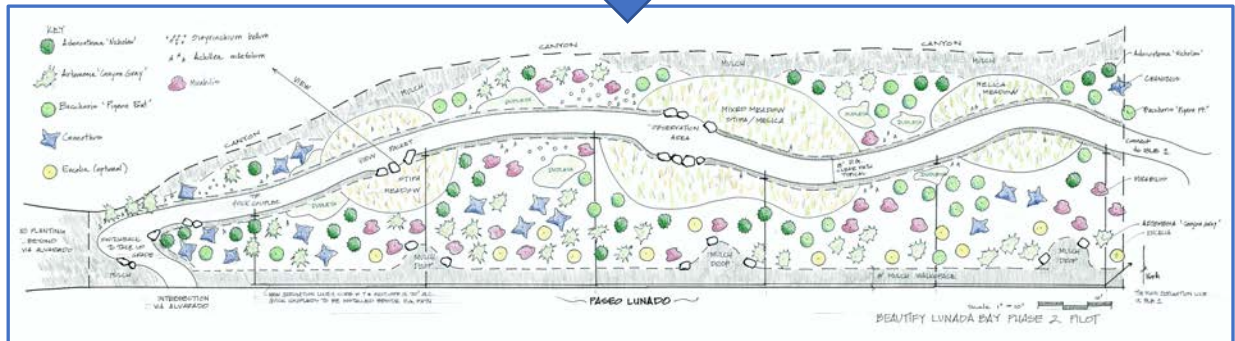
BEAUTIFY LUNADA BAY PROJECT

NEWSLETTER # 11

December 2020

City & Coastal Commission Approve Plan for Phase 2

At their June 9 meeting, the Palos Verdes Estates City Council approved the plan to expand the habitat restoration area on the school-side of Agua Amarga Canyon by 0.8 acre, down to the intersection of Via Alvarado with Paseo Del Mar (see aerial photo below). And many thanks to those who provided emails and letters of support to the city. These communications and in-person testimony at the City Council meeting were critical to final approval.



As the drawing shows, the plan for Phase 2 includes extending the stone-lined walking path on Phase 1b approximately 450 feet and using drought-tolerant native plants that are mostly lower-growing ground cover as the project moves westward. The plan includes three native-grass meadows and removal of the existing oleander bush.

Since the project is in the Coastal Zone, approval by the California Coastal Commission was required, and the Coastal Commission provided its approval in early September.

Moving Forward

As you might have noticed, the city is now helping us prepare the site for activities to come by providing a thick coat of wood mulch over the area. We expect the mulch to help us control weed growth.

The next tasks include hiring a contractor to remove the oleander, grade the trail bed, and install the main water line and hose connectors adjacent to the trail. Once volunteers have lined the trail bed with stones (the city will provide the stones), the contractor will return and install the decomposed granite walking path. We'll also have the contractor clean up and repair any areas of erosion on the existing trails in Phase 1.

As you know, the BLB project is totally funded by donations from local residents and by grants—no direct funding from the City of Palos Verdes Estates was received for Phase 1, and none is required for Phase 2.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) has been a partner in this effort from the beginning and has provided technical assistance on habitat restoration, volunteer management, as well as the locally-native, drought-tolerant plants we've added. If you'd like to donate to the effort, please visit the PVPLC webpage (<https://pvplc.org/donate-pvplc/>) and add a note in the "Additional Comments" block that your donation is for the BLB project—and it's tax-deductible.

Volunteer Opportunities

There will be lots of volunteer opportunities as we move forward. These will include lining the trail with stones (some heavy lifting for those needing to build muscles), planting plants, hand watering the plants once they are planted, and, of course, frequent weeding. Given the current situation with COVID-19, we don't expect to initiate substantial volunteer activities until 2021. We'll provide an update on the status as we go forward and email invitations to join project activities.

Future Plans

This will be the last project for the BLB team, and we are very pleased with the outcome so far. Our goal has been both to remove the non-native weeds that covered the project area and restore plants that were here before cattle grazing and development created the biodiversity desert that remained. We invite you to take a walk on the paths and enjoy flowers, birds, butterflies and lizards that were once common in this, one of the most beautiful areas in the world. And look for the small "blue-gray gnatcatcher" that has found its way to the site (see photo). The gnatcatcher loves the coastal sage scrub habitat that the BLB site provides.



Photo courtesy Randy Harwood

Even though we are not anticipating any additions to the BLB site beyond this phase, we will be continuing to provide educational and volunteer opportunities to the community. Feel free to contact BLB with questions about native plants or to volunteer.

----- **Background** -----

The Lunada Bay Homeowners Association (LBHOA) initiated the Beautify Lunada Bay (BLB) Project in 2014 to restore the habitat and improve the appearance of public areas.

Phase 1 of the project began in late 2017, as dozens of volunteers, ranging from science students to senior citizens, laid the groundwork for new pathways on the north side of Agua Amarga Canyon. The first half of Phase 1 broke ground early in 2018 with installation of the pathway and native plants on the north side of Agua Amarga Canyon. Work on the second half, the south side of Agua Amarga Canyon, began in March and was completed in the Summer of 2018.

The BLB Project is a joint effort of the LBHOA, the City of Palos Verdes Estates (PVE), and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC). Please see the LBHOA web page (<http://beautifylunadabay.lbhoa.org>) for more information.

----- **BLB Phase 2 Steering Committee** -----

Bill Ailor, Project Leader; LBHOA Board

Barbara Ailor, Volunteer

Marlene Breene, LBHOA Board, Landscape Design

Ed Deason, LBHOA Board

Jeff Hu, LBHOA Board

Karen Merickel, PVE Resident

Kristin Sweet-Pekarek, President, LBHOA

Megan Wolff, PVPLC

Cynthia Woo, Volunteer