



# IRVINE-LAGUNA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Connecting Habitats from Mountains to Coast

A PROJECT OF LAGUNA GREENBELT, INC.

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## THE CORRIDOR AT ALTON & BARRANCA PKWY



## GREAT PARK WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

By Gabriela Worrel

Ten years ago on November 26, 2013, the City of Irvine, developers, and nonprofit advocates came together to support a Great Park development plan incorporating a wildlife corridor that was to be zoned and codified.

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. and other associated parties are excited to celebrate this achievement later this year!

### Current Progress

FivePoint has made progress in implementing the plan for the wildlife corridor adopted for the Great Park in 2013,

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and is already seeing the benefit of the project, with sightings of wildlife finding their way into the area. This portion of the Corridor runs about 2.5 miles long, encompasses 178 acres, and varies in width, with a maximum width of 1,500 feet.

### **Function**

The Corridor brings multiple benefits to the community such as providing habitat for wildlife and native plants, acting as a storm runoff area for water to soak into the ground and directing overflow into the flood control system, mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, and providing a cultural and educational resource for residents, among other benefits.

This portion of the Corridor located in the Great Parks neighborhood makes up 2.5 miles/178 acres of the more significant Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor. This larger project is a 6-mile-long ecological connection between the South Coast Wilderness parks and the Santa Ana Mountains. Animals could travel between the Cleveland National Forest to the Laguna Coast when the corridor is completed and functional.

The Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor is particularly essential to maintain the ecological survival of the South Coast Wilderness, home to many wilderness parks that draw visitors from all over the Southern California region.

### **Barriers**

Sections to the north and south of the Great Park Corridor segment continue to be problematic and require design and other fixes. For example, a portion of the Corridor contains a long tunnel traveling under the I-5 freeway, and studies have indicated that animals do not use this portion of the corridor. The Corridor south of this connects directly with the Laguna Greenbelt and the rest of 22,000 acres of open space that makes up Orange County's South Coast Wilderness.

We hope that future planning with other local groups will lead to solutions to this obstacle and others alike.



# SUMMER SOLTSICE, JUNE 2023

By Giovanni Di Franco

The longest day of the year, commonly called the summer solstice, began on June 21st. Animals in the arctic circle are adapting to long days with different sleeping patterns and those in the Antarctic are preparing for months of darkness.

Here in Orange County, we enjoyed **14 hours and 23 minutes** of our gorgeous California sun on the 21st. These last months of cloudiness and gloom have left many locals yearning for summer. Weather projections are finally suggesting hotter days and cloud-free skies.

**Crystal Cove State Park**, located south of the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor, is a coastal reserve with sage scrub cliffsides and ungroomed beaches. It is a unique site to see as most other beaches in Southern California are regularly groomed removing the micro-habitats that beach wrack creates for many local species bird and arthropod species.

To enjoy the start of summer, we encourage our readers to visit

**<http://www.crystalcovestatepark.org/>** for a full list of events they are hosting in the park such as morning walks by the tidepool and guided tours in the historic district. If organized engagements do not fit your schedule, feel free to smell the California Sagebrush shrubs flanking the paved trails or lay out on the beach and enjoy the sounds of the crashing waves.





# SUMMER EVENTS HOSTED IN JULY 2023

## Back Yard Bugs – Aliso & Wood Canyons



**July 1 @ 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

Join us on a family-friendly trek around Aliso and Wood Canyons to learn all about these amazing animals who have perfected the art of ecological specialization. Insects may have a reputation for being icky, but in fact, they are essential pollinators that are needed to sustain life on our Planet.

<https://lagunacanyon.org/event/back-yard-bugs-aliso-wood-canyons/2023-07-01/>

**Follow the link  
to register**

## Turtle Rock Nature Center Restoration Event



**July 11 @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Join us OC Habitats at Turtle Rock Nature Center for some restoration! We will get our hands dirty by working with the land by doing one or more of the following tasks: invasive removal, soil amendment, planting, clearing paths, cutting/trimming plants, and more.

**Follow the link  
to register**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turtle-rock-nature-center-restoration-event-tickets-642571196747>





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Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. works to preserve open space and support wildlife that depend on local habitats to thrive.

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<https://lagunagreenbelt.org/donate-membership/>

or mail a check to  
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