



# IRVINE-LAGUNA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Connecting Habitats from Mountains to Coast

A PROJECT OF LAGUNA GREENBELT, INC.

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## MEET BYNX! THE ILWC AMBASSADOR

By Giovanni Di Franco



Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. is proud to introduce our newest project with a friendly furry face, Bynx the Bobcat! Bynx is the official ambassador of the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor (ILWC). His purpose is to help educate the local residents of Orange County about the significant importance of habitat connectivity. The ILWC will soon connect the fragmented habitats of the Cleveland National Forest in the North and the Laguna Coast Wilderness in the South. Bynx will guide us through portions of the corridor and introduce us to his furry and feathered friends.

(Continued on next page)



The inspiration behind Bynx the Bobcat came from real wildlife encounters with a Bobcat in the greater Irvine area. Initially spotted in 2015 near the University of California, Irvine (UCI), the Bobcat was captured by the City of Irvine Animal Control and placed under the care of USGS's Dr. Scott Weldy to be treated for mange as a result of rodenticide ingestion. Prior to his release back into the wilderness, the bobcat was fitted with a pink/lavender ID tag and given the official name BNX, commonly pronounced as "Bynx"!

In January 2016, local wildlife photographers Jodi Newell and Marcia Gonzalez (right) captured photos of Binx in an Irvine wetland looking healthy. While reported sightings of Bynx have not been made in recent years, other bobcats in the greater Irvine area will surely benefit from the ILWC.



The wonderful illustrations you see in this newsletter were created by the talented Evie Andrade, a recent graduate from UCI. She drew inspiration from past photos of BNX and worked with the ILWC working group to create friendly depictions of our native wildlife. We are excited to use these illustrations to emphasize the importance of the Wildlife Corridor.



Bynx the Bobcat will not only be seen on social media, but he will soon be an interactive education tool. We want to expand our audience and welcome local families and community members to engage in science and education about our local flora and fauna. The Wildlife Corridor website now features a webpage, “Bynx’s Den”, dedicated to children and families and will soon contain fun activities like print materials to create a diorama of our coastal sage scrub ecosystem and an activity guide for a scavenger hunt!

Additionally, you can visit our “Flora and Fauna” webpage for resources regarding facts about bobcats and other native species.

**Visit [www.wildlifecorridor.org](http://www.wildlifecorridor.org) for more.**



For the latest on Bynx’s journey in the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor, follow us on social media to see weekly posts of his travels and learn about the ILWC’s function and the stories of its residents!



**@lagunagreenbelt**



# SHOTS OF WILDLIFE!



(Above) A robberfly catches a wasp in the Nix Nature Center pollination garden.



(Above) A western tiger swallowtail perched on an elderberry shrub.



(Left) A western fence lizard with a newly grown tail, most likely as a result of predation.

(Below) A bobcat perched in its exhibit at the Orange County Zoo in the Irvine Regional Park.



(Below) A mountain lion at the Orange County Zoo. Visit the OC Zoo at the Irvine Regional Park to see more of our native wildlife.

\*All photos were provided by Laura Cohen, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. Board Member



# BECOME A PARTNER OF THE ILWC PROJECT

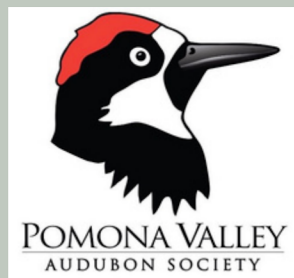


This Partner Charter provides a voluntary avenue for partner organizations and government entities to signify collaboration in implementing the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor. Please use the following link to learn more about the agreement and fill out the form to join. <https://bit.ly/ILWCpartnercharter>

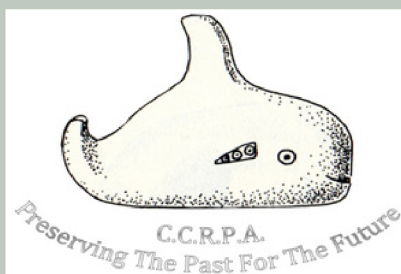
**The following are some of our current partners who support the ILWC. Join them today!**



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NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**







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preserve open space and support  
wildlife that depend on local  
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