



IRVINE-LAGUNA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Connecting Habitats from Mountains to Coast

A PROJECT OF LAGUNA GREENBELT, INC.

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SPRINGTIME IN CA

By Giovanni Di Franco

The annual practice of daylight savings is a reminder that our days get longer and that spring is on its way. As our wet winter weather turns into less frequent storms and longer periods of sunshine, we see our native flowers bloom. Perennials like our state flower, the Golden Poppy



(*Eschscholzia californica*), emerge in droves, blanketing hillsides bordering our cities. The traditionally subdued colors of our coastal sage scrub are illuminated by patches of orange, yellow, pink, and purple.

Native pollinators such as the Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) and Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) thrive



on the plentiful options of nectar. The influx of resources reaches all parts of the food web, attracting small and large wildlife. Birds like the White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) scour fields for their prey as rodents like the California vole (*Microtus californicus*) and reptiles such as the Orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythrus*) discretely scamper away from their burrows under the blooming brush. An afternoon breeze carries the smell of California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) into the air, reminding us of the unique and complex qualities of our native plant life that have adapted to the Californian Mediterranean climate.



Commuters and weekend road trip warriors longingly daydream about laying their heads in the lush fields as they combat traffic. Families and friends lucky enough to escape the hustle of society strap on their hiking shoes and prepare for a respectful hike through nature. Trailhead signage kindly reminds people to *stay on designated paths* and observe nature through a mindful eye and shiny camera lenses. Restoration volunteers help restore balance to habitats by removing invasive species to sustain our native flora and fauna populations. Families return to their busy lives and “Leave No Trace” behind...

LAGUNA BEACH ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Earlier this month Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. was invited to participate in the City of Laguna Beach 7th Annual Arbor Day celebration! There was a great turnout by the community and Laguna Beach City Arborist, Matthew Barker, was a great MC! Mayor Sue Kempf also made an appearance and spoke about the city's great accomplishments in planting 37 new trees this past year and being awarded Tree City USA recognition. Dozens of local children assisted in the planting of a pine tree and countless furry friends stopped by while on their afternoon walks. We are excited for another year of planting trees and the 8th annual Arbor Day celebration.



Read more about the event in an article by the **Daily Pilot!**

lat.ms/3TgrHam

LAGUNA GREENBELT, INC. IN THE NEWS...



A friend of Laguna Greenbelt, Amanda Rynda, shared incredible footage of what is presumed to be two male bobcats fighting in her yard back in early February. Our Director of Media, Gabriela Worrel shared the video with ABC7 News to raise awareness about the bobcat mating season!



Not only did the story cover current bobcat mating behavior, it also reminded residents to be vigilant and care for their pets. Keeping animals inside will reduce any unwanted interactions with the bobcats and avoid the need to euthanize these elusive creatures. Being smart and proactive can keep you and your pets safe and protect our local wildlife.

FOLLOW US FOR MORE!
@lagunagreenbelt



MARCH EVENTS!

Community Day!

March 17th @ 10 AM - 2 PM



**Newport Bay
Conservancy**

Visit the Back Bay Science Center in the Upper Newport Bay to tour the facility and learn about their educational programs. Explore their teaching lab and aquatic lab featuring touch tanks!

**Follow the link
to register**

<https://bit.ly/3wNtTwF>



Saturday, March 23rd @ 1 PM - 5 PM

Celebrate springtime by the poolside with local families and friends! This event features swimming, an egg hunt, face painting, crafts, and more! Tickets are \$12 for children 14 and younger.

**Follow the link
to register**

<https://bit.ly/4c97jPa>



Discovery Hike

March 26th @ 8:30 AM - 11 AM



**LAGUNA
CANYON
FOUNDATION**

Explore Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, where you might see deer, bobcats, and hawks. Enjoy wildlife sounds, smells, and sights on this moderate 5-mile hike on rocky terrain (with less than 500 ft. elevation gain).

**Follow the link
to register**

<https://bit.ly/3T8yroR>



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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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