

# Los Angeles County



MALIBU BEACH

*Los Angeles County is justly celebrated for its dynamic urbanism, cutting-edge culture, and, of course, those beautiful beaches. Along with the beaches, and close to the homes of about 10 million residents, are other natural areas—rivers, creeks, mountains, and wetlands—that remain an integral part of the urban environment. These areas are important to the region’s economy, offer extensive opportunities for recreation, and provide protection against sea level rise and other effects of climate change.*

**POPULATION:** >10 million

**COASTLINE:** 74 miles

**CONSERVANCY PROJECTS:** >200

**CONSERVANCY FUNDING:** >\$120 million

Meeting the diverse needs of a dense population is a continuing challenge, but communities and individuals in the County have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness and ability to adapt to change and improve their overall quality of life.

The Coastal Conservancy will continue its more than 35 years of work with the people of Los Angeles County to:

- Protect and restore natural areas, large and small, that are home to an astounding variety of wildlife and offer people a respite from the daily stresses of urban life
- Open beaches and build many more miles of hiking and biking trails on the coast and alongside urban rivers and creeks
- Help communities clean up their waterways, conserve rainwater, and guard against damage from stormwater flows
- Re-integrate working waterfronts into the lives of residents
- Meet the challenges posed by a changing climate.

# Beaches, Parks, and Trails

The Conservancy has helped to open several beaches in Malibu, extend the California Coastal Trail and many miles of community trails, build parks and viewing areas, and improve most of the County's public piers.

- The Conservancy funded the purchase of **Lechuza Beach** and worked with California State Parks to open **El Pescador, El Matador, and La Piedra State Beaches** in Malibu. Additional beach properties in Malibu held by the Conservancy are slated for future openings.
- The **California Coastal Trail** has grown by more than nine miles with the completion of the **Palos Verdes Peninsula Coastal Trail**, and the adjoining **Pacific Overlook Park** offers dramatic views of the Los Angeles Harbor waterfront.
- The **Ballona Creek Bike Path** links Baldwin Hills to Marina del Rey and the **Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Trail** will connect to the California Coastal Trail via the Los Angeles River Trail. **Milton Street Park** on Ballona Creek and **Compton Creek Natural Park** will expand the use and enhance the appeal of these trails.

## Los Angeles River

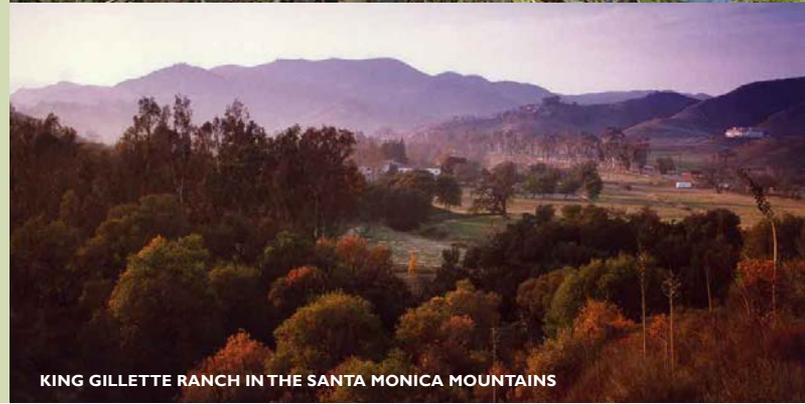
The Conservancy has worked with the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Maywood, Paramount, and Compton, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and California State Parks, among others, to develop the 51-mile Los Angeles River Greenway. Projects have included restoration of wildlife habitats and development of new outdoor recreational opportunities in this park-poor area.

- The **Rio de Los Angeles State Park** and new parks and trails in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood and the cities of Maywood and Paramount have opened long reaches of the **Los Angeles River** to the public.
- Along three miles of the lower river in Long Beach, the improved **Dominguez Gap** and **DeForest storm water basins** will offer trails for people and a haven for wildlife while improving the river's water quality and increasing flood protection for nearby neighborhoods.

## Water Quality

The Conservancy is assisting with regional efforts to reduce and treat flows of stormwater and to conserve rainwater by allowing rainfall to be captured or filter into the ground.

- The **Rainwater Harvesting, Downspout Disconnect/Rain Barrel, and Riverdale Green Street** are demonstration projects designed to capture and conserve stormwater and urban runoff as part of the **City of Los Angeles Green Streets initiative**.
- The **Green Solution Project** aims at developing a County-wide network of parks and natural lands in which soil and plants capture and filter stormwater to reduce pollution entering Santa Monica Bay.
- **Retrofitted storm drains** in Culver City, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, West Hollywood, and Los Angeles are removing trash and other pollutants before they enter local waterways.





PACIFIC OVERLOOK, SAN PEDRO

Craig Maldonado



DOMINGUEZ GAP STORM WATER BASIN, LONG BEACH

Leslie Hunsaker



MARINA DEL REY WATERBUS



MANHATTAN BEACH PIER

MPRS29

# Wildlife Habitat

The Conservancy has been a key player in protecting and restoring the County's wide variety of wildlife habitats.

- Acquisitions of more than 3,300 acres in the **Santa Monica Mountains** and almost 800 acres on the **Palos Verde Peninsula** have helped ensure the survival of wildlife and enabled the construction of many miles of trails for people to enjoy these natural areas.
- The Conservancy is leading the effort to restore the 600-acre **Ballona Wetlands** near Marina del Rey—the largest coastal wetland in the County—and to open it for public use.
- Decades of work have resulted in the protection and restoration of large areas of the **Los Cerritos Wetlands** that straddle Los Angeles and Orange counties.
- The restoration of **Colorado Lagoon** in Long Beach has greatly improved the quality of the lagoon's water and habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- The transformation of **Malibu Lagoon** from degraded to vibrant habitat is a boon both for wildlife and the local community.

# Environmental Education

The Conservancy has long supported educational programs for students, the construction of visitor/nature centers, exhibit displays in aquariums and museums, and hands-on volunteer restoration projects coordinated with K-12 education.

- The Los Angeles Conservation Corps upgraded its **SEA Lab** education facilities to provide employment training and environmental education to inner-city youth, and the **National Hispanic Environmental Council** developed a training program to expose young people to a variety of environmental issues and career possibilities.
- The **White Point Nature Preserve Interpretive Center** in San Pedro presents exhibits and provides training about conservation ecology and the preservation of local historical resources.
- **Tall ships festivals** have made thousands of visitors aware of the importance of the Port of Los Angeles, and the tall ship **Swift of Ipswich** was repaired for use as a waterfront attraction and sailing classroom.

*“The Coastal Conservancy is smart and effective. Restoring our lost coastal landscapes requires good scientific analysis, and the Conservancy can be relied upon to use the best knowledge available. I am very proud of the work we’ve done together in my district over the years”*

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, District 3, 1994-2014



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The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS :

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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