



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego Botanic Garden Extends Local Habitat Restoration Partnerships with City of Encinitas and Encinitas Unified School District

Community-based restoration projects work to enhance and improve shared public spaces

Encinitas, Calif. (Sept. 2024) - [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) (SDBG) recently extended two key partnerships with the City of Encinitas and Encinitas Union School District (EUSD) to expand habitat restoration efforts throughout the city. The partnerships will extend conservation efforts at a number of sites along the Cottonwood Creek watershed to plant native species, improve habitats for wildlife, contribute to water and soil quality, and enhance community recreation and education opportunities. The partnerships also expand these activities into several important new locations.

Since 2020, SDBG staff and volunteers have been working closely with the City of Encinitas on the restoration of public open spaces, removing invasive plant species and installing thousands of native plants grown at SDBG from seed collected in these parks, including at Cottonwood Creek Park and parcels near Moonlight Beach. The renewed partnership with the City, which also engages expert organizations such as Recon Environmental and community organizations such as the Cottonwood Creek Conservancy, focuses on continuing to improve wild habitats in these spaces, while also adding restoration activities at Oak Crest Park and around the Encinitas Senior Center. These additional open spaces include 15 acres of Southern maritime chaparral habitat with a wonderful diversity of native plants and wildlife.

Community-based restoration is also being enhanced through partnerships with EUSD. Since 2021, SDBG has led the restoration of native riparian and Southern maritime chaparral habitat in a canyon adjacent to Ocean Knoll Elementary School. Engaging students and other community members in the environmental restoration activities, SDBG and partners including the Canyon Keepers (a neighborhood organization), SWCA Environmental Consultants, and the Nature Collective are improving ten acres of canyon habitat, an ecosystem that is both a refuge for native coastal plants and animals, and an area that holds high educational value for thousands of children in the EUSD. In addition to local support, this effort has received funding from a variety of regional, state, and federal partners including the [California State Coastal Conservancy](#), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and San Diego Gas & Electric. Most recently, SDBG was awarded funding from [Point Blue](#) under their Roots program managed in partnership with the California Wildlife Conservation Board, to continue critically important restoration efforts until the end of 2026. SDBG was also one of just 115 organizations nationally to receive a grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#) as part of the Museums for America awards, which will be used to develop environmental educational programming in support of EUSD educators' opportunities to use the canyon as a living laboratory.

“Partnerships across local, state, and federal organizations and agencies for community-based restoration projects like Ocean Knoll Canyon and in City of Encinitas parks enable small-scale local projects to have big impacts,” said SDBG President & CEO, Ari Novy. “These partnerships allow us to protect and restore the natural beauty and biodiversity of our shared ecosystems. By investing in these sites, we’re not just preserving the environment; we’re safeguarding the health and well-being, including educational and recreational opportunities, of our communities for generations to come.”

“Enhancing native habitats at EUSD schools, while also developing programming for our educators to make more use of these spaces, are huge wins for both the environment and our students,” says Superintendent Dr. Andrée Grey. “We are grateful for our partnership with SDBG and appreciate the incredible conservation work they are doing for this community.”

SDBG is also partnering with the City of Encinitas and EUSD to plant native plant habitats in support of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. At Park Dale Lane Elementary, a large, publicly accessible slope covered in nonnative iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) will be transformed into a native coastal sage scrub habitat that will be a welcoming home for diverse pollinators. This project is graciously funded by the The Bevand Family, with work already underway by SDBG staff and volunteers.

To learn more about Science & Conservation projects underway at San Diego Botanic Garden, please visit sdbg.org.

About San Diego Botanic Garden

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is a 37-acre urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden’s four miles of trails and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. A premiere institution for botanical science and conservation, SDBG is actively involved in conservation horticulture, botany, and applied plant sciences to address our biggest local and global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, food insecurity to environmental degradation. SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; three children’s gardens, and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. Through an array of educational programming, events and activities for both children and adults, the Garden aims to create, share, and apply plant wisdom to the world. Learn more at sdbg.org. | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](https://www.facebook.com/SDBotanicGarden) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.instagram.com/sandiegobotanicgarden) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](https://twitter.com/SDBGarden) | LinkedIn [@SanDiegoBotanicGarden](https://www.linkedin.com/company/SanDiegoBotanicGarden) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.tiktok.com/@sandiegobotanicgarden)

About City of Encinitas

Located along six miles of Pacific coastline in northern San Diego County, the City Encinitas (City) has an approximate population of 60,000 and is characterized by coastal beaches, cliffs, flat-topped coastal areas, steep mesa bluffs, and rolling hills. The city was incorporated in 1986, drawing together the communities of New Encinitas, Old Encinitas, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Olivenhain, and Leucadia.



About Encinitas Union School District

The Encinitas Union School District's (EUSD) vision is to ignite the limitless potential of all learners, and works to cultivate values of joy, belonging, integrity, service and innovation. The district serves the city of Encinitas and the Rancho La Costa area of South Carlsbad in North San Diego County. Approximately 4,500 students in Kindergarten through 6th grade are enrolled in the District's nine schools. All EUSD schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools and serve a diverse and varied community.

About California State Coastal Conservancy

The Coastal Conservancy is a California state agency, established in 1976, to protect and improve natural lands and waterways, to help people get to and enjoy the outdoors, and to sustain local economies along California's coast. It acts with others to protect and restore, and increase public access to, California's coast, ocean, coastal watersheds, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Its vision is of a beautiful, restored, and accessible coast for current and future generations of Californians.

About Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).