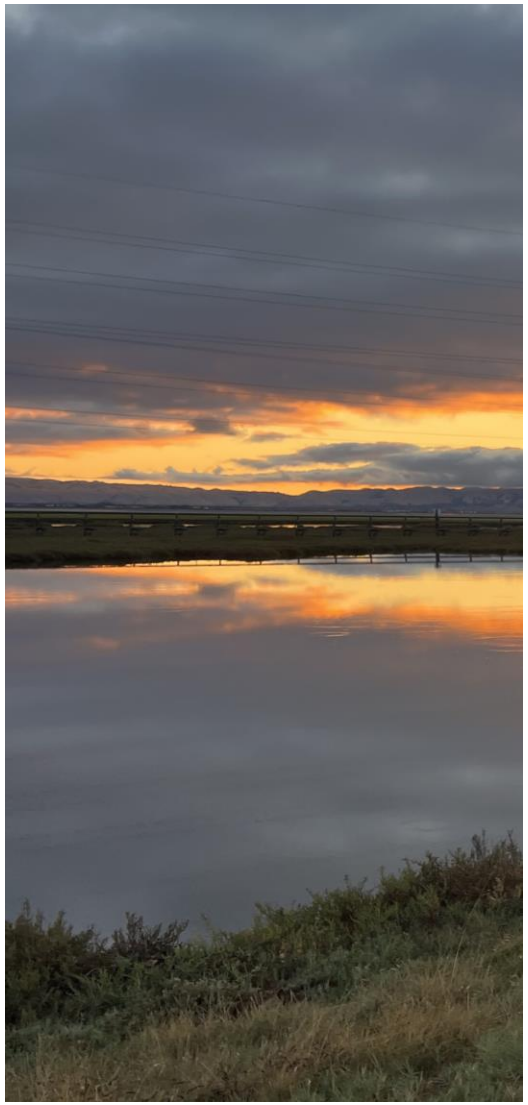
CITY OF PALO ALTO

BAYLANDS NATURE PRESERVE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

www.cityofpaloalto.org



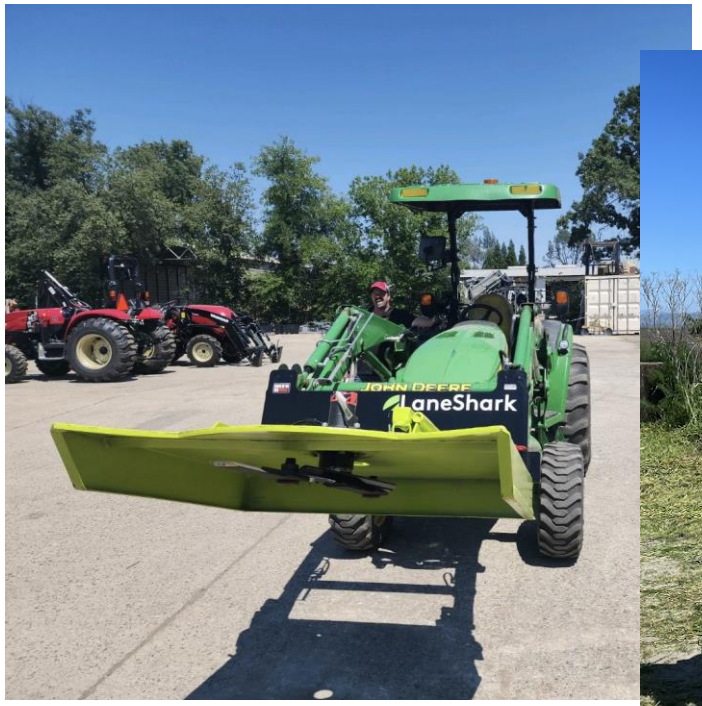
BAYLANDS NATURE PRESERVE 2024 VISITATION

- Approximately 600,000 visitors per year.
- 45% of visitors are likely bike commuters between East Palo Alto and Mountain View.
- Visitation trends:
  - Baylands main entrance is the busiest entry point.
  - East Bayshore Bike Path has the least amount of traffic.
  - Highest visitation was in March.

BAYLANDS NATURE PRESERVE MAINTENANCE

- The 4 Baylands Rangers maintain 2,000 acres of Open Space that spans from Mountain View to Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

- Park Rangers perform main tenance tasks such as:
  - Mowing
  - Line Trimming
  - Sign installation
  - Trail repair
  - Construction
  - Irrigation installation
  - Storm preparation
  - Trail brushing



ENTRANCE GATE AUTOMATION - CIP PROJECT

Automatic gate project completed

Updating signage and sensors

Gate operation during posted operational hours

Reduced calls for service

E-BIKE SIGNAGE

- 25 signs installed
- E-bikes are permitted on asphalt trails
- E-bikes are not permitted on gravel trails

BICYCLE PARKING AREAS

Thirteen new bike racks were installed in four locations throughout the preserve:

- Sail station parking lot - 4
- Baylands athletic center - 4
- Duck pond - 3
- Entrance parking lot - 2

4TH OF JULY

- Baylands remained open until 10:30 pm for local firework shows.

- Fireworks visitation:
  - 650 vehicles
  - 200-300 pedestrians & cyclists

SAVE THE BAY PARTNERSHIP 2023 - 2024

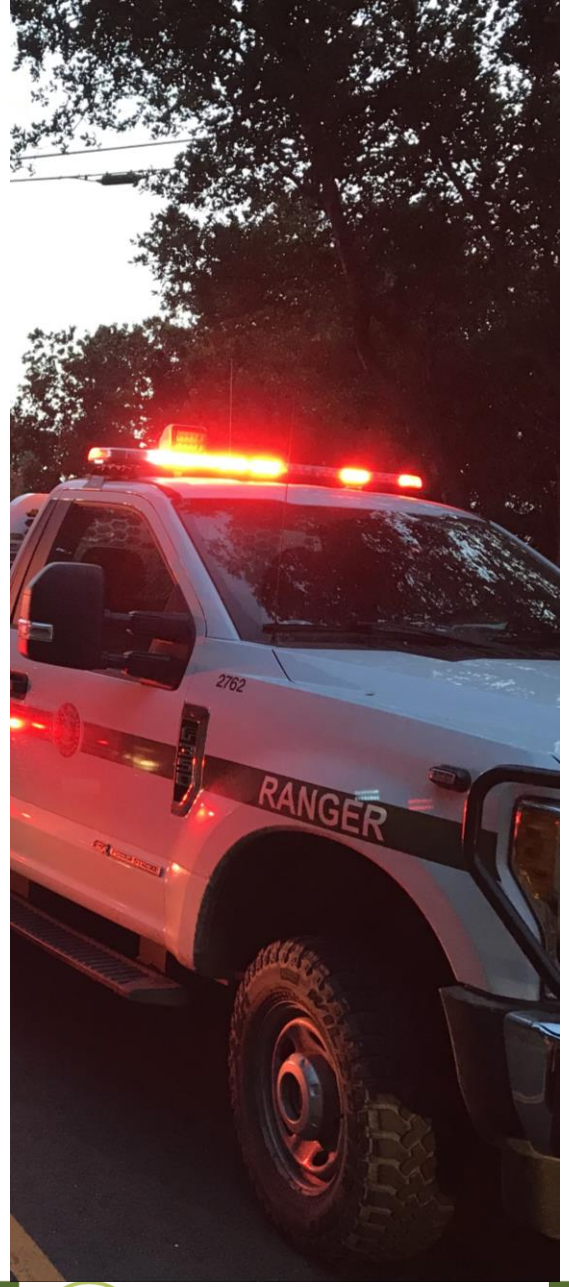
Activities and participants 2024 :

- 150 events
- 793 volunteers
- 2,475 volunteer hours
- 5,700 native plants installed
- 8,350 pounds of invasive weeds removed

MOONLIGHT RUN - Friday, September 20

- Four park rangers were on duty as first aid responders

- 2,000-3,000 participants attended the race



2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE AND ENFORCEMENT

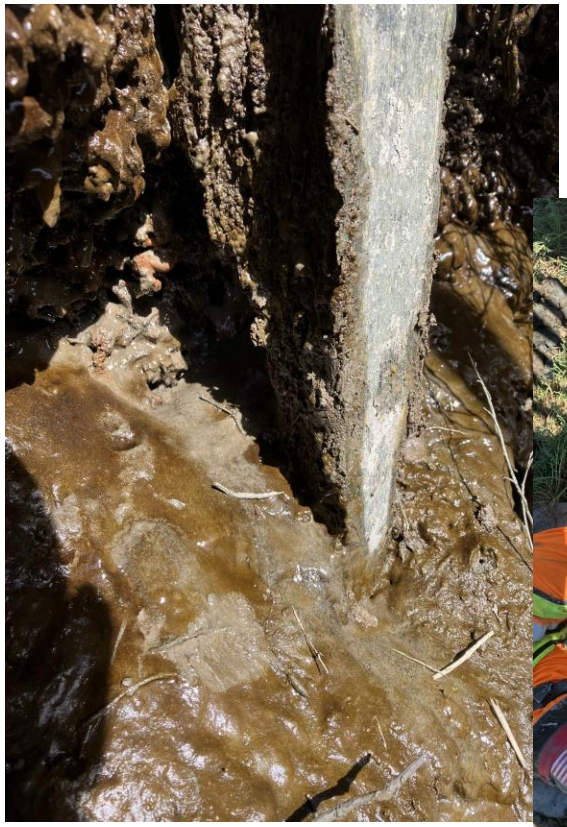
- Calls for service included medical aid, municipal code enforcement, wildland fire response, and animal control response.
- 20 citations issued for parking and municipal code violations.
- 15-20 visitor contacts per week for off leash dogs, smoking, drones or kites, and speeding. Most contacts educated the park users.

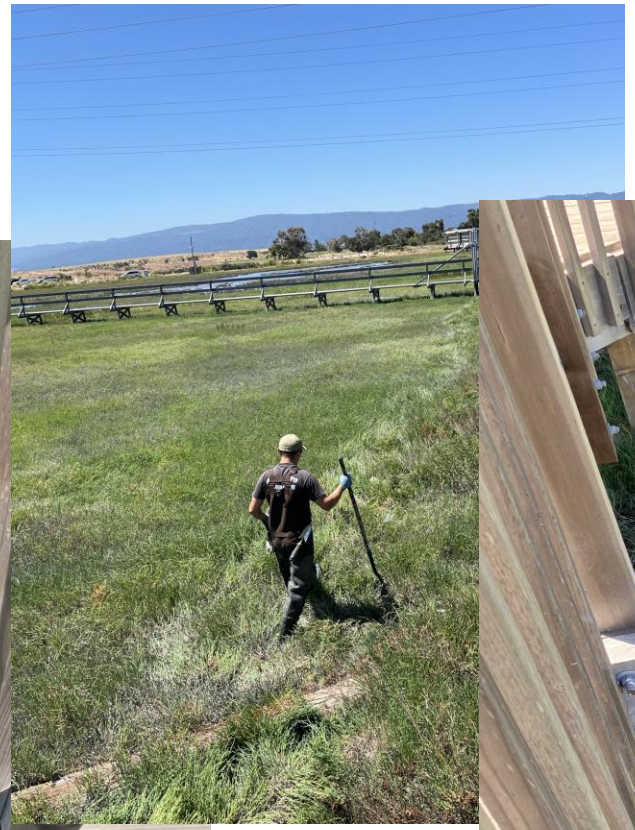
FIRE FUEL REDUCTION WORK

- Every May, 24 acres of city-owned property in East Palo Alto are mowed and brushed for fire protection.
- Staffing for fuel reduction is 4-6 Open Space staff over a work week.
- Weed abatement activities include:
  - Clearing a 10-foot fire break
  - Trash removal

LUCY EVANS BAYLANDS NATURE CENTER BOARDWALK REPAIRS

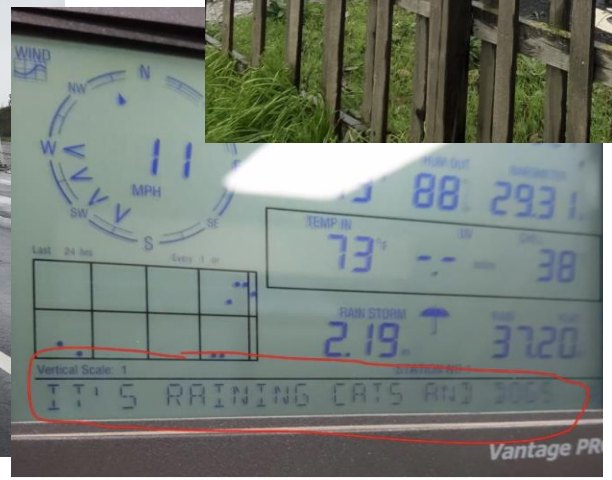
- Damage to boardwalk supports from shipworms and isopods
- Work window: September to January 2025





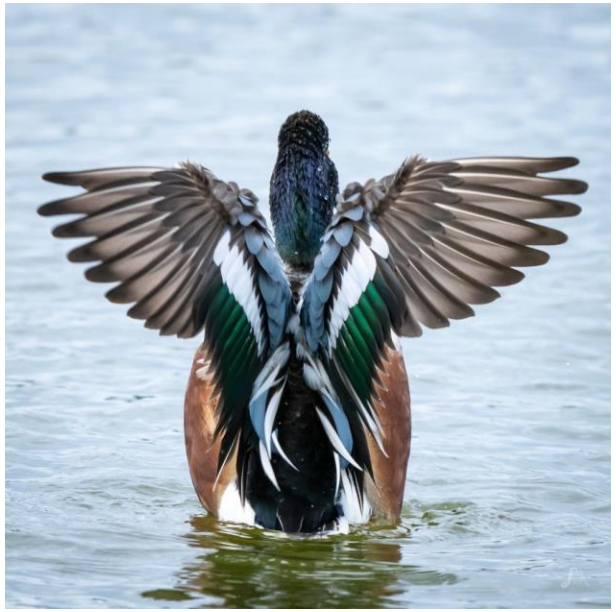
WINTER: OCTOBER 2023- MARCH 2024

- 27 trees cleared by staff.
- 9 days of tides greater than 9'.
- 3 days of preserve closures due to storms.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, MID-TOWN ICE CREAM SOCIAL, MSC OPEN HOUSE

BAYLANDS BIRDS - FALL MIGRATION



Questions?