

Encinitas Habitat Stewardship Program

FY23/24 Annual Presentation

August 28, 2024



ENCINITAS HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



FY 23/24 Annual Overview

- Brief History of the Program
- Work completed by City staff and contractors; San Diego Botanic Garden, RECON Environmental Inc., and Excel Landscaping
- Maintenance and monitoring
- Next Steps



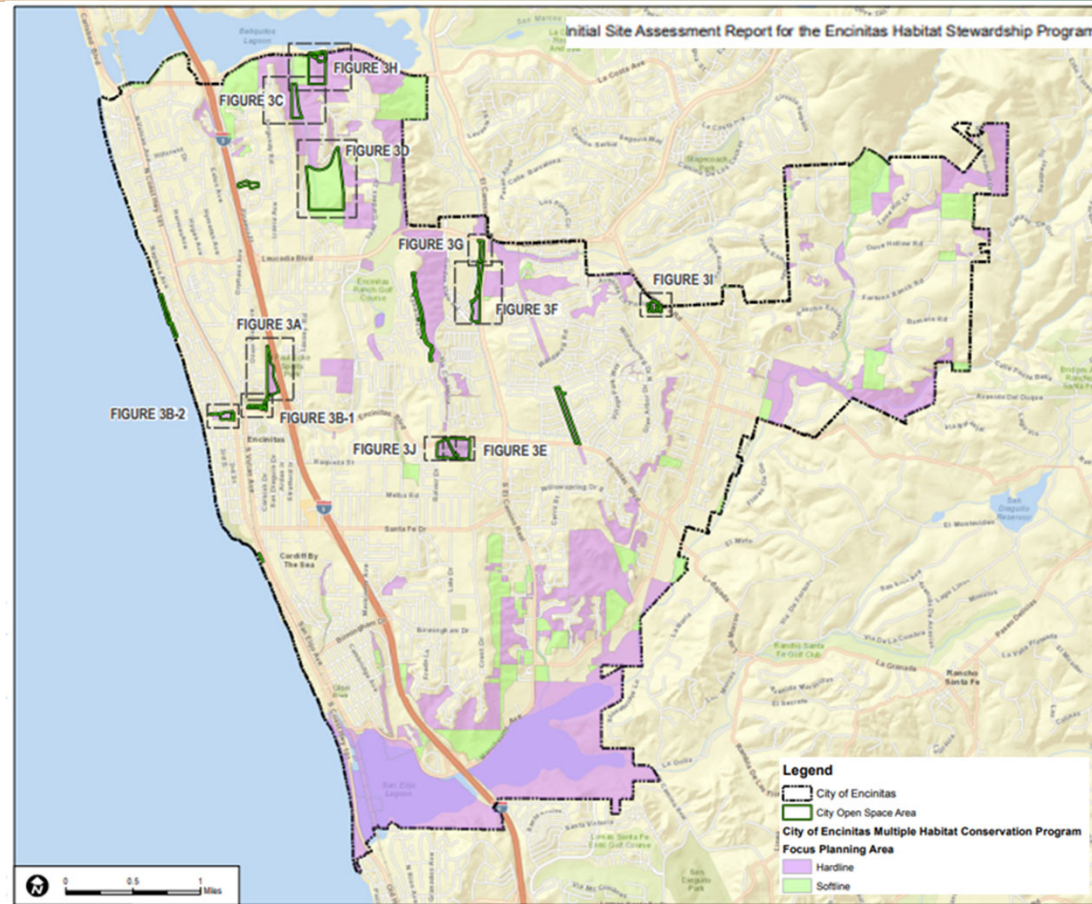
ENCINITAS HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Encinitas Habitat Stewardship Program (EHSP) Purpose

- Address basic property management stewardship on City owned property which contains sensitive habitat

EHSP Management Categories

- Invasive Plant Control
- Erosion Control
- Access Control
- Trash and Debris Control
- Brush Management / Fire Abatement



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EHSP History

- **May 27, 2009-** Staff presented the subarea plan and Open Space Management Plan
- **May 19, 2010-** City Council adopted the Early MHCP Implementation Program (Now the EHSP)
- **January 29, 2014-** RFP for Initial Site Assessment
- **September 16, 2015-** EHSP Draft Initial Assessment Report submitted to City Council
- **May 8, 2019-** Initial Assessment Report accepted by City Council
- **November 2019-** RFQ for EHSP General Services and Maintenance
- **February 26, 2020-** Council approved San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) EHSP General Services and Maintenance Contract

INITIAL SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT
for the
ENCINITAS HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
City of Encinitas, California

Prepared for:

City of Encinitas
505 South Vulcan Avenue
Encinitas, California 92024
Contact: Ms. Laurie Winter and Ms. Diane Langager



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EHSP History Cont.

- **February 28, 2022-** SDBG Contract Amendment 1 to extend Contract
- **March 2, 2023-** SDBG Contract Amendment 2 to increase budget by \$100,000
- **March 13, 2024-** Council approved RECON Environmental Inc. As Needed Environmental Services Contract
- **June 6, 2024** – SDBG Contract Amendment 3 to increase budget by \$50,000



Cottonwood Creek Drainage Area A

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FY 23/24 Annual Overview- SDBG

- Over **120 hours** of staff time towards invasive plant species removal.
- More than **20 volunteer events**
- Approximately **250 volunteer hours** to HSP activities
- Installed **500 plants** within EHSP sites



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FY 23/24 Maintenance Activities

Cottonwood Creek Park (Unimproved)

- 300 container plants installed
- Invasive plant control in planted areas
- Natural recruitment of native species in planted area
- Native species dominate planted area



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FY 23/24 Maintenance Activities

Cottonwood Creek Drainage Areas A, B, & C

- 200 container plants installed in Drainage Area B
- Palm removal in Drainage Area B
- Non-native treatment within Drainage Area B



Cottonwood Creek Drainage Area B



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FY 23/24 Maintenance Activities

Oak Crest Park Area/Encinitas Senior Center

- Fencing installed around Encinitas baccharis (*Baccharis vanessae*)
- Debris piles placed in front of unauthorized trail
- Fencing and signs installed in front of unauthorized trails



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FY 23/24 Annual Overview- RECON

- Conducted **biannual qualitative monitoring** event at all actively managed EHSP parcels, and Saxony Road
- Submitted draft **qualitative monitoring Wildnote forms and figures** to SDBG and City staff for review
- **Developed next steps** for the EHSP



Cottonwood Creek Park (Unimproved)

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Wildnote Forms & ArcGIS Field Maps

- Project management tool to provide clear and concise management recommendations and ongoing updates of open space areas within the EHSP



FIGURE 5
Oak Crest Park Habitat Area/
Encinitas Senior Center



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FY 23/24 Annual Overview- Staff

- **August 22, 2023** - RFQ for As-needed Environmental Project Management Services
- **March 13, 2024** - Council approved RECON Environmental Inc. (RECON) As-needed Environmental Project Management Services Contract
- **Established quarterly meetings** with Cottonwood Creek Conservancy and contractors
- **Developed** EHSP page for City website: [EHSP Website](#)



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Next Steps: FY24/25

- Issue an RFP for EHSP General Maintenance Contract
- Begin EHSP implementation activities at Saxony Road
- Conduct ongoing maintenance activities based on qualitative monitoring recommendations
- Qualitative Monitoring in Spring
- Compile data for EHSP Activities
- Annual Report for EHSP Activities
- Seeking Grants with Wildlife Conservation Board

