

December 2024



A Beginner's Guide to Growing Native Plants

Starting your native plant journey doesn't require a complete yard overhaul. Begin by converting a small area—perhaps a sunny corner or an existing flower bed—into a native plant haven. This manageable approach lets you learn and expand gradually.

Start with 3-4 hardy, low-maintenance native species that match your site conditions. Popular starter plants include bush sunflowers, sage, firecracker snapdragons, and manzanita. And don't forget the white yarrow and lupin.



Prepare your chosen spot by removing existing plants and amending the soil if needed. Check for guidelines

THIS MONTHS EVENTS

Special Puppet Sale!

**Nature Center Gift Shop
through December 21st**

Every Friday

Friday Fun*

10:00 am - Noon

Every Saturday

Guided Nature Walk

10:00 am - Noon

Thursday, December 5th

Tyke Hike

10:00 am - Noon

Saturday, December 14th

Night Hike*

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 12th

Nature Storytime & Crafts

10:30 am - Noon

Thursday, December 21th

on what a specific plant might need. Plant in spring or fall for the best results, spacing plants according to their mature size. Add a layer of mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds (careful, this could inhibit your new seeds), but keep it away from plant stems.

Water regularly during the first growing season to establish strong roots, but don't overdo it. After that, native plants typically require minimal care, having evolved to thrive in local conditions. Don't be discouraged if you lose some plants. It takes a bit of adjustment to make it work. Stick with it. As your confidence grows, gradually expand your native garden, creating a vital habitat for local pollinators and birds while reducing maintenance needs.

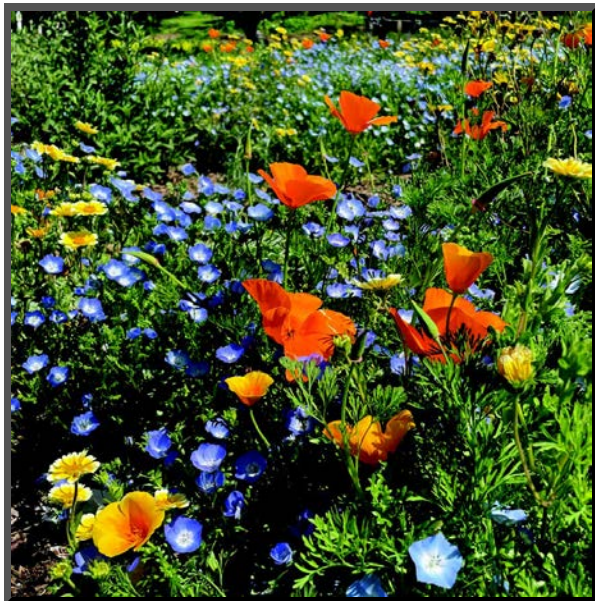
Remember: even a small patch of native plants makes an impact.

Resources:

[California Native Plant Society, Calscape](#)

[PLVC Plant Sales](#)

[South Bay Parkland Conservancy](#)



[Henrietta Basin Tour](#)

9:00 - 11:00 am

Saturday, December 28th

[Bird Walk PV/SB Audubon Society](#)

9:00 - 11:00 am

December 24 - 25

December 31 - January 1
Closed for Holidays

2025

January 22-24

[CA Anostraca and Notostraca Identification Class*](#)

January 11

South Bay Parkland
Conservancy - Seeds to
Superbloom

* Registration required

Join Us

Come join us at the Madrona Marsh visitor center for a free presentation.

SEEDS to SUPERBLOOM
Pollinators and Native Plants

*presented by South Bay Parkland
Conservancy*

Saturday, January 11, 2025

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[Learn More](#)

Featured Sighting

Usually heard before seen, the Cassin's kingbird is the noisiest kingbird. It can be seen in the thick brush along the edges of the coastal prairie or other areas. Listen then look for this quick and vocal visitor.

[Visit Our Photo Gallery](#)



From the Manager



by Liz Evans
Madrona Marsh Preserve Manager

November was another busy month of fall work at the Marsh. Several groups volunteered with us to help with Habitat Restoration on the Preserve.

We welcomed back Saatchi and Saatchi, an advertising firm in Torrance; the California Academy of Math and Science's California Scholarship Federation Club; and a local chapter of Volunteers of America. These groups worked hard on the land, cutting back tule and clearing downed wood from the wetlands, and we thank them for their effort!



Docents and staff gave tours of the Preserve and Nature Center to several schools, including the IQ Academy, Fern Elementary School, El Camino College, and the University of California Naturalist class from the Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum.

Lastly, we closed the month with a Tree Planting and Dedication ceremony in honor of the Friends of Madrona Marsh's 50th anniversary. The Friends' board members planted a coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and a cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) trees in the northwestern corner of the Preserve to commemorate their incredible milestone.



[Learn More About Volunteering at Madrona Marsh](#)

Making a Difference

Recently, we welcomed back Carol Craft who led the monthly Nature Storytime kids program. Her final class will be on Thursday, December 12, and after that a new volunteer will lead the program.

We thank Carol for her years of dedication to the children and families that visit the Marsh!



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