

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting Nature Since 1974

All of the projects, supplies and materials presented in this report were created, accomplished and funded through a partnership between the City of Torrance and the Friends of Madrona Marsh.



Throughout 2024 the Friends of Madrona Marsh celebrated 50 years of supporting nature.



When the large Cottonwood tree fell in the southeast corner of the preserve, it became an educational opportunity. An interpretive panel was installed to teach everyone that passes by the value of leaving the tree to decompose naturally and return to the earth. The tree hosts many new plants. It's a valuable food source for the Preserve, it provides perches for birds, homes for insects and small animals.

Thomas Machian cuts the ribbon opening the Madrona Marsh Preserve front gate kiosk. Thomas and helpers constructed this shade structure for his Eagle Scout project. It's a fine spot for volunteers and staff to greet visitors. The Friends and Thomas's supporters funded the supplies.



NATURE FESTIVAL



Nature Festival activities, pictured ...making seed balls, what lives in the Preserve water, meeting new insects. Local organizations hosting information booths included, The Sierra Club, International Bird Rescue, South Bay Parkland Conservancy, Audubon Society, Native Plant Society. Over 900 guests attended and participated in the many activities.



Ollie the Frog visited several Torrance Elementary schools inviting students to visit the Preserve and Nature Center. Continuing with the frog theme, Miriam Taubel rescued Pacific Tree Frog eggs and raised them in the Nature Center. Children from local schools that participated in a sticker design program came with their families to release the frogs on the Preserve.



The Friends Board of Directors with Mayor Chen planting trees on the Preserve. Pictured are Charlene, Mayor Chen, Carol, Suzan, Bobbie, Sarah, Benny, and Jeanne.

The Friends funded a seed storage system for propagation of Preserve seeds.



2024 Docent Led Tours

Docents train for up to 10 hours every year to lead children from ages 2 thru adult through the Nature Center, Water Wise Gardens, and the Preserve.





On Behalf of the Friends, President Suzan Hubert accepts California Legislature Assembly Resolution from Assembly member Al Muratsuchi at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Supporting nature since 1974.



Docents accept Torrance Climate Smart Award from the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. Pictured are Manager Liz, Docents: Benny, Sarah, Suzan, Celina, and Peter.



Native Plant walk with Dan Portway, far right. Funded by the Friends, Dan and his team do restoration and maintenance in specific areas of the Preserve.



Tony Baker, front right in the green shirt, teaches docents about Native Plants. Funded by the Friends, Tony cares for the Water-Wise gardens surrounding the Nature Center.



Tongva educator Lazaro Arvizu led a presentation about the Tongva people, then taught participants how to weave mats using dried tules.



The Friends funded microscopes for water labs and supplied the curation lab for various research projects.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

NEW in 2024 and ongoing, docent-led nature walks every Saturday 10:00–12:00

21,795 visitors explored the Preserve.

1,219 students were led on study tours by docents.

116 visitors participated in Saturday Nature Walks.

179 visitors explored the Preserve after dark on docent-led Night Hikes.

205 visitors came for special events.

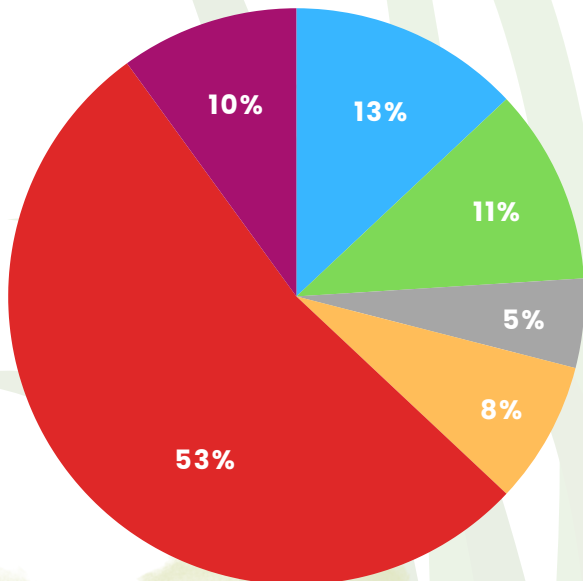
248 visitors were dazzled by Star Parties.

330 children and parents came for Nature Story time.

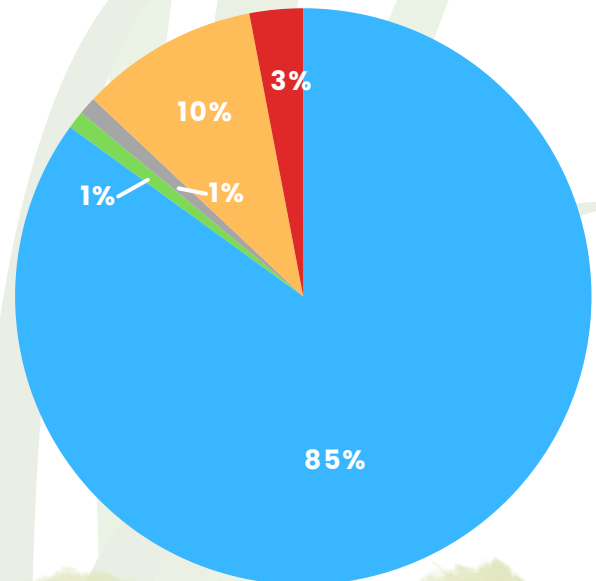
1,481 children and parents attended the long time favorite, Friday Fun.

Many thanks to all of our 415 members!

Expenses



Income



Watch for in **2025** ... Moving the dumpsters off the Preserve to create more habitat; Nature Festival in April; Music on the Marsh in the Fall