

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
LAND CONSERVANCY



MISSION

The mission of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is the preservation of open space and restoration of habitat for the enjoyment and education of all.



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
LAND CONSERVANCY
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Annual Report 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Your help in 2010 enabled us to continue our important work preserving valuable open space for our community and restoring the protected land to its natural state. These successes allow us all to reap the rewards of watching local flora and fauna return to their native habitat. The resurgence of endangered species such as the Palos Verdes blue butterfly and El Segundo blue butterfly provide dramatic proof that we are on the right track.

In 2010 we also placed a high priority on student education. The year's highlights included completion of the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve (facilitated by the acquisition of Upper Filiorum at the end of 2009) and the spring opening of the White Point Nature Education Center.

In addition to these significant accomplishments, in 2010 we also helped the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to receive a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to create a local segment of a continuous trail from Oregon to Mexico. We welcomed the involvement of many of you in the trail-planning workshops we hosted, and were pleased to be able to connect our community to the land in this direct and meaningful way.

We share these gratifying accomplishments with you — our members, volunteers, donors, docents, educators, conservationists and local residents. Your continuing support and dedication during these challenging economic times will help us achieve goals we can all appreciate, whenever we explore our nature preserves, train our binoculars on native animals, listen to the waves crash on the beach, or smell the sage along the trail.

Sincerely,

Andrea Vona
Executive Director

Ken Swenson
President, Board of Directors



WHITE POINT NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

The public opening of the White Point Nature Education Center in May 2010 marked a significant milestone for the Land Conservancy. Created from an historic Cold War assembly building on the White Point Preserve, this community resource was made possible with the support of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Coastal Conservancy, the Ibrahim El-Hefni Technical Training Foundation, and the Alcoa Foundation.

The new center tells the story of White Point from the Pleistocene to the present through the interactive displays, interpretive exhibits and staff naturalists. The Center now regularly offers guided walks and children's story times thanks to a partnership with the Los Angeles City Interpretive Rangers.



LAND STEWARDSHIP HAS POSITIVE EFFECT ON LOCAL SPECIES

With funds from federal, state, and local agencies the Conservancy implemented a variety of essential habitat restoration projects in 2010, including weeding, reseeding, and improving land for species survival. For example, at the 95-acre San Ramon Reserve, we treated seven populations of *Euphorbia terracina* (Geraldton spurge). Euphorbia grows quickly in disturbed areas, seeds prolifically, and is rapidly spreading throughout Southern California. Comparative studies have shown that this plant degrades the ecological quality and habitat viability of invaded areas.

Our native plant propagation work provides another example of how our restoration work positively affects species survival. At the Defense Fuel Support Point nursery we grew 17,585 container plants, including 4,600 food plants for the near-extinct PV blue butterfly. Dr. Jana Johnson of Moorpark College's PV Blue Butterfly Captive Rearing Program, heralded the 2010 efforts for this precious and imperiled species as the most successful to date.

Key stewardship projects in 2010

- Portuguese Bend: Completed restoration of 9.5 acres of coastal sage scrub and grassland, and 3 acres of burn area funded by Department of Fish and Game.
- Three Sisters: Restored 21 acres of habitat with Los Angeles World Airports funding.
- Alta Vicente: Restored 10 acres of habitat.
- McCarrell's Canyon: Removed 5 acres of non-native acacia trees.
- Fishing Access: Preparing 4 acres for restoration with funds from the California Coastal Conservancy.
- Chandler: Removed Castor bean plants and replaced them with 300 deerweed and ocean locoweed seedlings for Palos Verdes blue butterfly habitat.
- White Point: Installed new trash cans and doggie bag dispensers, and completed hardscape in demonstration garden.
- George F Canyon: Installed interpretive display panels on water-wise native plant gardening.
- Defense Fuel Support Point (Nursery): Growing 17,585 container plants, including 4,600 food plants to support the Palos Verdes blue butterfly.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

In 2010 the Conservancy facilitated research to engage high school and college students in science education as well as to provide academic research opportunities. During the year, we were involved in ten ongoing research projects with a variety of worthwhile goals, from gaining a better understanding of birds' responses to habitat restoration to studying the preserve's microclimates in order to improve the effectiveness of our restoration strategies.

With the conclusion of a large grant to support research, the Conservancy has focused on strengthening collaborative relationships with university programs such as UCLA's Environmental Science Senior Practicum, which is studying the effects of adding *mycorrhizae* fungi to restoration areas to promote beneficial symbiosis with plant root systems.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL

The Conservancy will join a statewide effort to create a 1,200-mile coastal trail from Oregon to Mexico, which will now include a segment linking Palos Verdes Estates to San Pedro. The 9-mile trail was funded by a \$500K grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.



2010 by Numbers - At a Glance

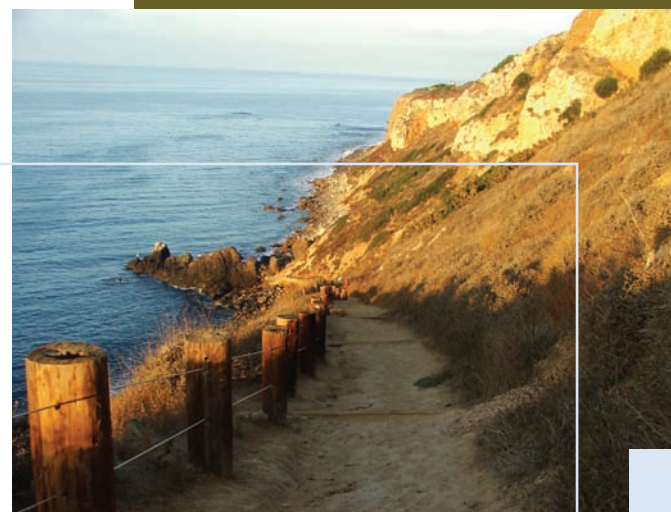
Acres managed by PVPLC:	1,600
Seedlings grown in Nursery for planting:	17,585
Participating schools:	23
Title 1 schools served:	13
Students served:	21,803
Visitors to Nature Centers:	6,115
Total Volunteers:	1,650
Volunteer hours:	12,133

CUTBACKS IN SCHOOLS INCREASE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE EDUCATION

In a year of severe cutbacks in school funding across California, the Conservancy's education programs became more important than ever. In 2010 our Third Grade Naturalist Program served 22 schools across the South Bay, bringing the total of students served since its 1995 inception to over 21,400. Meanwhile, our Science Students as Stewards (S³) program initiated in 2008 continued to bring K-6th grade students from Para Los Niños Charter Elementary School in Los Angeles' garment district to local preserves.

In 2010 the Conservancy's education program marked its 15th year serving the schoolchildren of Palos Verdes, San Pedro, and the surrounding areas. Over the past three years PVPLC has proudly welcomed several additional schools from around the South Bay, broadening our reach to draw students from Lomita, Wilmington, Carson, Torrance, and Redondo Beach.

Approximately 50% of these schools qualified for Title I funding and/or assisted lunch programs. This growth demonstrates the Conservancy's commitment to providing nature awareness programs to a more diverse audience and to share the inherent beauty of the preserves with children who might not otherwise get the opportunity to explore nature.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Ambitious volunteer support marked 2010, with approximately 1,650 volunteers providing a combined total of 12,133 hours of service. Our able team of office volunteers donated 5,014 hours of mail assembly, event support, committee work and board participation. Land steward volunteers donated an impressive 6,611 hours to restore native habitat and maintain trails. Volunteer guides and docents committed to leading monthly walks from the ocean's edge to deep within peninsula canyons, donating 508 hours to provide insightful nature experiences to visitors of all ages.

Volunteering with the Land Conservancy is totally a win-win. It is both gratifying and wonderful to see so many others in the community enjoying the results.

~ Mary Ellen Richardson
2010 co-Presidents Award recipient

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY

2010 SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

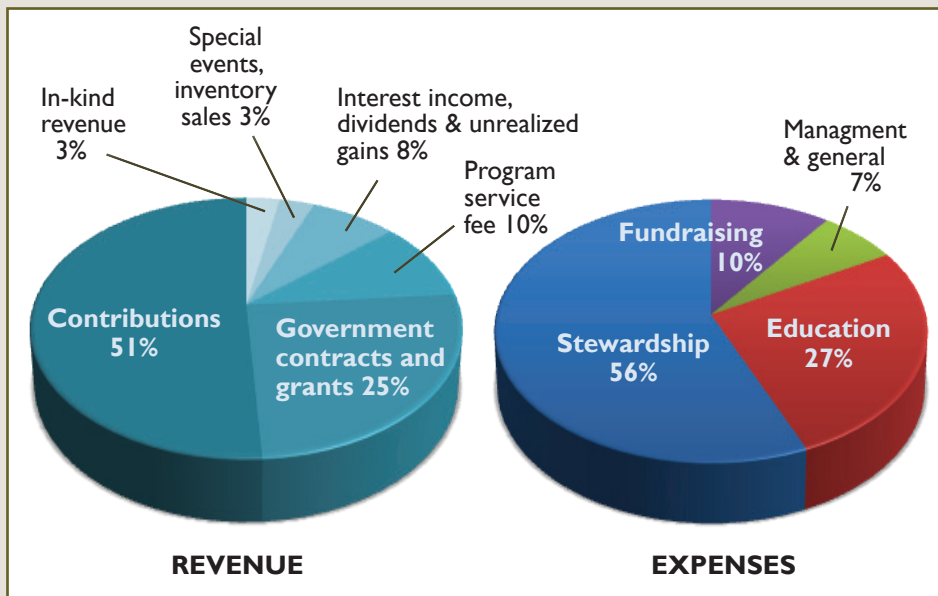
Contributions	813,719
Government contracts and grants	404,193
Program service fee	158,344
Interest income, dividends, unrealized gains	122,312
In-kind revenue	49,475
Special events and inventory sales	47,704

TOTAL REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT \$ **1,595,747**

EXPENSES

Stewardship	928,232
Education	438,811
Management and general	110,199
Fundraising	166,825

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ **1,644,067**



2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2010 STAFF

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Jill Wittman <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Mary Lopes <i>Donor Relations</i>

Land Stewardship

Lily Verdone**
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Adrienne Bosler
Stewardship Associate
Humberto Calderon
Stewardship Technician
Daniel Feldman
Stewardship Technician
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Stewardship Technician
Nely Gonzalez
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Education

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John Nieto
Education Manager
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Science Coordinator
George F Canyon
Nature Center Manager/Naturalist
Loretta Rose
Assistant Naturalist
Laurie Morgan
Assistant Naturalist
White Point Nature
Education Center
Roxanne Roberts
Manager/Naturalist
Jessy Melowicz
Assistant Naturalist

* Passed away May 2010
** Staff for part of 2010
*** Joined in 2010

CONTRIBUTORS 2010

We are grateful to the following contributors for their significant support and to everyone who gave a gift to support open space and environmental education.

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