



## BEAUTIFY LUNADA BAY PROJECT

# NEWSLETTER #9

December 2018

### Planning for Phase 2 Begins

Phase 2 of the Beautify Lunada Bay project would extend from the west boundary of Phase 1a (west of Via Anacapa) to the driveway of 2508 Paseo del Mar as shown in the figure. That driveway is the approximate location where the existing trail widens and the use of the property changes. Closer to the ocean, the blufftop is used for high school events and also becomes a major view corridor. The Phase 2 area is approximately 1 acre in size.



The project will follow the existing dirt trail in most areas but will move a few feet away from the canyon in a couple of precarious spots. The design of the trail will be the same as used in Phase 1a—stone lined decomposed granite, but 8-ft wide rather than the 6-ft width used in Phase 1a.



The photo on the left shows current views of the project area looking toward the ocean from western end of Phase 1a along Paseo Lunado. The photo shows an existing yucca tree, a non-native plant that one neighbor has asked be removed. Since it is on City property, interested residents must file an application for removal of that tree with the City. At this point, the BLB project

has no plans to remove the yucca or any native plants in the project area. Invasive non-native plants and weeds will be removed!

## Smaller Plant Varieties Planned near Coast

One goal of the project is to transition the palette of native plants from the ~3-ft tall varieties used closer to Via Anacapa to varieties whose height will remain less than 1-ft tall closer to the ocean blufftop. We believe that these varieties will actually enhance views that are currently blocked when seasonal yellow mustard, Russian thistle (tumbleweed) and other tall weeds flourish in the spring.

On the last page you'll find a plot plan for Phase 2. The plan shows plant combinations for 10 x 10 ft squares; the color of each square represents the dominant color of plants and their flowers for that area.

## Lessons Learned from Phase 1

Several key lessons were learned from the experiences of Phase 1a and Phase 1b and these will be incorporated in Phase 2. These include:

- On Phase 1, we hired a contractor to scrape the property in preparation for planting. As can be seen at western end of the Phase 1a site, mulch provides a very effective weed barrier. So, on Phase 2, rather than spreading City-generated mulch at upper Agua Armaga Canyon, we'll spread mulch over the Phase 2 project area before planting (not including existing trail bed). This will minimize the need for formal site clearing by a contractor—a major cost item.
- We found that the native, drought-tolerant plants that are restored require very little water. We've been watering for an hour once every 8 weeks. We plan to eliminate drip lines and simply water by hand. We'll run a main line adjacent to the trail and install hose bibs every 50 ft or so. This will reduce the project's cost even further.

We'll continue to have periodic weeding and mulching events on Phase 1 as the plants mature. Removing non-native weeds before they go to seed will help assure the natives gain a secure foothold for the long term. Weeding and mulching events will be posted on the Land Conservancy's Volunteer Hub web page (<http://pvplc.volunteerhub.com/>), and we'll continue to send notices to our BLB email list. If you're not on that list, you may sign up at [blb.lbhoa.org](http://blb.lbhoa.org).

## So, What's Next?

- In early January we'll have an open meeting to discuss our plan for Phase 2 with local homeowners. We'll send out a notice to our email list and also hand-carry notifications to homeowners across from the project site.
- We're on the agenda for the January 2019 meeting of the City's Parklands Committee, followed by a presentation to the City Council. The City will send a notice to local homeowners of these meetings.
- Assuming favorable outcomes from these meetings, we'll renew fundraising (the BLB project is funded primarily by donations from residents and grants from local, state, and national organizations); The city provides no financial support, but does provide stones, mulch and nominal water for three years as the plants establish themselves.
- When sufficient funding is in hand, we'll install the main water line and start building the walking path. We expect that major planting activities will occur in the Fall of 2019.

There will be many volunteer activities as the project continues. We'll send out notifications when the time comes.

## ----- **Background** -----

*The Lunada Bay Homeowners Association (LBHOA) initiated the Beautify Lunada Bay (BLB) Project in 2014 to restore the habitat and improve the appearance of open space areas in Lunada Bay. The project replaces seasonal weeds or bare dirt with drought tolerant native plants that will remain attractive year-round and upgrades existing walking paths with stone borders and decomposed granite trailbeds.*

*The City of Palos Verdes Estates (PVE), the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), the*

*LBHOA and dozens of volunteers completed Phase 1 of the project in early 2018. Phase 1 includes a demonstration garden and outdoor classroom on a 1-acre site across from Lunada Bay Elementary School.*

*PVE provides boulders, stones to line the paths, mulch, and water for three years to assure the plants get a good start. Please see the LBHOA web page ([blb.lbhoa.org](http://blb.lbhoa.org)) for more information.*

## ----- **BLB Phase 2 Steering Committee** -----

*Bill Ailor, Project Leader; VP LBHOA*

*Barbara Ailor, Resident*

*Peter Bena, LBHOA Board, Project Management*

*Jane Biggeln, Resident*

*Marlene Breene, LBHOA Board, Landscape Design*

*Brittany Goldsmith, PVPLC*

*Karen Merickel, Resident*

*Adrienne Mohan, PVPLC*

*Connie Smith, Resident*

*Kristin Sweet-Pekarek, President LBHOA*

*Robert Wynne, LBHOA Board*



Before and after photos: left is the walking path on Phase 1a near Via Anacapa in October 2017 (note the black fencing around the drainage outlet); right is the same view in December 2018. The Phase 2 project will extend the walking path on the right about 800 ft toward the ocean



Plot plan for Phase 2 area. Each square area highlights the dominant color of the plants and their flowers in that area..