

Support the Wildlife-Friendly Alternative for Ballona

*"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."
~ Aldo Leopold, 1949, A Sand County Almanac*

1. **FIRST DO NO HARM ~ Protect all rare and imperiled species, and determine what habitat is needed to support this protection.** Detailed, seasonal, unbiased baseline surveys of the species and ecosystem at Ballona are needed in order to know what is here and to know how the ecological processes are interacting with the equilibrium which exists after more than 70 years of the Ballona Creek estuary channel being constructed and after nearly 50 years of the marsh mud having been placed on parts of Areas A & C.
2. **ACQUIRE MORE LAND ~** The Committee to Complete the Park has **identified nine open spaces on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve edges where open space and habitat support the ecological functioning of Ballona.** These places are threatened with development and erasure of the existing habitats; this land provides foraging space, wildlife corridors and other important functions for Ballona wildlife.
3. **UNDERGROUND UTILITY WIRES ~** Current utility wires crisscross the Ecological Reserve, causing injury and death to birds and visual blight to the beautiful landscape.
4. **COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION ~** Community groups have been and want to continue to remove non-native plant species (those which are not providing habitat to native animals) by hand with shovels and other tools (no poisons; no bulldozers.) This sort of go-slow human-involved regime not only enhances ecological education and stewardship values, but provides a far better chance of preservation of sensitive species which might be unknown to those doing the work.
5. **BEAUTIFY the EDGES and REMOVE DEAD PALMS ~** Dead palms are mostly along Culver Boulevard; these are fire hazards, harbor nonnative animal species and cause visual blight of the beautiful landscape. **BEAUTIFY THE EDGES of Ballona by planting native wildflowers, cleaning trash and repairing fences.**
6. **SECURE THE RESERVE ~** Fence and secure areas with attractive, wildlife-friendly fencing immediately adjacent to urbanized, inhabited areas to prevent dog, cat and human unauthorized trampling.
7. **CALM TRAFFIC & ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE CROSSINGS ~ All roads traversing the Ecological Reserve need to have traffic calming measures implemented by LA DOT and CalTrans.** Explore and implement wildlife crossings and other road conversions to decrease road kill of wildlife and to open up bicycle and walking paths.
8. **VIEWING PLATFORMS & WALKING TRAILS ~** Install viewing platforms at four city-owned properties directly abutting the Ecological Reserve and **open up south levee trail to all, while installing wildlife-friendly observation platforms. Designate Cabora Drive as a historical walking trail,** install view areas, including scopes and interpretive signage.
9. **PARKING ~** Work collaboratively with the business and residential communities to create parking that works for everyone.
10. **RESTORE ANIMALS & PLANTS ~** Build nesting platforms for Bald Eagle & Osprey. Return Roadrunner, Los Angeles Sunflower, Jack Rabbit, Ventura Marsh Milkvetch, Pacific Pocketmouse & California Quail.

**FOR INFORMATION, call 310-823-7040. www.ballonainstitute.org/discover.html
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