



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

TIMELINE OF MILESTONES

1994

- Joint powers agreement creating the agency was signed by member agencies.

1996

- First wildlands acquisition, Powder Canyon, 517 acres in La Habra Heights.
- First wildlands acquisition in Hacienda Heights, 63 acres located at the end of 7th Avenue.
- Entered into agreements with the City of Whittier and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to manage these agencies' preserved wildlands.
- Hired Rangers to manage the hills.

1997

- Accepted first donated property. Mr. Benson Ford Jr. donated 8 acres in Hacienda Heights, along with \$20,000 to remove remnants of the home. Since then the Habitat Authority has contributed additional funding to restore this site with native plants to increase its biological value. Also, funding provided by a neighbor, George Hensel, allowed for the installation of a water guzzler, the first in the hills specifically designed for wildlife.
- Established a nine-member Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) made up of representatives from the communities of Whittier, La Habra Heights, and the unincorporated areas of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights in Los Angeles County.

1998

- First habitat restoration project in the hills began (15.7 acres, Arroyo San Miguel). Habitat restoration eliminates non-native weeds and replaces or restores vegetation to its natural state of native plants. This process increases the biological diversity of the hills increasing the health of the ecosystem as a whole.

1999

- Up to this date, purchased open space properties were 842 acres, bringing overall total of managed lands to 2,790 acres.
- Completed first Jr. Ranger Program, an outdoor educational experience offered at no cost to local schools and community groups.

A Joint Powers Agency created pursuant to California Government Code §6500 *et seq.*
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2000

- Hired first staff member, full-time Executive Director.

2002

- Constructed and opened (on March 9) the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead, Whittier. Entrance gate was designed by Whittier Cal High School students. Project construction was funded by Los Angeles County Proposition A.
- In addition to Habitat Authority funding, the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass project was funded by MTA and State TEA grants, totaling \$1.2 million. Co-applicants for grants were Los Angeles County Department Public Works and CA State Parks.
- Acquired the Turnbull Canyon wildlands, finalizing 9 years of negotiations in an October 18 ceremony.

2003

- Hired staff Ecologist to help manage preserved wildlands based on ecological principles.
- Constructed and opened (on March 29) the Powder Canyon Trailhead in La Habra Heights, providing parking and a horse warm-up and cool-down ring for recreational enjoyment.

2004

- In addition to Habitat Authority funding, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy awarded a grant of \$231,739 for establishment of a bioswale at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead, enabling design plans to move forward to completion.
- On May 12 the Habitat Authority celebrated its 10th anniversary as a public agency.
- Hired third staff member, Administrative Assistant, to join management team.
- Total land purchased to date by the Habitat Authority is 1,862 acres, costing the Habitat Authority over \$26.4 million. Total preserved wildlands managed in the Puente Hills are 3,843 acres.
- At this point, approximately 1,700 children from local communities have completed the Jr. Ranger Program.

2005

- Constructed and opened (on September 22) the Hacienda Hills Trailhead at the end of 7th Avenue, with entrance gates designed by Los Altos High School students.
- Hired fourth staff position, Park Interpreter, to lead education and volunteer opportunities.

2006

- In partnership with Los Angeles County and California State Parks, the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass was opened, ensuring the habitat linkage between Chino Hills and the western Puente Hills and enabling a more ecologically self-sustaining Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. This is the first purpose built wildlife underpass built in Los Angeles County.

2007

- Adopted the Preserve's Resource Management Plan and Trails Plan to guide all of the Habitat Authority's preservation efforts and identification of optimal trails.
- Approved the Docent Training Manual, funded in part by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in cooperation with the California Native Habitat Endowment Fund.
- Total land purchased to date by the Habitat Authority is 1,887 acres, costing the Habitat Authority over \$30.3 million. Total preserved wildlands managed in the Puente Hills are 3,869 acres.

2008

- With the assistance of the National Parks Service's Conservation and Trails Recreation Program, developed maps for all Habitat Authority trails for ease of public access and use. They are found at all trailheads and on our website, www.HabitatAuthority.org.

2009

- Launched the *Hills Alive* outdoor educational program based on state science standards that is available to local schools and clubs, therefore doubling outreach efforts.
- Held first training session in the spring and again in the fall for volunteer docents to assist with outdoor education programs.
- To date, 12 biological studies or surveys, and 7 other research reports about the hills have been commissioned by the Habitat Authority.

2010

- Hired fifth staff position, Naturalist, to lead hikes and assist with education and volunteer opportunities.
- Installed in the field signage for trails.
- Held first training session in the spring for volunteer Trail Watch patrol to act as rangers' eyes and ears.
- Re-dedicated the Hacienda Hills Trailhead to past Board of Director Vice Chair, Barbara Lee Fish.
- To date, approximately 193 acres of habitat restoration has occurred or is in the process of occurring in the Preserve.
- As of July 1, 2010, approximately 4,984 children from local communities have completed the Jr. Ranger Program.
- Additionally, as of July 1, 2010, 2,470 children and adults have participated in *Hills Alive*, Lil Explorers, Into the Wild, docent-led Public Hikes, and other educational outreach (these programs began in 2008 and 2009).