



OC Habitats 2022

Annual Report

Message from the Executive Director - Stacey Chartier-Grable

2022 was a year of adjustment and growth. We adjusted and updated our virtual programming to hybrid or in person to suit the needs of OCH and the public, we added new board members, hosted 13 interns, and added programs in all three of our focus areas (education, restoration, and monitoring). We partnered with The Bruery and The American Dream to host our first-ever gala, which was a great success and celebration of the good work of OC Habitats.

We continue to work within all three of our focus areas: education, restoration, and monitoring. We expanded our education programs to more schools, public, private and home schools, and provided more small group programs to groups like the Girl Scouts of Orange County. We had many outreach and collaborative events with Athleta (Brea), Gates Elementary (Lake Forest), Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, OC Coastkeepers, Laguna Ocean Foundation, SoCal Sea Turtles, the Aquarium of the Pacific, and GetInspired.

We continued to work with our long-standing partners at Huntington Beach Wetlands and Project Grow in both riparian and salt marsh habitats. We added Turtle Rock Nature Center to our lineup and helped to work on the restoration of a variety of habitats within this system. We started a new relationship with the City of Santa Ana doing park cleanups of their most wild space, Santiago Park, and are engaging youth from Irvine to help serve this community.

We added monitoring programs to our list of projects this year with the help of our intern and partner groups. We continued our Coastal Dune Habitat monitoring and EONS programs and added Bird Box Surveys, Sea Urchin monitoring, and MPA Watch surveys.

Our internship program continues to thrive and we had the good fortune of gaining new board members, staff, and active volunteers from our past intern rosters.

We had help from many amazing groups including UCI's Commit-the-Change, SeedOC, and OneOC's Ready-to-Grow programs. With their professional mentoring and expertise, we built plans for a sustainable future and will begin to implement in 2023. We are thankful for all the support we received from the public, our donors and funders, and our partners and look forward to a strong and impactful future in 2023.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Stacey Chartier-Grable". The signature is fluid and cursive.

~ Stacey Chartier-Grable



Habitat Monitoring

OCH has had a very successful monitoring year, as we have started some new programs! We have also continued to work on some ongoing monitoring projects, as well as made some updates.

Coastal Dune Monitoring: OCH continues to monitor 24 beach segments in Orange County to monitor the status of these habitats and the species that use and live in them. In 2022, we started working with UCI's Commit-the Change club to create a data collection application that is more efficient and user friendly than our previous system. This program helps to streamline data input and manipulation so that this data is more readily available for research and sharing with other conservation nfp's and agencies. The application launched in late 2022 and is being used by all current monitors.



EONS Program: We also continued to support the Eyes on the Nest Site (EONS) program at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, where we monitor California Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers during their breeding season (April through August). We help Bolsa Chica Conservancy to cover weekly shifts during the season. Bolsa Chica is able to rely on OCH to train our own staff on the protocols of this project.

Sea Urchin Monitoring: A new monitoring program was started this year in collaboration with Nancy Caruso from Get Inspired to monitor sea urchin populations in tidepools across Orange County. The goal of this program is to get an understanding of how many urchins are in the tidepools and if they pose a threat to neighboring kelp forests in our local marine habitat. This information can be used to inform marine biologists, specifically those specializing in kelp forest restoration, if preventative measures need to be taken.

Bird Box Surveys at Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary: Another new monitoring program was started this year with The Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary. Interns and volunteers identified and monitored bird behavior and the status of the sanctuary habitat. OCH surveyed the 23 boxes during the breeding season and provided a detailed report with data and recommendations to the Environmental Nature Center (ENC) who own TWS. Many of the recommendations were implemented and we hope to return in 2023 to follow up with this project.

MPA Watch Program: The Marine Protected Area Watch Program is a monitoring program that supports the health of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on our local beaches and marine habitats in Orange County. Our work is in collaboration with OC Coastkeeper, who organize and implement the program for Orange County Marine Protected Area Council (OCMPAC). MPA Watch monitors local beaches on a regular schedule to understand what the public is doing on the beaches and the impacts that may result. Part of the project focuses on take and non-take activities.

Education & Outreach

In 2022, we continued and expanded our education and outreach programs, transitioning most of them from virtual back to in-person or hybrid. We connected with more conservation nonprofits throughout the year and were able to partner or host a variety of events with or for these groups. Throughout 2022 we served approximately 1725 members of the public with our education and outreach!

Habitat Education Programs

Among other exciting programs, we expanded our partnership with the Girl Scouts of OC (GSOC), adding new programs for Seniors (grades 9-10) and Ambassadors (grades 11-12).

Schools Served

- Gates Elementary (Earth Week - Dia de los Ninos)
- Peter's Elementary - Garden Grove Unified
- Green Tree Elementary - Irvine Unified
- RH Dana - Capistrano Unified
- Ladera Ranch - Capistrano Unified
- Eastbluff Elementary - Newport-Mesa Unified
- Saddleback Community College
- Marblehead Elementary - Capo Unified

Clubs/Groups/Homeschools Served

- Girl Scouts of Orange County (GSOC) Programs
- GSOC Spring and STEM Fair (Fall)
- Cabrillo Point Academy (Charter Home School)



Guided Hikes Program (Public Outreach) (*new hikes for 2022)

Marine Protected Area (MPA), Hagador Canyon*, O'Neill Regional Park*, Laguna Canyon*, Buck Gully*, San Mateo, Santiago Oaks, Peters Canyon, Annual Bird Tour

Outreach Events:

- Earth Day Event - Brea Mall
- Wetlands Talk with Aquarium of the Pacific (Virtual - May 2022)
- Kelp Fest (June 2022)
- Athleta (Brea Mall)
- STEM and STEAM Fairs - October 2022

Educational Videos and Spotlights (view on our website!)

- *Habitat Video Series*: Riparian, Oak Woodland, and Coastal Sage Scrub & Chaparral
- Kurt Lieber from Ocean Defenders Alliance
- Gizmogo Partner Spotlight

Coffee & Conversations (C&Cs) 2022

- Sand Movement by Wendy Berube
- Aggregating Algae Invades by Gaby
- 30x30 Initiative in OC by Vanessa Jorgensen
- Birds of Prey by Tiffany Chao
- Mugwort and Poison Oak by Gabby Lopez
- Gyres and Garbage Patch by Angela Velazquez
- Sea Urchins by Jess Brogna
- Green Sea Turtles by Sabrina Mashburn from SoCal Sea Turtles
- Ocean Restoration and Kelp by Nancy Caruso from Get Inspired

Habitat Restoration



OC Habitats made great strides in its restoration efforts in 2022. We continued to work with our long-time partners, Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy and Project Grow, on salt marsh and riparian restoration projects in Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. We added more restoration projects in 2022 that allowed us to offer more volunteer opportunities to the local population in Orange County and helped us develop relationships with local communities in Irvine and Santa Ana. Overall, our habitat restoration efforts continued to grow in 2022.

Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (HBWC). OCH expanded its projects with Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (HBWC) by helping with restoration work in their new site at Newland Marsh. We continued our work in the other marshes in restoring native plant species and increasing biodiversity in the marshes. We also helped in habitat development and native plant installation in the Fall at Upper Magnolia Marsh. The efforts in this project will provide expanded habitat for the native flora and fauna that rely on these areas for food, shelter, rest, and breeding.

Upper Newport Bay Restoration (Project Grow). In 2022, we continued to collaborate with Project Grow on their Riparian Projects along the Newport Valley site in Back Bay. We worked in clearing the areas of non-native and/or invasive plants to make room for native species, as well as installing hundreds of native riparian plants such as Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). OCH and Project Grow removed hundreds of pounds of ASL and debris from this site once a month in 2022. The clearing and planting phases of the riparian projects in Newport Beach were wrapping up toward the end of 2022 and moving to the monitoring and maintenance phases.

Turtle Rock Nature Center (City of Irvine). This little gem is located in a local neighborhood in Irvine. It is a 5-acre site that has a variety of habitats. OCH is working with the TRNC team to restore these habitats to provide greater biodiversity and educational opportunities for the general public, particularly young students. In 2022, we had frequent collaborations with the Youth Action Team (YAT) and Girl Scouts of Orange County to work this site.

Santiago Park Clean-ups (City of Santa Ana)

This project was initiated by our former intern, Gabriella Lopez, who is from the city of Santa Ana. Although park cleanups are not our normal restoration work, we wanted to establish a relationship with the City of Santa Ana and help to improve their wild spaces. We were able to host a couple of habitat cleanup events at Santiago Park in the Fall and Winter. We hope to continue our efforts with the City in 2023!

Miscellaneous

In January 2022, we collaborated with a fellow non-profit organization, **Gizmogo**, to host a beach cleanup event at Balboa Peninsula at Newport Beach, CA. Note, we stopped offering beach cleanups mid-way through 2022 as we felt other organizations like OC Coastkeeper and Surfrider were hosting these events regularly and we wanted to focus more on wetland restoration and cleanup. In Summer 2022, the OCH Restoration Team worked with Matt Yurko of Project Grow to train OCH members on habitat restoration leadership. This included training our crew on providing information to public volunteers about the history of the site and the native and non-native species that utilize the habitats in the area. Our people became more familiar with restoration techniques, leadership protocols, and overall project management by the end of the training program.

The Numbers

Active Crew: 34

Hours: 5644

OCH Friends: 918

OCH Friends Hours: 2422

Total Hours: 8066

Restoration: 52%*

Outreach/Education: 22%**

Monitoring: 20%*

Administration: 6%***

**Restoration projects are performed by our OCH Staff, Interns, Active Crew and OCH Friends (Public) volunteers.*

***Education/Outreach and Monitoring are performed by OCH Active Crew (trained and regular volunteers)*

****Administration is performed by OCH staff and interns*



Income & Grants

Lush \$15K

Charitable Ventures \$10K

Griswold Foundation \$38K

Gala \$2800

Giving Tuesday \$3922

Melissa King GT: \$150

Stacey Chartier-Grable GT: \$200

Protect and Preserve \$845

Other Fundraisers

Birthday P2P Fundraiser (Stacey Chartier-Grable) \$715

Program Fees/Donation Funds

HBWC \$10,809

GSOC \$860

RH Dana \$300

OC Coastkeepers \$2,370

Total Revenue: \$91,038

Total Expense: \$43,456

2022 Total Net Assets: \$102,272

Program Expenses (% of Revenue)

Administrative (Operational Costs) 14%

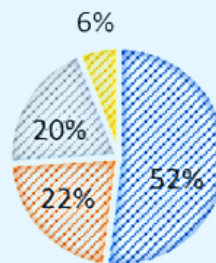
Monitoring Programs 6%

Education/Outreach Programs 22%

Restoration Programs: 6%

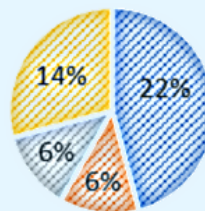
VOLUNTEER HOURS/OCH PROGRAM

■ Education/Outreach ■ Restoration ■ Monitoring ■ Administration



EXPENSES AS A % REVENUE

■ Education/Outreach ■ Restoration ■ Monitoring ■ Administration



Looking to 2023

Our OCH Family and Goals

We expanded our paid OCH Family in 2022, adding seasonal and part time employees. We have been fortunate enough to have incredibly talented and passionate individuals on our team. In addition to our internal team, we had outside help from SeedOC OneOC, and UCI's Commit-the-Change Computer Science Club. SeedOC worked with us in both spring and fall to improve our internal and administrative systems. OneOC and Charitable Ventures granted us a year-long mentorship and development program, Ready-to-Grow, where we learned much about sustainability and met many other nonprofits in Orange County.

Board of Directors (December 2022)

Stacey Chartier-Grable, President
Cheryl Dyas, Secretary
Melissa King, Secretary
Ginny Gregurek, Education Co-Chair
Wendy Berube, Education Co-Chair
Sanjay Das, Restoration Co-Chair
Matt Spooner, Finance & Development Chair
Kyle Fructuoso, Jr. Board Member
Ross Griswold, Coastal Dune Monitoring

Advisors

Kimi Takatsuka-Garcia
Alice Carter

Staff

Joyce Vu (July end)
Cristina Robinson (June end)
Kim Yumul (Feb start)
Gina Thompson (Summer start)
Sam Grable (Seasonal)

Interns

Vanessa Jorgensen	Angela Velazquez
Wendy Berube	Gabby Lopez
Sanjay Das	Cameron White
Matt Franklin	Eric Pena
Gabriela Yoo	Evie Andrade
Tiffany Chao	Katarina Sielen
Jessica Brogna	



Our internship program continues to be strong and we were invited to join the new program, Californians for All, College Corps through Vanguard University. This program matches students and nonprofit organizations with a grant program to mobilize students into service in their area of interest. We were happy to have obtained two individuals from this program. Students receive funds from Californians For All and Americorps to support a debt-free education.

As we look to the future, our main goals are to:

1. Implement our approved sustainability plan
2. Move into our first office space
3. Hire more part-time staff to support our programs and projects
4. Continue to improve and expand our educational programs and our restoration and monitoring projects.
5. Strengthen relationships with existing and potential partners in the conservation nonprofit world.
6. Submit at least one grant proposal per month to secure funding to support all of our programs and projects.
7. Continue to provide volunteer opportunities for the community at our sites. These events should not only include restoration but educational opportunities for attendees so that we are promoting environmental stewardship through our work.