

Ojai Meadows Preserve

Lynn Malone photo



Holly Roberts photos



 **OJAI VALLEY
LAND CONSERVANCY**
Protecting your views, trails, water & wildlife



 **OJAI VALLEY
LAND CONSERVANCY**

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**Learn more, and become a member at
WWW.OVLC.ORG**

*Special thanks to our individual donors
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Allen Bertke Photo



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY to protect lands like these **PLEASE JOIN US!**

With a goal to protect Besant Meadow and an adjacent historic wetland from development in the early 1990's, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, a non-profit land conservation organization, now owns and stewards the 58 acre Ojai Meadows Preserve.

This land has been permanently protected and is now being restored to its original natural habitat. Today a slough and pond host breeding and migrating waterbirds, amphibians and native wetland plants. The preserve is open for public enjoyment and serves as an outdoor classroom for all ages. This is truly one of Ojai's natural treasures.

If you would like to become a part of the community that makes this and other Ojai Valley nature preserves possible, become a member today. The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is funded through private donations by its members and the community. Traditionally we have secured \$10 in grant funding for every membership dollar contributed. This funding is put to work to protect Ojai's natural places. Family memberships are affordable, and offer benefits including free guided hikes and eco-education programs for all ages.

Volunteers are always welcome and play an important role on the Preserves and in the office.

**JOIN OR DONATE TODAY
WWW.OVLC.ORG**

Visiting the Preserve

Each year the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy hosts thousands of hikers, dog walkers, school children and community groups on the Ojai Meadows Preserve. Enjoy a self guided tour with interpretive stops along the trail or take a guided tour offered on the first Saturday of each month.

For more information, visit our website at WWW.OVLC.ORG



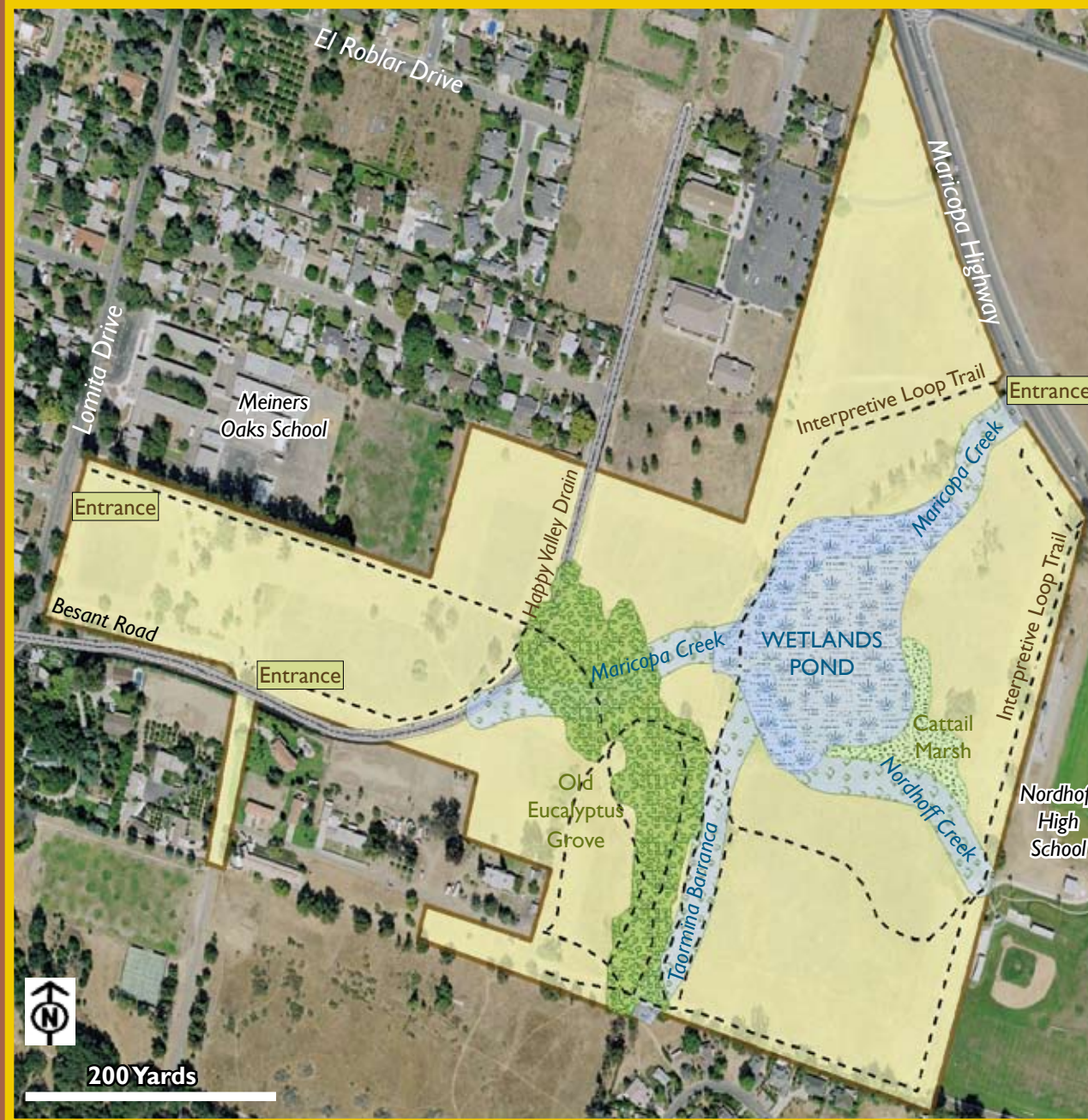
Holly Roberts photo

WETLANDS AND THE COMMUNITY

Wetlands provide important habitat for water dependant wildlife and plants. They also facilitate groundwater recharge acting as natural sponges trapping, filtering and slowly releasing water into underground aquifers. Wetlands within urban areas are particularly valuable, minimizing surface-water runoff and removing pollutants.

By the early 1900's, the historic wetlands of Ojai Meadows had been severely damaged by clearing of oak woodlands and erosion from surrounding development. Today we have the opportunity to turn back the clock by restoring the wetlands with help from our members and community partners. This ongoing restoration project benefits the community by diverting flood waters from the highway and neighboring high school into the wetlands, providing native habitat for wildlife, and an enriching outdoor experience for local residents and visitors.

Trails and Waterways of the OJAI MEADOWS PRESERVE



RESPECT THIS PLACE LEAVE NO TRACE

Please help protect sensitive natural habitat and the safety and enjoyment for all by observing these guidelines while visiting...

- Enjoy the trails from dawn til dusk.
- Stay on marked trails, outside of the fence.
- Please keep dogs on leash & pick up waste.
- No horses or motorized vehicles please.
- Take all trash and belongings out with you.
- No smoking or fire of any kind, please.
- Protect wildlife, don't swim, fish or hunt.



A WETLAND RESTORED

The goal of the Ojai Meadows Preserve restoration project is to recreate the natural habitat and processes of a native California wetland ecosystem. Recontouring of the land removed silt which had filled the wetlands, and recreated natural water flows. Excavated soil was used to replenish upland areas. Thousands of native plants that provide food and shelter for wildlife are being replanted by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy staff and volunteers.

WILDLIFE COMES HOME

By the spring of 2009 cattails, rushes and other wetland plants recolonized the pond and marsh. Soon after came the wetland bird species, cinnamon and blue-winged teal, mallards, coots, green herons, and shorebirds. Thousands of pacific tree frogs took up residence in the shallow waters. Each year this wetland and adjoining upland ecosystem will become more fascinating and more productive for native plants and animals.