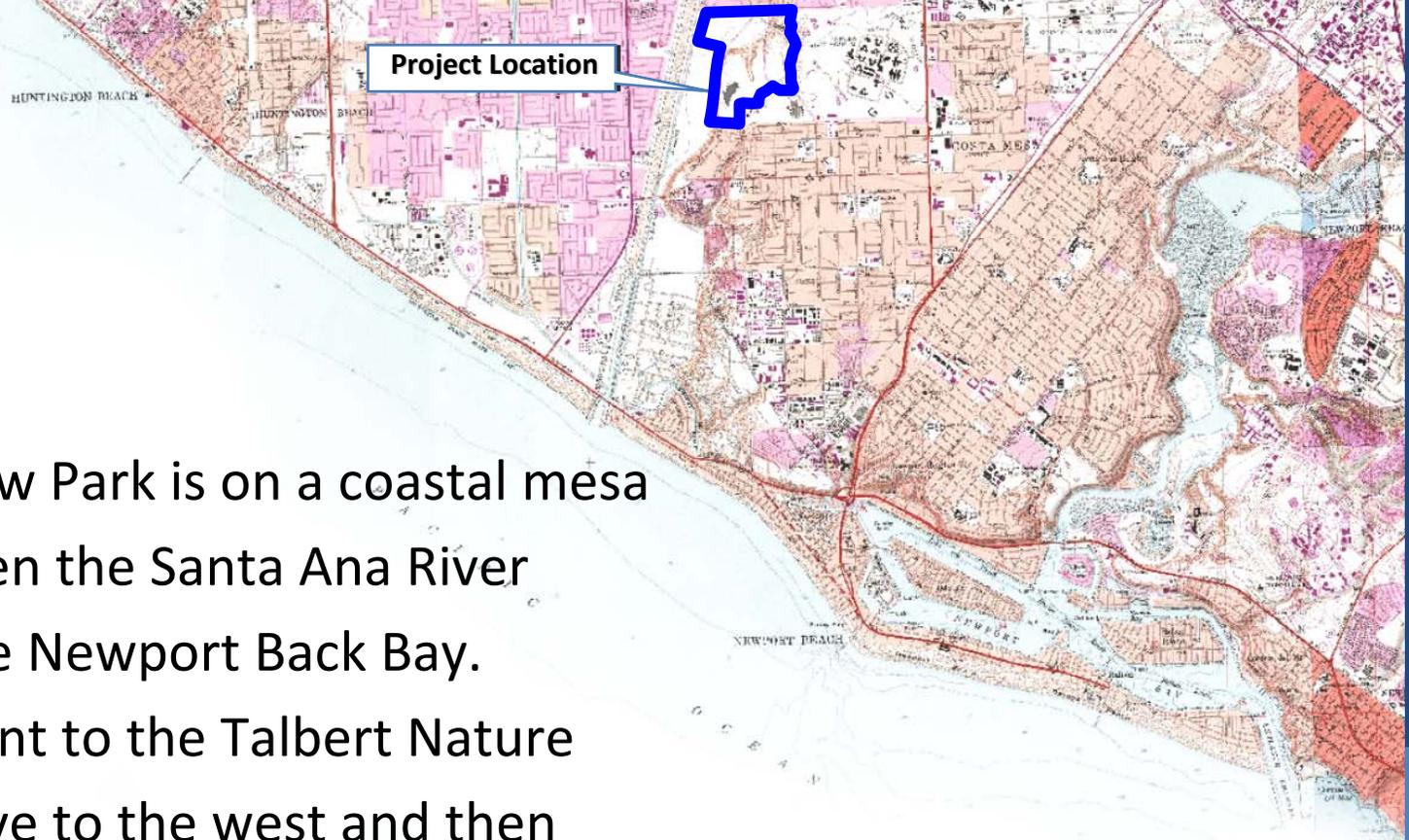


# Fairview Park Biological Resources

Southwest Quarter of the Park - City of Costa Mesa

By Ingri Quon, Associate Biologist LSA Associates, Inc.  
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# Location and Regional Context



- Fairview Park is on a coastal mesa between the Santa Ana River and the Newport Back Bay.
- Adjacent to the Talbert Nature Preserve to the west and then Banning Ranch to the south.

# History and Future Plans

- Inhabited by members of the Gabrieleño and Juaneño Bands of Mission Indians over 9,000 years ago.
- In the late-1700's to early 1800's, Father Junipero Serra and the Spanish Empire influenced and laid claim to area.
- The Master Plan calls for the restoration and protection of the sensitive areas west of Placentia Avenue.
- Enhancing and fencing the vernal pools for resource protection.



# Archeological Resources

- Two documented sites: west of Placentia Avenue on the bluff and a large site in the northern half of the railroad train area east of Placentia Avenue.
- Fill placed to cap the archeological resources in the SW bluff, which affected vernal pool resources.



Photo: Shell midden from  
Chesapeake Bay

# Current Conditions

- Heavy use by human visitors: Model airplanes, kites, runners, (dog) walkers, and picnics. Very clean.
- Vegetation: Mostly ruderal with some documented saltbush scrub (0.1 and 0.6 ac) and walnut scrub (0.05 ac).
- Vernal Pools: Seven pools and two vernal marsh areas.



# Recent Park Photos



# Vernal Pools



- Definition: Ephemeral or temporary pools that fill with seasonal rains and runoff and hold water for weeks to months due to poor draining soils (clay, bedrock) and host obligate species. Protected resource by U.S. Army Corps and USFWS.
- Range: World wide. San Diego & Santa Rosa Plateau in Riverside.
- Plant species such as prostrate navarretia, Couter's goldfields, & mud nama.
- Animal species such as fairy shrimp (indicator species) as well as breeding locations for frogs, toads, and salamanders. Devoid of fish.

# More Vernal Pools



Fairview Park vernal pools are primarily in the southwest area of the Park.

Range in size from 0.9 acre to 2.07 acres.

Santa Rosa Plateau vernal pool in spring time.



# Wildlife

- Invertebrates: cabbage white, monarch, west coast lady.
- Reptiles & Amphibians: Baja CA treefrogs, western toad, silvery legless lizard, gopher snake.
- Birds: Burrowing owl (SSC), white-tailed kite (SSC), Anna's hummingbird, California gnatcatcher (FT, SSC), western bluebird, California towhee, white-crowned sparrow.
- Mammals: Botta's pocket gopher, CA ground squirrel, Audubon's cottontail, bobcat, coyote, striped skunk.



# More Wildlife



# Recognition



- Baltazar (Bart) Mejia, City of Costa Mesa.
- Most photos by LSA Associates, Inc. biologists.
- Shell midden photo: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.
- Vernal pool photo with blue flowers (*Downingia* sp.): John Game (internet).
- Santa Rosa Plateau vernal pool photo: Regional Conservation Authority – Western Riverside County (website).