



yours to protect



## Being a Good Neighbor to Buck Gully

The Buck Gully Reserve includes 300 acres of lush wilderness owned by the City of Newport Beach, home to numerous species of plants and animals. Miles of trails running through protected open space habitats bring residents close to nature while they walk, run, hike and bike.

Thanks to the City's efforts to obtain a state Habitat Conservation Fund grant and through their partnership with Irvine Ranch Conservancy, Buck Gully now has an improved trail system and an active habitat restoration program.

Buck Gully's neighbors play a key role in preserving this resource for future generations. Buck Gully's diverse and sensitive network of plants and wildlife depend on each other for survival. Weeds and non-native animals introduced to the gully threaten this delicate ecological balance.

**What can you do to help?** The answer is in your own backyard. Landscaping with drought-tolerant or fire-resistant **native plants**, **reducing water use** and **removing fire fuels** around your own home are three key ways to help support healthy habitats in Buck Gully.

## Next Steps: How You Can Help



The City of Newport Beach asks its residents to help support and preserve the health of the Buck Gully Reserve. Here are some events and tips for you:

### Weed Removal and Restoration

*Ongoing, beginning March 2013*

Irvine Ranch Conservancy will reduce invasive and fire-prone weeds from the City-owned portions of Buck Gully.

### Hazard Reduction in Upper Buck Gully

*Annually, May through July*

A City contractor will perform annual maintenance of the 100' Hazard Reduction Zone in the Northeast section of the reserve.

### Monthly Flora & Fauna Hikes

*Info at [www.newportbeachca.gov/green](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/green)*

Explore Buck Gully with a naturalist and learn more about its plants and wildlife.

### Monthly Volunteer Weed Removal

*Info at [www.newportbeachca.gov/green](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/green)*

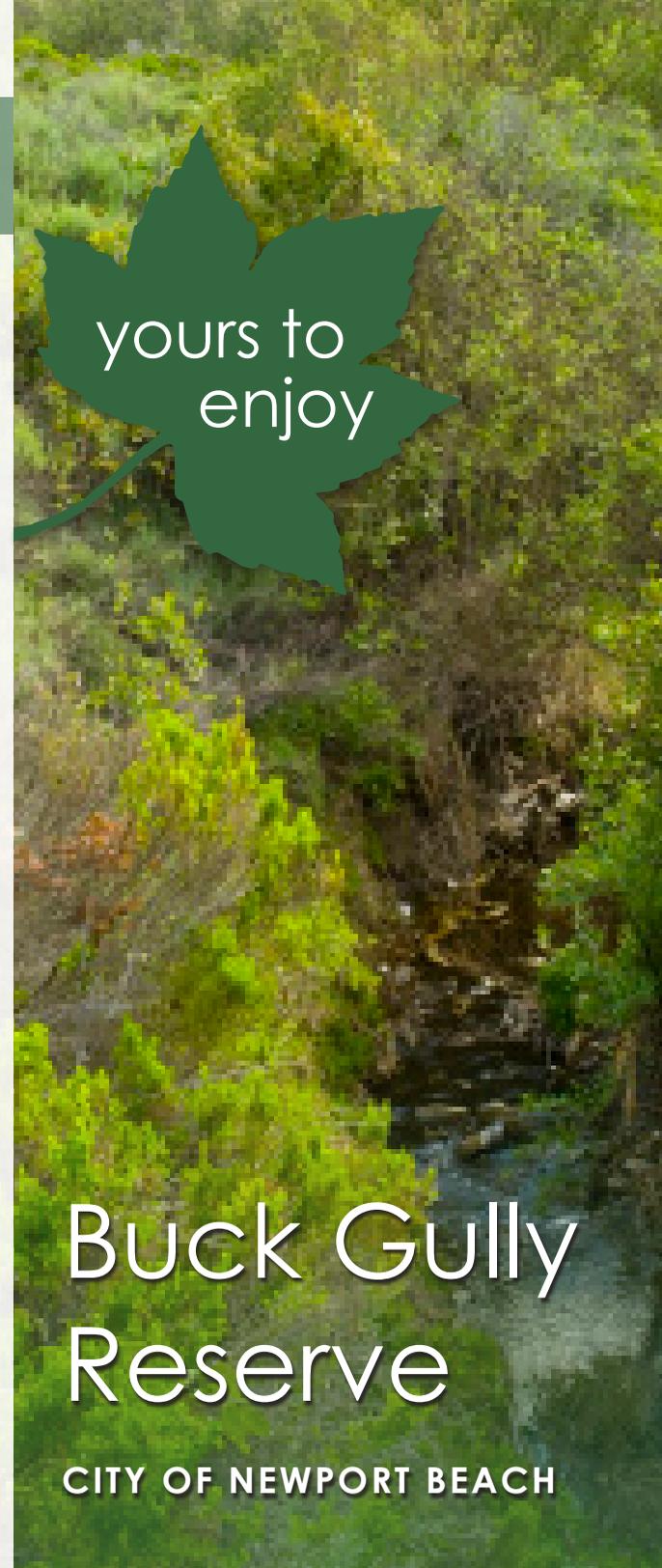
Volunteer with the Conservancy science team to reduce invasive and fire-prone weeds.

### Bad for Buck Gully: 10 Plants to Avoid

*The most fire-prone and invasive plants are:*

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Brazilian peppertree | Peruvian peppertree |
| Pampas grass         | English ivy         |
| Italian cypress      | Myoporum            |
| Juniper              | Eucalyptus          |
| Iceplant             | Pine tree           |

*For a full list, visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/green](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/green)*



yours to enjoy

# Buck Gully Reserve

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

# The Health of the Buck Gully Reserve is in Your Hands

## plant natives

Ornamental plants such as pampas grass and Brazilian peppertree spread seed into the gully, making native plants struggle for survival. Since local wildlife species depend on native habitats for food and shelter, loss of native plant diversity could lead to loss of wildlife.

The Conservancy and City staff have a program in place to remove invasive weeds on public property, replacing them with native plants and shrubs whenever possible. To learn more about planting fire-resistant natives in your own yard, visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/green](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/green).

Native Planting Contact: Steven Michael  
Newport Beach Fire Dept. Fire Prevention  
Specialist: (949) 644-3108

## reduce water use

Buck Gully contains a natural stream. However, over-irrigation from the surrounding neighborhoods produces more water runoff than the gully habitat can absorb.

Runoff from irrigation causes trail erosion, slope degradation and even supports non-local wildlife that endanger native species. Over watering is also expensive. By watering in the late evening or early morning, adjusting sprinklers to prevent overflow, and planting water-efficient native plants in your yard, you'll save money *and* stop hundreds of gallons of water per day from degrading the sensitive gully habitat.

Water Contact: Shane Burckle, City of  
Newport Beach Public Works Dept. Water  
Conservation Coordinator: (949) 644-3214

## remove fire fuels

Reducing fire-prone plants from the slopes of Buck Gully has long been a priority for the Newport Beach Fire Department. Now the Irvine Ranch Conservancy is joining the effort to remove non-native plants and replacing them with fire-resistant native species. This reduces fire risk for nearby homes.

Over the next few years, the City and the Conservancy will be working together to reduce fire risks within Buck Gully. You can do the same around your home by planting species that reduce the spread of fire. For a list of recommended plants, visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/green](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/green).

Fire Prevention Contact: Steven Michael  
Newport Beach Fire Dept. Fire Prevention  
Specialist: (949) 644-3108

## Protecting Buck Gully and its Neighbors



The partnership between the City of Newport Beach and the Irvine Ranch Conservancy brings many benefits to

residents like you, as well as wildlife residents of Buck Gully. City and Conservancy staff work together to support the long-term health of this protected open space — and its diverse flora and fauna — for the public to enjoy.

Conservancy staff and volunteers lead hikes and activities along Buck Gully trails, perform regular trail maintenance and stewardship programs. Staff identifies and removes invasive weeds in the gully and along residential property lines, often working with volunteers from the public. Removing these plants and replacing them with native species helps to sustain the ecological balance in Buck Gully and reduce fire risk for local residents.

For more information on public recreation and volunteer programs in Buck Gully, visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/green](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/green).

