



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact: Leilani Clark, Communications Lead at LandPaths

Email: leilani@landpaths.org / Cell: (707) 332-4736

Grass Blast 2024 draws attention to the incredible value of California's endangered grasslands. The public is encouraged to help tend the grasslands at LandPaths' Ocean Song Preserve and learn more about these precious, yet undervalued species!

OCCIDENTAL, Calif— The nearly intact and unfortunately rare, native coastal grassland at LandPaths' Ocean Song-Myers Preserve is a biodiversity hotspot, which means it benefits many species on the preserve from pollinators to mammals. In the bloom of spring, the grasses spread across the land in an array of greens, speckled with wildflowers in hues of purple, yellow, red, and blue.

This grassland is a special place. And unfortunately, it's one of too few.

Predating colonization, industrialization, and the suppression of Indigenous stewardship, California was home to an abundance of coastal grasslands. **It is estimated that only 1% of the historic extent of the grasslands in California still exist today.**

Without the implementation of stewardship practices such as good fire, forest encroachment thinning, removal of invasive species, and native seed collection, we risk further degradation of these amazing places. In addition to being incredibly biodiverse, grasslands on average are better at sequestering carbon than forests, serve as habitat for many animals and insects, and provide important resources for food, fibers, and medicine that Indigenous people have cultivated for thousands of years. Beyond that, grasses are fascinating and beautiful!

Every Thursday throughout the month of May, LandPaths will host volunteer stewardship days in the serpentine grassland at the Ocean Song/Myers preserve. The public is encouraged to register through LandPaths' online calendar to come on out and help remove invasive species, learn about the ecosystem function of grasslands, and how to identify parts of a grass, different species of grasses and forbs.

About [LandPaths](#)

LandPaths is an environmental education and conservation leader with the mission is to foster a love of the land in Sonoma County. Annually, we engage thousands of participants in joyful, caring, and transformative relationship with the land. We do this through creative outings led in both English and Spanish, environmental education, nature camps, and volunteer-driven land stewardship of local open spaces. landpaths.org