

Human Impact Scavenger Hunt

How many of these can you find in your neighborhood?



Native Plants

Every region has its own plants that are endemic, or local to that area. In Southern California, some of our native plants include California Sagebrush, California Poppy, Lemonadeberry, Coastal Goldenbush, and Monkeyflower. If you live somewhere outside of Southern California, see if you can look up a few plant species that are local to your area!



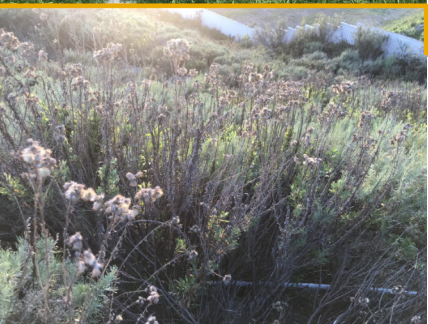
Non-Native Plants

These are plants that originally came from somewhere else and were brought to a new area, often by people. Not all non-native plants are necessarily bad. Some, though, can act like bullies and take over an area, damaging the ecosystem quality. Invasive non-native plants in Southern California include black mustard, iceplant, and bull thistle. As you explore your neighborhood, try to spot some non-native or invasive plants in your area!



Degraded Area

A degraded area is commonly taken over by non-native plants. Areas can become degraded due to some sort of disruption. This can be caused by people or by the introduction of non-native plants or animals. In Southern California, a hillside covered in black mustard would be considered a degraded area.



Restored Area

Restored areas are areas where people have reintroduced native habitat back to a location that was once degraded. The goal of restoring the landscape is to bring back the habitat closer to how it used to be. This can be done by removing invasive plants and planting native plants. Can you find any areas close to your neighborhood where people have tried to restore the native plant community?



Flowers and Flowering Plants

Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. By pollinating plants, they help those plants to grow, providing food and shelter for other organisms that share their ecosystem. Many pollinators around the world are threatened because loss of habitat means a loss of the flowering plants that they need to survive. Planting flowers, especially native flowering plants, is one way to help our pollinator friends thrive!

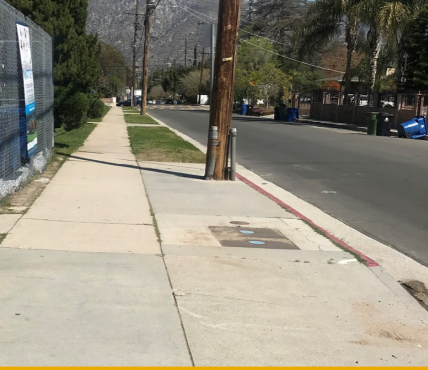
Environmentally Friendly Signage

As you explore your neighborhood, you might notice signs promoting environmentally-friendly behavior. Changing behaviors like this can help to protect landscapes and ecosystems. Signage might include no smoking signs, no dumping messages painted on curbs, please recycle signs near recycling cans, or something else entirely!



Human Impact Scavenger Hunt

How many of these can you find in your neighborhood?



Paved-Over Ground

Paved-over ground includes asphalt streets, cement sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and foundation for buildings. Paving is an important part of our community because it allows us to travel more easily, but it also decreases the amount of growing space available to plants, reducing habitat quality.



Parks and other Recreation Locations

Although many of them are closed right now, parks and other recreation areas normally provide health benefits to individuals who are looking to recreate. It also provides environmental benefits since protected parks often include grassy areas or native habitats where plants and animals can thrive amidst streets and sidewalks. Some neighborhoods might also have other options for recreation, including skate parks, running trails, and public exercise equipment.



Recycling Cans

Recycling reduces the amount of waste entering our landfills. Waste has a negative impact on the environment because material like plastic and metal can take many years to break down and decompose. Around your neighborhood, you might see recycling cans or signs reminding people to recycle.



Food Gardens

Growing food locally helps to reduce our carbon footprint, as food doesn't have to be transported over long distances. In your neighborhood, you might notice people growing food in their yards or in containers on a balcony. You might even be lucky enough to have a community garden, where many different families come together to tend their plots and grow food!



Schools or other Learning Centers

Schools and other centers for learning, such as a library, a visitor center, or even interpretive signage, can help people learn more about the world around us. In Crystal Cove State Park, we have a visitor center in the Historic District and the Berns Environmental Study Loop, an outdoor learning place located at the entrance to Moro Canyon. What learning centers can you find in your neighborhood?

Human Impact Scavenger Hunt

How many of these can you find in your neighborhood?

Explore your neighborhood and check off the following scavenger hunt items as you find them!

☐ **Native Plants**

☐ **Non-Native Plants**

☐ **Degraded Area**

☐ **Restored Area**

☐ **Flowers and Flowering Plants**

☐ **Environmentally Friendly Signage**

☐ **Paved-Over Ground**

☐ **Recycling Cans**

☐ **Food Gardens**

☐ **Schools or other Learning Centers**

☐ **Parks and other Recreation Locations**