SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

WILDFLOWERS SPRINGING UP



PHOTOS BY DAVID CRANE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A pair of crows fly over poppies in bloom at the California Poppy Reserve in Lancaster on March 17.

Stop to smell — and see — bountiful, beautiful plants at these regional parks, nature preserves and trails

By Holly Andres

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California poppies, California Bluebell, Blue Dicks, Brittlebush, Fiddlenecks, Lupines, Monkeyflowers, and so many other wildflowers are popping up or about to bloom in various areas in Los Angeles County

The display, however, may not be as spectacular this year as past years because of weather conditions over the winter.

Some ideal places to see the best of this year's blossoms:

• Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve: Well-known for its springtime poppy and other wildflowers display is this Antelope Valley favorite.

Peak viewing, according to the website, is from late March through early April (poppies, by the way, open in midmorning).

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Lupine blooms near Val Verde on March 17. Poppies and wildflowers are now in bloom throughout much of the Antelope and Santa Clarita valleys.

March 29, 2022 12:36 pm (GMT -7:00)



PHOTO BY CHUCK BENNETT

Flowers and bees are coming out at White Point Nature Preserve in San Pedro.

Flowers

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The reserve is open from sunrise to sunset daily. No dogs, bikes on trails, drones or picking flowers. 15101 Lancaster Road (15 miles west of Highway 14; the Jan. S. Pinheiro Interpretive Center is located ½ mile north of the intersection of 150th Street W. and Lancaster Road), Lancaster. 661-724-1180. Details on current bloom status, parking fees, and other park details: parks.ca.gov/?page_ id=627

 The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants: This sprawling site has a Wildflower Hotline that includes good places to view wildflowers in Central and Southern California. The hotline is updated every Friday and is available through May. 818-768-1802, Ext. 7. theodorepayne.org/learn/ wildflower-hotline

The foundation itself has an opportunity to see wildflowers on its 22-acre prop-Trail (¾ of a mile). The visit/kinggilletteranch. calscape.org



BRITTANY MURRAY - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The California poppy, also called the California sunlight or cup of gold, are in bloom along Bluff Park in Long Beach.

foundation's hours: 8:30 htm; bit.ly/3tAWIZg a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley. Call ahead Area and Nature Center, to confirm wildflowers dis- 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Alplay, 818-768-1802. theodorepayne.org/visit

• King Gillette Ranch: A popular place for season blooms, but it's actually just one starting point del Mar, San Pedro; www. in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area that has hiking trails where you may see wildflowers. 26800 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. 805-370-2301. www.

Other wildflower areas:

- Eaton Canyon Natural tadena; parks.lacounty.gov/ eaton-canyon-natural-areaand-nature-center/
- White Point Nature Preserve, 1600 W. Paseo laparks.org/park/whitepoint

Need help identifying wildflowers? See a list and photos of California native plants on the California Naerty, the Wild Flower Hill nps.gov/samo/planyour- tive Plant Society's website:

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