

UC Santa Barbara Newsletters

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UC SANTA BARBARA North Campus Open Space Restoration Project

NCOS NEWS

October 2022



A White-crowned sparrow forages for seed on Coastal Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*).

UPDATES

Migratory Birds

NCOS, with its variety of wetland areas and habitat types, provides an ideal rest stop for many bird species on their migratory journeys. The relatively stable climate in Santa Barbara county leads to extended migration periods for birds, with less dramatic peaks in fall and spring and substantial movements occurring in every month of the year. In fall, southbound shorebirds begin to arrive in late June and are numerous by the end of July, while landbird migrants appear mostly between mid-August and mid-November.



Red-necked phalaropes can arrive as early as late June. Photo taken at Venoco Bridge on September 6, 2022 by Lynn Scarlet.



Wilson's warblers are mostly found between mid-August and mid-October. Photo taken at Phelps Creek on September 8, 2022.



**Townsend's warblers begin to appear in late August, with most transients passing through the county by late October.
Photo taken at NCOS eucalyptus row on October 3, 2022.**



Black-throated gray warblers typically appear in mid-August and are rare after late October. Photo taken at NCOS eucalyptus row on October 3, 2022.

Bird migration information source: Lehman, P. E. "The Birds of Santa Barbara County, California", Revised edition, May 2022, available at <http://www.sbcobirding.com/lehmanbosbc.html>, 2022.

New Plant ID Book

We are releasing a new Native Plant book which is available for a donation of \$15 made to the [North Campus Open Space restoration project at the Cheadle Center](#). Donations can be made [here](#). This 145 page book covers the majority of the native plants that can be found on the UCSB campus. Once purchased, you can forward your receipt to us via email at ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu and come pickup your new book at the Cheadle Center, located at Harder South on the UCSB Campus, or at the ROOST at 6969 Whittier Drive, Goleta, 93117.



California sagebrush

Artemisia californica
Asteraceae (sunflower family)

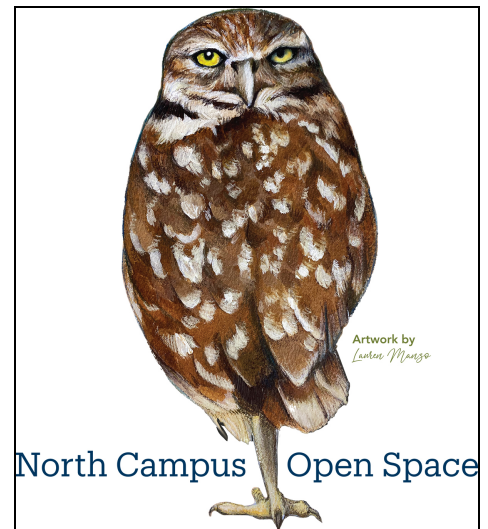
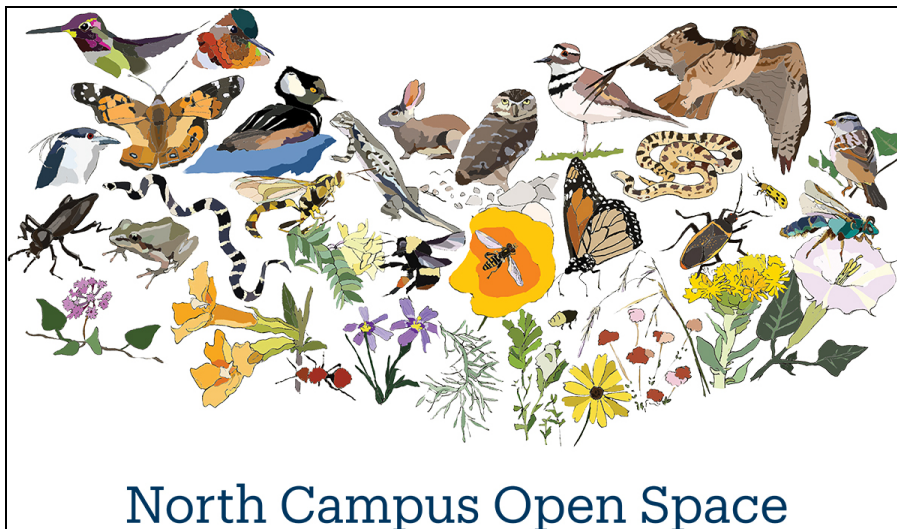
Chumash - we'wey
Spanish - romerillo

Semi-deciduous shrub, 0.6-2.5 m (2-8 ft), with aromatic grey-green foliage that dies back in summer, depending on the severity of drought. Abundant in coastal sage scrub communities, this plant smells strongly and is a familiar aroma to many Californians. Chumash Indians used this plant traditionally for arrow construction, fire making, and several purification rituals, and still use it today. Its continental cousin, *Artemisia tridentata*, occurs across vast swaths of the west that are removed from the coast, and is the plant that gives the scent known colloquially as "cowboy cologne".

NCOS T-shirts

The NCOS T-shirts that many have been waiting for will be here on Tuesday! Part of the reason for the delay was our desire to include our new nickname, simply the "Cheadle Center", instead of the acronym CCBER. The T-shirts are available with either the wildlife medley in light blue or sand or the owl design in yellow or teal. Both designs feature the Cheadle Center text on the back. We were unfortunately only able to order large kids sizes.

If you have volunteered with us, are docents, participated in the May 14th scavenger hunt, or donated to the [North Campus Open Space restoration project at the Cheadle Center](#), please email ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu with your size, design and color choice. The T-shirts will be available for pick up at the ROOST located at 6969 Whittier Drive, Goleta, 93117. These T-shirts are a generous donation from Carol Geer, former director of Counseling and Career Services.



FEATURE STORY

[Trees of NCOS](#)



California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)

White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)

Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

As the North Campus Open Space nears the completion of year 5 of restoration the site continues to grow and change as plants mature and form distinct habitat areas. Some of the areas where the site will change most in terms of plant growth in the coming years are the riparian corridors where oaks, alders, cottonwoods, and sycamores have been planted. As the trees grow, these riparian zones will become shady refuges for wildlife. Throughout the entire site 264 trees have been planted: 8 Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), 27 Narrowleaf Willow (*Salix exigua*), 9 White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), 15 Black Cottonwoods (*Populus trichocarpa*), 15 California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and 190 Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). [This feature story is continued on page 14.](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



"Second Saturdays" at NCOS

This month: October 8, 9-12

Please RSVP to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu

Help us restore and create NCOS with plants and more! Meet at 6969 Whittier Drive at 9am. Bring water, sunscreen, and wear a hat, clothes and shoes that are suitable for outdoor work

Thursdays - CCBER Greenhouse Associates

Come help transplant seedlings of native plants with the CCBER team from 9:00 - 12:00. To join, please send an email to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu.



Nature Guide Tour

This month: October 15, 9:30 -11

Come take a walk around NCOS and learn about native plants and animals with a trained Nature Guide.

COMMUNITY FORUM & PHOTOS

We are interested in any observations of wildlife activity on NCOS, as well as plants and landscapes. Please send your observations, with or without photos, to ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu. Thank you!



White-tailed kites have a small range in the US but occur throughout the Americas and breed as far south as Chile and Argentina. Photo by Ron Swick.



Cooper's Hawks mainly eat medium sized birds and are fairly common urban and suburban birds. Photo by Lynn Scarlet.



Red-tailed hawks are some of the largest birds seen in North America; in spite of that the heaviest females only weigh about three pounds. Photo by Jeremiah Bender.



This opportunistic Black-crowned night-heron is taking advantage of the large dragonfly population at NCOS. Photo by Lynn Scarlet.

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For more information on the North Campus Open Space Restoration Project, [Click here](#), or email ncos@ccber.ucsb.edu



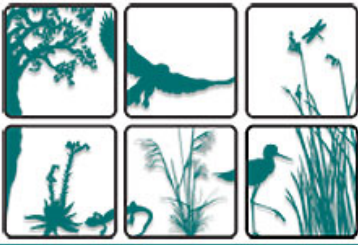
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TREES OF NCOS

As the North Campus Open Space nears the completion of year 5 of restoration the site continues to grow and change as plants mature and form distinct habitat areas. Some of the areas where the site will change most in terms of plant growth in the coming years are the riparian corridors where oaks, alders, cottonwoods, and sycamores have been planted. As the trees grow, these riparian zones will become shady refuges for wildlife. Throughout the entire site 264 trees have been planted: 8 Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), 27 Narrowleaf Willow (*Salix exigua*), 9 White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), 15 Black Cottonwoods (*Populus trichocarpa*), 15 California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and 190 Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).



California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)



Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)



Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*)



Narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*)

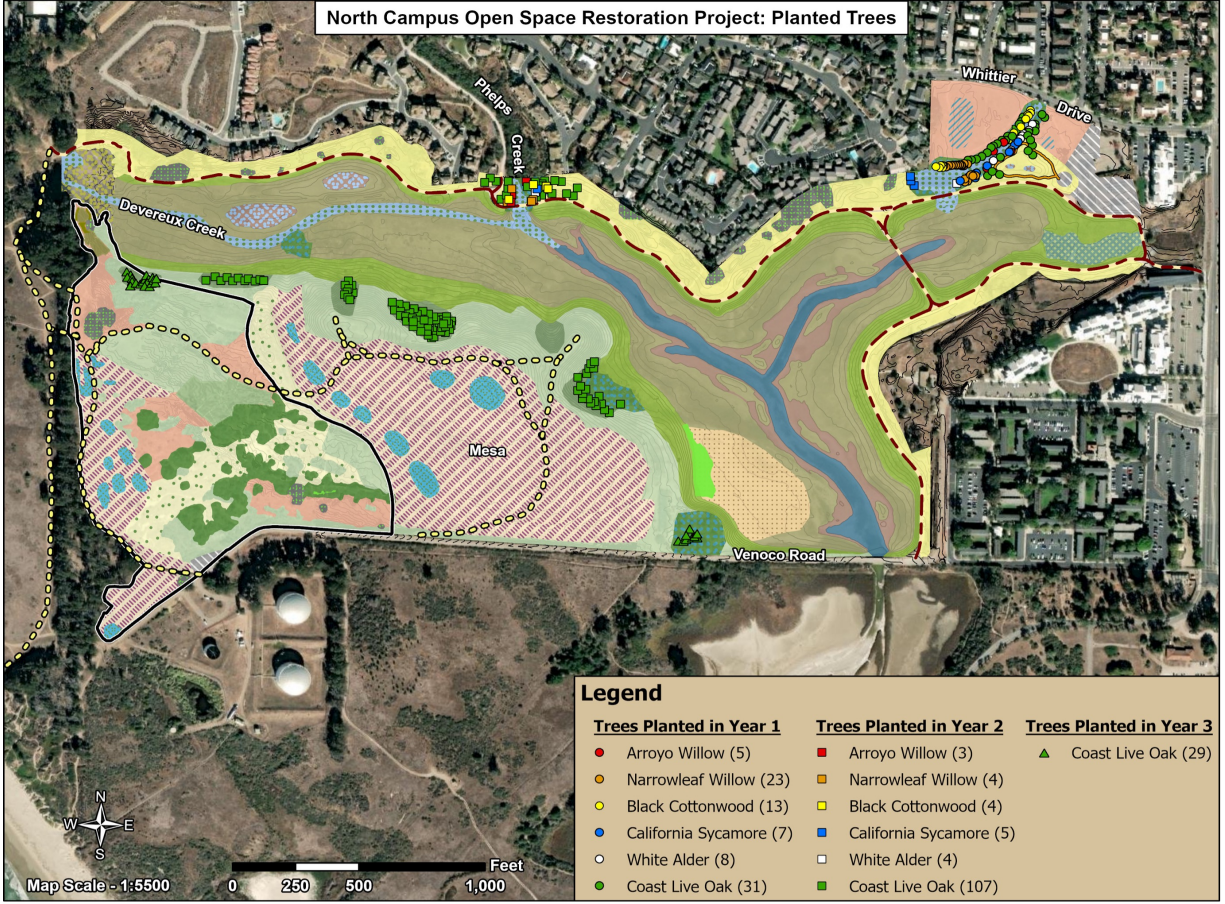


White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)



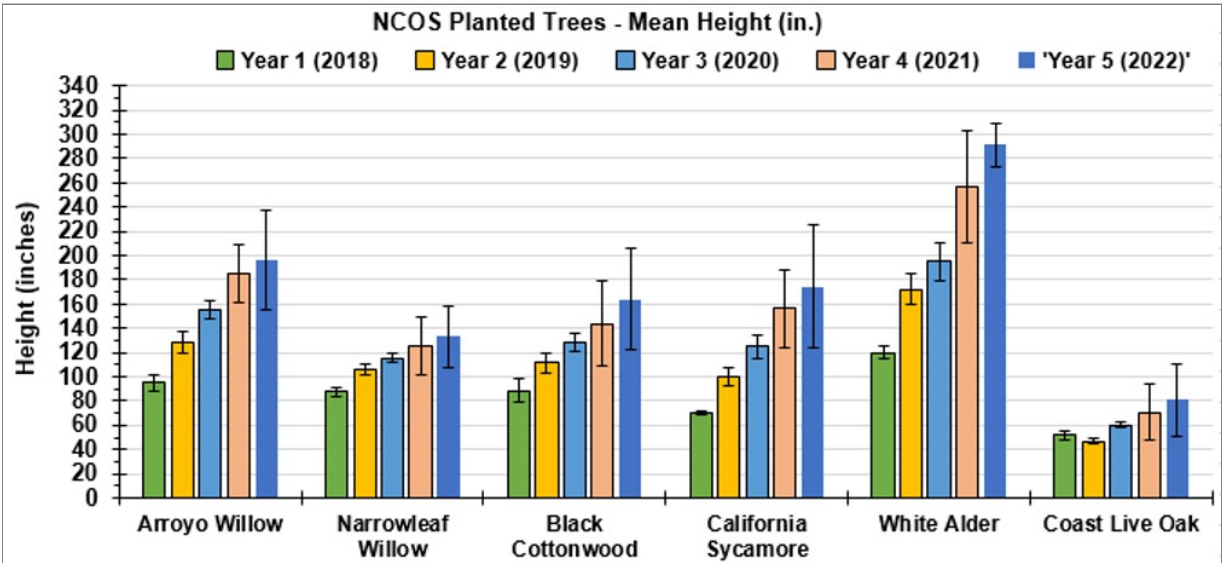
Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)

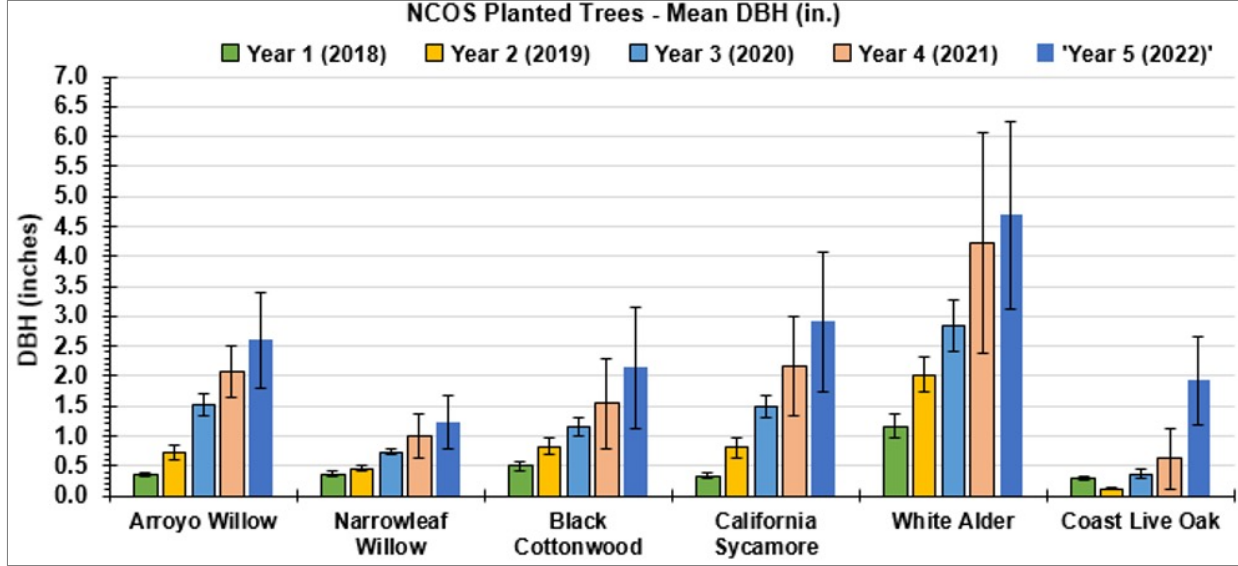
North Campus Open Space Restoration Project: Planted Trees



Map of trees planted during the first three years of the North Campus Open Space restoration project.

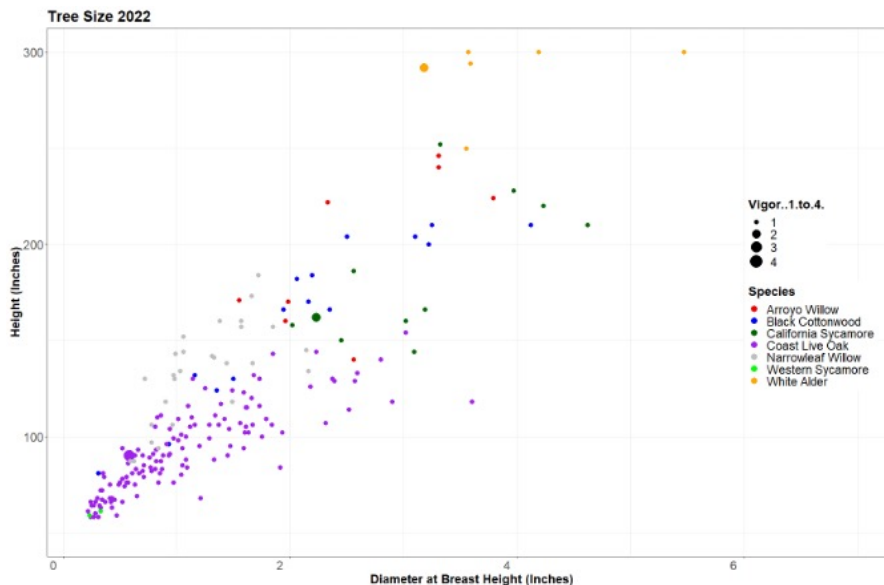
Every year these trees are monitored for height, diameter, and vigor to assess their health. Overall, every year of monitoring had an increase in growth for all six species. A comparison of the year four and year five data for trees planted shows an increase in overall mean height by 18 inches, from an average of 97 to 115 inches. There was also an increase in mean diameter from 1 to 2 inches, while the mean overall vigor rating stayed relatively the same.





Bar charts of the mean height in inches (top) and mean diameter at breast height in inches (bottom) of six tree species planted at the North Campus Open Space restoration project. Error bars are +/- one standard deviation of the mean.

The species that exhibited the greatest increase in mean height in year five is the white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), which had a mean height increase from year four to year five of 34 inches. White alder near the Whittier channel grows at an astonishing rate compared to other species and locations, with an average height of 24 feet. The white alder are significantly taller than other species and also have one of the largest diameters compared to other tree species. The greatest average tree diameter increase was seen in Coast Live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), which increased an average of 1.3 inches from year four to year five. These growth patterns were observed in every year of monitoring.



This scatter plot of tree height and diameter represents all living planted trees that are part of the study within the NCOS property in year 4. The size of point represents the vigor or health of the tree, 1 represents the healthiest tree, while 4 represents a dead tree.

Date:

Thursday, October 6, 2022 - 14:00

[Contact Us](#)

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration • [Earth Research Institute](#)

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