

Lola Santos

Former Design Lead, Current Conservation Student

coyotedagger@gmail.com • www.lolasantos.xyz

Summary

Product designer with 10+ years of experience making a career change into conservation. Currently enrolled full-time in Merritt College's Natural History and Sustainability program. Experience with GIS, bird and plant identification, habitat restoration, and wildlife monitoring. Excited to use passion for Californian ecology and experience with mapping software to help protect our unique ecosystems.

Experience

- 2025 – current **Park Operations Intern**, East Bay Regional Park District
- Hiking or biking in the field to locate benches for Memorial Benches program.
 - Using GIS to update map data.
- 2019 – 2024 **Unity Technologies**
- ↳ **Design Lead, Multiplayer**
- Defined 2-year design strategy for creating a suite of multiplayer game development tools.
 - Led 3 designers to unify 10 conflicting legacy tools as part of unification initiative.
- ↳ **Senior Designer, Labs**
- Developed and patented a tool to build and manage game economies.
- 2017 – 2019 **Senior UX Engineer**, Mapbox
- Researched and developed AR prototypes for geospatial needs using Unity, C#, and Swift.
- 2014 – 2017 **Product Designer**, freelance and agencies
- Designed websites for 20+ clients, either as a freelancer or at small agencies (thoughtbot, CoMedia).
 - Provided on-call customer service and managed professional relationships and finances.

Education

- 2024 – current **Merritt College** Conservation and Resource Management, Natural History and Resources
- 2009 – 2013 **University of California, Berkeley** Computer Science, French Literature

Volunteering

- 2025 – current **Snowy Plover Docent and Monitor**, National Park Service
- Teaching the public about snowy plovers and ensuring their habitat is not disrupted.
 - Assisting biologists by searching for nests along several miles of sand dunes.
- 2024 – current **Wildlife Volunteer**, East Bay Regional Park District
- Monitoring snowy plover populations in Alameda every week and submitting reports to biologists.
 - Assisting with various projects like capturing lizards for genetic testing or counting bat populations.
 - Planting trees and weeding invasive plants to restore native habitats in various EBRPD parks.
- 2024 – current **Fieldwork Volunteer**, Felidae Conservation Fund
- Servicing wildlife cameras to track mountain lion populations. Involves strenuous hiking.
- 2024 – current **Volunteer**, The Crucible
- Assisting ceramics department co-heads with cleaning, loading kilns, and recycling clay.
 - Welcoming guests, cleaning studio spaces, and setting up for special events.

Skills

- Wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration, interpretation, bird and plant identification
- GIS, Python, UX/UI design, tech writing, user research, digital illustration