

San Dieguito River Park Accomplishments in 2011

Awards/Grants

- The San Diego Architectural Foundation awarded an Orchid to the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge in the 2011 Orchids and Onions program.
- The American Concrete Institute presented a 2011 design award to the River Park for the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge.
- The San Diego Architectural Foundation awarded a second Orchid to the River Park for construction of our administrative office.
- The California State American Institute of Architects (AIA) provided an Architectural Merit Award to the San Dieguito River Park for the construction of the administrative office. The award was one of twenty provided to projects throughout the state and one of only two awarded in San Diego County.
- The Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) provided an award titled, “Phoenix Rising, Sikes Again” for reconstruction of the Sikes Adobe.
- The City of San Diego Historical Resources Board provided an award titled, “2011 Excellence in Historic Preservation” for reconstruction of the Sikes Adobe.
- The California State Office of Historic Preservation granted the 2011 Governor’s Historic Preservation Award to the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead Restoration & Reconstruction.
- \$57,000 was awarded from the County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program to design, fabricate and install three entry monuments at the western, central and eastern gateways to the River Park and seven interpretive panels throughout the River Park.
- \$4,000 was awarded from County of San Diego Community Enhancement Program for support of Scout projects.
- \$93,655 was provided by the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy for trail construction for the Old Coach Trail Link, and for planning and permitting for the Pamo Valley and Lusardi Creek trails.

San Dieguito Lagoon Wetland Restoration

- 40,000 cubic feet of sand was excavated from the river channel and used for beach replenishment, allowing full ocean tides to nourish the restored wetlands for the first time in decades.
- The construction phase of the Southern California Edison project was determined complete by the California Coastal Commission
- SANDAG completed a first phase Feasibility Study for a new restoration area (W19) encompassing approximately 100 acres, which determined that it is feasible to create

approximately 60 acres of additional tidal wetlands without negatively impacting the SCE project.

Trails

- Construction of the West Bernardo Drive Bike Path and Trail linking the Lake Hodges Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge and the Bernardo Bay Staging Area was completed and opened to the public on April 8, 2011.
- Construction of the Highland Valley trail link and staging area to connect the San Dieguito River Park trail system to the City of Poway Old Coach trail was completed and opened to the public on October 8th, 2011. This linkage provides access to the Trans County Regional Trail through the City of Poway trail system making it the first north/south connection between east/west regional trail systems in the County.
- A one mile long loop trail was completed on the northeast section of the Wetland Restoration Project (Lagoon Trail and Salt Marsh Bird View Trail).
- Planning and permitting were completed and construction started on the 1.7 mile Mesa Loop Trail on the southeast section of the Wetland Restoration Project.
- Permits were obtained for the Horse Park Trail with construction to begin in January 2012.
- Work began on the Reach the Beach Trail Feasibility Study including public meetings and workshop.
- A viewing platform composed of native rock in the shape of a rattlesnake was built along the Del Dios Gorge Trail.

Habitat Restoration

- **Bernardo Mountain and West Bernardo** - Weed control on 35 acres on the south side of Bernardo Mtn. was accomplished and 130 native species planted. Combined with native plant seedlings of prior years, the treatment has repaired fire damage and produced flourishing habitat with California Gnatcatcher sightings.
- **East Gorge Habitat Management Area** – 241 native plants installed along with Eucalyptus and weed control.
- **Santa Maria Creek Habitat Management Area** – Weed control and native plant installation transformed a half acre site from invasive plants to native habitat.
- **Sycamore Westridge Habitat Management Area** – Weed control and planting of 125 1-gallon container native plants combined with distribution of 4.5 pounds of native seed collected from the Lake Hodges area restored fire damaged habitat resulting in confirmed gnatcatcher sightings.

- **Eucalyptus Removal Del Dios Gorge** – The first phase of eucalyptus removal began downstream of the Del Dios Gorge Bridge. The non-native trees were removed and are being replaced with native trees and shrubs in and along the riverbank.

Community Outreach and Education

- Over 2000 hours of service was provided throughout the Park by volunteers
- Completion of 4 student internships
- Directly educated over 300 students about environmental issues
- Partnered with several schools for research and habitat restoration opportunities
- Sponsored 8 scout projects throughout the Park
- Established monthly Ranger walks at the San Dieguito Lagoon
- Entered into partnership with San Diego Coastkeeper for water quality testing by River Park staff and volunteers at the Treatment Ponds at the Lagoon
- Bi-monthly educational events were held at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse, in addition to student field trips and senior groups.
- The River Park cooperated with various non-profit groups in the planning and acquisition of the Santa Ysabel General Store with the intention that it will become a Backcountry Interpretive Center.