

# San Dieguito River Park Accomplishments in 2015

## Awards/Grants

- \$53,500 for the purchase of a 15-passenger van to transport groups for educational programs. Funded by the San Diego Foundation.
- \$61,012 for the purchase of an additional 15-passenger van. Funded by the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program at the recommendation of Supervisor Dianne Jacob.
- \$15,000 donated by David and Betty Leigh to assist with continuation of the Coast to Crest Trail.
- \$4,000 donated by Ron Hall for the San Dieguito River Park and Friends of Sikes Adobe.
- \$2,000 donated by Diane Coombs for the Watershed Explorer Program.
- \$1,000 donated by Jeffrey Barnouw for the Trails Fund.
- \$5,515.77 contributed by thirteen individual private donors.

## Lagoon Wetland Restoration

- Obtained a Coastal Development Permit for the Ranger Station
- Applied to City of San Diego for building permit for Ranger Station

## Trails

- Acquired Coast to Crest Trail easement through Rancho Santa Fe Association parcel
- Completed Osuna Valley Bridge Feasibility Study
- Obtained trail easement County conditions on private parcels in Fairbanks Ranch adjacent to Lusardi Creek
- Applied for \$285,140 California River Parkways grant for the construction of Pamo Trail
- Partnered with San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, Fairbanks Ranch property owners and other parties to remove invasive plants in River using JPA watershed wide Invasive Species Control Program permits

## Habitat Conservation and Restoration

- Planted 4,711 native plants on 13 sites
- Dispersed over 150 pounds of plant seed on 10 habitat management projects
- Monitored over 87 acres of native habitat and treated over 36 acres for invasive weeds on fourteen project sites

## **Community Outreach and Education**

- Launched Watershed Explorer Program to offer 5-day fieldtrips of watershed
- Continued Connecting People with Nature Program with fieldtrips to the lagoon
- Expanded Citizen Science Program to include camera traps, animal tracking and surveys
- Partnered with Cal State San Marcos, SDSU and UCSD for student research projects
- Hosted : Numerous public education programs at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom
  - High Tech Elementary Family Days with 150 attendees
  - Over 250 Boys and Girls Club of Solana Beach for Lagoon Ecosystems
  - On-site and in classroom educational programs for Del Mar, Solana Beach, Rancho Santa Fe, Escondido, San Marcos, San Diego and Julian Unified School Districts
- Managed over 20 habitat restoration projects for Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Clubs, REI, Calvary Church, Scout groups, National Charity League, Teen Volunteers in Action, Muir Environmental Corps, UC San Diego Alumni, Terada, and the YMCA
- Completion of 9 Eagle Scout Projects within the park
- Present at numerous community fairs throughout the county
- Directed over 200 volunteers participating in the California Coastal Cleanup Day to remove thousands of pounds of green waste and trash from the lagoon
- Continued monthly bird counts, water quality testing, monthly ranger-led hikes, bird-watching walks, trail maintenance and habitat restoration volunteer projects
- Directed AmeriCorps NCCC volunteers for 3 weeks at Santa Ysabel Gorge to repair the future Research and Education Station, build a native plant nursery and conduct habitat restoration
- Partnered with San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and Pizza Port to brew a Coast to Crest Trail Ale that was sold on tap at the Solana Beach location
- Added interpretive panels, benches, picnic tables and shade structures to the trail system
- Created a database for interpretive features in the Park and all past restoration projects

## **Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead**

- Hosted events including Valentines Teas serving 114 guests, Sikes Spooktacular entertaining 50 families, introduction to Honeybees and Beekeeping class, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Festive Farmhouse, and the annual Rancho Beernardo Festival with over 450 people attending.
- Hosted numerous home school groups, scout troops, Escondido school field trips reaching over 200 students
- Conducted work parties with Eagle Creek employees
- Expanded the garden and orchard area
- Continuing presence at the weekly North San Diego Certified Farmers Market

## Stats

- Monthly volunteer groups: 2,144 hours
  - Inland: 426 hours
  - Coastal: 1,718
- Weekly volunteers (Dust Devils): 1,969 hours
  - Inland: 1,234 hours
  - Coastal: 735 hours
- Trail Patrol: 2,396 hours
  - Foot: 1,816 hours
  - Mountain Bike: 580 hours
- Interns and docents: 1,547 hours
  - Inland: 962 hours
  - Coastal: 585 hours
- Water quality testing: 37 hours
- Coast bird surveys: 619 hours
- TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 8, 712 hours  
(At California's value of a volunteer hour rate of \$26.34 the Park saved \$229,474.08 in labor costs)
- Guided Hikes led: 50
  - Inland: 23
  - Coastal: 27
- The SDRP and Sikes Adobe Facebook have 885 likes.
- The SDRP and Sikes Adobe have 651 followers.
- The monthly newsletter, Riverscape, has 3, 392 subscribers.