

SAN DIEGUITO
RIVER VALLEY



CONSERVANCY

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy preserves, protects and shares the natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley through collaborative efforts to acquire lands, complete trails, restore habitats, establish educational programs, create interpretive centers, encourage recreation, and mobilize public support.

2019-20 annual report



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



While 2020 has been a year many of us would like to forget, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy has been adapting and thriving – just like the habitat we are determined to protect.

The COVID-19 pandemic drove us indoors during the spring. During their alone time, birds, plants and animals in the river valley proliferated. So did the work product of the Conservancy's staff.

On the education front, we hosted an eight-week series of Facebook Live chats that covered our watershed and the wildlife that calls it home. We completed our collaboration with Living Coast Discovery Center by hosting our final two sessions as webinars. The online offerings logged more than 2,500 views.

At conservation sites such as Gonzalez Canyon, plantings from winter months took hold and stood tall after spring rains.

As trails reopened, Coast to Crest Challengers laced up, trekked many miles and recorded their recreation with selfies. I love seeing photographs that show people of all ages having fun and enjoying the rejuvenating benefits of nature.

The pandemic has not interrupted publication of our electronic and printed newsletters, Riverscape and Currents, nor has it disrupted daily posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We love to stay connected, now more than ever.

Even as the pandemic hammers our economy, our revenue column continues to reflect support from grants and private donations. Our open spaces have shown they are more important than ever. Thank you so, so much for supporting them.

How can San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy serve you better? Just let us know.

Sincerely,

Nate Northup

Nate Northup, President

THANK YOU FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As Nate said, during this past year, no one could predict the scope of change our community would have to manage. Luckily for us, the San Dieguito River Valley provides a beautiful landscape for us to visit and refresh our souls. It is so important to keep our equilibrium and be healthy in mind and body – especially during this uncertain time of stress and fear.

My favorite pastime is writing poetry -- specifically haiku. A haiku is an unrhymed poem consisting of 17 syllables arranged in three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.

When I was a mere tot, I took every opportunity to hide from my parents -- and seven brothers and sisters -- and escape to my secret spot in the garden. There I found inspiration in a blade of grass, or a ladybug.

She's got polka dots
All over her red body
Just like Lucille Ball

A few years ago, when Scott and I visited a dude ranch in Wyoming, I sat on the banks of the Gros Ventre River, breathing in a view of the Grand Tetons and sparkling aspens. It was breathtaking.

Nature's chandeliers
Glowing red, yellow and green
Light up the forest

This year, after the first wave of quarantines slowly lifted, I ventured straight to the San Dieguito Lagoon and enjoyed some reflection time looking at the river from a bench at River Path Del Mar.

My mind meanders
As the River flows through it
Completely at peace

If you love to hike, bike, ride a horse, jog, read, sculpt, paint, garden, work with wood or metal, quilt, crochet, sew – you name it – keep doing it. And if you need inspiration, just visit the river valley.

Sincerely,

Trish Boaz

Trish Boaz, Executive Director

2019-2020 AT A GLANCE

IN TOTAL, THE CONSERVANCY...

150

Hosted or participated in **150** conservation, education, recreation, and outreach events

- **14** conservation events
- **68** education events
- **12** recreation events
- **56** outreach events

Raised through fundraising events, including River Valley Fest and Wax & Wine

\$84,927



\$75,929

Grant Funding Received



Total Donations

\$362,000



380

Individual Donors



Received Top-Rated Nonprofit recognition from Great Nonprofits and Platinum recognition from GuideStar

WE'D LIKE TO THANK OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS, CONSERVATION PARTNERS, AND CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

Financial Partners

Coastal Community Foundation
Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
The San Diego Foundation
Union Banc Investment Services
Union Bank

Conservation Partners

22nd District Agricultural Association
Allied Climbers of San Diego
California Fire Safe Council
California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter
California Marine Protected Areas
City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of Poway
City of San Diego
City of Solana Beach
Climate Science Alliance South Coast
County of San Diego
Del Mar Foundation
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
Green Infrastructure Consortium
Helen Woodward Animal Center
High Tech Elementary North County
High Tech High North County
High Tech Middle North County
Hike San Diego
I Love a Clean San Diego
Living Coast Discovery Center
Mission Resource Conservation District
National Charity League, San Dieguito Chapter
National Resources Conservation Service
Nature Collective
Outdoor Outreach
Palomar Audubon Society
Rancho Santa Fe Association
Rancho Santa Fe / Fairbanks Ranch Fire Safe Council
Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District
San Diego Archaeological Center
San Diego Audubon Society
San Diego Coastkeeper
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego Mountain Biking Association
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego Tracking Team
San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research
San Dieguito River Park JPA
Sierra Club San Diego - North County Group
Southwestern Field Herping Associates
State Coastal Conservancy
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
Urban Corps of San Diego
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United States Geological Survey
Urban Corps of San Diego
Volcan Mountain Foundation
WILDCOAST

Corporate Sponsors

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CONSERVATION

We are proud to have strengthened our partnerships with the California Native Plant Society, Urban Corps of San Diego, UC San Diego, San Diego County Parks, the U.S. Geological Survey and many schools and other groups. Working together, we removed invasive plants and replaced them with native species. Under the careful eye of Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum, we applied efficient and scientific practices to our field projects. We added greatly to our trove of data gathered from wildlife camera trapping and remote sensing.



San Dieguito Lagoon "Opportunity Parcels" Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study

- **3** parcels (**2** in the City of Del Mar; **1** in the City of San Diego)
- **6** design alternatives
- **2** design charrettes
- Consulting team: WRA, Inc.; Anchor Environmental; RECON



Fairbanks Ranch and Lusardi Creek County Preserve

Restoration and Enhancement

- **28** acres (up from 7.25 acres in 2018-19)
- **3** main sites: RSF Association's Arroyo Preserve; Lusardi Creek County Preserve; private parcels downstream of Artesian Road and Zumaque Street
- Work crews: Urban Corps of San Diego; California Native Plant Society; Rancho Environmental Services
- Next year's plan: Plant **450** native riparian trees within the Rancho Santa Fe Arroyo Preserve



Gonzalez Canyon Open Space Preserve (City of San Diego)

Restoration and Enhancement

- **2** Sites
- **1.2** acre restored
- More than **500** native plants planted
- **5** volunteer events with **170** volunteers
- Student volunteers from UC San Diego, Canyon Crest Academy and High Tech Elementary

Restoration Areas

- Brigantine Basin = 0.2 acres
- Gonzales Sword Way (REI) = 0.6 acres
- Gonzales (OPC) = 0.6 acres
- River Path Del Mar = 0.2 acres
- Fairbanks (USFWS/SCC) = 19.1 acres
- Lusardi (CFSC) = 2.5 acres
- Fairbanks Prop 68 = 5 acres
- Fenton North (Prop 68) = 13 acres

Total = **41.2** acres



Brigantine Basin Restoration and Enhancement

What better way to recognize International Wetlands Day than by hauling invasive plants and trash out of Brigantine Basin at the west end of San Dieguito Lagoon? Our efforts were rewarded by sightings of an osprey and a long-billed curlew. Special thanks to our volunteers from National Charity League and American Conservation Experience.



Above background photo by Hanna Zhao

Bobcat photo by Cheryl S. Brehme and Devin Adsit-Morris



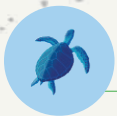
EDUCATION

Education Manager Ana-Lutz-Johnson collaborated with numerous partners to deliver dynamic educational experiences in the field and online. Even amid the challenges of the global pandemic, innovative programming continued to get students and their parents excited about the natural wonders of the river valley.



A POLLINATOR'S PARADISE PROGRAM

- Funded by SDG&E and Solana Beach Fund
- Working with Climate Science Alliance, developed K-2 curriculum covering the importance of pollinators
- Examined the impacts of climate change on pollinators
- Tended the Conservancy's new pollinator garden at River Path Del Mar
- Participating classes from: Scholarship Prep Charter School; High Tech Elementary North County; Del Mar Union School District; Solana Beach School District



EXPERIENTIAL PRESENTATION SERIES WITH LIVING COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



- Funded by the City of Solana Beach
- Presentations ranged from the science of flight to life in the tide pools.
- Events included appearances by animal ambassadors
- **5** session, including **3** at La Colonia Community Center and **2** online webinars during COVID-19 lockdown
- **2** webinars uploaded to YouTube
- **8** months of programming
- **175** attendees



FACEBOOK LIVE SERIES



- **8** weekly, interactive lessons
- Topics ranged from pollinators, to watersheds, to native plants
- More than **2,500** views on Facebook
- Lessons uploaded to San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy YouTube channel



NEW PATCHES

Coast to Crest Trail Challenge, Watershed Explorers Program, Citizen Science Program



- Collaboration with Canyon Crest Academy class taught by Travis Sevilla



- Patches awarded to participants who complete programs



- Design Winners (all from the Class of 2020): Alina Cheverdyuk; Lexanna Schultz; Natasha Valez-Sheldon



POLLINATOR PLANTING



Our Pollinator Garden Planting Event drew nearly two dozen volunteers to River Path Del Mar. Members of Boy Scout Troop 271 dug into the project, which included the

planting of **150** native, pollinator-friendly plants such as sages, monkey flowers and bee plants. We thank our volunteers, and so do the butterflies, honeybees and hummingbirds!

RECREATION

COAST TO CREST CHALLENGE

As of July, nearly **170** hearty hikers completed our Coast to Crest Challenge series of five hikes. After the pandemic closed many trails, we extended the challenge deadline to August. Many other adventurers joined us for the Coast to Crest Challenge Guided Hike Series.

Other fun on the trail included a full moon hike, a herp hike in October, Valentines on Volcan and Trails & Ales. Nearly two dozen of us hiked on Volcan Mountain as part of our Exploring our Sense of Place program.



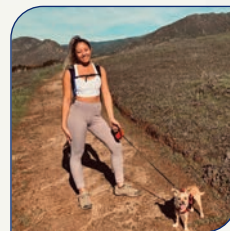
Karen Castro



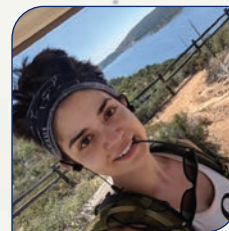
Kelly Mamer



Milo



Vy Tran



Anne Yilmaz



FACETIME WITH SNAKES



Nothing beats a herp hike, especially if it's with an expert like Jeff Nordland. Jeff and Board Member Jim Smith led the hike and brought participants face to face with snakes and lizards.



PUBLIC HIKES

- Tuesday, July 2, 2019
Helen Woodward Animal Center Hike
- Tuesday, August 20, 2019
Helen Woodward Animal Center Hike
- Saturday, September 14, 2019
Full Moon Hike - Bernardo Bay
- Sunday, September 22, 2019
Lagoon Hike for Girl Scouts
- Saturday, September 28, 2019
C2C Trail Challenge Guided Hike at Santa Ysabel Preserve West
- Saturday, October 12, 2019
Trails & Ales SDRVC at the Highland Valley Trail
- Friday, November 22, 2019
Hike - Cohneuer Group at Bernardo Bay and North Lake Hodges
- Saturday, November 23, 2019
C2C Trail Challenge Guided Hike at North Lake Hodges
- Saturday, January 11, 2020
Full Moon Hike at Dust Devil Trail
- Saturday, January 25, 2020
ESP Bernardo Bay
- Saturday, January 25, 2020
Watershed Explorers Pamo Valley Hike (with Leana of SDRP & Stephanie of SDAC)
- Saturday, February 8, 2020
Valentines on Volcan



IT'S AS FUN AS IT SOUNDS



This upbeat group launched the 2019-20 Trails and Ales Program with an interpretive hike at the Highland Valley Trail followed by brews and burgers at Plan 9 Alehouse in Escondido.

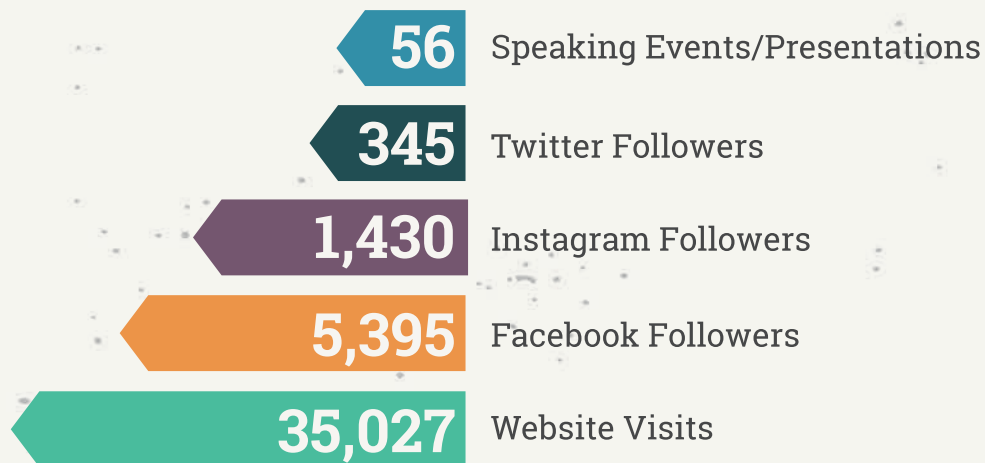


GUIDED HIKES

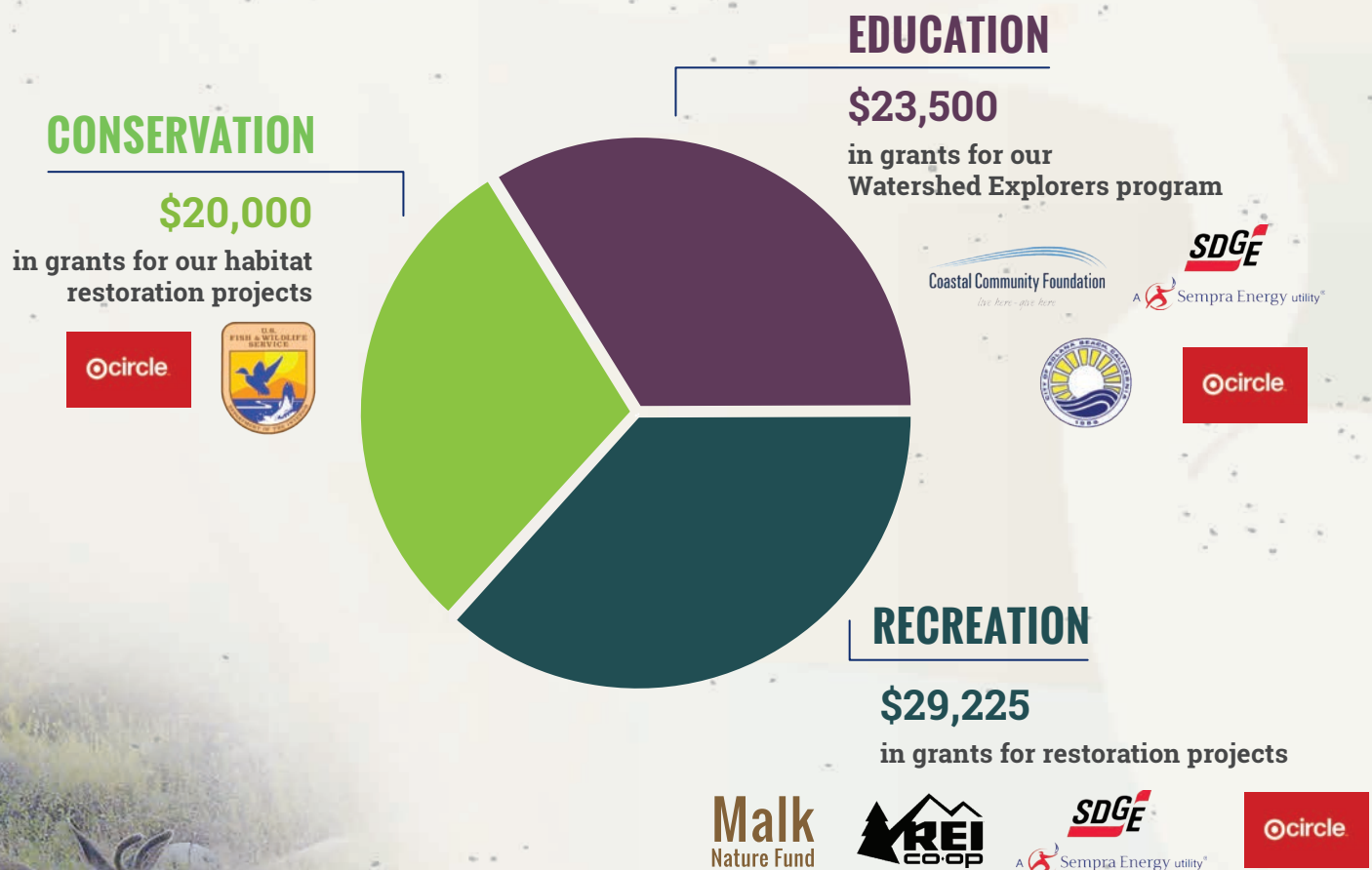


A 7.26 mile trek at Lake Hodges is part of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge Guided Hike Series.

OUTREACH, AWARENESS, AND FINANCIALS



GRANT FUNDING



Summer 2020



San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy
3030 Bunker Hill Street, Ste. 309-1
San Diego, CA 92109
858.866.6956

www.sdrvc.org

Your support provides for

- **Conservation**
- **Education**
- **Recreation**

in the San Dieguito River Park

 LIKE US on Facebook
facebook.com/sdrvcconservancy

The San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the development of recreational multi-use trails in the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park, preserving and restoring native ecosystems, and educating the public about our precious natural resources.

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FOR
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2020 RIVER VALLEY FEST

<https://www.sdrvc.org/sdrvc2020rivervalleyfest>

JOIN US

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020
4 - 6 PM

Virtual Fundraiser Coming Soon!

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT



Background cover photo by Hanna Zhao