



SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY | SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JPA

Top Stories



Tell San Diego Land Use Restrictions at Polo Fields Must Stay

The San Diego City Council is considering action that would break a promise to protect public land in the San Dieguito River Valley.

The protections are part of a decades-old agreement between the City of San Diego and the original developer of Fairbanks Ranch. The deal involved 600 acres.

A vote to undo it is expected in September. Please join us in demanding that the restrictions remain in place.

In a blog post, we lay out the background, list email addresses and include sample language to send to the mayor of San Diego and nine city councilmembers.

Please read up on this important issue and tell the council how you feel.

[Open Blog Post](#)



Remembering Maggie Brown

Maggie Brown, president of the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley and longtime environmental champion, died June 29 at the age of 82.

A blog post on the Friends' website recounts her childhood in Shreveport, La., and Texarkana, Ark., before moving on to earn degrees in art education in New York and Ohio.

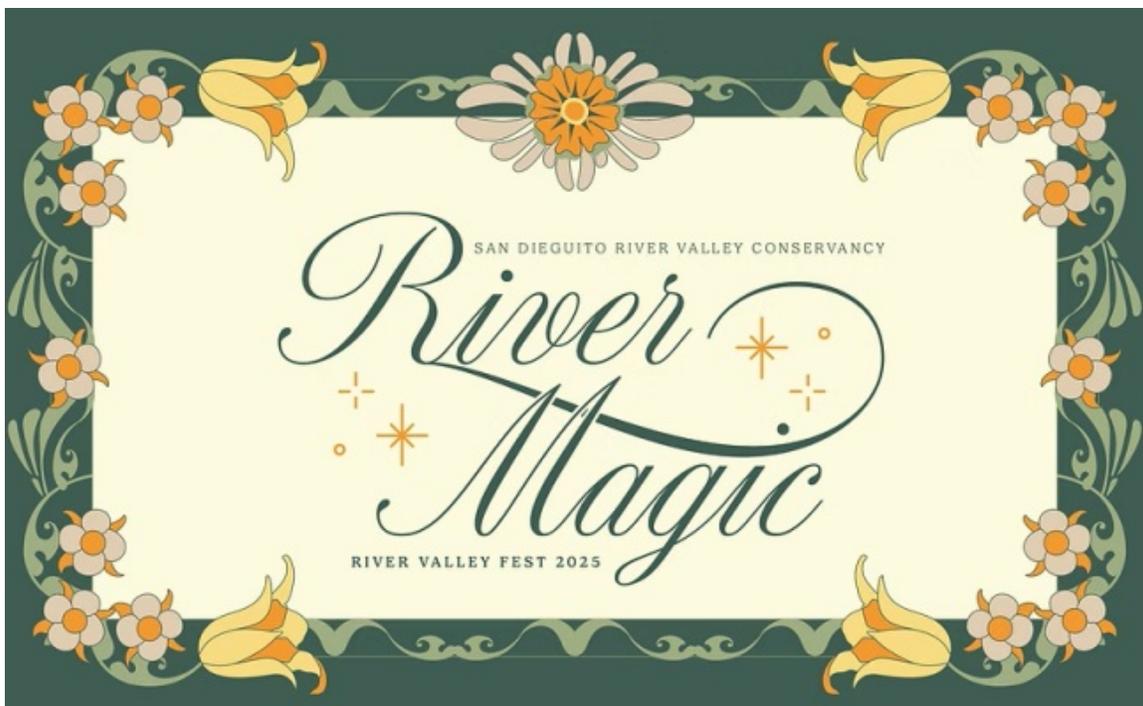
Locally, Maggie's career shifted to mortgage banking, real estate development, sales and marketing.

In Encinitas, she taught reading to English learners at Paul Ecke-Central School.

In 1996, the Del Mar Chamber of Commerce recognized Maggie Brown as Person of the Year.

She worked "assiduously by way of legal battles and increasing public awareness, to preserve and protect the river valley," the Friends' blog post states. "Her dedication was also evident in her perfect attendance at meetings of regional governmental agencies, conservation groups, and of course, the Friends. Her advocacy and spirit were admired by all; her positive presence will be sorely missed."

[Open Blog Post](#)



Oct. 12: Mark Your Calendar for River Valley Fest

San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's annual salute to nature is set for 4 p.m. Oct. 12 at

La Valle Coastal Club, 5690 Cancha de Golf, Rancho Santa Fe.

"River Valley Fest," our annual gala and largest fundraising event, returns with the theme "River Magic."

"We're celebrating the everyday wonder of the San Dieguito River Valley, from the shimmer of sunlight on the water to the call of native birds in the trees," said Executive Director Cheryl Goddard. "'River Magic' speaks to our connection to the land, the peace of open space and the joy of discovery on the trail."

The event will recognize the Conservancy's leadership to restore ecosystems at locations up and down the watershed, including Arroyo Preserve (Rancho Santa Fe), Scholder Creek (Santa Ysabel), River Path Del Mar (Del Mar), and Gonzales Canyon (Carmel Valley).

Now in its 39th year, River Valley Fest also will highlight campaigns to complete the Coast to Crest Trail and expand education and recreation programs for youth and underserved communities.



All About Equity

San Dieguito River Park JPA is determined to provide access to nature to all. So are the backers of the River Park's new Outdoor Equity Vehicle, which can shuttle people with physical limitations onto the park's trail network.

Purchase of the vehicle was made possible by a County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Grant recommended by Third District Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and support from the Dickenson Foundation. Thank you!

Thanks to You

Programming for All

Thanks to you, we are able to offer programming for all.

For some activities, we charge a modest fee. But most of them are free and open to



everybody. Isn't that how nature should be?

Your gifts make Conservation, Education and Recreation possible.

Thank you!

[Donate](#)

Upstream



Aug. 3, 9 and 17: Yoga at the Birdwing

Yoga at the Birdwing: It's "you" time. Inhale the good; exhale whatever does not serve you. You do you 10 a.m. Aug. 3, 9 and 17 at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom.

[Register](#)

Aug. 9: Summer Celebration

The Ecologik Institute and San Dieguito River Park are hosting a summer celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Rancho Bernardo Community Center, 18448 W. Bernardo Drive, San Diego.

The fun includes a free lunch, hike, water quality testing presentation and a "speak



THE ECOLOGIK INSTITUTE & SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK INVITE YOU TO A

SUMMER CELEBRATION

HIKE, EAT, LEARN & USE YOUR VOICE TO SPEAK UP FOR PUBLIC LANDS!

9 August | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- 10-11 a.m. - hike with Rangers
- 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. - lunch provided by SDRP
- 12-1 p.m. - water quality testing presentation by the EcoLogik apprentices
- 1-2 p.m. - speak truth to power and craft a letter to Congress

Rancho Bernardo Community Center

truth to power" session for attendees to draft a letter to Congress.

Send your RSVP and any questions to Senior Interpretive Ranger Leana Bulay: leana@sdrp.org.

[Open Website](#)



Aug. 23: Habitat Restoration at Gonzales Canyon

Nothing's quite as invigorating as pulling on those gloves and restoring habitat. We'll bring the tools. You bring the hands. Join us 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 23 at 13655 Sword Way, San Diego.

[Register](#)



Aug. 29: Walk N Talk in San Pasqual Valley

Might as well start walkin. And talkin. This month's Walk N Talk group hike brings us to San Pasqual Valley. Meet at 9 a.m. Aug. 29 at 18192 Bandy Canyon Road, Escondido.

[Register](#)

Outdoor Safety Training

Hosted by San Dieguito River Park, this event is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts looking to enhance their safety skills.

08/31/2025

FROM 10AM - 1PM

LOCATION: BIRDWING OPEN AIR CLASSROOM:

TRAINING BY: KIT FOX OUTFITTERS

Agenda:

- LECTURE:
 - HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
 - ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR PACK
 - WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIPS
- HANDS-ON LEARNING:
 - BUILDING VARIOUS TYPES OF SHELTERS
 - EFFECTIVE SIGNALING TECHNIQUES
 - ESSENTIAL KNOTS FOR SURVIVAL



Bring your hiking day pack

Why Attend?

- GAIN VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WILDERNESS
- LEARN PRACTICAL SKILLS THAT CAN BE APPLIED IN REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS
- ENJOY A DAY OUTDOORS WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn essential outdoor skills and enjoy a beautiful nature walk. You must register to attend, only 20 spaces available!

REGISTER NOW



THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANTS PROGRAM, CREATED THROUGH AB 209 AND ADMINISTERED BY CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, OFFICE OF GRANTS AND LOCAL SERVICES.

Aug. 31: Outdoor Safety Training

Brush up on your outdoor safety skills as San Dieguito River Park welcomes Kit Fox Outfitters to lead a training session from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom.

The session includes a nature walk.

The training is funded by the California State Parks Outdoor Equity Grants Program.

[Register](#)



Rangers Talk Conservation During FreeFlight Docent Training

San Dieguito River Park Rangers spoke at FreeFlight Exotic Bird Sanctuary's Junior Docent Training Program on the many ways rangers protect wildlife and preserve natural spaces.

The talk covered habitat restoration, wildlife rescue, education, community outreach and the many paths that can lead to careers in conservation.

Thanks so much to FreeFlight for fostering our next generation of environmental stewards!



Training in the Trees

Where better to talk about outdoor recreation than the wooded hills of Santa Cruz?

And who better to engage than like-minded professionals committed to the tenets of conservation, education and recreation?

Earlier this month, staff from the River Park JPA and Conservancy attended the Outdoor Recreation Training hosted by California State Parks.

[Open Webpage](#)

Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Adresh Sinharay and friends



Year 9 Selfies: Keep 'em Coming!

Let's hear it for the hearty challengers who are diving right into the fresh five-pack of hikes for Year 9 of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge. To the many dozens of hearty hikers who, in less than one month, have crushed this year's challenge, we salute you!

We can't wait for more finishers to send more selfies. You can do this!

C2C Challenge Details



From left: Cindy Steckel and Michelle Wolski; Danny Nguyen; Karen Kissinger; Stephen Mazurek and Max.

Wild Art



Peregrine falcon with prey above San Dieguito Lagoon. Photo: Alex Chen

Volunteering



Weekly Gardening at Sikes Adobe

The Friends of Sikes Gardeners meet every month from 9 to 11 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday and 2nd and 4th Monday to work in the gardens at the historic Sikes Adobe.

Contact: calei@sdrp.org

Donate



Your support is the wind beneath our wings. Thank you! Photo: John Weare

[Donate](#)

Stay in Touch!



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