

# Happy Trails

WINTER/SPRING 2016

City of  
Carlsbad



## IN THIS ISSUE

Volunteer Opportunities

El Niño Preparation

Winter Bird Watching

Trails Academy Recap



## Quarterly Trail Volunteer Meetings

Want to find out about the City of Carlsbad's trails, how to volunteer for trail cleanups and new trail construction? Trail volunteer meetings are held quarterly on Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. at the Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave.

- Thursday, **March 17**

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Trail volunteers are critical in maintaining and preserving our trails. Volunteering is also a great way to have fun, keep fit and learn about our natural environment, all while making a lasting contribution that benefits the community for generations.

Mark your calendar for upcoming volunteer opportunities (usually starting at 8:30 a.m.), and please remember to wear gloves, closed-toe shoes and sunscreen. Water and snacks will be provided.

- Jan. 9 – Veterans Park/The Crossings
- Feb. 20 – La Costa Southern Preserve
- March 19 – Coastal Rail Trail
- April 30 – Arbor Day at Leo Carrillo Ranch

To learn how to become a trail volunteer, please call the city volunteer hotline at 760-434-2929 or visit [www.carlsbadca.gov/volunteers](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/volunteers).

Check the city's website to confirm volunteer event dates and times at [www.carlsbadca.gov/trails](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/trails).



# Preparations for *El Niño*

The City of Carlsbad is taking steps to ensure we are prepared for upcoming heavy rains associated with El Niño. Parks & Recreation Department staff has been out on the trails preparing for these conditions by filling ruts, cleaning catch basins and reinforcing drainage outlets with rip rap. City staff and trail volunteers have also been building check dams with gravel bags, and installing straw wattles to intercept water running down a slope.

Hikers are asked to avoid using the trails for up to 24 hours after a rainstorm, and bikers are urged to not resume biking on trails for 48 hours to give the rainwater a chance to percolate into the soil and not cause damage to the trails. Venturing off the trail to avoid muddy areas can unintentionally damage the sensitive habitat.



## Oct. 31 Trails Academy Recap

The City of Carlsbad trail volunteers celebrated Halloween in a truly festive way last year. Volunteers filled the Carlsbad Senior Center's classroom and enjoyed coffee and treats. They learned about trail construction, maintenance and planning from some of Carlsbad's long standing volunteer trail captains, who presented case studies of trail volunteer work. Academy participants received a binder of helpful information for new trail volunteers, including an overview of trail maintenance practices, instructions for logging hours in the city's volunteer database and useful tips on how to prepare for El Niño rains.

The morning training session was followed by a picnic lunch and raffle at Hosp Grove under the majestic Eucalyptus trees. Then participants enjoyed an afternoon hands-on training, which allowed them to try out some of the things they learned in the morning session. The training included how to analyze drainage and storm water patterns, how to understand "Best Management Practices" for storm water protection within city's open space and how to stake straw wattle, rolls of straw used to prevent runoff.

The event was well attended and allowed new and seasoned trail volunteers to meet with city staff to share experiences and learn skills for keeping Carlsbad's trails safe and in good order.

## 'Tis the Season for Birding

With over 480 species of birds in San Diego County, it's no secret that we live in a birder's paradise. But did you know that winter is the best time of the year to go birding? Because we live along the Pacific Flyway, the diverse migratory route along the West Coast of the United States, many birds make their winter homes here in our warm climate.

So while you are out there in search of that elusive wintering black-bellied plover, long-billed curlew or white-crowned sparrow, remember these birding etiquette tips:

- Observe, don't interact. Keep an appropriate distance and never touch or disturb a bird's feeding or nesting area.
- Do not litter.
- Do not move dead branches or tree limbs to see more clearly.
- Stay on marked trails.
- Use zoom lenses and binoculars to help birds feel more secure about your presence.
- Don't use flash photography.
- Turn off cell phones and speak quietly so as not to scare birds away or drown out bird songs that may help identify bird species in the area.
- If you spot a rare species, enjoy the moment. Don't feel the need to tell the world. A sudden increased presence of humans could spook the birds.

- While birding in a group, share sightings and observations with others by quietly pointing out visible species.
- Be patient with less experienced birders seeing a common bird for the first time.
- If a guide or docent is present, pay attention, and be respectful of their expertise.
- Keep views clear by not walking in front of others to find your own vantage point.

A courteous birder is one who is considerate not only to the birds, but also to other birders who share the same trails. Polite behavior is contagious, and by following good birding etiquette, birders can respectfully share their passion with others.

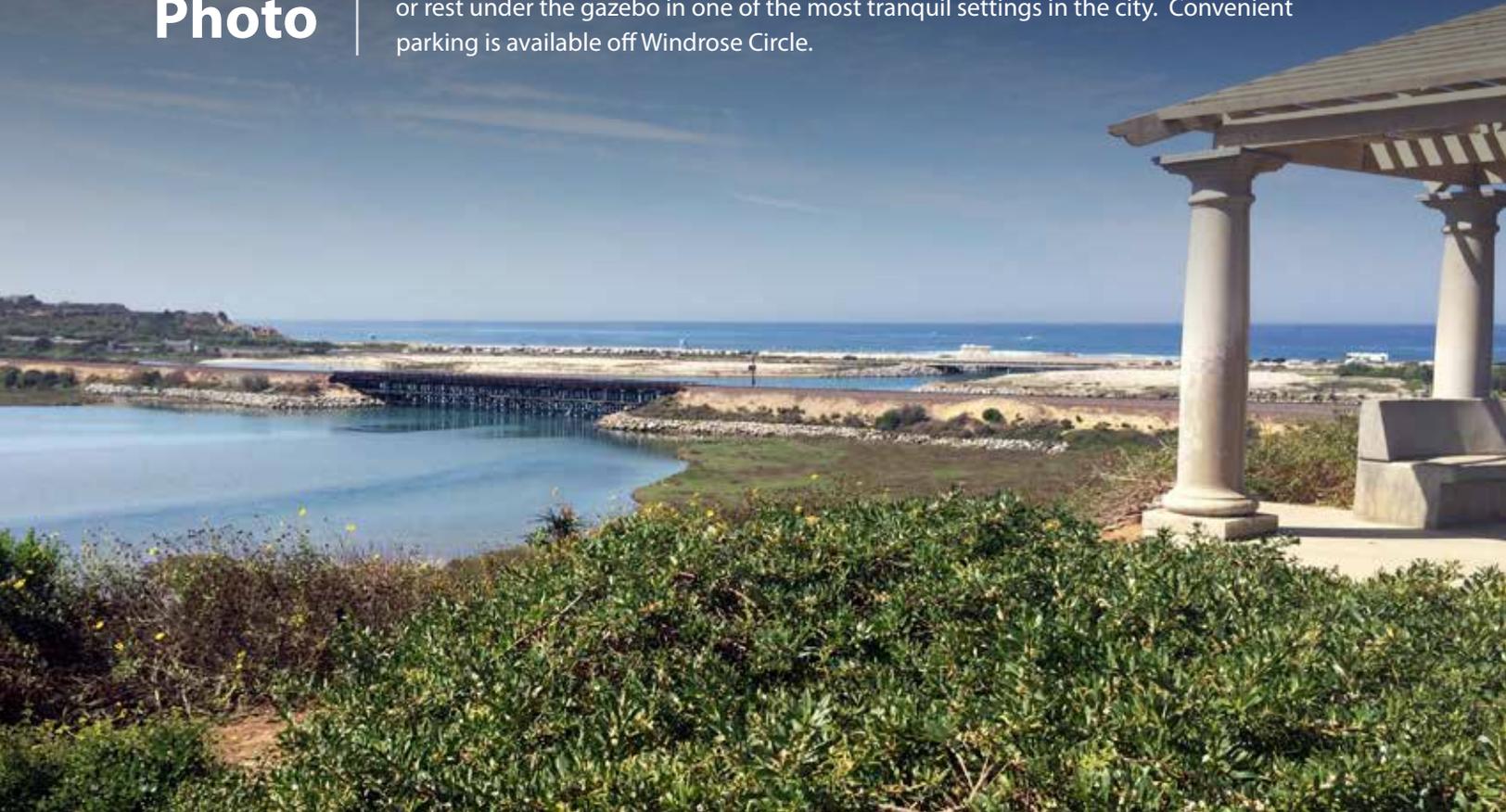


## Carlsbad Trails *Master Plan Updates*

City staff have responded to the comments received during the public review period for the Carlsbad Trails Master Plan update. Additional environmental screening will continue for the next few months. It is anticipated that the Trails Master Plan Update will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission in the spring, and, if accepted, will then go before the City Council for final approval.

# Featured Photo

**Batiquitos Lagoon North Bluff** is an easy half-mile trail on the top of the bluff with a breath taking panoramic view of the ocean to the lagoon. Enjoy a peaceful stroll, or rest under the gazebo in one of the most tranquil settings in the city. Convenient parking is available off Windrose Circle.



## Volunteer *Trail Captains*



- Arroyo Vista** - Tia Lanzetta
- Batiquitos Lagoon North Bluff** - VACANT
- Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park** - Sue Irey
- Coastal Rail Trail** - Terese and Joe Sardina
- El Fuerte/Bressi Ranch** - Patricia Linton
- Harbor Drive** - Erin Stucker and Lin Ball
- Hidden Valley Trail** - VACANT
- Hosp Grove** - Gary Nessim and John Rodenhausen
- La Costa Glen** - Ed and Tricia Cerda
- La Costa Southern Preserve** - VACANT
- La Costa Valley** - Debbie Phipps
- Lake Calavera** - Diane Nygaard and Paige DeCino
- Melrose 55/Fioli Circle** - VACANT
- Old Rancho Santa Fe Road** - Richard L'Heureux
- Rancho Carrillo** - Ramesh Sirsi (West)  
Sally and Will Willis (East)
- Ridgeline/La Costa** - Don Stapp
- The Crossings/Veterans Park** - Mary and Richard James
- The Ranch/Santa Fe Trails** - Adam Richard
- Village H-Calavera Hills/ Hidden Canyon Park** - Tim Campbell
- Villagio** - John F. Gillis
- Waters End** - Jamie Hartnett

## Citywide Trails Program *Mission Statement*

*“Provide a trails system that ensures the recreational and leisure needs of Carlsbad residents while supporting the protection and preservation of open space in accordance with the City of Carlsbad General Plan.”*

Like us 

 [cityofcarlsbad](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcarlsbad)

 **City of  
Carlsbad**  
Parks & Recreation

760-434-2826  
[www.carlsbadca.gov/trails](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/trails)