

Happy Trails

WINTER/SPRING 2017

City of
Carlsbad



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Quarterly Trail Volunteer Meetings

Want to find out more about the City of Carlsbad's trails program? Trail volunteer meetings are held quarterly on Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. at the Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave.

- Thursday, **March 16**
- Thursday, **June 15**

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.

- **Feb. 25** **Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park**
- **March 18** **Agua Hedionda Kelly Trail**
- **April 29** **Arbor Day Event**

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

Check the city's website to confirm volunteer event dates and times at www.carlsbadca.gov/trails.



Trails Volunteer Appreciation Event

A very special thank you goes to Personal Touch Dining for hosting the 2016 Trail Volunteer Appreciation Event held in December at Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park. In addition, we would like to thank Moonlight Stage Production, Tin Leaf Fresh Kitchen, Pronto's Gourmet Market, Senor Grubby's and Hennessey's Tavern for their support.

Trail volunteers provided nearly 2500 volunteer hours in 2016 to help maintain and preserve Carlsbad trails and open space. Thank you for your commitment to the City of Carlsbad trails!



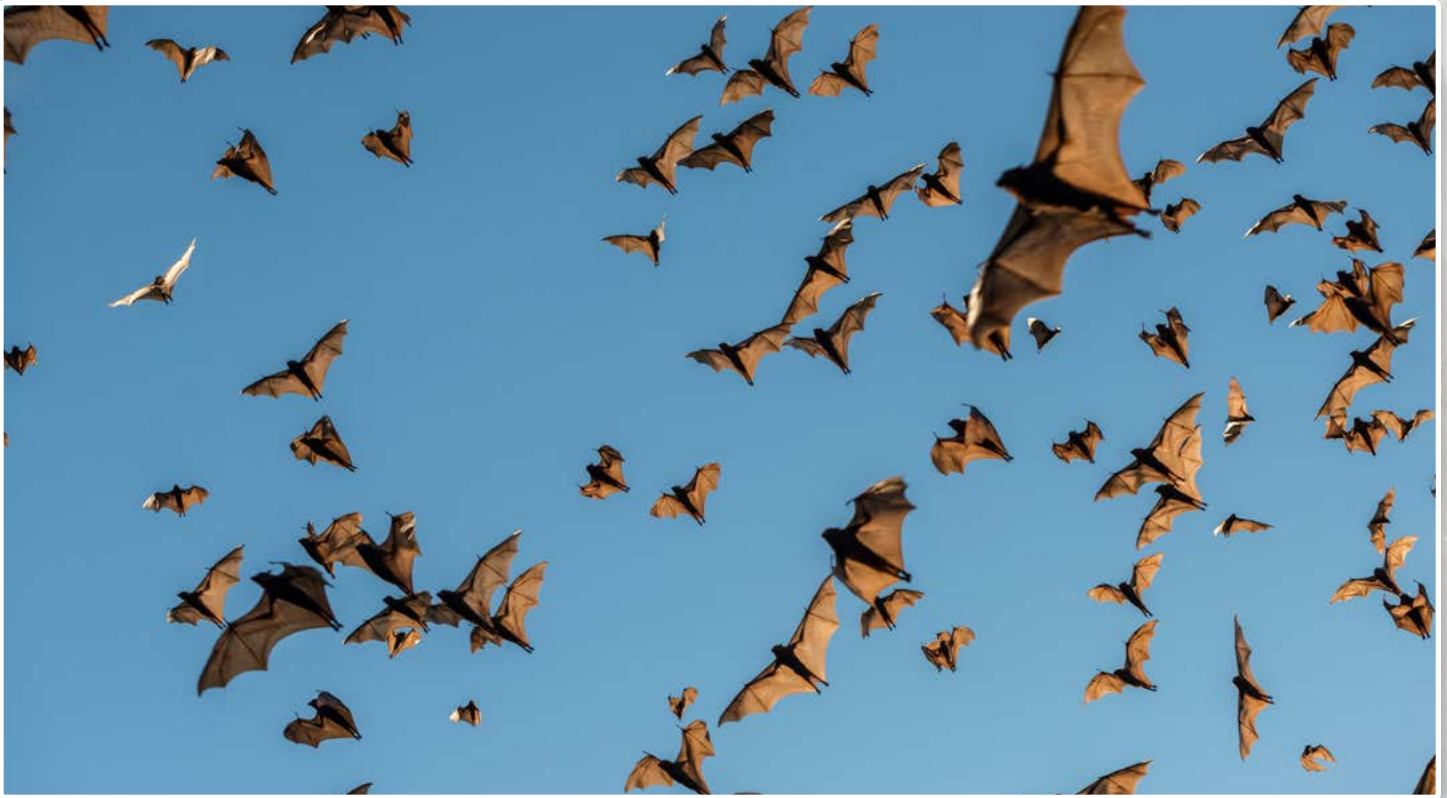
Lake Calavera Preserve *Improvements Complete*

Improvements to the Lake Calavera Preserve, one of the city's largest areas of protected habitat and nature trails located in the northeastern part of Carlsbad, are now complete. The work included:

- The removal of more than 100 non-native invasive Mexican fan palms and Brazilian pepper trees from the northeast part of the preserve
- Revegetation with native plants like western sycamore, western cottonwood, coast live oak, California blackberry, red willow and Mexican elderberry
- Plant clearing near the dam to allow for safety inspections
- Temporary irrigation to help establish the new plants, which are already showing positive signs of early growth
- Construction of a single stall, unisex restroom on the north side of the Lake Calavera Dam. The restroom project includes a drinking fountain and bike rack
- Relocation of the nearby pet station and trash receptacle
- Installation of new kiosk on the exterior wall of the bathroom building

For more information, please visit www.carlsbadca.gov/trails or call 760-602-2780.





Bats Are Your Friends

Four bat boxes were recently installed near the habitat restoration site at Lake Calavera Preserve to provide habitat options for bats living in the area. Some bats may have lived in the palm trees that were recently removed as part of a habitat restoration project. Carlsbad resident Glen Nagle completed the installation as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Although many people think bats are creepy, they actually play several important roles in our environment:

- Bats feed on insects, many of which are considered pests to humans, consuming up to the equivalent of their body weight each night. Losing our bats could result in billions of dollars in increased pesticide costs and agricultural damages each year.
- Bats play a vital role in pollination, seed dispersal and cave ecology. Bat guano (aka bat poop) makes

an excellent fertilizer, enriching the soil and improving drainage and texture. It can also act as a compost activator, speeding up the decomposition process.

- San Diego County is home to about 22 species of bats. These species occur mostly in riparian habitats, oak woodlands and near open water sources. They can also be found in caves, mines or in cracks under bridges, as well as in old uninhabited buildings.
- Bats are nocturnal, so they sleep during the day and come out to feed at night. They use echolocation to “see” their way around at night. High frequency sound waves are emitted from the bat’s mouth or nose. When the sound waves hit an object, they bounce back, producing an echo.

By listening to the echo, a bat can tell the size, shape, and location of objects, even tiny things like the insects it eats.

- Bats are generally sensitive to human presence; therefore, they are not likely to roost in inhabited buildings.

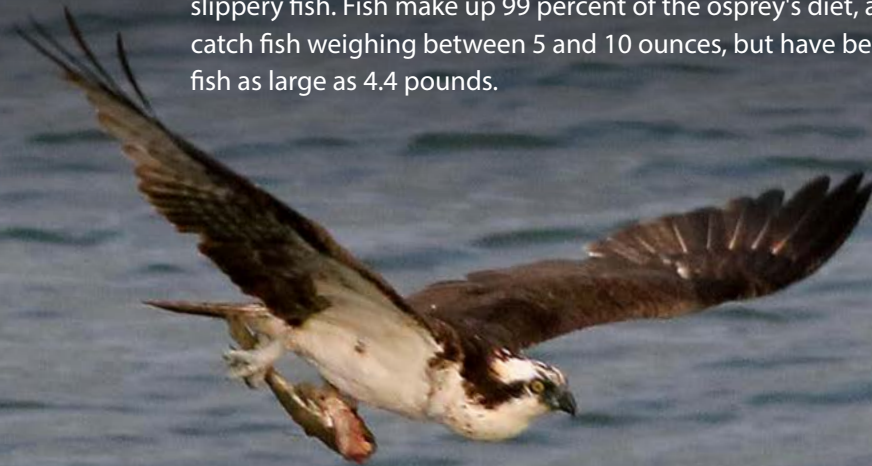
"Bats feed on insects, many of which are considered pests to humans, consuming up to the equivalent of their body weight each night."

- Bats have a very low birth rate (most bats native to California have just one or two pups each year) so it can take decades for a colony to recover once it has faced a threat.
- Finally, did you know bats more closely related to humans (primates) than to rodents?
- Please do your part and help protect our local bats!

Featured Photo

Osprey with Prey at Batiquitos Lagoon

Osprey, which can be seen at our local lagoons and lakes, have well-adapted vision and can detect underwater prey from up to 130 feet above the water. While hunting, the bird will hover momentarily and then plunge feet first into the water to grasp its prey in its talons, which act like barbs to help hold the slippery fish. Fish make up 99 percent of the osprey's diet, and they typically catch fish weighing between 5 and 10 ounces, but have been known to catch fish as large as 4.4 pounds.



Volunteer *Trail Captains*

Arroyo Vista - Tia Lanzetta
Batiquitos Lagoon North Bluff - Adam Richard
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 - Joe Ferris
Hosp Grove - Gary Nessim and John Rodenhausen
La Costa Glen - Ed and Tricia Cerda
La Costa Southern Preserve - April Frieda
La Costa Valley - Debbie Phipps
Lake Calavera - Diane Nygaard and Paige DeCino
Melrose 55-Fioli Circle/ East Ridgeline - Alvaro Villamizar
Old Rancho Santa Fe Road - Richard L'Heureux
Rancho Carrillo - Ramesh Sirsi (East)
Sally and Will Willis (West)
Ridgeline/La Costa - Don Stapp
The Crossings/Veterans Park - Mary and Richard James
The Ranch/Santa Fe Trails - Bill Foster
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."

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**City of
Carlsbad**
Parks & Recreation

760-434-2826
www.carlsbadca.gov/trails

