

Happy Trails

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**Featured Photo:
Mallard Duck**

Volunteer for the TRAILS PROGRAM

The City of Carlsbad trails program is a big part of what makes our community special, and that is thanks to our selfless volunteers. Volunteering is 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. Our doors are always open to community members who want to get involved. Trail volunteer meetings are held quarterly on Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. usually at Pine Avenue Community Center, 3209 Harding Ave.

Thursday, March 10
Thursday, June 9
Thursday, Sept. 8
Thursday, Dec. 8

Trail Cleanup Opportunities

We also have several upcoming trail cleanup opportunities. Events start at 8:30 a.m. Remember to wear your gloves, closed-toe shoes and sunscreen. We'll bring the water.

Saturday, Jan. 29	Agua Hedionda Kelly Trail
Saturday, Feb. 26	Rancho Carrillo East
Saturday, March 26	Village H North
Saturday, April 30	Arbor Day, location TBD
Wednesday, May 18	Robertson Ranch

Learn more at www.carlsbadca.gov/trails.





Starting small, but making a big difference: **VOLUNTEER EVENTS ARE BACK**

It's been a long 18 months, but our volunteer events are back. Public safety is always our number one priority, so we started small, but our dedicated crews have packed a lot of power into their recent efforts.

National Public Lands Day was the perfect time to get back in the swing of things. Volunteers met Saturday, Sept. 25 at La Costa Glen Trail to clean brow

ditches, trim vegetation, reinstall trail signs, repair existing erosion and create water bars to prevent future erosion. Enthusiasm and comradery were in the air – a reminder of how important trails events are to our community.

At the Coastal Rail Trail event Saturday, Oct. 23 new faces greeted our team. Several first-time volunteers joined new Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth

Hueter-Willoughby. The inclement weather had no impact on enthusiasm, as volunteers weeded, replaced mulch and repaired erosion along the dirt path in the fall fog.

We have a lot in store for 2022 trail events and we encourage you to get outside and join in the fun while giving back to the community.

Take a trip to the GRASSLANDS

Grasslands are one of the most diverse and the most altered habitats in California. We are lucky to have a beautiful example of this ecosystem off of the Arroyo Vista trail, in the south eastern section of the city, with access points off Rancho Santa Fe Road and Calle Acervo.

Grasslands are host to mostly non-native plants because of human influence, but there is a silver lining: they provide habitat for many of California's rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

The Northern Harrier and the White-tailed Kite are two birds of prey that can be seen hunting in these open spaces. These raptors rely on rodents, rabbits and reptiles that forage for food and hide among the grasses. As apex predators, they are critical to the local ecosystem because they keep the prey population in check.

In addition to serving as a habitat for important plant and animal species, grasslands provide several other ecosystem services. Flowers found there, such as Blue-eyed Grass and San Diego Golden Stars, support native pollinators which are critical to the long-term survival of flowering plants, production of seeds and fruits that provide food for native wildlife, and ecosystem stability. Additionally, grasslands provide watershed protection during the rainy season. They filter rainwater, prevent flooding and slow the flow of surface runoff. They also help reduce greenhouse gas levels by storing carbon in the soil.

Spring in the grasslands brings a pop of color to the region as the native wildflowers bloom. San Diego Golden Stars and San Diego Tarweed brighten the landscape with yellow. Deep violet

shades bloom from the Arroyo Lupine and Blue-Eyed Grass as early as late winter and continue through June. Bright orange California Poppies often last into the summer.

If you want to check out a few more trails that border grasslands, head to these locations:

At **Lake Calavera Preserve**, there are patches of grassland vegetation tucked between chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities. Where the Oak Riparian, Monkey Flower and East Loop Trails converge you will find the largest swath of grassland vegetation.

Carlsbad Highlands Ecological Reserve Trail crosses through the 473-acre reserve owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The eastern half of this trail passes through a large grassland habitat.

Southern Preserve Loop traverses primarily through grassland vegetation and includes thousands of San Diego Goldenstars. The Southern Preserve is also a wildlife corridor for Southern Mule Deer. Information on Southern Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus* ssp. *fuliginatus*) movement through the Southern Preserve is collected quarterly. The data collected over the years indicates east-west movement of Mule Deer through the southern part of the Southern Preserve during the spring, fall and winter. Keep a look out for deer especially, if you're out for a quiet early morning or early evening walk.

Please help protect the delicate flowers and the peace of the animals that live in the grasslands by staying on the trails and keeping dogs on leash. You can also help maintain the health and beauty of these habitats by picking up after pets and removing litter.





Featured Photo

This easily recognized and familiar species occurs throughout North America in ponds and parks as well as natural wetlands and estuaries. Similar to other bird species, the mallard displays sexual dimorphism where the adult male has a distinctive, iridescent green head and brownish-gray back, while adult females are overall a mottled brown. Fun facts about this species are that mallards are the ancestor of nearly all domestic duck breeds and the standard duck “quack” is the sound of a female – males don’t quack!

Volunteer Trail Captains

- Arroyo Vista/Villagio** – OPEN
- Batiquitos Lagoon North Bluff** – OPEN
- Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park** – Sue Irey
- Coastal Rail Trail** – Yovanni Maldonado
- El Fuerte/Bressi Ranch Trail** – OPEN
- Harbor Drive** – Craig Kirk
- Hidden Valley Trail** – OPEN
- 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, Paige DeCino, Jess Paez
- Melrose 53-Filoli Circle/ East Ridgeline** – Slader Buck
- Old Rancho Santa Fe Road** – Richard L’Heureux
- Rancho Carrillo** – Ramesh Sirsi (East) Sally & Will Willis (West)
- Ridgeline/La Costa Trail** – Don Stapp
- Robertson Ranch** – George Cornell
- The Crossings/Veterans Memorial Park** – Shane Hohnstein
- The Ranch/Santa Fe Trails** – Alvaro Villamizar
- Village H / Hidden Canyon Park** – Tim Campbell
- Village H South** – Gerald Rea & Wanda Stiles

Trail volunteering is 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. If you are interested in becoming a trail volunteer in the future, please call 760-434-4725.

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.”



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