



Rose Creek Chatter

Winter 2013



~ An occasional newsletter from the Friends of Rose Creek ~

Connecting Our Communities

Rose Creek Fest Saturday, February 9

The inaugural Rose Creek Fest in San Diego's Mission Bay Park will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM at Campland on the Bay (2211 Pacific Beach Drive). Brought to you by San Diego EarthWorks (the producers of the San Diego Earth Day Fair) with their partners Friends of Rose Creek and Campland on the Bay, this free event will have music, entertainment, barbeque, art, activities and displays that are unique to Rose Creek and its surrounding communities.

Rose Creek meanders from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for 16 miles to Mission Bay at De Anza Cove through the hearts of University City, Clairemont and Pacific Beach. "Although hundreds of thousands of people live, work and play along Rose Creek and its urban canyons, many don't realize that it also provides a haven for local wildlife ranging from hawks to herons", said Karin Zirk, Founder of Friends of Rose Creek. The creek serves as a natural corridor and has been connecting this area's communities since the Spanish first wrote about the tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation living along Rose Creek. "We felt compelled to create this event to celebrate the role Rose Creek plays in our community and to inspire our neighbors to care for its natural beauty as much as we do," said Zirk.



Rose Creek Fest will feature something for everyone. Special features include: "The Rose Creek Rubber Duck Derby" presented by Think Blue San Diego, the "Love Your Wetlands Day" service event at the neighboring Kendall Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve, "CreekWalk" led by Friends of Rose Creek, and activities provided by Ocean Discovery Institute, local high school students studying the creek, and community partners.

Entertainment includes one of the nation's premiere traditional youth jazz bands, the Mission Bay High School Preservationists, and Dr. Wilderness, a magician who loves to engage his audience while building environmental awareness.

A community mural-painting project will allow event participants to make their mark on a local legacy by helping to create a permanent environmental mural. The mural will later be installed near the Mike Gotch Memorial Bridge that spans Rose Creek just before it flows into Mission Bay, where bicyclists and walkers from all over San Diego will be able to enjoy it as they travel around Mission Bay.



Mark your calendar today for this free event. **You can learn more about the event and volunteer opportunities at www.rosecreekfest.org.**

Rose Creek Park

The stretch of Rose Creek from Highway 52 and I-5, south to Mission Bay Park is a riparian corridor full of birds and even the occasional Bobcat. Hawks circle overhead upstream and downstream Osprey fish in the Rose Creek Salt March between Garnet Avenue and Grand Avenue in Pacific Beach.

California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and Mule Fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) grow in abundance in this riparian habitat. Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*), San Diego Sunflower (*Viguiera laciniata*) and Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) provide food and habitat for Honey

Bees and small birds like the Black Phoebe and the Ruby Throated Humming Bird.

The Rose Creek Estuary and Salt Marsh has a bike path that connects to Mission Bay Park, a native plant garden, the Rose Creek Cottage and is used by the community for bird watching, dog walking, jogging and bike riding. Yet most of the acreage has no legal protection as a park.

District 2 Councilmember Kevin Faulconer has committed to dedicating as parkland in 2013 the parcels along Rose Creek from Marian Bear Park to Mission Bay Park. Dedicate parkland cannot be used for any other purpose without a 2/3 majority vote of San Diegans.

While many challenges remain, The Friends of Rose Creek believe that the dream can become a reality with Councilmember Faulconer on board and Councilmembers Lorie Zapf and Sherri Lightner supporting the project. 2013 promises to be an exciting year along Rose Creek.

Mission Bay Gateway Project

The Mission Bay Gateway project is a re-visioning of the area at the mouth of Rose Creek. The Mission Bay Gateway is a recreational, educational, and environmental joint use project to benefit San Diegans and visitors. The project planning is well under way and the official website is under construction. The project will be a success with your support.

While review and ideas for the project have been discussed with elected officials in the area and presented to the Pacific Beach Town Council and the Pacific Beach Planning Group as well as the Rose Creek Watershed Alliance, the public unveiling of the project will take place at Rose Creek Fest 2013 on Saturday, February 9 from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Come see the maps and ideas for creating an entrance to Pacific Beach that highlights the recreational and outdoor activities for which the beach area is famous.

The Great Blue Heron of Rose Creek (*Ardea herodias*)



The Great Blue Heron is one of the largest and most regal of the coastal birds. It often stands motionless as it surveys the calm waters, its graceful lines blending naturally with the grasses and cattails of the wetlands. All herons have specialized vertebrae that enable the neck to fold back over itself. The S-shaped neck, seen in flight, identifies all members of this wading family. Look for the Great Blue Heron along Rose Creek downstream of the Garnet Avenue bridge.

The Friends of Rose Creek

The Friends of Rose Creek is a community group focused on the lower portion of Rose Creek from Marian Bear Natural Park just south of Hwy 52 to Mission Bay Park.

Our vision is for lower Rose Creek to be an open space park providing recreational and learning opportunities and a clean, healthy, aesthetically pleasing environment for residents, visitors, businesses, and native plants and animals, while serving as an accessible link for bicyclists and pedestrians to move between Rose Canyon Park, Marian Bear Park, Mission Bay Park, and surrounding communities

**A member of the Rose Creek Watershed Alliance*

**A Friends Group of San Diego Canyonlands, Inc.*

Visit us on-line at <http://www.saverosecreek.org>