

FALL 2019

# Happy Trails



UPCOMING

## Volunteer Events

Saturday, Sept. 28  
National Public Lands Day  
at Rancho Carrillo Trail

Saturday, Oct. 26  
Hosp Grove

Saturday, Nov. 16  
Hidden Valley Trail

Wednesday, Dec. 11  
Robertson Ranch Trail

QUARTERLY TRAIL

## Volunteer Meetings

Want to find out more about the City of Carlsbad's trails program? Come to a trail volunteer meeting at the Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave.  
All meetings begin at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Sep. 5

Thursday, Dec. 5

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 meeting new people and making a lasting contribution that benefits our community for generations.

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



## National Trails Day at LAKE CALAVERA PRESERVE

On Saturday, June 1 at Lake Calavera Preserve, over 40 community members came out to celebrate National Trails Day. The cool overcast morning was perfect for learning about trails, open space and habitat, and taking a naturalist-lead hike around the lake. The hike docents, provided in depth information on the local flora and fauna. Participants expressed their admiration and enthusiasm while gazing at the beautiful flowers in bloom and wildlife along the trail. "I had no idea there was such a great natural treasure here in the City of Carlsbad," said one happy hiker. The open space and trails awareness built through participation in the National Trails Day event reinforces the city's mission of providing a trail system that ensures the recreational and leisure needs of Carlsbad residents, while supporting the protection and preservation of open space.

Thank you to our dedicated trail volunteers who work side by side with city staff on the monitoring and maintenance of the city trail system.

## A Weedy Invader

Carlsbad is the epicenter of an infestation of a new invasive weed species, Ward's Weed *Carrichtera annua*. It is a small compact plant in the mustard family and easy to identify by its small yellow flowers with four petals and unique "beaked" seed pod. This species can grow as a thick mat that chokes out all other species, similar to Russian thistle.

The species is new to North America as of its discovery in Carlsbad in 2008. Rancho La Costa Preserve was the first documented location. And then it was later found at Alga Norte Community Park, Bressi Ranch and Camp Pendleton.

Because of the extremely high seed count of up to 30,000 seeds per square meter per year, this species spreads quickly. Ward's Weed *Carrichtera annua* is in a small enough geographic area that it's possible to eradicate before it gets too far out of control. But if not, it could be like tumbleweed which has spread throughout large portions of the United States.

### How Can You Help?

- 1 It's critical that anyone doing weed control disinfect their clothing, boots and equipment before moving on to other areas and at the end of the day. A horse hoof tool works great for boots to clean nooks and crannies. The same is true for anyone doing mapping, surveying or hand-pulling weeds.
- 2 Share this information with friends, family and neighbors to help identify the plants.
- 3 Email a photo to the city's Environmental Management Division, Rosanne Humphrey at [rosanne.humphrey@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:rosanne.humphrey@carlsbadca.gov) if you think you have located the plant.
- 4 Please do not remove plants before notifying Environmental Management. If not properly handled, removal of the plants could result in further spread.
- 5 Document observations with the iNaturalist app.



### Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Project Ben Furnberg, from the Troop 777 brought to city staff an Eagle Scout project idea of building a kiosk at Legoland Trail off The Crossings Drive, an area where he spent a lot of time as a child. He worked with representatives from Grand Pacific Resorts Inc., the owner of the property, to come up with a kiosk that met their design aesthetic. The tiled roof of the kiosk matches the nearby buildings, blending in with the architecture of the resort. Ben showed great leadership in organizing his troop which spent over 132 hours on this project. He fundraised \$465 for the tools and construction materials in addition to the inkind donations. Throughout the project he demonstrated great management skills and attentiveness to detail. He coordinated with staff on delivery of materials, site safety and traffic control that led the project to a successful completion. Ben's Eagle Scout project demonstrates great collaboration and commitment and gives back to a community that granted Ben so many fond memories.



# URBAN Bobcats

Roughly twice as big as the average housecat, bobcats have long legs, large paws, tufted ears and a white underbelly. The cat is named for its short black-tipped tail, which appears to be cut or “bobbed.” Fierce hunters, bobcats usually eat rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels and other small game.

Throughout the city, wildlife cameras are used to monitor and document the presence of wildlife to help land managers better support their movement. An interesting find is that bobcats have been observed at almost all of the camera and tracking stations throughout the city. These cats were observed mostly at night, but a significant number of photos were captured during the day.

Because they are reclusive by nature, left alone bobcats pose no threat to humans. They are resilient animals with an ability to stay out of sight, which helps them adapt to urban living. Carlsbad’s vast open space provides excellent habitat for this resourceful animal. Without our conserved natural open space, this species would not be able to survive in such close proximity to humans.

It is important that as stewards of the land and hiking enthusiasts, we stay on designated trails allowing for harmonious coexistence between us and nature. Wild animals are safer and healthier when they haven’t become accustomed to people’s presence. Let’s join in creating a community, where there is a place for everybody, including these adorable, furry redheads.



## Featured Photo

**Anna's Hummingbirds** with their iridescent emerald feathers and sparkling rose-pink throats, are more like flying jewelry than birds. While only about 4 inches in length and a few grams in weight, Anna's Hummingbirds still make a strong impression. In a thrilling courtship ritual, males fly up to 130 feet into the air and then swoop to the ground with a curious burst of noise produced through their tail feathers in hopes of attracting a mate.

## Volunteer Trail Captains

Arroyo Vista – Tia Lanzetta  
Batiquitos Lagoon Trail – Vacant  
Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park – Sue Irey  
Coastal Rail Trail – Yovanni Maldonado  
The Crossings/Veterans Park – Shane Hohnstein  
El Fuerte/Bressi Ranch Trail – Patricia Linton  
Harbor Drive – Vacant  
Hidden Valley Trail- Vacant  
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 – Vacant  
Old Rancho Santa Fe Road – Richard L'Heureux  
The Ranch/Santa Fe Trail – Alvaro Villamizar  
Rancho Carrillo – Ramesh Sirsi (East) Sally and Will Willis (West)  
Ridgeline/La Costa Trail – Don Stapp  
Village H – Calavera Hills/ Hidden Canyon Park – Tim Campbell  
Villagio – John F. Gillis  
Waters End – Jamie Hartnett

Are you someone who enjoys being out in the open space, giving back to your community and doesn't mind getting your hands dirty? If you are interested in becoming a trail captain, please call 760-434-2826.

## 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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