

# Rose Creek Chatter

## Spring 2008

~ An occasional newsletter from the Friends of Rose Creek ~

### Connecting Our Communities

#### Creek to Bay Clean Up & Ice Cream Social on April 26

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Join I Love a Clean San Diego, the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Friends of Rose Creek to clean up Rose Creek as part of the Fifth Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup on April 26



Find us across the street from 5097 Santa Fe Street, adjacent to Rose Creek. We'll be working in a wild portion of the creek between Santa Fe Street and Interstate 5. From picking up trash to removing invasive species and trimming the Poison Oak, volunteers will get to burn off some calories!

Free event t-shirt to the first 40 people who show up that morning. Long sleeved shirts and long sleeved pants are the attire for the day as Poison Oak is in the area.

Check out [www.saverosecreek.org](http://www.saverosecreek.org) for directions, the latest details and to register. If you don't have time to register before the day of the event, no worries. Just show up between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and we'll put you to work. And don't forget to stay to the end of the event to eat some ice cream and maybe even win some prizes.

#### Lower Rose Creek Dedicates New Trees, Promotes Vision Of Open Space Park

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*By Brian Taylor*

A community effort amongst Friends of Rose Creek, the City of San Diego's Department of Environmental Services, San Diego Urban Corps, Sempra Energy, and San Diego Earthworks brought eleven new trees to the west side of Rose Creek between Grand and Garnet avenues. A dedication was held February 7 to welcome the Coast Live Oak, Torrey Pines and Mexican Elderberry trees. Representatives from the various agencies, local business owners, residents, and community activists came to support the dedication.

Funding for the 24 inch box trees was provided by Sempra Energy, San Diego Earthworks and the Friends of Rose Creek. Coordinating with Lisa Wood and Darin Neufeld of the City's Department of Environmental Services and San Diego Forester Drew Potocki, Karin Zirk of Friends of Rose Creek led the project. Zirk worked with Usha Little of the San Diego Urban Corps who provided a team of

young adults that planted the trees, removed trashed and trimmed weeds.

The trees will take years to reach their full sizes and the Friends of Rose Creek will take responsibility for watering the young trees for the next three years with water donated by the Rose Creek Cottage.

Planting replacement trees for the aging Eucalyptus by the creek is a first step in Friends of Rose Creek's strategy to revitalize the arboretum originally planted in the 1950s by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

These trees will serve as reminders that citizens, non-profits and government agencies can work together to create a more positive future, Zirk said. "I'm thrilled that we were all able to



*New Oak Trees along Rose Creek*

support a grass roots effort to beautify our community."

The Friends of Rose Creek formed in 2004 to tackle the complex problems facing lower Rose Creek - the only section of the creek from Highway 52 to Mission Bay Park that is not managed by San Diego's Park and Recreation Department and the most degraded.

Friends of Rose Creek envision the area as an open space park providing recreational and learning opportunities in a clean, healthy,

and 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. The organization meets the second Wednesday of every month from 6 to 8PM at the Pacific Beach Recreation Center on Diamond Street.

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## Native Plant Gardening

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In November 2006, the Friends of Rose Creek extended the Nature School's Native Plant garden (Part of the Rose Creek Wetlands & Salt Marsh Restoration and Nature Education Preserve project by The Nature Institute) with a mix of Lemonade Berry, Black Sage, Coast Bush Monkeyflower, Beach Evening Primrose and other native species.

Since then we've been meeting the second Saturday of every month for 10:00 AM

until noon to weed and water the new section and continue to work on invasive species removal in the area.

The original restoration by The Nature School provides an exciting contrast to the newer planting and gives visitors a chance to see a before and after restoration side by side. The garden is adjacent to the Rose Creek Cottage on the west side of Rose Creek between Grand and Garnet in Pacific Beach.

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## The Snowy Egret of Rose Creek (*Egretta Thula*)

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While all other herons and egrets hunting the shallows of the lakes and bays do so in slow purposeful strides, the Snowy Egret chooses a more

energetic approach. It stirs the water with its golden slippers-Its black lags are tipped with bright yellow toes that glow in the shallow tidal pools and marshes-to lure small fish, crustaceans and insects into striking range.

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## The Friends of Rose Creek

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The Friends of Rose Creek is a community group focused on the lower portion of Rose Creek from 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*

### For More Information:

<http://www.saverosecreek.org>

Karin Zirk 858-405-7503 or [kzirk@earthlink.net](mailto:kzirk@earthlink.net)