

DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



One of the many places that make North County so special!

Our thanks to Isabelle Kay for taking us on another wonderful hike of the Dawson-Los Monos Reserve in Vista. Here we are on the suspension bridge crossing Agua Hedionda Creek, one of North County's many treasures.

We end 2013 with a sigh of both relief and disappointment. We have reached an agreement with the developer and city of Carlsbad over the Quarry Creek project. We are relieved that this chapter is now closed and that we have done what we can to preserve the heart of this valley. We are disappointed that we were not able to do more but proud of what we have achieved. Through our twelve years of work we have saved the sacred El Salto Waterfall, secured almost 75% of the valley as protected open space, and seen the start of restoration of Buena Vista Creek.

The key elements of this current agreement include:

- The footprint of development was moved back over 100' from the border with the historic Marron Adobe.
- The number of units was reduced to 636, height was restricted to 2 stories along the historic boundary, earthtone colors and improved landscaping will all reduce the impacts on the historic district and sense of place.
- Over 60 acres of land in the wildlife corridor known as Village H is being acquired as open space.
- The initial section of the Waterfall to the Waves Trail will be integrated into the city trail system and the historic trail through Village H will be re-opened.

It will take some time for all of these things to happen and actual construction of any homes at Quarry Creek is still years away. Our long term efforts to preserve and protect

this valley will continue for many years to come.

While the Buena Vista Creek Valley has been a major focus of our efforts this last year, it certainly was not the only thing we did to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of coastal north county. Please take a few minutes to read about our accomplishments ([Preserve Calavera Accomplishments 2013 Link](#)) and then think about what you can do to support all of this on-going work.

Your time, talent and donations all make a difference. Help with watershed monitoring, join our wildlife tracking team, design public education materials, research open space. Whatever your interests and talents, we need YOU. The plants and wildlife and future generations will all thank you.

Your tax deductible year-end donation can be made on line through our secure site: <http://www.preservecalavera.org/donate.html>, or by mailing a check to Preserve Calavera, 5020 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056.

With your help we will continue to be your voice for preserving the priceless natural resources of coastal north county!

December Activities

Dec 14 Sat 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Trail Volunteer Work at Lake Calavera

This is one of the regular trail volunteer work sessions with the City of Carlsbad. Work will include installing fences, erosion repairs and regular trail maintenance and trash pick-up. Something to do for all ages and physical abilities. Check-in at the Trail head entrance off Skyhaven. From College/#78 head south on College ¼ mile. Turn left on Lake Blvd. Turn Right on Skyhaven. Parking on the street on both sides of Skyhaven. Advance registration is not required. Wear gloves, long pants, hat, sun screen and closed toed shoes. Tools and snacks will be provided.

Dec 17 Tues 6 PM

Carlsbad City Council Hearing- Parks Strategic Plan

The draft Plan includes recommendations for many recreation program amenities- but not one inch of new parkland. The current standards for parkland are identified in the Growth Management Plan (GMP) as 3 acres/1,000 residents. This standard was developed over 30 years ago and is not consistent with current national guidelines, community vision or the goal to “meet the underserved needs of the community.” Our concerns include the following:

- The standard of 30 years ago is no longer adequate today when yards are small, schools are fenced and open space is disappearing.
- 57 % of residents do not have a park within ½ mile of their home

- The NW quadrant has very little real parkland- almost ½ of their park acres are school yards with limited access
- The 100 acre future Veteran's Park is located in the NW quadrant but the city counts 25 acres in **every** quadrant !
- Several low income neighborhoods do not even have the minimum parkland of 3 acres/1,000 residents

Call or email the Mayor/Council then attend the hearing and tell them this Parks Plan and the new General Plan should be adding parks and open space- not just 5,000 more housing units and more commercial buildings. See the draft Park Plan at <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/departments/parksandrec/get-involved/Documents/Draft-Needs-Assessment-and-Comprehensive-Action-Plan.pdf> and the General Plan Working Paper # 3 on Parks and Open Space at <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/departments/community/envision-carlsbad/Documents/WP3.ExistingConditions.IssuesExploration.low.pdf>

Mid December – early Feb

Boardwalk Trail Construction at Calavera

The long planned construction of the boardwalk trail through the wetlands section at Calavera will get started in mid-December. Please check the city website and watch for signs about temporary trail closures/detours so this work can proceed with no unintended damage to natural lands.

Have a wonderful holiday and lets us all give thanks for the wonderful natural lands of coastal north county!

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