

Happy Trails

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Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors by definition, are areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures. These corridors serve a variety of purposes, which include protecting wildlife, maintaining biodiversity and increasing connectivity between species. One of our larger corridors in Carlsbad extends east from the Batiquitos Lagoon and links across Rancho Santa Fe Road into San Marcos.



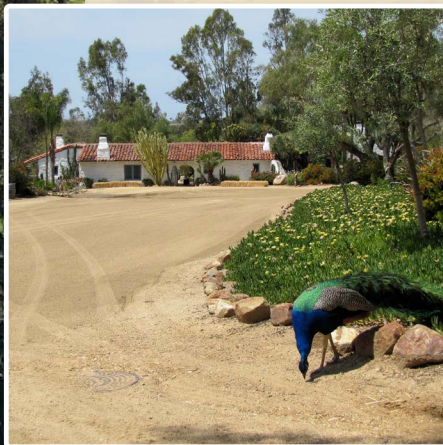
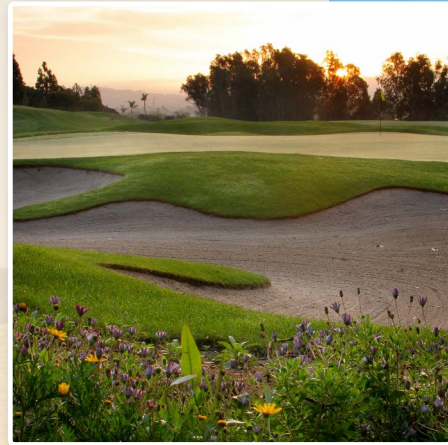
The 3-mile-long East Ridgeline Trail borders this wildlife corridor and is part of the Rancho La Costa Preserve that covers 500 acres of native habitat. Bobcats, coyotes and mule deer are a small sample of species that live in this habitat. Preserving this trail and its surrounding environment is critical for wildlife movement in this area.

One of the main ways we as the public can be good stewards of this beautiful trail is to stay on designated trails and keep dogs on leashes. By doing these two simple tasks we can ensure the species who live in this habitat are protected and we can support this diverse area for many years to come.

HEART HEALTHY HIKES

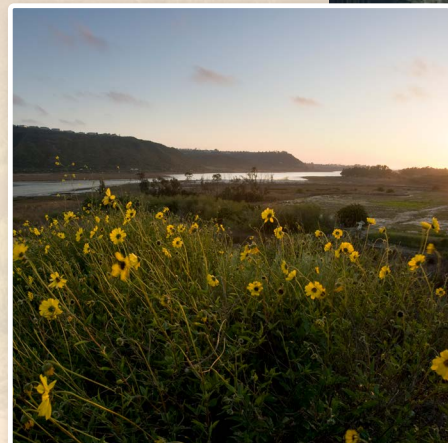
Daily exercise has many benefits like improving heart health, building muscle and lowering blood pressure, and spending time outdoors is one of the fastest ways to reduce stress and improve your mood. If you are looking for a new way to get your 10,000 steps in, while getting some fresh air, we have a few featured Carlsbad trails that are all about 4 miles, to add to your exercise routine.

The Crossings/Veterans Memorial Park trail is easily accessible, located centrally in the city and takes visitors through many points of interest during its moderately hilly to steep climb. On a clear day you will have magnificent views of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, The Flower Fields, Legoland and the city golf course, The Crossings.



Another trail to add to your exercise regime is **Rancho Carrillo**, this two-loop trail system is off Melrose Drive, and the western loop borders the beautiful 27-acre Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park. This unique trail offers a seasonal creek with vast open space including riparian woodland and a freshwater marsh. The loop on the east side of Melrose Drive, offers beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean and leads down into the San Marcos Creek ravine of beautiful oak woodlands habitat. The far eastern portion of this trail connects with the Rancho Dorado Trail in City of San Marcos if you are looking to extend your hike further.

One of our more popular southern Carlsbad trail systems lies in the Villages of La Costa community. **The Rancho La Costa Trails** range from easy to difficult, depending on the specific trail, and include some of the city's most rugged and challenging trail hikes. A highlight of these trails this time of year are the abundance of spring wildflowers and the high ridges and hilltops that offer commanding views of the Batiquitos Lagoon, Box Canyon and the Pacific Ocean.



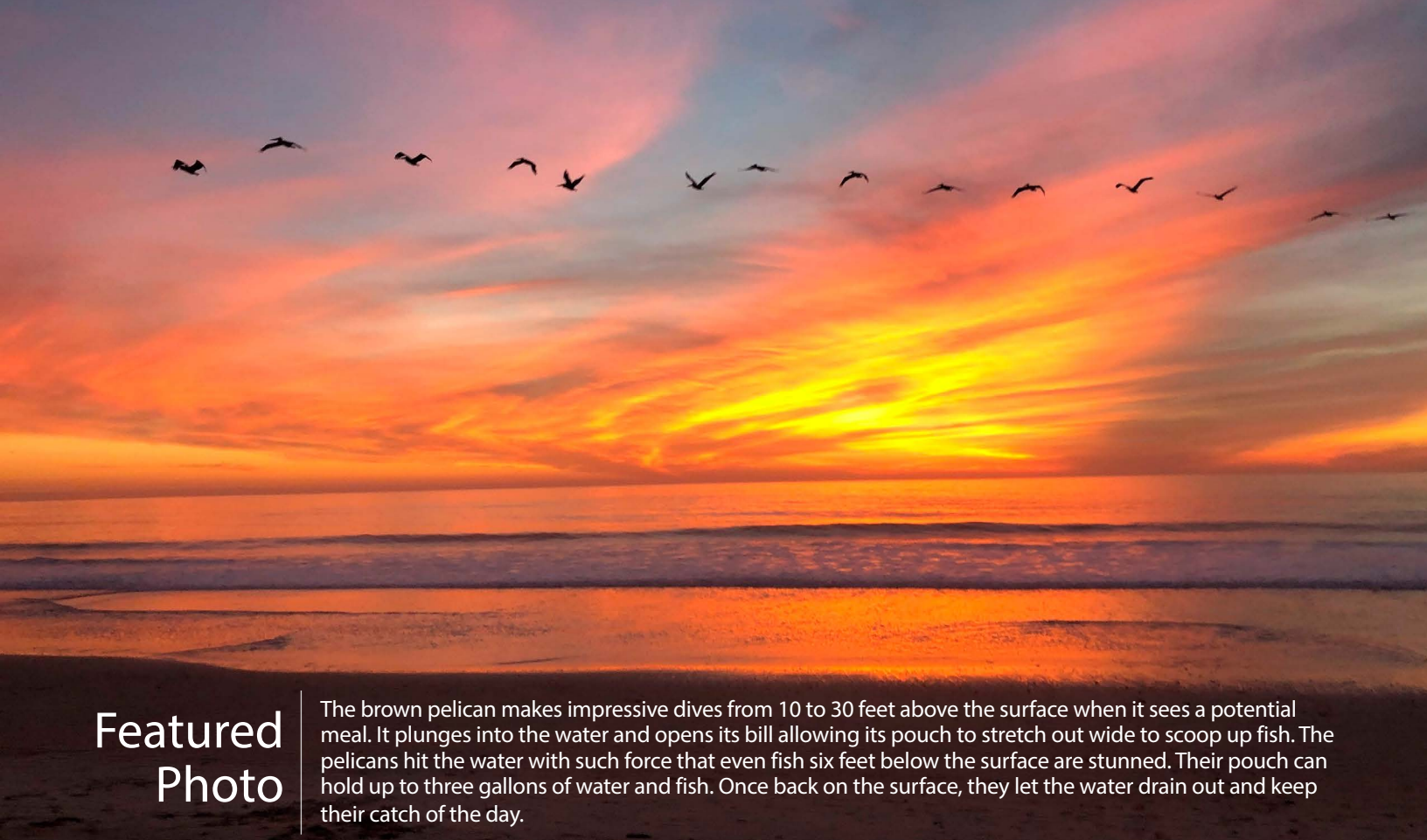
Unsung hero of our urban forest

While walking along one of our trails you may encounter this California native, the coast live oak tree. This majestic beauty can reach heights of 75 feet and can live upwards of 250 years. With a large spreading canopy that can reach a 70-foot diameter, the tree provides an abundance of shade and is an important tree in the California landscape. Its leaves have a green oval shape with a wax coating allowing them to capture dew to help it survive with little to no rainfall. In early to midspring it produces flowers and reddish-brown acorns, which were once an important food source for Native American tribes and now attract a variety of birds and butterflies.



We have many beautiful coast live oaks in Carlsbad, some of which are part of the Heritage Tree Program. The program, which began in 2002 now has over 137 individual tree candidates scattered throughout the city. To be considered a candidate a tree must be a certain species, rarity, size, height and shape and have historical or cultural significance. There are three coast live oaks that are part of the program, two of which are located along Agua Hedionda Creek at Faraday Avenue and Whiptail Loop, and the other is at Highland Drive.

Although not part of the Heritage Tree Program, there are several regal coast live oaks along the Oak Riparian Trail in Lake Calavera Preserve and along Rancho Carrillo Trail. Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park Trail offers a rare opportunity to experience coast live oak woodlands within a large conservation area next to the trail that supports a number of habitat types, many rare and sensitive plant and animal species, such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, San Diego thorn mint and thread-leaved brodiaea. Next time you are out on the trail, take in these majestic beauties but please do so from the dripline of the tree (outer most branches) they don't like when their roots are compacted from foot traffic.



Featured Photo

The brown pelican makes impressive dives from 10 to 30 feet above the surface when it sees a potential meal. It plunges into the water and opens its bill allowing its pouch to stretch out wide to scoop up fish. The pelicans hit the water with such force that even fish six feet below the surface are stunned. Their pouch can hold up to three gallons of water and fish. Once back on the surface, they let the water drain out and keep their catch of the day.

Current Trail Captains

Arroyo Vista/ Villagio – OPEN
Batiquitos Lagoon Trail – Neal Works
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 – Craig Kirk
Hidden Valley Trail – Tia Lanzetta
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 – Slader Buck
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
Robertson Ranch – George Cornell
Village H – North/ Hidden Canyon Park – Tim Campbell
Village H – South – Wanda Stiles and Gerald Rea

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