

Friends of Tecolote Canyon

Volume 7, Issue 2, February 2022

Header photo: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center Garden, January 30, 2022

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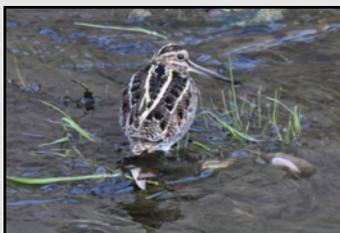
Cool Tecolote Creek Visitor

by Anitra Kaye, Volunteer



Wilson's Snipe in Tecolote Creek
Photo by Anitra Kaye

This cool winter visitor was seen in our creek. The Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) is a shorebird that can be found in wetland environments. They eat mostly insects but will use their bill to forage into soft mud for tasty treats such as snails and worms. As you can see, they are a short, stocky bird with strong wings; they have been clocked flying upwards of 60 miles per hour. If you want to catch this bird, you'll find them either at dusk or dawn. So the early Birder catches the Snipe. No bags needed, just binoculars.



Wilson's Snipe in Tecolote Creek
Photo by Anitra Kaye

ESCAPE in Tecolote Canyon



Several members of Friends of Tecolote Canyon's ESCAPE team with Forrest, a rescued Great Horned Owl, photo by Joan Brosnan, Naturalist



ESCAPE Naturalists learning from program founder, M. Eloise Battle

Naturalists in our ESCAPE (Environmental Stewards Canyon Program) gathered at the end of January to discuss the 2022 field trip season. ESCAPE provides interpretive nature walks and experiences for students at public and nonpublic schools in our community. *Continued page 2*

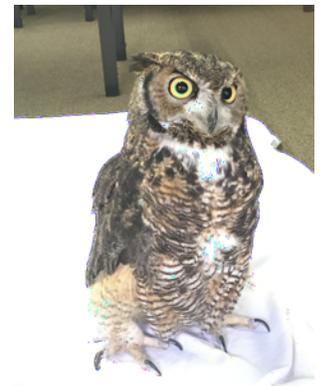


ESCAPE Naturalist training, photo by Marla Gilmore, Center Director



photo: Ranger Erika sharing canyon information with ESCAPE Naturalists

Owl See You on the Trails



Forrest, a rescued Great Horned Owl, joined us as an ambassador with Andrea Borgan's Critter Encounters.

ESCAPe

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ESCAPe may be able to coordinate nature walks and/or hands-on interpretive experiences for your school group.

Please email friendsoftecolote@gmail.com for more information.



ESCAPe Naturalists sharing in Tecolote Nature Center
Photo by Marla Gilmore



ESCAPe Naturalist (left) and Ranger Erika (right) sharing in Tecolote Nature Center
Photos by Marla Gilmore



It is that range of biodiversity that we must care for - the whole thing - rather than just one or two stars. —Sir David Attenborough

Tecolote Nature Center is Open

TECOLOTE NATURE CENTER
5180 Tecolote Road
San Diego, CA 92110

HOURS OF OPERATION*

Sunday - CLOSED
Monday - CLOSED
Tuesday - CLOSED
Wednesday - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday - CLOSED
Friday - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Saturday - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The garden, patio, and outdoor restrooms are open every day.

Learning Center (Classroom) and Library temporarily closed

*Occasionally, when understaffed, the center may close on short notice.

Teaming up for Trail Repair and Bridge Installation

article by Ranger Steve Smith



photo by Ranger Steven Smith

Tri-Canyons recently teamed up with the San Diego Mountain Bike Association (SDMBA) to repair trails and install new bridges throughout the Tri-Canyons. If you would like to see some of the improvements made please check out the following areas:

- The eastern side of the Gardena loop in Tecolote including a new bridge.
- The single track running parallel to the golf course in Tecolote.
- The single track running down from Fox Run with a new bridge near Mt. Carol in Tecolote.
- A new bridge (pictured below) on the Biltmore trail in Marian Bear.
- The east portion of the Battle trail in Tecolote
- The single track at the entrance at the Regents Road dead end leading into Rose Canyon with a new bridge.



photo by Ranger Steven Smith



photo by SDMBA

We thank the SDMBA for all their excellent work and hope we can continue this work next year to keep improving trail access for all to enjoy the Tri-Canyons.

San Diego Mountain Bike Association posted a [video](#) with some of the work they've done.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

SDG&E: A Sempra Energy Utility

Scott Chalmers

Clairemont Town Council

Clairemont Times

City of San Diego

Many generous neighbor
volunteers & donors



FREE Event: Hawk Watch Ramona Grasslands

Saturdays in February, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Suggested Arrival Time 9:30AM

Location Information: [HawkWatch](#)

All ages welcome

Masks recommended outdoors and required in the
indoor gift shop

Details from the [HawkWatch](#) website:

Hawk Watch is an informative educational Biologists Talk and Q&A with falconry or ambassador raptors for you to see up close and personal! The seated program lasts approximately 1.5 to 2 hours (restrooms available) and is followed by an option for additional roadside observations of wild raptors and other wildlife including a Bald Eagle nest where you'll drive your own car less than 2 miles on paved roads and come and go at your leisure.

Hawk Watch is wheelchair accessible and we recommend using one if walking on uneven terrain could be a safety hazard for you. We hope you can make it!



About Friends of Tecolote Canyon



Friends of Tecolote Canyon is a non-profit community organization committed to sponsoring nature education and restoration activities in Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. Our education program, supported by SDGE's "Environmental Champions Initiative", is dedicated to bringing children into Tecolote Canyon and fostering connection through enjoyable, memorable, and meaningful experiences in our unique and precious local habitat.

Like us on Facebook/Friends of Tecolote Canyon
www.friendsoftecolotecanyon.org

San Diego Bird Festival

Mark Your Calendar!



The 2022 Bird Festival Agenda includes Tecolote Canyon bird walks. Check out the [website](#) for information and an agenda. Mark your calendars for February 16-20, 2022.

Tecolote Canyon Walk Detail:

Tecolote Canyon is a well-known birding gem of San Diego, it is one of the largest continuous canyons in the urban heart of San Diego, located near Old Town and it's name "tecolote" means little owl in the indigenous local language. Tecolote Canyon is home to many coastal chapparel specialist species as well as many other local birds, expect to see California thrasher, Spotted and California towhees, wrentit, Nuttall's woodpecker and red-shouldered hawks. May be difficult for people with access challenges.



Poop, There It Is!

by Marla Gilmore, Center Director

Poop, there it is! And there it will stay. According to Google, estimates suggest that poop bags, even "biodegradable" ones, can take anywhere from ten to 1,000 years to fully decompose. I took a short walk, less than a quarter of a mile, from the nature center to the Sycamore tree and along the way I picked up three dog bags filled with poop that were left on the side of the trail.

Imagine how many poop bags are left on the entire trail in Tecolote Canyon in a day, a week, a year. Please scoop the poop and take it to the trash. In addition to leash laws, the San Diego Municipal Code also requires you to license and clean up after your dog. Thank you for your assistance in maintaining our Open Spaces for the enjoyment of everyone.

Dog Safety in the Canyon



The following locations have been designated leash-free areas in the City of San Diego.

1. In or near **Balboa Park**:
 - a. **Nates Point** Balboa Dr. at El Prado, south side of Cabrillo Bridge.
 - b. **Morley Field** northwest side of the tennis courts.
 - c. **Grape Street** near Granada Ave.Dogs are allowed off leash here only during the following times:
 - Monday through Friday: 7:30am-10:00am and 4:00pm-9:00pm
 - Saturday, Sunday and holidays: 9:00am-11:00am and 4:00pm-9:00pm
2. **Dog Beach** in northern Ocean Beach.
3. **Fiesta Island** in Mission Bay.

It is your responsibility to keep your pet under control at all times and within the posted boundaries of the designated off-leash areas, as the perimeter may be unsafe for your dog. It is a violation to allow your dog to run free to or from these areas and the parking areas.

The San Diego Municipal Code also requires you to license and clean up after your dog.

If the laws are abused, dog owners may lose the privilege of using the designated leash-free areas.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in maintaining our City Parks and Open Spaces for the enjoyment of everyone.

Dogs & Parks

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Department
Protecting Parks, People and Pets

§ 63.0102 (b) (2) of the San Diego Municipal Code states: All dogs shall be maintained on a leash not to exceed 8 feet. This includes trails and canyons in all the parks throughout San Diego. Citations may be issued for violations.

This law protects you and your dog. Pedestrians, bicyclists and other dogs will be protected against being chased and/or bitten. Your dog will benefit by being protected from rattlesnakes, traffic and other hazards or distractions.

But people love their dogs and may want an appropriate place for them to run free, play fetch and socialize with other dogs.

§ 63.0102 (b) (2) also states that it does not apply to: (c) dogs which are in special areas of parks designated and posted by the Park and Recreation Director as dog exercise and training areas and so long as the regulations of the Park and Recreation Director with respect to the use of such areas are followed.

The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department has designated leash-free areas which are listed on the back of this handout.

All dogs shall be maintained on a leash not to exceed 8 feet.

Always keep your dog on a leash when you are in Tecolote Canyon and areas where snakes are likely. If she hasn't been trained to ignore snakes, a leash can help you keep her out of trouble. You're also in a position to keep a closer eye on your dog and what she is interested in. E-collars are not considered as a leash.

Clean Water Safety: One Simple Action

To help ensure that the water supply for both humans and canines is protected, you can take one simple action: clean up after your dog. And by providing a healthy diet and the right amount of clean water to your furry companion, you can prevent illness and promote health.

