



Friends of El Corazon

A Park in the Heart of Oceanside

El Corazon is....

- ...465 acres located in the heart of Oceanside
- ...an opportunity for all of us to create our own park with something for everyone

The Mission of the Friends of El Corazon

is to support the implementation of the El Corazon Specific Plan

Our goals are to ensure that:

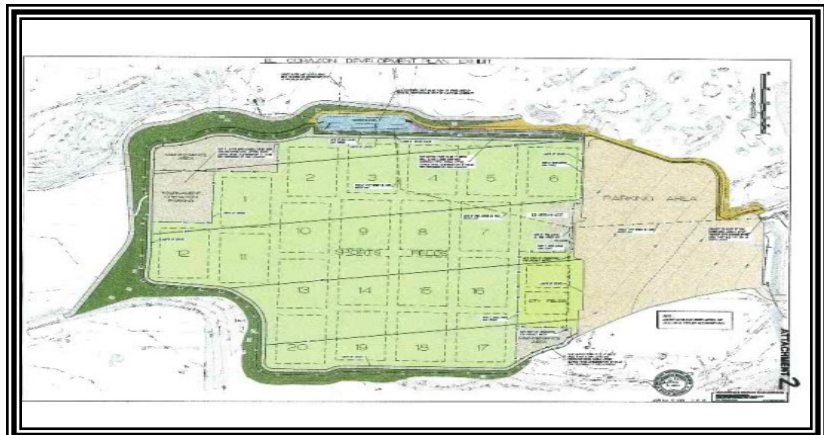
- ♥ All development in the Park is consistent with the community's vision
- ♥ The Park will be designed and operated for the benefit of the residents of Oceanside
- ♥ Community resources are available to support the development and operation of the park
- ♥ Outreach and education programs will be provided to engage the community

The Vision for El Corazon is to create a 465 acre park in the center of Oceanside with a rural look and feel to the trails, roads and amenities so that the park provides an escape from city life.

Temporary Sports Field Project Approved!

On October 7th the Planning Commission approved the project-removing the last hurdle to its construction. The contract for grading the site can now proceed. Of course the sooner the better as we all look forward to seeing grass get planted in April and the first tournaments take place in July 2014. We know if we build it, they will come. Now we need to get on with building it!

Friends of El Corazon and others successfully championed a number of improvements to the project. These included changing the footprint slightly to provide better buffers to sensitive habitat, incorporating measures to make it easier to walk, bike, use transit or carpool to the site, and including the start of the Grand Promenade through the center of the site by providing trees to mark where it will be located. The Planning Commission agreed with us that improving landscaping needs to be a priority and made a strong recommendation to the City Council to set aside funds from the lease income so this can begin to happen as soon as possible. Our thanks to Sudberry/Field of Dreams for their willingness to work with us on these issues!





CLASSES at the EL CORAZON SENIOR CENTER

The Fall classes sponsored by MiraCosta College started in August and will continue until the beginning of December. Sign up for the Spring courses will occur in December and January. If you are interested in a Spring course you can enroll online at www.miracosta.edu/noncredit or by calling 760-795-8710.

The courses that will be offered by the college include Tai Chi, Chair Yoga, Weight Management, Acrylic Painting, Balance and Mobility, Portrait and Figure Drawing, Intermediate Painting, Advanced Painting and Watercolor. These courses are free of charge and are offered by MiraCosta as a community service.

In addition Oceanside Recreation Department has offerings that you can join at any time. They include Bingo, Cribbage, Duplicate Bridge, Knitting, Table Tennis, Pinochle, EZ Walkers and Zumba. There is a charge for Bingo, Duplicate Bridge and Zumba. The rest are free of charge.

There are also group meetings at the Senior Center for Dream Workshop, HICAP, Newcomer's Book Club, OMHA and T.O.P.S.

AgriService sponsors the Community Gardening Class on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Don't forget that the El Corazon Senior Center has a Fitness Room. A membership is required to use this area.

More information about all of the programs at the El Corazon Senior Center can be obtained at the City's web site www.ci.oceanside.ca.us

Stirling Development Proposes 100's of Housing Units at El Corazon

Stirling Development owns 11 acres on El Corazon and is required to develop that property in compliance with the El Corazon Specific Plan. Unfortunately they chose to ignore the Plan when they recently presented a proposal to city staff to develop their parcel with 4-5 story low-income apartments and up to 120 market rate condos. Now it appears they intend, at least temporarily, to drop the apartments and just proceed with the condos. This is not Oceanside's vision for El Corazon!

The adopted Specific Plan only allows housing on a second story, as part of a mixed use development, and only on the Rancho del Oro/Oceanside Blvd corner where it is across the street from the Sprinter station. The Friends of El Corazon will oppose the Stirling proposal as it is not consistent with the Specific Plan and would jeopardize the financing plan for the park. Hopefully Stirling will revise their plan before making a formal proposal to the City.

Celebrations For New Sports Fields



Now that the temporary fields project has been approved, plans are being made to hold two celebrations for the opening of the new sports fields. The first will be a ceremonial groundbreaking in November. Then when the fields are ready for use (scheduled for July 2014), there will be a grand opening celebration for the community. We are working with the City departments to include a tree planting/placement to mark the location of the future Grand Promenade as part of this future event. The strong recommendations by us to improve landscaping were supported by the Economic Development Commission and Planning Commissions. More details will be provided as the project progresses.



YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EL CORAZON

The number of 20 soccer fields including 5 for private soccer clubs seem to be pandering to those who prefer soccer over other sports. Are there any plans in place to create more of a variety of "sport fields" ?

Use of these initial fields is not just limited to soccer. As a large grassy area with no permanent markings, they can easily be used for a wide range of field sports- lacrosse, field hockey, even lawn bowling. In fact, the first scheduled tournament will be a lacrosse tournament. And of course the adopted Specific Plan for El Corazon envisions dedicated areas for baseball, softball, football and basketball in addition to soccer, and the flexibility to respond to the need for future sports we haven't even thought of yet!

Is this park being built with public funds?

The cost of building and maintaining the temporary sports fields, parking lot and the small park is all being provided by the developer Sudberry/Field of Dreams. They will pay lease fees to the City for use of the fields. That lease revenue will then be available to the City to help pay for any future expenses. The financing plan for the entire 450 acre park included a wide range of potential funding sources. If Oceanside residents want to see the park all built at once we could pass a bond and use future revenue to pay for it. More likely, we will build this park slowly in phases, as revenue can be found. This could include things like park impact fees, lease income, naming rights, grants and private fundraising through local business and community groups like Friends of El Corazon.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

We received the following comments on our Summer newsletter.

"Thanks so much, love to receive this information especially since we no longer have a local newspaper." ~ Mary

Send us your comments, and questions and we will try to answer them in future editions.



We Need You!

Like all volunteers organizations, we can't do anything without volunteers and that means YOU.

Let us know how you would like to get involved. We especially need help with setting up the website, planning our first fundraiser, staffing the outreach table at local events, or even joining our Board.

If you can help - we can use your talents.
Contact Diane at 760-724-3887.

Help to make a park at El Corazon Join the friends of El Corazon today!

Make a tax deductible donation

Type	Investment
Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Group	\$50
Other	\$

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I am able to:

Become a Charter Member

Help at events

Make phone calls

Assist with Mailings

Other _____

Friends of El Corazon Board

President Diane Nygaard

Secretary Joan Bockman

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Board of Directors:

Bill Buelna Ken Hacker

Rita Koor George McNeil

Tina Ortiz

The Friends of El Corazon

Board Meetings Held on the Second Monday at 6:00pm

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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FELC is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation

