



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

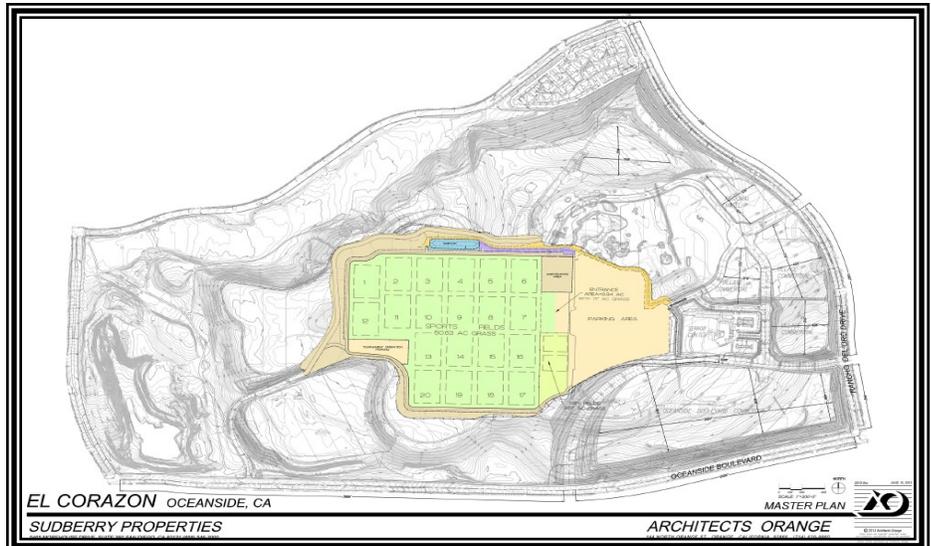
The Vision for El Corazon is to create a 465 acre park in the center of Oceanside with a rural look and feel to the trails, roads and amenities so that the park provides an escape from city life.

SADBERRY DEVELOPER PLANS

The current plans for the start of El Corazon include twenty soccer fields that can be used for tournaments, including 5 for regular use of the Soccer Club of Oceanside. Two fields for use by the general public will be available during the hours the Senior Center gate is open.

The reservoir that will be used to store water for irrigating the fields is designed as an attractive point of interest on the new public trail. Access will be provided off Rancho del Oro Drive using a one way loop road from the existing Senior Center entrance, circling behind the center and then exiting back to the main road where the barricade is now.

Keep your fingers crossed for the first tournament in July 2014!





HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

On the fourth Saturday of every month there is a free gardening class at 10am at the El Corazon Senior Center. The classes were developed to help homeowners learn how to garden and grow food in their own backyards or in community gardens. Diane Hollister, North County's premier gardening instructor, leads these classes which focus on topics commonly encountered by gardeners in our area. So far 30 to 40 people have been attending each session.

Mary Matava, the owner of Agri Service, the composting facility on El Corazon, is the sponsor of these classes.

In addition to the classes there is a demonstration garden at the Senior Center but unfortunately the local wildlife managed to harvest the Spring planting. With enhanced protection the Fall planting will have a better chance of survival. Future topics for the gardening classes include Growing Better Soil in July, Berries and Grapes in August and Permaculture in the Home and Yard in September.

The classes are packed full of information for gardeners with varying levels of experience, so check them out!! For more information, visit <http://www.agrerviceinc.com> under the Gardeners' Corner tab.

VULTURES LIKE EL CORAZON

At least one kind of vulture likes El Corazon- the Turkey Vulture. Named because it was thought to resemble the wild turkey, it is really part of the American Vulture family and not a turkey at all. But it is easy to see why it got its name with its bare red head, large brownish/black body and awkward walk when on the ground. Spotted from the patio at the Senior Center it is not hard to miss with its up to 6' wingspan. The hooked bill and unfeathered head help it feed on carrion. It finds dinner with its keen eyesight and amazing sense of smell that detects the gases from early decay of flesh. It can be found here year round and is one of the most widespread of the New World vultures.

Hmm, wonder what El Corazon would be like if we did not have this feathered garbage disposal hard at work every day?



Photo by
Robert Bernstein



YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EL CORAZON

Why are there so many soccer fields- don't we already have enough of them ?

When preparing the adopted Master Plan for El Corazon, the Citizen's Committee reviewed lots of information. Soccer fields had been identified for years as one of the greatest underserved recreational needs in the City.

It is a very low-cost sport that is enjoyed by people of all ages. Current fields are already way past capacity for youth sports, and there is essentially no field space available for adult leagues. This region did not have any other facility that could accommodate the regional tournaments that can draw thousands of participants/supporters. The land is just a large, flat grassy field that can easily be converted to other uses in the future, and can serve multiple uses besides soccer once in place. Timing was also in our favor as the sponsors of the existing events at the polo fields in Del Mar were looking for other opportunities to expand/replace that facility. The economic analysis found that soccer was one of the few recreational uses that could provide substantial lease income, thereby providing revenue to support the next phases of El Corazon. There are also substantial indirect economic benefits to the City from Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) from stays in local hotels to sales tax revenue from all of the anticipated visitors. For all of these reasons the Master Plan included 20 soccer fields which are currently in the process of being developed. These 20 fields should be enough to meet today's needs, while being flexible enough to help meet the recreational needs of the future.

Why is there no skatepark included in the Plan for El Corazon?

The entire El Corazon site is over 450 acres. The Master/Specific Plan identified lots of specific recreational uses for the site while including flexibility to respond to changing needs over time. The site is divided into nine "parks" that are intended to be developed in phases subject to available funds. As each park phase moves forward the community will be able to provide input on the specific needs/priorities at that time. A skatepark would require very little land so could easily be accommodated within the site but it would require substantial funding for construction that would need to be addressed as part of the financing plan.

How are they going to address all of the traffic from these huge soccer tournaments?

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the El Corazon Master Plan identified traffic as one of the key issues of concern. It included requirements for a "Transportation Demand Management Plan" to be prepared to minimize the traffic impacts from both on-going operations and any large events like a soccer tournament. The master developer of El Corazon will be required to have this plan in place before they hold such events. This will include things like how to use the nearby Sprinter, providing offsite parking and shuttles if needed, having traffic control in place, etc.



SAVE THE DATE !!!

A celebration to mark the next phase in the development of El Corazon is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 3rd at 3 pm** near the El Corazon Senior Center.

This occasion will celebrate the grading of the land that will be used for the playing fields as well as Agri Service's new composting facility.

NEWLETTER FEEDBACK

We received the following comments on our first newsletter.

"Thanks for the Newsletter, lots of information concerning the development of El Corazon. I have been attending Compost and Plants classes at the Senior Citizens Center and find the information very informative. I'm looking forward to this development since it's just a couple of miles from my home and I will be using this area a lot!"~Eve

*"The **beautiful** *El Corazon logo* emits* love* and the ***colorful map*** displays this ***worthwhile project*** that will render a **positive impact for multitudes** from various states to **enjoy alongside us.. our proud** community of **Oceanside.**" ~ Marie*

"WOW! I love the format. It's very easy to read and has great information. Good job." ~ Sondra

"Very Impressive newsletter and really exciting concept for the city of Oceanside." ~ Lainy

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 _____
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 Telephone _____
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I am able to:
 Become a Charter Member
 Help at events
 Make phone calls
 Assist with Mailings
 Other _____

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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

