



# 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.

El Corazon is designed as a place for everyone. Nature lovers enjoy acres of solitude while hiking natural areas. Teams can hold tournaments and meets at well designed sports complexes. Open meadows beckon residents for family fun, parties or lazy afternoons. Community facilities provide gathering places for music, cultural and social events. A limited amount of commercial development is included to provide services for park patrons as well as fund the operation and maintenance of the Park.

### The El Corazon Specific Plan has

- ~ A Senior Center
- ~ Village shopping
- ~ A Tree lined promenade
- ~ Family recreation areas
- ~ Places for open air events
- ~ Playing fields & courts for soccer, football, lacrosse, softball, baseball, basketball
- ~ Nature Trails
- ~ Hotels
- ~ Dining
- ~ Swimming pool
- ~ Professional offices



### City Council Approves Development Agreements

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013, the Oceanside City Council approved two agreements with Sudberry Development, Inc. for the development of El Corazon. One agreement was for the recreational area and the other for the commercial area. This is a major step along the long path that will eventually result in the park at El Corazon that Oceanside residents have been anticipating for over a decade.

In the recreational area Sudberry will be developing 20 multi-use athletic fields plus two all purpose fields for open play, a park area and a walking trail. The City will be grading and improving the property at an estimated cost of \$1,400,000 while the maintenance of this property will be the sole responsibility of Sudberry. The estimated cost for Sudberry to develop the fields and related improvements is \$3,318,000. The first major tournament at the fields is scheduled for 7/01/2014.

The lease term for the development of the commercial area is 7 years with three 5 year options to extend the agreement. There is also an option to purchase land in the commercial area only. When the commercial area will be developed will depend upon local economic conditions and is impossible to predict at this time.

Friends of El Corazon President Diane Nygaard and board member George McNeil addressed the Council in favor of both agreements and were thrilled to see the Council members' unanimous approval.

### El Corazon Helps Make Oceanside a "Birdy" City



Birdwatching is not just one of the fastest growing hobbies in the US- it is a growing activity at El Corazon. Seniors noticed some of the rich diversity of birds just from the back patio at the Senior Center. Now it is official as Friends of El Corazon have teamed with the Buena Vista Audubon Society to have El Corazon included as part of the annual spring and Christmas bird counts. So far 49 different species of birds have been documented on El Corazon.

While common birds like the house finch are found in the greatest numbers, there have been several unusual sightings. These include pied-billed grebe in the large pond near Oceanside Blvd and El Camino Real and the endangered least Bell's Vireo and California Coastal Gnatcatchers along the planned Phase I trail. But often just driving by El Corazon you may spy one of the numerous raptors that can often be found soaring over the site. On the Christmas 2012 bird count we found 3 red-tailed hawks and 4 American kestrels (*as seen in photos*).



At only about 10 and 1/2 inches long, the American kestrel is the smallest and most common of our falcons. They feed on insects, small reptiles and mammals and find plenty of food on El Corazon.

Let us know if you would like to join us on one of these special birding hikes on El Corazon.

### Anyway the Wind Blows Doesn't Really Matter, to me!

We will all be singing the praises of Agri Service when the new composting facility opens in a few months (apologies to the band Queen). This new state of the art operation includes advanced odor control technology. The concrete pads that house the new system have already been installed. The administrative office is going green by retrofitting recycled shipping containers for the building. New landscaping and improved access for residents will make this your favorite place to get high quality mulch for your garden.

To see the new facility, enter El Corazon from Oceanside Blvd and go up the hill. You can turn around when you get to the current operation. The new digs are on the right as you go up the hill. The vacated land will be converted to Soccer Fields soon. Congrats to Mary Matava and her employees for excellence in composting!



#### 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** Bill Buelna

**Treasurer** Jan DesRosiers

#### Board of Directors:

Joan Bockman Rita Koor

George McNeil Tina Ortiz

Jerry Salyer

#### The Friends of El Corazon

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

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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Oceanside, CA 92054

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