

## ***Friends of Rose Canyon*** by Debby Knight

[www.rosecanyon.org](http://www.rosecanyon.org)

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### **Mission Statement:**

***Friends of Rose Canyon*** is dedicated to the protection, preservation, and restoration of Rose Canyon. We are people who love the canyon as a place to observe wild animals and plants, as a place to take our kids, as a place to walk, jog, and ride bikes. Rose Canyon is irreplaceable for the many species of plants and animals that live there, some with populations that are considered threatened or endangered. And it is irreplaceable for those of us who love it.

### **History**

Friends of Rose Canyon was formed in March 2002, and currently has 850 members, divided fairly equally between north and south University City, and some members from other areas of the city. Membership is free. Most live in University City. Sign up on our website, [www.rosecanyon.org](http://www.rosecanyon.org) or use the contact information below.

The ***Friends*** has a core group of about 12 people who meet every month or two and who have a variety of skills and interests, all centered around a love of nature and Rose Canyon Park. Our interests cover: native plants and their restoration, birds, and the great variety of other animal species found in the park. We walk and run regularly in the canyon, share our wildlife and plant sightings with each other and with the Department of Park and Recreation, and report any problems to the rangers or to the appropriate city department.

We were founded in response to a major threat to Rose Canyon Open Space Park: the proposed Regents Road bridge project. We have been deeply involved with efforts to prevent the construction of this major roadway through the heart of the park. Rose Canyon Park, like Mission Trails Regional Park and Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, is one of the city's eight open space parks. We believe that all of our open space parks should be protected: they are our legacy to future generations.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome people who are interested in learning about nature and protecting open space in San Diego. We need people to: lead walks; assist walk leaders; produce and distribute flyers; do native plant restoration work; do outreach; participate in our tracking team; and learn about the many projects that may impact the canyon and the park and help us bring a voice for conservation to the table whenever possible.

### **Activities**

**Guided nature walks**, lead by people with knowledge of various aspects of nature, including native plants and their traditional uses, birds, insects and spiders, reptiles and other wildlife. We offer walks to the general public, and, on request, walks for school

groups, scout groups, and others. To request a walk for your group, contact Debby Knight: 858-597-0220 or [rosecanyon@san.rr.com](mailto:rosecanyon@san.rr.com)

**Native plant restoration projects.** Contact us if you would like to participate as an individual or would like to organize an event for a group.

**Tracking wildlife:** we are part of the San Diego Tracking Team ([www.sdtt.org](http://www.sdtt.org).) We monitor a transect in the park on a quarterly basis and submit data to the county database.

**Outreach:** we attend numerous community events to educate the public about Rose Canyon Park, Rose Canyon, and the Rose Creek watershed. We have displays on the plants and animals in the canyon.

### **2004: A Summary of Activities**

**Nature Walks for the General Public** Co-sponsored with City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. We encourage families to come, and offer walks appropriate for adults and children. About 15 walks, 175-200 participants

**Nature Walks for groups by request:** these include school groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and adult groups: Total for 2004: 12 walks, 200 kids and adults total

School classes: 3 walks, 75 students, parents and teachers)

Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts: 4 walks, 60 Scouts and parents)

Girl Scouts: 3 walks, 45 Scouts and parents)

Adult Groups: 2 walks, 20 participants)

#### **Plant Restoration:**

Organized group activities for removal of non-native plants and planting of natives. Girl scouts have held two invents in past two years. Friends of Rose Canyon member Mark Woodworth does restoration work on a regular basis and welcomes others to join him. He also participate in the Tri-Canyons Weed Warriors, which does plant restoration in Rose Canyon Park, Tecolote Canyon and Marion Bear Park.

**Outreach:** Educational displays at various community events. Outreach to environmental and canyon organizations city wide.

**San Diego Audubon Birdathon:** As part of this annual fundraising event, we fielded a team of 8 birders that identified, in about 4 hours, 77 species of birds in Rose Canyon.

**Volunteer Day:** We participated with the Department of Park and Recreation in restoration activities.

**Conservation Activities:** We prepared comments on the study (Environmental Impact Report) underway on a number of possible alternative road projects in University City (among them the Regents Road bridge project) and testified at a number of city and agency hearings.