



**Nature
Collective**

CONNECT. EXPERIENCE. PROTECT.

Project Title: Protecting Nature at a Rare Coastal Wetland

Rotary Year: 2022-23

Country: United States

Location: Solana Beach + Del Mar, California

Areas of Focus: The Environment

Activity Type: Education: Volunteer Services

Project Summary: Provide vital environmental outreach and education to 10,000 community members by training 30 volunteer nature ambassadors. Engage 200 volunteers to assist in restoring 25 acres of riparian woodland habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve to support the federally and state endangered Least Bell's Vireo and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Project Description: This project has four primary goals.

Goal 1: To empower people with the knowledge and resources to become ambassadors of the environment in their communities, advocating and promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable living

This project will recruit, train and retain 30 volunteer nature ambassadors. Ambassadors will acquire knowledge of our natural world and techniques that will help them demonstrate the wonder of Nature to trail visitors and how visitors can sustainably enjoy Nature. Trained volunteer ambassadors will engage with 10,000 trail visitors during the project timeline.

Goal 2: To inspire everyone to protect natural resources and live in an environmentally responsible manner

This project will host 104 two-hour outreach events at Annie's Canyon Trail in Solana Beach, CA. Volunteer ambassadors will engage with over 10,000 people during the project timeline. Annie's Canyon Trail resides within the biodiverse San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and welcomes visitors from San Diego County and beyond, including Mexico.

Goal 3: To show how people impact the natural environment

The project will engage 200 volunteers in 12 hands-on community restoration experiences during the project timeline. Participants will assist in restoring 25 acres of riparian woodland habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve to support the federally and state endangered Least Bell's Vireo and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Activities will include removing invasive species, providing water to growing plants, monitoring flora and fauna, and planting seeds in a native plant nursery. Past agricultural practices and development negatively impacted the acres in need of restoration.

Goal 4: To demonstrate the wonder of Nature and develop knowledge of and respect for the environment

Rotarians of Del Mar-Solana Beach and other local Rotary Clubs will be invited and encouraged to attend weekly volunteer experiences, including a private 6-hour team-building event. Protecting our natural resources requires informed and inspired people willing to take action. Engaging Rotarians to be active participants in volunteer experiences will enhance the natural area we all live in and help build a more cohesive, safer, stronger community and increase the social network between communities and neighborhoods. In addition, volunteering promotes more active civic engagement and helps solve environmental problems, including climate change.

Project success will be measured through public and volunteer surveys and an increased number of volunteers and volunteer-led programs.

District Number: 5340

Rotary Club of: Del Mar-Solana Beach

Primary Contact: Herbert Liberman

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Total Budget: \$10,000

Program Budget: Funding from this grant will expand on our existing 2022-23 volunteer outreach and experiences. Rotary funding will provide project implementation, including time to recruit, train, organize, host meetings and events and develop the volunteer experiences offered.

Item	Amount Requested	Matching Funds
Project Implementation + Coordination (staff + internships)	5,605	34,395
Materials (uniforms, activity supplies, etc.)	1,715	1,500
Event/Meeting Expenses (snacks, water, Zoom, etc.)	1,180	
Annual Appreciation (food, certificates, etc.)	500	1,500
Rotary Private Event + Engagement	1,000	1,000
Total	10,000	
Total Budget		\$38,395