

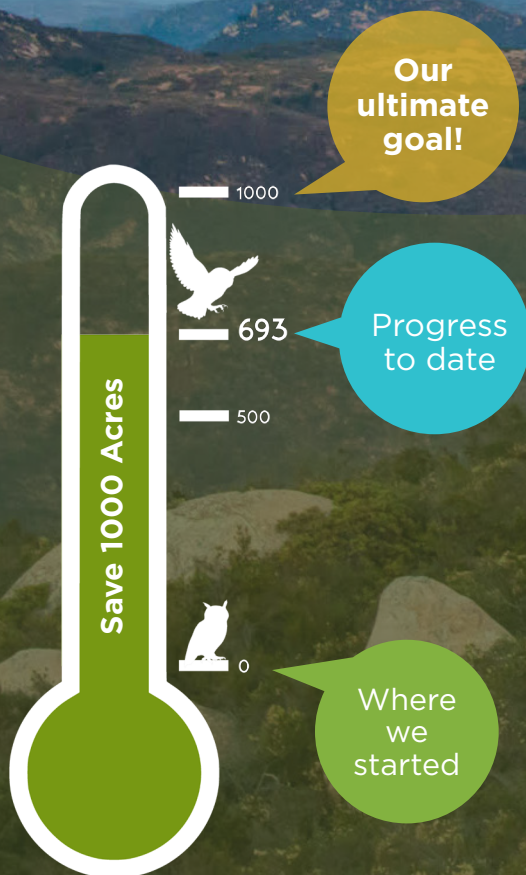


PROGRESS

Continuing a Legacy of Protection

“The Palomar Audubon Society supported the Save 1000 acres campaign because saving environmentally sensitive habitat is part of our mission, especially in North inland San Diego County. There is strength in unity.”

— Richard Fowler,
Palomar Audubon Society



In 2015, we began the Save 1000 Acres Campaign

with the goal to preserve at least 1,000 acres in the upper Escondido Creek watershed to help us create a nine+ mile protected landscape extending from Highway 15 to Bear Valley.

We are thrilled to report that we have secured \$6.8 million to protect the 693-acre Mountain Gate property—now called Mountain Meadow Preserve—and took ownership on September 28, 2018! The land will never be developed and is now protected in perpetuity by an easement purchased by the U.S. Navy for the benefit of the native plants and animals of California.

To complete the campaign, we are seeking funds to help preserve the 282-acre John Henry Ranch near Lake Wohlford and additional parcels to strengthen wildlife corridors.



693

More Acres Preserved

“The Friends of Daley Ranch enthusiastically joined TECC’s campaign to Save 1000 Acres. By securing critical habitat adjacent to the Daley Ranch Preserve, wildlife corridors will be established and help further a sustainable environment. FODR shares TECC’s long range vision of a viable conservation regional plan for North County.”

— Rick Mercurio,
Friends of Daley Ranch

Photo By Richard Murphy



Help us engage youth in conservation science.

While the 693-acre Mountain Meadow Preserve is protected, it requires restoration to reach its fully wild potential. The Conservancy is now managing the Preserve on behalf of San Diego County Parks, but also owns agricultural structures associated with the former grove, including a work building and an irrigation pond.

With your help, over the next few years we will re-imagine these structures to support wildlife research. We will transform the now vandalized work building into a field station for conservation science where youth from North County can participate in habitat restoration and hands-on research. The irrigation pond is being re-imagined as a water source for wildlife to be monitored by student researchers. We need donations of labor, expertise and, of course, funding.

Please contact information@escondidocreek.org to help make this dream a reality!



**SAVE
1000
ACRES**

How Did You Fall in Love With Nature?



For many of us, we can remember splashing in a chilly creek, catching frogs with our bare hands, running through grassy meadows, or building sand castles on the beach. Unfortunately, the increasingly urbanized and digitized world means that fewer kids get the opportunity to experience nature. This is especially true in Escondido, where limited green space and economic disadvantages make nature even less accessible for many youth.

Thanks to a new collaboration between The Escondido Creek Conservancy, San Diego Zoo Global (Zoo), the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, and the Escondido Unified School District, we're ensuring that youth in Escondido experience a nature-filled childhood. **In 2018 we jointly began a program where every child in the Escondido Union School District in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade—and all Title I schools in 6th grade—will receive outdoor education in places like the Elfin Forest, the San Diego Zoo, San Elijo Lagoon, and Cardiff State Beach.** Thanks to the San Diego Foundation and the Malk Foundation we're providing these youth with engaging, science-based outdoor experiences that cultivate an appreciation for nature and foster stewardship. Our goal is to eventually reach every child in the watershed, one student at a time.

Students Served

2016-2017

2,262

2017-2018

3,157

2018-2019

3,700

expected to be served



Donate \$30 to help us connect one student with nature.

Our program has grown tenfold in just a few years, but expanding our reach to serve more children isn't free. Between the expenses of busing, materials, staff time, training, etc., it costs approximately \$30 for each student we connect to nature.

Fish Wish

Watersheds can be an abstract concept, especially for children. Fortunately the Trout in the Classroom program makes watersheds tangible. Students participating in this program receive trout eggs, watch them hatch, and raise baby trout for eight weeks before releasing them in a nearby reservoir. As students care for the fish, they come to realize the importance of clean water and healthy ecosystems. Thanks to funding from SDG&E, we are currently launching our third school year with the program. Each year, we have been able to expand into a few new schools—from **five** schools in 2016-17 (our first year), to **eleven** in the 2018-19 school year.

Southern steelhead trout were once abundant in southern California, and according to historical documentation they inhabited the Escondido Creek watershed. Sadly, their populations have plummeted due to urban development, dams, and degraded water quality conditions. We have a dream to one day see steelhead swimming in Escondido Creek, but for that to happen the water quality of the creek needs to improve such that it can support this sensitive species. The Trout in the Classroom program is helping us create the next generation of stewards savvy enough to help make the dream of steelhead in Escondido Creek a reality.



You can help by sponsoring a classroom for \$2,040 or volunteering.

\$2,040 pays for a 55 gallon acrylic tank, the filter, chiller, aerator, and busing to bring up to 60 students to Lake Miramar to release their trout.



“

It never ceases to amaze me how much The Escondido Creek Conservancy has accomplished. They have the know-how to stretch every dollar donated by working in conjunction with many different agencies. I am more than happy to contribute to the cause. Staying in touch with nature does us all good!

— Gail Twohy, Retired Educator

”

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“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

— C.S. Lewis

Grape Day
Park

Photo By Richard Murphy

Re-imagining Grape Day Park and the Escondido Creek Flood Control Channel

The Conservancy has a big vision: to help make the City of Escondido, and, in particular, the six-mile Escondido Creek concrete flood control corridor, a community where people socialize at creekside restaurants and safely recreate along tree and plant-filled parks with their families and friends.

In the 1950s and 1960s, putting creeks in concrete flood control channels helped create opportunities for cities to develop, as rainwater was quickly diverted downstream. Although this controlled flooding, many flood control channels

became the equivalent of alleyways, visually degrading neighborhoods as they became littered with trash and prone to crime. Sadly, areas along the Escondido Creek flood control channel have some of the highest crime rates in the city.

The Conservancy is working with the City of Escondido, the Escondido Chamber of Commerce and other partners to re-imagine Escondido Creek as a place matching this vision. To kick off the re-imagining, in 2017 the Conservancy was awarded a \$355,000 grant from the State of California to create a design for a more natural creek in Grape Day Park. With these funds, the Conservancy has hired engineers, biologists and economists who will help us incorporate the very best science into a new vision that simultaneously advances a healthy environment, community, and economy.

Early Conceptual Rendering



Engaging Escondido's Next Leaders in the Future of the Watershed

Restoring the Escondido Creek flood control channel into a lively and vibrant place for people and nature will take time. People of all ages, especially young people and families residing near the creek, must be engaged to make this a reality.

Accordingly, the Conservancy has created a new program of Conservation Fellows wherein young people from communities adjacent to the creek are participating in the Grape Day Park restoration project. The Conservation Fellows are getting real-life experience as they attend meetings and undertake their own complementary research projects.

We want the Conservation Fellows to be inspired by nature, as we are, and thanks to generous donations from two local foundations, the Conservancy has been taking the Fellows on adventures including hikes, visits to the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center, and even a class to create art in nature. We hope to continue the Conservation Fellows program in the years ahead so that additional young people from Escondido can have an experience in nature that could spark a career and life in science or conservation.



“Through my Conservation Fellowship project, I hope to inspire local restaurants to help reduce pollution in our creek by switching from single-use plastics to less harmful alternatives. I’ve come to learn that just one person can make a difference in their community and it’s been great to meet other people my age who are also willing to make an impact.”

— Mayra, Conservation Fellow,
Escondido High School



“I have been volunteering at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve as an educational docent since October 2017. I feel blessed to have the perfect opportunity to share my knowledge of science and nature with young minds. I hope my enthusiasm will inspire them to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the natural world around us.”

— Karen Selgrath, Education Team

Get Involved

In 2018 alone, we've had help from **250+** volunteers and **2,000+** hours of service contributed. As a non-profit, The Escondido Creek Conservancy relies heavily on the help of volunteers who share our vision for the future of Escondido Creek. People just like you have discovered pride and purpose through our volunteer programs and events. These passionate individuals have contributed their time in a number of ways including active restoration, land monitoring, and education.

For more information, visit: www.escondidocreek.org/volunteer



We Need Volunteers For:

Service Learning/Internships

Creek Clean-up Events

Interpretive Center Docents

Trail Patrol/Land Stewards

Education Team

Conservation Crew

Water Quality Team



Su Scott



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Board Member, Leonard Wittwer and Creek-to-Bay Cleanup Volunteers



Adena Boxer-Capitano



Brian Person and Andrea Cornelius



Coastal Cleanup Day Volunteers

How you can help...

Become a Keeper of the Creek!

Enroll in regular automatic monthly donations to become a Keeper of the Creek and help the Conservancy revitalize the health of the creek and protect the watershed. Your monthly donation supports land preservation, education programs, and outdoor activities in the Escondido Creek watershed.

Use your bank's bill pay service and ensure 100% of your donation goes to the Conservancy. You can also set up your automatic donation through PayPal or other similar services, but know they take a cut out of your donation as a service charge. **Become a Keeper of the Creek and watch out for special Conservancy programs and activities designed just for you!**

Donate while you shop

Shop on smile.amazon.com for the same selection and prices while supporting the Conservancy, at no cost to you. Just select The Escondido Creek Conservancy at sign-up.

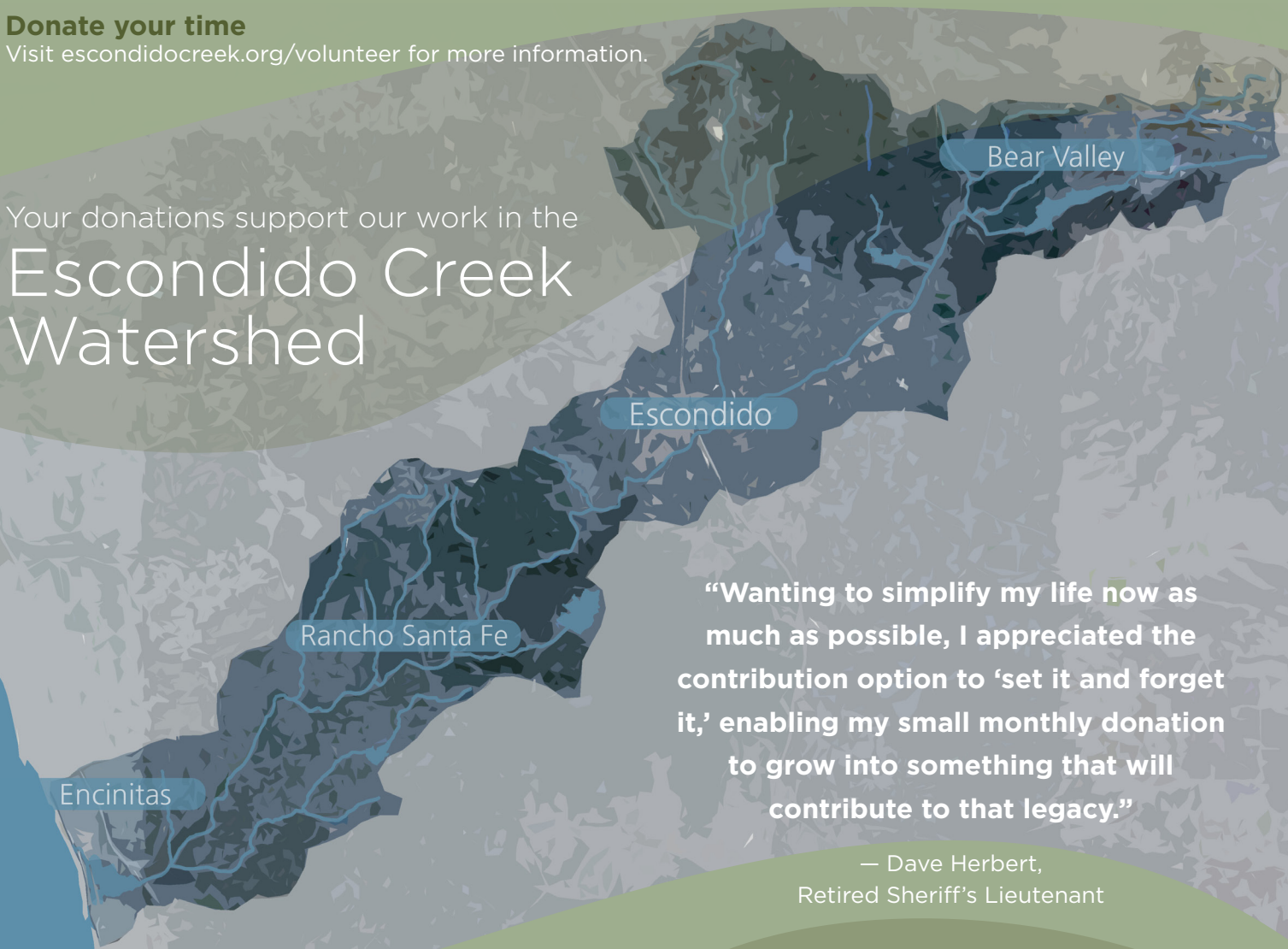
Other ways to help

For gifts of stock, land, or to remember the Conservancy in your estate, please contact us.

Donate your time

Visit escondidocreek.org/volunteer for more information.

Your donations support our work in the
**Escondido Creek
Watershed**



“Wanting to simplify my life now as much as possible, I appreciated the contribution option to ‘set it and forget it,’ enabling my small monthly donation to grow into something that will contribute to that legacy.”

— Dave Herbert,
Retired Sheriff's Lieutenant



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